

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 25 1987

date entered AUG 3 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name *1877-1900*

historic HISTORIC RESOURCES OF LODGE GRASS, MONTANA

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Incorporated city limits of Lodge Grass *N/A* not for publication

city, town Lodge Grass *N/A* vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Big Horn code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<i>N/A</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see inventory forms)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Big Horn County Courthouse

street & number 121 West 3rd St.

city, town Hardin state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resource Survey of Lodge Grass has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Helena state Montana

7. Description

<u> </u> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<u> </u> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<u> </u> moved	date <u> </u> N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<u> </u> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This Multiple Resource Area nomination includes 13 historic resources within the incorporated limits of the city of Lodge Grass, Montana (1980 population: 776). Lodge Grass is the only incorporated city within the boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana. The town is situated just north of Lodge Grass Creek and northwest of where the creek empties into the Little Big Horn River. Lodge Grass sits at an average elevation of 3,363 feet in the Little Big Horn Valley, and portions of the western bluffs above the valley floor where the Lodge Grass public schools were constructed are included within the townsite area. East of town is the newly completed U.S. Interstate Highway 90, adjacent and parallel to the old U.S. Highway 87, also known as the Custer Battlefield Highway. The tracks of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (now Burlington Northern Railroad) run north-south through the eastern portion of town, just west of U.S. Highway 87. The legal description for the town is the E 1/2 NW 1/4 and W 1/2 NE 1/4 of Section 13, T.6S., R.35E. in Big Horn County.

Historical and architectural inventory work in Lodge Grass was begun by Rokita Associates of Hardin, Montana, in 1981. In 1985, the State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society, retained Powers Elevation of Denver, Colorado, under contract, to complete the survey of the town, within the corporate limits, up-date the Rokita forms, conduct archival research to document the history of each building, and evaluate each site for eligibility for nomination to the National Register. The Powers Elevation inventory was conducted in October and November, 1985, with Paul D. Friedman, a professional historian and Assistant Manager of the Archaeology Department of Powers serving as the principal investigator, and Joe Medicine Crow, who is the official Historian and Anthropologist of the Crow tribe, as the research assistant. This survey identified a number of historic buildings within the city limits of Lodge Grass that possess important historical association and retain sufficient architectural integrity to qualify for nomination to the National Register. These 13 individually eligible properties that are presented in this Multiple Resource Area nomination are listed below:

<u>Site No.</u>	<u>Legal Location</u>	<u>Name of Building</u>	<u>Date</u>
PE#7	O.T., East of RR	Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Depot	1904
PE#11	O.T., B.2, L.4-5	George Pease Second Store	1908
PE#12	O.T., B.2, L.7	Ed Cammock Hotel	1920
PE#15	O.T., W. of RR	J.W. Drew Co. Grain Elevator	1919
PE#18	O.T., B.3, L.11	City of Lodge Grass Jail	1930
PE#41	O.T., B.5, L.17-18	Ed Baldwin House	1918
PE#52	O.T., B.7, L.16	Lodge Grass Merchandise Co. Store	1920
PE#63	O.T., B.8, L. 1-4	Jay Sharp Store	1920
PE#71	Stev., B.1, L.8-9S	John Ryan House	1920
PE#88	Stev., B.5, L.3-4	Dominic Stevens House	1910
PE#198	Pease 2nd, B.5, L.6E	J.R. Simonsen House	1922
PE#213	Pease 2nd, B.6, L.1S	J.M. Trytten House	1921
PE #218	East of RR tracks	Chivers Memorial Church	1928

Individual inventory forms for these 13 properties are included as a part of this nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

The Original Town of Lodge Grass was officially platted by George Pease, an early 20th Century Indian trader, on November 29, 1911 and consisted of 11 blocks, with the streets oriented northwest to southeast, parallel to the railroad tracks. Pease's survey of 1909 illustrated only five buildings within the original townsite, including the two story, wood frame Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad depot (PE #7) situated on the east side of the railroad tracks opposite the one story, wood frame Second Pease Store (PE# 11). Also across from the depot, on the west side of Main St., was the home of A.G. Westwood, the railroad station manager from 1907 to 1945, now demolished. Further west, on the south side of First Ave., there was a house and barn that probably served as the first residence of the Pease family. In 1912, George Pease built a new, two story, log and frame house on the south side of First Ave., and his earlier house has since been destroyed. Extensive alteration to the Second Pease House, including the enclosure of the front porch, removal of the second story balcony, and sheathing the entire house with asbestos shingles, disqualify the building from listing in the National Register, despite its significant historical associations.

A.M. Stevenson acquired part of the Indian allotment of George Hill, which abutted the Original Town of Lodge Grass on the south, and, on February 16, 1911, he filed the plat for the Stevenson Addition. This first subdivision in Lodge Grass had 8 blocks, with its streets running north-south and east-west. At this time Stevenson built a two story, brick store on the northwest corner of Main St. and Hester Ave. in the new Stevenson Addition. This building was the first brick structure to be erected in Lodge Grass and is still owned and operated by the Stevenson family as the local IGA store. Although the original building stands today in its prominent position at the center of the commercial core of the town, its historic architectural integrity has been compromised by the construction of a one story brick addition to the north, enclosure of the street level store front with stucco, and the complete sheathing of the front facade with non-historic materials. Stevenson also helped build a two story, frame hotel for his wife's sister, Katherine Durst, on the southeast corner of Helen St. and Hester Ave. in 1911. The Cottage Hotel is still operating and its adjacent barn was converted to apartments ca. 1930. The adaptive reuse of the barn as an apartment house was accomplished with little change to the building's historic appearance. Four double hung windows were cut into the front facade and the upper hay loft opening was enlarged to accept a four-panel, exterior door. The barn's architectural form, gambrel roof, and minimal fenestration clearly reflect its original function. However, due to the application of asbestos shingles to both the Cottage Hotel and Barn, neither building is included within this nomination. If in the future the modern exterior sheathing is removed and intact historic fabric is uncovered, the integrity of these buildings will be reevaluated.

A newspaper article in 1911 stated that in addition to the Stevenson Store, Second Pease Trading Post and the Cottage Hotel, Lodge Grass had about one dozen residences. A number of these early homes still exist, but only one retains sufficient historic architectural integrity to be included in this nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

This residence (PE #88) was built by an early rancher named Dominic Stevens, who had married a woman with Crow blood. Stevens homesteaded on Lodge Grass Creek in 1902 and soon thereafter built his cut sandstone, in-town house on the southeast corner of Hester Ave. and Grey Bull St., which remains one of the most substantial residences in Lodge Grass.

Lodge Grass, founded as a small trading post for white-Crow commerce, grew into an essentially white commercial center and important shipping point for livestock and grain within the Crow Reservation. As the town's commercial prospects improved with agricultural development on the Reservation, several of the founders of Lodge Grass platted new subdivisions, which enlarged the area encompassed by the Original Town and Stevenson Addition plats. On January 2, 1912, George Hill, a Gros Ventre Indian with a Crow wife, whose allotment would eventually form a major portion of the modern town, filed the official plat for the Hills Addition. A.M. Stevenson filed the plat for the Stevenson Second Addition on January 11, 1912. On December 9, 1912, George Pease filed the plat for the Pease Addition. The Stevenson Third Addition was platted by A.M. Stevenson on June 1, 1915. Whereas the Original Town of Lodge Grass had its streets running parallel to the railroad tracks, all the other additions to the town had their streets oriented due north-south and east-west, following the pattern of the 1911 Stevenson Addition.

Lodge Grass emerged as the principal service center for the central portion of the Crow Reservation. With the increase in white settlement on the Reservation, the number of commercial establishments in town began to multiply. In 1914, William Lynde and Grover Swarts built a livery in Lodge Grass. This stable was also used as a social hall and had a bunkhouse at the rear where visiting cowboys could stay, and sometimes served as a gym and basketball court. This building is still standing on Hester Ave. but has been converted into a movie theater. Although the Lynde Livery has strong historical associations with the early commercial development of Lodge Grass, it does not qualify for inclusion in this nomination due to major alterations to the front facade, consisting of the installation of a new ground floor storefront and the application of stucco to the wall surfaces.

In 1917, Frank Gordon built a two story, wood frame, false-fronted structure on the northeast corner of First and Helen. This was first used as a bowling alley, but in 1918 it became the First National Bank of Lodge Grass, the fourth chartered bank in Big Horn County, which operated until 1924. After the failure of the bank, this building was used as a newspaper office, then as a bakery and cafe. It has now been converted to residential use, and, although the building yet serves to recall its six-year period of use as the area's primary financial institution by its general false-fronted form and fenestration pattern, too little historic fabric remains to qualify for Register listing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

In 1919, the J.W. Drew Company built a wooden grain elevator (PE #15) on the west side of the railroad tracks. This grain elevator reflects the increasing importance of Lodge Grass as a shipping point for agricultural products. The elevator remains in very good condition and illustrates the typical cribbed lumber construction techniques of the period.

On the northwest corner of Main and Second Avenue, the town's first lumber yard was built. A.M. Stevenson was listed as the owner of the yard in 1919. The next year it belonged to Thompson Yards, Inc. Later in the 1920s, this property was acquired by the Johnson Brothers, who operated it as a lumber yard and hardware store, known as "Vint Pink's." The first office of Vint Pink's was moved to Helen St. in 1925 and occupied as a residence by Martha Graham. The lumber yard, while now abandoned and in poor condition, still stands. Next to the lumber yard and across Main Street west of the railroad depot, Edward Cammock built a two story, brick hotel and restaurant (PE #12) in 1920. After 1926 this building housed a construction company, and in 1948 it was the headquarters for the regional Rural Electric Association. It is now abandoned, but remains the most architecturally intact, historic commercial building in Lodge Grass.

Jay Sharp, beginning around 1915, operated a bakery, restaurant and pool hall in the two story, wood frame hotel owned by Fellows Pease, the father of George Pease, on the north side of First Ave., just west of Main St. When this hotel burned down in 1920, Sharp built his own one story, frame store on the west side of Helen St., just south of First Ave. (PE #63). The Sharp Store also housed the town's post office from 1935 to about 1945. This building was operated as a grocery after 1949 by George Cooley, who married Bill Lynde's daughter. The Sharp Store and George Pease's Second State (PE #11) are the two best preserved examples of early wood frame, false-fronted commercial construction in Lodge Grass.

In 1920, the Lodge Grass Merchandise Company built a single story brick hardware store on the northwest corner of Helen St. and First Ave. (PE #52). This building was purchased in 1930 by J.J. Ping, a Hardin merchant, and used as a branch of his clothing store, and today it is operated as a branch of the "Federated Store." With the brick Stevenson store, Cammock's hotel, and the Lodge Grass Merchandise Co. Store in place, a local newspaper commented in 1925 that: "Lodge Grass boasts of more substantial brick buildings than any town its size in this country."

In 1920, another grocery in town was opened on the east side of Helen St., across from the Sharp Store, just north of Hester Ave., as a branch of James Tousses and Company, a Sheridan, Wyoming grocery. For 17 years this store was managed by Fay Abel. After 1963, the store was operated as an electric appliance store by Mabel Hartman. Although the building still stands, it has been altered by the application of stucco and modernization of the storefront.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

The city of Lodge Grass was incorporated in September, 1927. John Ryan, the town barber, was elected the first mayor of Lodge Grass. Ryan had first come to the area in 1917, and lived on a ranch near town for a time before settling in Lodge Grass around 1921. He built a fine Craftsman style house (PE #71), which is still standing in the commercial area of town, on the northeast corner of Helen St. and Hester Ave. Ryan's barbershop was originally located next door. This barbershop building was later moved to Helen St. and converted into a dwelling.

The purpose of the incorporation of the Town of Lodge Grass was to levy taxes and provide local services. The new city government immediately undertook several public improvements during the late 1920s. A municipal electric plant was built at considerable expense, only to be abandoned when the Rural Electrical Association offered less expensive electricity during the mid-30s. The old light plant building was eventually moved from its original location to Helen St. and converted into a storage shed. The Lodge Grass Jail (PE #18), built in 1930 is a simple, one story, concrete structure, which is still standing on the west side of the alley in Lot 11 of Block 3, Original Town.

Schools and churches played a primary role in enticing the relocation Native Americans from the permanent encampment on Lodge Grass Creek and outlying ranches to house built on the city's platted lots. The Baptist Home Mission had established a church and day school for Crow children just east of the incorporated limits in 1904, under the guidance of Reverend W.A. Petzholdt. The Baptist Mission complex, which included a log mission house, frame school building, and a church, burned to the ground in 1926. The mission church and parsonage were rebuilt in 1928 to the east of the railroad tracks, and renamed the Chivers Memorial Church (PE #218).

The first public school for white children was begun in 1911 in a one-room log house owned by A. M. Stevenson, which also has since burned down. In 1912 a new one-room school house was built on land donated by Stevenson. This structure was enlarged to two rooms in 1916. It was later used as a community hall, operated by the American Legion. Eventually this building was moved to Grey Bull St. and remodeled into a residence for teachers. In 1918, the first brick school building was constructed on the bluff known as "School Hill" west of town. In 1921, Crow children were allowed to attend public schools, and this increased the enrollment of the local district, necessitating the construction of a new, brick, two story high school, known as the Valley View School, in 1928. In 1948, another new high school building was constructed on School Hill, with an addition appended in 1956. In 1961, the school district property on School Hill was annexed into the city of Lodge Grass. A new elementary school was begun in 1979, and this building also has since been enlarged. All of the historic, brick school buildings were torn down between 1981 and 1985, with only the old brick lunch room still standing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

With the town's growth in the late 1910s and early 1920s, the last two subdivisions of Lodge Grass were platted. A.M. Stevenson filed the plat for the Stevenson Fourth Addition on May 10, 1921. On September 8, 1921, Sarah Pease, the widow of George Pease, filed the plat for the Pease Addition No. 2.

The business district of Lodge Grass had reached its peak by about 1930. The commercial center of town was on the west side of Main St. from Hester Ave. north to Second Ave., on First Ave. from Main St. west to Helen St., on Helen St. from First Ave. south to Hester Ave., and on Hester Ave. between Helen St. and Main St. This commercial district is characterized by a mixture of free standing brick and frame commercial buildings built to the front lot lines interspersed with a number of small, wood frame residences, which are usually set back from the street.

Most of the residential neighborhoods post-dated the development of the commercial district. The oldest houses in Lodge Grass tended to be located in the western and southern ends of town, along Hester Ave. and Harding Ave. For example, on the southeast corner of Hester Ave. and Wolf Lays Down St., Frank Young, who managed the grain elevator, built a substantial, Craftsman style home in 1914. This house has been converted into apartments; window replacement, new siding and alterations to the primary entrance undermine its historic architectural integrity. On the northwest corner of Harding Ave. and Hill St., Mrs. Josie Kent Williams Bostwick, the daughter of Tom Kent, one of the first ranchers on the reservation who married a part-Crow woman, built a two story, frame dwelling around 1914. The house was later acquired by Walter Standish, a government trapper, who had previously lived in a house he had built in 1921 on the northeast corner of Harding Ave. and Grey Bull St. Both of these houses have been extensively altered by the application of new siding, window replacement and alterations to the front porches and entries, which disqualifies them for inclusion in this nomination. In 1920, J.R. Simonsen built one of the more substantial and important early houses in Lodge Grass, which today is a distinctive representative of the simple Bungalow style (PE#198). J.M. Trytten, the cashier at the First National Bank of Lodge Grass, built a large wood frame dwelling on the northwest corner of Hester Ave. and George St. (PE # 213) in 1921. This house stands in good condition and also exhibits the common characteristics of simple, wood frame, Craftsman style construction.

While most of the residential buildings were in the southern part of town, a well preserved, two story, wood frame house owned by Ed Baldwin (PE #41), who operated a garage in town, was built during the historic period of the town's development in the north section of Lodge Grass. This L-shaped house with a clipped gable roof retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity in comparison with the majority of historic residences in the community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

The white population in Lodge Grass did not attend the Baptist Mission church, so with the help of Dr. Petzholdt and the Baptist Mission church, local white residents constructed a new church, known as the Little Brown Church, in 1917 on the northeast corner of Taft Ave. and Grey Bull St. The Baptist Mission bought one of the town lots and A.M. Stevenson donated the other. This is the oldest church still standing in Lodge Grass, but its historic architectural integrity has been compromised by the application of vinyl siding and the replacement of the original windows with modern units. Other churches built in Lodge Grass include Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church on the northwest corner of Harding Ave. and Main St., dedicated in 1933. This church building is now used as offices and storage, and has been replaced by a new Catholic church built next to it. On the northwest corner of Wolf Lays Down St. and First Ave., the Church of the Open Bible was erected in 1948 on land donated by Della Evans. The Crow Indian United Full Gospel Church was also built around 1948 on the northwest corner of Grey Bull St. and Bryan Ave. under the direction of Harold Carpinter, one of the first active evangelists in the Crow tribe. Lastly, in the 1970s, the Church of Latter Day Saints built a church on the northeast corner of Harding Ave. and Wolf Lays Down St.

During the historic period, there were virtually no building contractors or architects working in Lodge Grass, and usually houses were built by their owners, with the help of local craftsmen. A few individuals can be identified as the builders of several structures. George Pease built his second store (PE #11), the so-called Jim Pease house, as well as his second residence, the two-story long and frame building that is also known as the Helen Wolf house. Besides his two story brick store, A.M. Stevenson built the Cottage Hotel, had a hand in building the first school and the Little Brown Church, built a house for his daughter, Marge Clanin, and erected another house on Harding Ave. in 1922. A.S. Barrett built two houses on Taft Ave. between 1931 and 1937. Ben Lawrence built several houses in Lodge Grass over the years, including one on George St. in 1923; one on Taft Ave. in 1937; and two on Hill St. in 1937 and 1941. One of the most prolific home builders in Lodge Grass was Walter Standish. Besides his original home erected in 1921, he is known to have built at least four other houses in Lodge Grass between 1922 and 1937. The Standish family also bought several other houses in Lodge Grass as rental properties.

Many residential buildings in Lodge Grass arrived at their present locations from elsewhere. The Bear Claw House on Hester Ave. had originally been part of the U.S. Government Agency complex located along Lodge Grass Creek. The house of Laura Singer, now located on Lot 10, Block 4, Stevenson Third Addition, was originally owned by Dick Wallace and moved here from its original location on the George Hill allotment on Lodge Grass Creek around 1953. George Cooley's house on Lot 13, Block 5, Original Town, had originally been a Monarch miner's shack. The two houses owned by Al Bonowitz on Lots 1-3, Block 4, Original Town, were also moved to Lodge Grass from a Wyoming coal mine. Sometimes commercial structures were moved from the business district to the residential areas of town and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

converted into dwellings. Such was the case for Martha Graham's house, which had once been the office building at the Vint Pink lumber yard. Nor was it uncommon for a structure to be converted from its original use to a house in Lodge Grass. For example, Charles Wolf moved what had been Frank Young's chicken coop to Lot 15, Block 3, Original Town, where he remodeled it as a home, and Jesse Rodrigues, in 1957, converted two former railroad cars into dwellings.

The most common trend in the last 20 years for residential development in Lodge Grass has been the use of trailers or mobile homes. This trend has been accelerated by the Federally funded Community Development Block Grant program. The goal of this program was to up-grade local housing, and resulted either in the remodelling of houses, which often involved window replacement and the application of modern siding, or in the demolition of older structures and replacement with modern mobile homes set on foundations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904-1930

Builder/Architect multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic resources of Lodge Grass are significant due to their ability to reflect the acculturation process that occurred in this racially mixed community on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana during the first decades of the 20th Century. Unlike most Native American tribes of the United States, the Crow retained a portion of their traditional tribal lands when the reservations were formed in Montana during the later part of the 19th Century. However, the restrictions on migratory movements and the depletion of the buffalo herds forced the Crow to abandon their hunting and gathering subsistence patterns and adapt to the demands of a sedentary way of life based on agriculture and ranching. The Crow had greater success than many Native American tribes in preserving the use of their language, important customs, and other aspects of their traditional culture. The business, residential, and institutional buildings included in this nomination are associated with both white and Crow settlers and illustrate the gradual relocation of the Crow tribal members from their permanent, Reservation-period encampment along Lodge Grass Creek to the frame and log housing of the townsite over a span of thirty years. Commercial development throughout the historic period in Lodge Grass was almost exclusively in the hands of the white traders. Crow people established separate schools and churches, but no pattern of racial segregation is discernible in neighborhood development.

SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Lodge Grass community can trace its roots to the establishment of the third Crow Agency on the Little Big Horn river in 1884 when one band of the Crow tribe settled on Lodge Grass Creek, approximately 20 miles to the south of the new Agency. By 1903, the few whites living in the community were mostly traders who had married into the Crow tribe. The coming of the railroad to Lodge Grass in 1904 spurred further commercial development. The opening of the Mission Baptist day school that year, at the request of local Crow residents, assured community stability by providing an alternative to government boarding schools for Crow children. Significant numbers of whites moved onto the reservation, buying or leasing Indian allotments during the early 1910s. Lodge Grass emerged as the trading and service center for the burgeoning ranching economy of the Big Horn River Valley; business enterprises were operated primarily by whites. During the late 1910s and 1920s, significant numbers of the Medicine Crow band moved from the settlement along Lodge Grass Creek into town. The town's steady growth through this period led to its incorporation in 1927. Lodge Grass provided the residents of the upper Big Horn Valley with essential commercial, agricultural, social, religious, and educational services, with its stores, grain elevator and railroad depot, liverys, movie theater, churches, and schools for both Native Americans and whites. Schools and churches were racially segregated. However, segregation diminished during the 1920s when Crow children were allowed to attend the county public schools. The commercial district, which reached its peak by 1932 remained the central business area of Lodge Grass for the next 40 years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bicentennial Committee of the Big Horn County Historical Society. Lookin Back, Big Horn County, Hardin: Big Horn County Historical Society, 1976.

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 160 acres

Quadrangle name Lodge Grass, MT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	1	4	2	0	0	5	0	2	0	8	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	3	3	1	4	8	3	0	5	0	2	0	8	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	3	3	1	4	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	3	3	1	4	8	0	0	5	0	1	9	9	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The corporate limits of the town of Lodge Grass, Montana: bounded on the east by Main St. and U.S. Highway 87; on the north by the end of the Original Townsite platted limits; on the west by School Hill; and on the south by Harding Ave. $E\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ and $W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, T6S; R35E.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Friedman, Assistant Manager, Archaeology Department

organization Powers Elevation, Inc.

date August 6, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 2612

telephone (303) 321-2217

city or town Denver

state Colorado

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marcella Shufy

title

SHPO

date

6-9-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See continuation sheet for listing

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

While the services provided in Lodge Grass were critical to the development of the region in the 1910s and 1920s, the commercial importance of the town declined during the Great Depression and after the Second World War as the automobile and the larger, competitive commercial centers of Sheridan, Wyoming and Hardin, Montana allowed people to seek such services elsewhere.

The period of significance for the Lodge Grass Multiple Resource Area nomination extends from 1904, when the Baptist Mission school and the railroad came to town, to the early 1930, when the town reached its present size and general appearance. This period of significance can be divided into three fairly distinct phases of economic and social development:

1904-1910: The early Indian trade period when an exchange economy prevailed; a limited number of Government-licensed traders swapped goods such as coffee, sugar, tobacco, dried apples, beads, face paints, etc. for buffalo robes and other pelts, which were then sent East for conversion into cash; and a Crow settlement of tents and tipis existed about one mile south of the present townsite.

1911-1921: A modern cash economy took hold with greater Crow participation, although commercial enterprises still were owned almost exclusively by whites; an expansion of business coupled with the movement of more whites onto the Reservation; ranching and agriculture developed as more important aspects of the local economy; the first residential neighborhoods were established and the townsite was completely platted; greater number of Crow persons moved into town from the tipi camp along Lodge Grass Creek; white public schools were established in 1911 and desegregated in 1921.

1922-1930: Civic growth and expansion marked by the incorporation of the Town of Lodge Grass in 1927; construction of civic facilities, such as the jail, power plant, roads, etc.; increased construction of housing within the platted townsite; racially mixed neighborhoods; increased intermarriage between white settlers and Crow tribal members; culmination of commercial development by 1930.

EARLY CROW SETTLEMENT

The Crow tribe had utilized the Little Big Horn River Valley since their split from the Hidatsa tribe in the mid-18th Century. In 1805, the French trader Larocque visited with the Crows on the Little Big Horn River and, in 1856, James Chambers, an employee of the American Fur Company, recorded meeting the tribe near the mouth of "Grass Lodge" Creek. In 1851, the Crows signed a treaty with the U.S. Government, which included the Little Big Horn River Valley as part of the tribe's territory. Through time, the size of the reservation was reduced as a result of new treaty agreements, but the Little Big Horn always remained within reservation boundaries. After successive adjustments to the boundary of the Crow

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Reservation, the current Crow Agency was finally erected at its present location on the Little Big Horn river in 1884, approximately 20 miles north of Lodge Grass.

With the establishment of the Crow Agency on the Little Big Horn, the life style of the tribe began to change. The buffalo herds were depleted by that time and no longer could be considered a steady food supply. The U.S. Government encouraged the tribe to settle in the Big Horn River Valley, pursue agricultural activities, and give up their traditional migratory hunting patterns. One band of the tribe led by Chief Medicine Crow settled around the mouth of Lodge Grass Creek. The Crow tribe achieved this major cultural and economic adjustment with considerable success. In 1884, the tribe received 746 head of cattle, and the tribal herd grew to 15,000 head within a decade. During the 1890s, irrigation ditches were dug on the reservation and farming districts formed, including one for Lodge Grass. Allotments were surveyed in 1884, 1890, and 1902, and members of the tribe began to settle on individual tracts. The degree of tribal self sufficiency on the reservation can be measured by the fact that in 1905 the U.S. Government Indian Agent reported that no rations were issued to able-bodied Crow that year.

ACCULTURATION, EDUCATION, AND RELIGION

In 1902, the Crow tribe petitioned the Baptist Home Mission Society of New York City to have a day school established at Lodge Grass. Prior to this, the U.S. Government insisted that Crow children be sent to boarding schools, either the one at Crow Agency or others out-of-state. The band at Lodge Grass wanted their children educated closer to home. A council between tribal members and the Mission Society was held near Lodge Grass in 1903 and the Baptists agreed to operate a mission school if the Crow would furnish logs and help with its construction. In 1904, the Reverend Dr. William A. Petzholdt, the Baptist minister at Sheridan, Wyoming, moved his family to Lodge Grass and opened the mission church and day school for Crow children just east of the present town.

The first school for white children was opened in 1911 with funding assistance from Rosebud County. Prior to this, white children, as the Native American children earlier, were sent to boarding schools at Crow Agency or out-of-state. Arthur B. Westwood, the son of the station agent at Lodge Grass, remembered that there were only four white families living in Lodge Grass in 1910. In 1912, A.M. Stevenson donated land for a new school building, which was enlarged to two rooms in 1916, as the white population increased. A larger brick school building on the hill to the west of town was completed in 1918. In 1920, under the provision of the "Crow Bill", certain Reservation lands were granted to the State of Montana for the school indemnity trust fund in return for Crow admittance to the public schools. The Agency boarding schools and the Mission Baptist school closed shortly thereafter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

In 1917, with the help of Reverend Petzholdt, funds were raised for the erection of a separate Baptist church for the white residents of Lodge Grass. In 1926, the Native American Mission Baptist complex, consisting of the log mission house, frame school house, and church building, burned to the ground. Tribal members raised the funds and donated the materials and labor for the construction of the replacement Chivers Memorial Baptist Church in 1928 (PE #218).

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Two traders licensed to conduct business on the Crow Reservation, George Pease and W.H. Simons, established stores at Lodge Grass to serve the needs of the Medicine Crow band around 1900. George Pease was the son of Fellows D. Pease, the first civilian agent appointed to the Crow tribe after the founding of the first Crow Agency on the Upper Yellowstone in 1871. George's mother was a Crow and he had a long association with the tribe, including acting as a witness to the 1899 treaty. The 1900 census listed George Pease as a member of the Crow tribe. On June 9, 1900, George Pease was appointed the first U.S. postmaster for the community of Lodge Grass. Simons replaced Pease at this position on November 6, 1901. In 1902, A.M. "Allie" Stevenson bought out both Simons and Pease and became the sole merchant at Lodge Grass. Allie Stevenson had first come to the Crow reservation in 1887 to work for his uncle, Charles Babcock, who ran a store at Crow Agency. On October 9, 1902, Stevenson became the postmaster for Lodge Grass, a position he was to hold for the next 30 years.

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, which had built a line through the reservation in 1894, moved a depot building from the small town of Corinth to Lodge Grass in 1904. This relocated building was likely replaced with the present, two story Lodge Grass depot a few years later (PE #7). George Pease returned to town from his ranch on Rotten Grass Creek in 1908 and opened a new store (PE #11) across the street from the depot. The depot and the new Pease store acted like a magnet for the community.

Other white merchants and Crow residents moved north from Lodge Grass Creek and the current town of Lodge Grass developed on land that had originally been part of two Indian allotments. The northern part was owned by George Pease, who either had received the allotment because he was considered to be a member of the Crow tribe or had purchased it from another tribal member. In 1909, Pease had the Original Town of Lodge Grass surveyed, filing the official plat two years later. In 1909 when Pease completed his survey, there were only five buildings located within the Original Townsite area: Pease's own house, store, and barn; the railroad depot; and the railroad agent's house. South of this was the allotment of George Hill, a Gros Ventre Indian with a Crow wife. The 1900 census listed Hill as a farmer. He sold part of his allotment to A.M. Stevenson, who in 1911 filed the first subdivision, the Stevenson Addition. And, in 1912, Hill filed the Hills Addition. By 1921, four other additions would be platted, and the modern town's configuration was molded.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

In 1911, A.M. Stevenson built his new brick store at the northwest corner of Main St. and Hester Ave. within his new subdivision. This store, which served as the post office for Lodge Grass until 1933, was eventually run by Stevenson's children, his son Sam and his daughter Marge Clanin, and later his grandchildren. Also in 1911, Allie Stevenson in partnership with his brother-in-law, Oliver McKinley, built the Cottage Hotel, which was managed by Katherine Durst, the sister of McKinley and Stevenson's wife, Hester. Oliver McKinley, a local rancher, also operated a horse market and livery in town. Allie's wife Hester served as a mayor of Lodge Grass during the later years.

In 1913, George Pease sold his new store to Joe Hinman and opened a livery. The Second Pease Store was later acquired by William Benbrooks, who served as the town's postmaster from 1933 to 1935. Another livery in Lodge Grass was built by Grover Swartz and William Lynde in 1914, which became the town's social center where dances and basketball games were held. The livery also had a bunkhouse where visiting cowboys could stay. Later this building was converted into a movie theater.

The growth of the commercial community was tied directly to the development of an agricultural economy on the Reservation and the beginning of permanent white settlement there. In 1904, the Crow tribe ceded the northwestern portion of their Reservation to the U.S. Government. Within a few years this area was settled by whites, with the town of Hardin springing up around 1907-08. In 1913, Big Horn County was created, with Hardin as the county seat. At that time, a number of whites began moving onto the Reservation, either buying or leasing Indian allotments. Major cattle outfits, such as the Spear Brother Cattle Company, formed in 1896, began to run livestock on the Crow Reservation in 1909. By 1915, this company had over 32,000 head and evolved into what is today the Faddis-Kennedy Cattle Company. In 1908, Frank Heinrich bought George Pease's ranch on Rotten Grass Creek and this eventually became the headquarters for the famous Antler Ranch, managed by Heinrich's nephew, Matt Tschirgi. By the 1940s, Tschirgi had acquired 50,000 acres and leased an additional half-million acres on the Crow Reservation, where he ran some 20,000 head of cattle and 100,000 sheep.

Lodge Grass emerged as a major stock shipping center, with a feed lot, and stock yards, sending off some 384 carloads of cattle annually at its peak during the 1910s. Besides livestock, Lodge Grass also was a shipping point for agricultural products such as sugar beets, and, in 1918, the J.W. Drew Company erected a grain elevator (PE #15) on the west side of the tracks just north of the depot. Today, the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Depot and the J.W. Drew Company Elevator serve to recall the historic prominence of Lodge Grass as a regional shipping point.

In the later 1910s and early 1920s, a thriving commercial district emerged in Lodge Grass. An important early business in Lodge Grass was the hotel owned by Fellows Pease. This hotel building also housed a bakery, restaurant, and pool

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

hall, operated by Joe Sharp. In 1920, after the building burned down, Sharp built a new grocery store on Helen St. (PE #63). This store served as the town's post office from 1935-1945. A number of other small groceries and a plethora of pool halls operated in Lodge Grass during this period.

In 1919, A.M. Stevenson was operating a lumber yard in town with Wayne Bond as the manager. The town's lumber yard changed hands a number of times during the next decade. Next to the lumber yard, Ed Cammock built a two story brick hotel and restaurant in 1920 (PE #12). Another brick building in town was put up by the Lodge Grass Merchandise Company in 1920 and operated at first as a hardware store (PE #52). Later this building was acquired by J.J. Ping, a Hardin merchant, and converted into a branch of his "Federated" clothing store. The town's first butcher was Carl Cresswell, who came to Lodge Grass around 1917. In 1925, Anton Zeleny opened the second butcher shop. John Ryan, who had first tried his hand at ranching near Lodge Grass, moved into town in 1920 and opened up a barber shop. Also in the 1920s, Frank Menz, who was part-Crow, operated a harness-repair and shoe-making business in Lodge Grass. Of the 15 businessmen in Lodge Grass in 1922, Menz was the only Crow. He and George Pease are the only Native Americans known to own a business in the community during the historic period.

The bowling alley erected by Frank Gordon in 1917 was converted into the First National Bank of Lodge Grass in 1918. This was the fourth bank chartered in Big Horn County, and its Board of Directors included A.H. Bowman, Chairman of the Big Horn County Commissioners, cattlemen Willis Spear and R.J. Miller, the Reverend W.A. Petzholdt, and merchants A.M. Stevenson and, later, William Benbrooks. The bank closed in 1924, likely as a result of the State-wide agricultural depression that followed the First World War. Very little new commercial construction was initiated in Lodge Grass after the mid-1920s. The Great Depression of the early 1930s caused existing businesses to flounder and only modest scale residential construction occurred.

CIVIC AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

In 1927, the town of Lodge Grass was incorporated and John Ryan, the barber, was elected the first major, beating out Paul Johnson, owner of the lumber yard. The first efforts of the new city government focussed on public works, employing a policeman, and building a jail (PE #18). The city also built an electric plant at considerable expense during the late 1920s, which was abandoned in 1936 when Lodge Grass was able to join the local Rural Electrical Association.

Residential construction in Lodge Grass generally post-dates commercial development. A newspaper article in 1911 noted only a dozen houses in town. Although commercial buildings in the community are clustered along Main St., Helen St., and First Ave., a few residences are also found within this commercial core, such as John Ryan's house (PE #71). Movement from the Indian encampment

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

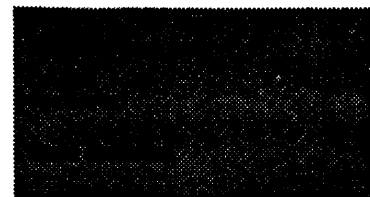
along Lodge Grass Creek to permanent wood frame or log housing within the townsite appears to have been slow. A photograph dated to 1917 shows a large number of tipis and tents still grouped along the creek bottom. Even after the platting of various subdivisions, most residences in the southern part of town were not built until the 1920s and 1930s. A great many of the houses in the northern part of town were not erected until the 1940s and 1950s. There does not appear to be any clear racial segregation in the patterns of home ownership. A major impetus for both Native Americans and white ranchers to locate in-town was the proximity to schools and churches.

The 1910 census listed the whites living in Lodge Grass, but did not enumerate the Crow population by specific towns, making it difficult to decipher the precise sequence of Crow relocation from the Lodge Grass Creek encampment. The only two Native Americans shown to reside in Lodge Grass in 1910 were both tribal policemen, who were assigned the task of patrolling the borders of the Reservation to make certain that whites who entered carried the proper permits. In 1914, there were a total of 41 white and Native American adult males in Lodge Grass; 20 were involved in the livestock business and 7 were merchants.

The changing fortunes of Lodge Grass serve as a gauge of the economic development of the Crow Reservation. The town was founded at the turn of the century, soon after Crow Agency was moved to the Little Big Horn Valley. Lodge Grass provided some of the earliest commercial services for the Crow tribe. As the agricultural economy of the Reservation became established during the 1910s, the town of Lodge Grass grew and prospered. The agricultural depression of the 1920s slowed growth and, as the regional economy fared poorly during the Great Depression, commercial development in Lodge Grass halted. The town's racially mixed schools and segregated religious and social institutions have provided an enduring sense of community identity in Lodge Grass since the historic period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Lodge Grass, MT Item number 9 Page 1

Hardin Tribune, 24 March 1911; 21 March 1913; 4 April 1913; 11 November 1927.

Medicine Crow, Joe. Lodge Grass, Montana. Interview, 22 November 1985.

Pease, Eloise, Johnson, Adrien, Johnson, Torry, and Fox, Richard
Grass, Tipis, and Black Gold. Hardin: Adrien Johnson, 1976.

Piff, David M. "Records of the Crow Indian Agency, 1872-1958: A Preliminary Inventory of the Records at the Seattle Archives and Records Center." Seattle: Federal Archives and Records Center, n.d.

Polk, R.L., Directory of Billings and Red Lodge, Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater, and Big Horn Counties. Helena: R.L. Polk and Company, 1914-1920.

Noblett, Mrs. John, "'Greasy Grass' Attracted Early Traders," Hardin Tribune-Herald, Golden Anniversary Edition, 16 May 1957.

Randold, Edmond, "Matt Tschirgi's Last Big Roundup," Denver Post 18 September 1960.

The Searchlight (Hardin), 2 September 1925; 7 October 1925.

U.S. Postal Service, "Records of Appointments of Postmasters, 1833-1971." Denver: Federal Archives and Record Center, Microfilm #841, Roll #76, Montana, n.d.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lodge Grass Multiple Resource Area
State Big Horn County, MONTANA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Cover | Submitted for for Keeper <u>William B. Bushong</u> | <u>8/3/87</u> |
| 1. Baldwin House | Entered in the National Register for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Cammocks' Hotel | Submitted for for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 3. Chivers Memorial Church | Entered in the National Register for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Drew, J. W., Grain Elevator | Entered in the National Register for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Lodge Grass City Jail | Submitted for for Keeper | <u>William B. Bushong 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 6. Lodge Grass Merchandise Company Store | Entered in the National Register for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Pease's, George, Second Store | Entered in the National Register for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 8. Ryan's, John, House | Submitted for for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 9. Sharp's, Jay, Store | Entered in the National Register for Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 10. Simonsen's House | Submitted for for Keeper | <u>William B. Bushong 8/3/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lodge Grass MRA
State Big Horn County, MONTANA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 11. | Stevens, Dominic, House
<i>Entered in the
National Register</i> | for Keeper <u><i>Helena Bryan</i></u> <u>8/3/87</u>
Attest _____ |
| 12. | Trytten, J. M., House
<i>Entered in the
National Register</i> | for Keeper <u><i>Helena Bryan</i></u> <u>8/3/87</u>
Attest _____ |
| 39 13. | Lodge Grass Railroad
Depot DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
<i>Substantive Review</i> | for Keeper <u><i>William B. Bushong</i></u> <u>8/3/87</u>
Attest _____ |
| 14. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |
| 15. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |
| 16. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |
| 17. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |
| 18. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |
| 19. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |
| 20. | | Keeper _____
Attest _____ |