

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM

DEC 15 1992  
REGISTER

New Submission     Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Stone Buildings in Lewistown, Montana and Vicinity

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Stone Construction in Lewistown, Montana: 1890-1940

C. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Jeff Sheldon; edited by Kim Currie, SHPO Historical Intern

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Date: July 1992

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City or Town: Lewistown

State: Montana

Zip: 59457

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maude Shuff SHPO  
Signature of certifying official

12-11-92  
Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Patrik W. Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

1/27/93  
Date

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## E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

### THE HISTORY OF STONE MASONRY IN MONTANA

#### LEWISTOWN, MONTANA:

Each period in the history of Montana stone masonry is effectively illustrated by the stone buildings of Lewistown, MT. Lewistown is indeed a community of stone buildings. Many stone residences, churches, and commercial buildings endure as prominent examples of stone construction in the early twentieth century. In addition to these buildings, Lewistown harbors one remaining sandstone quarry that reflects the importance of stone production. Lewistown represents the eras of the development, the boom, and the bust of the industry. The historic integrity of design, materials, craftsmanship, setting, feeling, and association affiliated with each period endures to appropriately symbolize the history of stone production and construction in Montana.

#### GENERAL OVERVIEW:

The inception of quarrying and stone construction in Montana essentially patterned the evolution of the industry in the eighteenth-century colonies on the East Coast. The early construction of buildings and residences in the colonies, as well as in Montana, used materials found near the building site. While most builders in the colonial era utilized timbers from the abundant forests of New England and the Appalachian Mountains to construct their homes, field stones were commonly used for foundations and chimneys.<sup>1</sup>

In the Treasure State, stone was seen as an adequate means to fill the housing demands levied by homesteaders on the Central and Eastern Montana plains. Field stone too, was the primary material used in the construction of stone buildings. Stone masons used it to fashion several vernacular-styled residences and commercial structures. The buildings found in Montana during the pre-railroad years commonly employed uncoursed rubble stone walls. Detailing of structures lacked creativity, and craftsmanship failed to reflect a high level of skill. Stone was not polished; crude stone lintels customarily adorned windows with wooden sills; and masons used simple mortar technology to produce common smear joints. The standard rectangular floor plans displayed serviceability yet lacked imagination.

The Edward Quigley residence at 618 West Janeaux Street in Lewistown, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an excellent example of vernacular stone work. The walls are composed of uncoursed rubble stone, and smeared mortar joints are finished with raised tooling. Although the house is essentially plain in detail, it genuinely displays the serviceability of early stone construction techniques mentioned above.

No definitive date can be assigned to the end of the "vernacular" or evolutionary period of stone construction and the beginning of the boom era in Montana. Crude rubble stone buildings were constructed during the boom years in the 1900s as readily as higher-skilled craftsmanship randomly appeared in the 1890s. Despite the overlapping periods of stone construction, a sudden and exacting change in the Montana stone industry did appear in the early twentieth century and for a variety of reasons. During the 1900s and 1910s, stone construction experienced great prosperity. The factors contributing to this prosperity included the inception of commercial stone production, the arrival of skilled stone masons from Europe, the homestead boom, and improved transportation of the railroads in Montana.

Commercial stone production came to Montana with the discovery of valuable stone resources across the state. East of the Rocky Mountains, quarrymen began to excavate a large quantity of sandstone from the Cretaceous formations. By 1908

See continuation sheets

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<sup>1</sup> Mark London. Masonry: How to Care for Old and Historic Brick and Stone (The Preservation Press: Washington, D.C. 1992.) 44.

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this stone was profitably being quarried in eight counties. Geology professor Dr. Jesse Perry Rowe cited Columbus as the principal area in Montana for sandstone production in terms of both quality and quantity. Here, a highly-regarded, fine-grained bluestone was produced in great amounts.<sup>2</sup> Excavated from the Laramie formation, masons used this stone extensively in the construction of the State Capitol in Helena. Rowe stated that practically every town from Wibaux to Livingston had a quarry producing various types of sandstone.<sup>3</sup> Stone had long been completely hidden in the shadows of gold, silver, and copper mines. It now, however, had finally found a glimmer of light in its recognition as a staple non-metallic product.

In addition to this appraisal of Eastern Montana's stone resources, Western Montana, too, had entered the prosperous world of stone production. By the early 1900s, granite, phyllite, and quartzite quarries boomed from the Prickly Pear Valley of Helena to the Bitterroot Valley of Missoula. Lewis and Clark County became the largest producer of granite in the state. The best quarry was located nine miles southwest of Helena in Jefferson County. Quarries also produced granite in Silver Bow and Ravalli counties. Slate (phyllite) and volcanic ash production abounded in the mountain counties such as Beaverhead, Gallatin, Ravalli, and Missoula.<sup>4</sup> Quartzite, while not as commonly used as sandstone or granite for building material, could be quarried in Beaverhead and Missoula counties. By the early twentieth century, Montana had produced a viable quarry industry to answer the growing demands for housing. Now the state merely needed skilled craftsmen to meet this demand and guide the field of stone construction in Montana to maturity.

Skilled stone masons arrived in Montana with other immigrants who had passed through the gates of Ellis Island on their way to the West in the early 1900s. These men came primarily from small villages in the Italian Alps where stone masonry had thrived as a proud and hardy industry for many generations. While many of the stone masons who immigrated to Montana considered pursuing work in the prosperous mining industry, the abundance of stone resources, a lack of other building materials, and the "building boom" in several newborn communities encouraged them to continue their trade.

The community of Lewistown in Central Montana lucidly illustrates the impact of these new immigrants on the stone industry. A rich legacy of twentieth-century stone masonry endures here where Croatian stone masons meticulously lined the streets with their ornate constructions.

The skill of these immigrant stone masons delineates the second stage in Montana stone construction history. Three stone masons from the Dinaric Alps of Austria initiated the skillful stone masonry trade in Lewistown. Croatians Pete Tus, Peter Drazich, and John Plovanic Sr. arrived in Great Falls from the small village of Bribir in 1897. The three men came as part of a "chain immigration," the customary way for Croatians to immigrate to Montana. Upon the advice and invitation of friends who had earlier immigrated to the Treasure State, Tus, Drazich, and Plovanic arrived in Great Falls after working as stone masons in such places as Europe, Canada, and South America. Finding the mining community of Black Eagle, adjacent to Great Falls, not to their liking, the trio moved to Lewistown to pursue their trade. They proceeded to erect some of the most beautiful and elaborate stone buildings in the state.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Jesse Perry Rowe. Some Economic Geology of Montana (Montana State University Press: Missoula, MT. 1908.) 47.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 44-45.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 49.

<sup>5</sup> Anna Zellick. "The Men from Bribir." Montana Magazine of Western History. V. 28, #1 (Montana Historical Society: Helena, MT. January, 1978.) 44.

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In Lewistown, the highly skilled craftsmanship that defines this era in the stone industry is displayed by such buildings as the Lewistown Carnegie Library, the Power Mercantile building, the Masonic Temple, and Saint Joseph's Hospital. The skilled masons and laborers carved Ionic columns and capitals, finished stone arches, built elaborate walls of pitched, faced stone and bands of rubbed stone, used beaded tooled joints with durable mortar, and chiseled flush rubble stone faces in the construction of these buildings. The masons also successfully experimented with unique floor plans and new architectural styles, such as the Romanesque Revival and the Beaux Arts styles. Lewistown's simple rubble stone buildings erected during the late nineteenth century fail to compare with the elaborate design and detailing of Croatian stone masonry.

The success of early immigrant stone masons like Tus, Drazich, and Plovanic encouraged the immigration of more masons, further elevating the skill level of craftsmen throughout the state and expanding the stone industry in Central Montana. By 1910, twenty-two stone masons had arrived in Lewistown alone; sixteen of these men were from Croatia.<sup>6</sup> The influx of these artisans brought the Montana stone industry to a full state of maturation.

The arrival of homesteaders in the Treasure State sparked the building boom that urged immigrant stone masons to pursue their trade in Montana. While the homestead "boom" in the United States truly began with the first Homestead Act in the 1860s, the influx of settlers to the Northwest did not precipitate until the early 1900s. Abundant land and resources encouraged homesteaders to settle in the mountain valleys and on the plains of Montana. Settlement by these honyockers further promoted the growth of small centers of community to service those needs of farmers that could not be answered by subsistence farming alone. The development of such towns, complemented by the increasing wealth of the agricultural industry, increased the demand for the construction of stone residences and commercial buildings. Elaborate detailing was often requested by owners, challenging Montana masons to display creativity as well as serviceability in their constructions. The demand for such unique work throttled the stone industry to success. Hence, the prosperity of the masons directly reflected the economic well-being of Montana homesteaders and their centers of community.

In addition to the Homestead Laws that encouraged people to come west, the promotional campaigns of new railroads incited settlers to enter Montana as well. Although railroads had been in the state since the early 1880s, they did not begin to thrive until the 1900s, when lucrative land grants prompted them to bring people westward. By guiding settlers to the West, railways clearly affected the stone industry. However, rail transport of products had an even greater impact. While railroad lines continued to encourage the settlement of the West, transportation of Montana stone products to other states became a valuable service. Stone was shipped to such places as Utah, California, and even the East Coast. The arrival of the railroads initially prompted the notion that the Montana stone industry now had the means to secure an economic niche in the state. Ironically, the long-awaited railroads soon paved the way to the drastic decline of stone construction in Montana.

When the Milwaukee and Northern Railroad arrived in Lewistown in 1913, local stone masons acknowledged its embarkation as another chance to expand their industry. Sandstone from local quarries could now be transported to distant locations in other states, promising greater affluence for the hard-working stone masons and firmer foundations for stone construction, yet the masons soon perceived that this was not the case. Instead of exporting stone products, the railroad began to import cheaper building materials such as timber and brick, both of which required less labor than stone. The introduction of alternative building materials severely damaged the stronghold of stone masonry in Lewistown. Housing demands continued to increase, but the demand for stone buildings plummeted. This trend was similar throughout the state--the railroad had ushered in the downfall of the stone industry.

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<sup>6</sup> 1910 Census Manuscript.

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Railroad companies were not the sole nemesis of stone construction. Several factors contributed to its decline and the appearance of a final phase of its history. Local brick and cement factories began production in prime stone-quarrying communities. Locally-manufactured masonry products successfully competed with stone for the building dollar. Brick was a cheaper material and required less labor. While the stone industry most often demanded a skilled labor force to cut, dress, and place stone, brick factories and builders using brick as a construction material could utilize unskilled labor. The influx of immigrants to Montana in the late 1910s provided a plentiful supply of unskilled, transient workers who eagerly accepted low pay at these new commercial factories.

The 1920 Census Manuscripts confirm this phenomenon. In 1911, George Wiedeman opened the Lewistown Brick and Tile Company. Following the construction of this factory, a cement plant also opened. The census roles indicate that a large number of immigrants, who listed their occupations as general laborers, came to Lewistown and found employment in either the brick factory or the cement plant. For example, one man, Clarence Lewis, although a mechanic by trade, found work at the cement plant, indicating the lack of skill needed in the labor force to operate these plants. And the competition posed by these less expensive building materials translated into fewer stone masonry jobs. Few stone masons, however, turned to brick masonry for employment. Despite the declining demand for stone work, trained masons refused to give up their proud and skillful trade.

The year 1918 proved disastrous for agriculture in Montana; widespread drought, wind, and locusts ravaged the land, producing a mass exodus of farmers from the state between 1919 and 1925. By the early 1920s, it was apparent that the homestead boom was dead. A blanketing depression, preceding the Great Depression that gripped the nation in 1929, covered Montana; consequently, the construction of new buildings slowed to a trickle. Few stone masons could be found in communities like Lewistown by the mid-1920s.

Despite the devastating effects of the railroad, competition from commercial masonry manufacturers, and economic depression on the stone industry in Montana, some high-style stone construction projects were completed during this period of decline. Two of the original founders of the stone industry in Lewistown, Pete Tus and John Plovanic, managed to find work erecting the stone additions of Saint Joseph's Hospital, completed in 1926 and 1936 respectively.<sup>7</sup> Other masons, too, found occasional employment, yet the level of craftsmanship reverted to its earlier roots. Stone buildings again appeared with smeared mortar joints and unfinished stone walls. Lintels no longer retained the creative detailing of earlier buildings; along with window sills, lintels were composed of plain concrete. Stone buildings constructed during this final era failed to display the aesthetic refinement found in the structures that preceded them.

The Lewistown Airport Hangar remains as a symbol of this era in its simple design and craftsmanship. This structure, built in 1934, was constructed with recycled stone. The use of recycled stone from the condemned First Christian Church in Lewistown is indeed unique. The rectangular plan and rugged stone appearance, however, resemble the plain rubble stone constructions of the pre-railroad days.<sup>8</sup> In comparison with the ornate buildings constructed during the premiere years of stone masonry in Lewistown, 1900-1915, this structure truly lacks refinement. The serviceability theme, so readily visible in the buildings constructed prior to the era of aesthetic, creative masonry, found rebirth in the dwindling stone industry of the depression years.

Stone construction in Montana experienced vibrant success in the early 1900s. The decades preceding this era reflect the evolution of the production of a newly-recognized natural resource. The decades following the boom of stone production

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<sup>7</sup> Saint Joseph's Hospital Nomination File (MT SHPO: Helena, MT. April 30, 1978.)

<sup>8</sup> Lewistown Airport Hangar Nomination File (MT SHPO: Helena, MT. May 29, 1991.)

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and construction, however, tell the sad tale of an industry gone bust. Like other industries in Montana that have experienced this boom-and-bust phenomenon, stone production did not readily die. While it never again achieved the prosperity of the early twentieth century, stone construction did achieve a small but consistent place in the Montana economy. The skillful designs of the trained stone mason, however, are forever lost.

**TECHNIQUES OF THE SKILLED STONE MASON:**

During the early twentieth century, the "boom" years of the stone industry in Central Montana, the skilled Croatian stone masons of Lewistown followed a fixed and rigorous schedule to complete their daily tasks at quarry and construction sites. The journey of a block of stone from the Big Springs Quarry on Big Springs Creek to its resting place in the wall of a local building involved extensive labor and patient and dedicated stone cutters and masons.

The process of stone quarrying and construction occurred in three phases during the pre-railroad and the "boom" years in Lewistown: the rough-cutting of the stone, the final shaping of the stone, and the building of the stone wall. Although most of the stone industry in America employed separate laborers to accomplish each phase, the Lewistown stone masons often completed each task themselves. Ray Plovanic, a Lewistown mason, asserted that both his father and his grandfather rough-cut the stone, shaped the stone, and finally laid the stone themselves, without the help of added labor.<sup>9</sup>

Each phase of stone construction involves excessively hard, back-breaking labor and limitless patience. Anthony Tuss, also a Lewistown mason and the grand-nephew of the well-known mason Peter Tus, described the process of rough-cutting stone to Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer, Jeff Shelden in 1987. Mr. Tus had worked in the stone industry for many years and acknowledged the rigor and challenge of the profession. While sandstone is a relatively soft rock compared to other stone such as granite and limestone, the rigidity of the rock varies and is directly related to the amount of time it has been exposed to the air. "Green stone" sandstone extracted from within the ground, is much softer than surface stone, which is more rigid from exposure.<sup>10</sup> Thus, the experienced stone cutter and mason preferred to use green stone in his constructions, for it was much easier to cut and shape.

Whether surface stone or green stone was available for use, the stone cutter still had the difficult task of extracting the rock. In describing the initial aspects of rough-cutting, Mr. Tus stated that the first part of stone extraction involved the blasting of the stone face to loosen the rock.<sup>11</sup> This blasting was accomplished by teams of two quarrymen, who used hand drills to dig blasting channels four to twelve feet deep, depending on the rigidity of the sandstone. To complete this process, one quarryman would hold the drill and would make a quarter turn between each hammer blow, leaved by the other quarryman. Rarely did the hammer operator miss his target. When the digging was completed, water was poured into the hole to absorb the dust. The stone cutters then cleaned this pasty substance out of the hole, which was now ready for blasting.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Ray Plovanic. Interview by Kimberly Currie and Patricia Bik (Lewistown, MT. July 16, 1992.)

<sup>10</sup> Ray Plovanic and Tony Tuss. Interview by Jeff Shelden, Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer. Tape 5 (Lewistown, MT. October, 1987.)

<sup>11</sup> Tony Tuss. Interview by Jeff Shelden, Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer. Tape 4 (Lewistown, MT. October, 1987.)

<sup>12</sup> Tony Tuss. Interview by Jeff Shelden. Tape 2 (Lewistown, MT. October, 1987.)

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In order to blast the rock, a "dummy" catch was made, usually out of magazine pages, to hold the black powder. A knot was tied in the catch to serve as a fuse and then was lit.<sup>13</sup> Following the blast, rough masons would split apart the rock with wedges and would "rough cut" them. Eight to ten inch pieces of stone were slabbed off of the blocks at the height of the grain using a chisel. The blocks were loaded onto horse-drawn wagons by horses, mules, or later, hydraulic hoists.

The stones were transported to the construction site for final shaping and laying. At the site, free masons would shape the stone with precision to fit the architectural style of the building. Using a comb-like axe and different types of chisels, a mason could pitch, carve, or decorate the face of each stone block. The tools used to cut and shape the sandstone in Lewistown were rarely made by blacksmiths. More often, tools were brought from Croatia and either sharpened by a grinding wheel or forged in the backyard with a hot fire and an anvil.

To lay each block of stone in place, masons had to build from the inside around the floor joists. Walls were usually eighteen to twenty inches in thickness with eight inches of the face stone backed up by broken rock, spalls, mortar, and rubble.<sup>14</sup> Nailing blocks were placed on the inside to allow for plastering. Mortar, initially composed of lime and sand and later of sand and cement, affixed the stones in place.

To produce lime mortar near Lewistown, Croatian stone masons extracted limestone from nearby Lime Kiln Gulch. The limestone was fired in a sealed kiln for a week, cooled slowly, and then mixed with both sand and water to produce a durable mortar.<sup>15</sup> Masons extensively used this mortar in their constructions in Lewistown.

The care and dedication of Lewistown's Croatian stone masons is readily visible in the beautiful buildings that line the streets of this town. Few people, however, understand the rigor of the stone industry and the arduous task of extracting the stone from the quarry, cutting the stone, transporting the stone, shaping the stone, and laying the stone in its final resting place within a wall. Despite the lack of attention paid to the hard and back-breaking work of the stone masons, their pride was enthusiastically fierce, for they knew that they were the last of a talented and skillful breed.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ray Plovanic. Interview by Jeff Shelden. Tape 5 (Lewistown, MT. October, 1987.)

<sup>15</sup> Tony Tuss. Interview by Jeff Shelden. Tape 3 (Lewistown, MT. October, 1987.)

## F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

### 1. NAME OF PROPERTY TYPE: Stone Buildings

### 2. DESCRIPTION:

All of the buildings included in this property type are distinguished by the use of locally quarried or gathered sandstone as the primary construction and finish material. The stones may have been cut, finished smooth or with a rock-face, pitched, or used as rubble. The building must remain significantly unaltered. Virtually all other characteristics of this property type are variable, including building type, past or current function, owner, builder, or designer.

The commercial buildings submitted as part of this multiple properties documentation range from simple vernacular, rubble stone warehouses, to highly sophisticated, stylistically advanced, architect-designed buildings that exhibit the extraordinary masonry skills of the Eastern European immigrants of the early 20th century. Small vernacular rubble stone residences characterize the early period, while a high level of craftsmanship is again evident in the later constructions by the Croatian masons. The third period of construction in the Lewistown area exhibits a return to earlier vernacular masonry techniques, including the use of smear mortar joints and uncoursed rubble stone.

### 3. SIGNIFICANCE:

Craftsmanship defines the significance of Lewistown's stone buildings under criterion C, despite evidence of the overlapping of techniques within each period delineated above. Early period stonework prior to the arrival of Croatian stone masons in the early 1900s is characterized by the surviving examples of rubble construction, though photographs show that a simple, unadorned pitched-face coursed ashlar was possible. Ordinary structural problems such as arches, which were easily and decoratively solved in the middle period, posed problems for builders of this period who lacked the skill necessary to construct elaborate and complex stonework. Mortar joints in all surviving examples display a crude "smearing" and lack the refinement of later joints. Such crude joints reappear in the late era of stonework and in the repointing work completed in more recent times to repair weathered joints. Stone coursing during this early period displayed variance, with most structures and buildings constructed with uncoursed stonework. Crude lintels and sills that adorned the windows of buildings lacked creativity. In essence the theme used by these early masons in their constructions was serviceability, lacking the aesthetic qualities displayed in the middle period.

Middle period stonework breached with the crude designs of the past as a large and skilled immigrant work force arrived in Montana at the beginning of the period during the turn of the century. Builders, owners, designers, and the community benefited from the craftsmanship that these artisans brought to their new communities and demonstrated in their work. Work of this period is characterized by well-crafted pitched face or rubbed stone walls, frequently constructed in a random ashlar pattern; walls were composed of coursed stonework. Stone buildings in this period feature elaborate carvings, columns with entasis, polished stone sills and flamboyant arches and lintels. Buildings included as part of this nomination exhibit many of these features. Also, mundane details were carefully accomplished, notably rubble walls chiseled flush, and "smear" joints that were finished with beaded joints to create a random ashlar effect. The raked and pointed joints greatly increased durability.

Late period stonework of the late 1910s to the late 1930s is characterized by the decreasing demand for stonework, brought about by competition with brick masonry and other building materials, and by the devastating effects of an agricultural depression, and later, the Great Depression. High-style stone masonry was still displayed by the masons of this period, but almost exclusively at the old hospital. New construction reverted to its earlier roots. Skill levels noticeably declined. Rubble work again predominated. Earlier middle period buildings were demolished and recycled. Accents or focal points of the stonework were not based in stylistic influences as was the case during the middle period; again the theme of serviceability appeared to supercede the aesthetic refinement of the middle era. Finally, new cements replaced more reliable, softer lime types in the mortar, and this resulted in accelerated degradation of these structures due to spalling and cracking of the stone surfaces. Later masons utilized a new material, portland cement, to repair deteriorated mortar joints. Such repointing is particularly evident in the older buildings listed in this nomination.



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**4. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:**

The buildings considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places are all constructed of locally gathered or quarried sandstone, primarily from the Big Springs Stone Quarry south of Lewistown, and exist in a substantially unaltered state. The researchers recognized that few historic buildings remain entirely unaltered, yet alterations to eligible buildings must be minor, reversible, and compatible with the original design and material integrity of both the structure and setting.

The most important requirement taken into consideration in the documentation of the nominated properties, however, is the architectural and/or historical integrity of each nominated building and their ability to effectively represent each era in the history of the stone industry in Montana. The submitted properties have been evaluated according to their presentation of craftsmanship, materials, architectural style, associations, general feeling, and lack of alteration.

All buildings included in this multiple properties submission are associated with one of the three following sub-contexts:

1. typify pre-railroad, pioneer stone work (1880 - 1900).
2. typify high quality stone work, made possible by the presence of a new, large, skilled immigrant population (1898 - 1936).
3. typify late period using rubble stone and low cost labor, often under federal public works programs (1930-1936).

## G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The use of locally quarried or gathered sandstone as the primary construction material defines the resources studied as part of the "Stone Buildings in Lewistown, Montana, and Vicinity." The study area extends well outside of the city limits of Lewistown, with the Mill House, located approximately 5.3 miles south on Big Springs Creek, as the furthest outlying resource. A significant number of stone buildings that are important in the history of stone masonry in Lewistown have already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Lewistown Multiple Resource Area nomination of 1986. Reconnaissance survey work indicated that over 95% of all stone resources ever constructed in this area, whether or not they still exist, were erected within this 5 1/2 mile radius. The three primary reasons for the clustering of these resources are due to the concentration of skilled labor in Lewistown, economic conditions and ready access to the building materials.

A number of stone buildings are known to exist in Fergus County, but were physically located outside of the scope of this study. Notable resources for future nomination to the National Register of Historic Places include the Waite ranch house, now the Werthiemer ranch, southeast of Utica (35 miles west of Lewistown), which was built by one of Lewistown's leading stone masons, John Plovanic. The Winifred grocery store is another significant building, located about 50 miles north of Lewistown. Originally called Stafford's General Merchandise, this commercial building also was built by John Plovanic. The Tuss homestead, about twelve miles east of Lewistown, was built using stone quarried from nearby cut banks and bluffs. A few other significant resources built by Croatian stone masons and thus related to this context, exist in Harlowton, Roundup, Great Falls, and at Yellowstone National Park.

## H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The multiple property documentation for stone buildings in Lewistown, Montana, and vicinity was conceived by local historic preservation officer Jeff Shelden to encompass the significant stone buildings in the Lewistown area that had not been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as part of historic districts. He based this documentation on a comprehensive historical and architectural inventory of stone buildings in the Lewistown area which was completed by Ellen Sievert in 1987.

Historic contexts were determined by grouping properties according to construction details and apparent levels of craftsmanship. Dates of completion were then noted and emerging patterns compared to the historical and social trends and events which occurred during the historic period. Geographical locations were mapped. Research on the individual stone buildings was completed using Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, Polk directories, title abstracts and tax cards. Newspaper articles of the construction period were carefully gleaned for information. Interviews and personal communications with the building occupants and the descendants of the craftsmen proved extremely useful.

Typology of significant properties was based on the material used in construction, with subdivisions based on the construction details correlated to dates of construction. This method seemed to be the clearest way for the nomination to illustrate and explain the historical and social trends that affected the typology.

Decisions about the qualifying levels of historic architectural integrity were determined using the seven National Register standards: design, setting, location, materials, workmanship, association and feeling. Information from research literature and survey data was also used to assess the relative condition and scarcity of each property within its sub-context, and to determine the degree to which alterations and deterioration undermined the ability of the buildings to convey their historical associations.

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Brief descriptions of the stone buildings in Lewistown, Montana, that are included as a part of this submission or have been listed previously follow:

- 1899 **St. James Episcopal Church** (original portion), 502 West Montana St., Lewistown  
John Sutcliffe from Chicago designed this English Gothic style church. The exterior walls are uncoursed rubble stone finished with smear mortar joints.
- c.1900 **Stone portion of the Lewistown Art Center**, 108 8th Ave. North, Lewistown (Courthouse Historic District)  
A small, one-story, coursed rubble stone building in the vernacular tradition with flat stone lintels. The construction is attributed to Charles F.W. Lehman, one the of the leading pioneer merchants of Lewistown.
- 1900 **Edward Quigley Residence** at 618 W. Janeaux, Lewistown  
This modest house is an excellent example of the use of vernacular stone work. The walls are uncoursed rubble stone. The smeared mortar joints are finished with raised tooling. The builder of this house has not been identified.
- 1905 **Residence at 805 Watson**, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
This simple, pyramidal-roofed residence features coursed rubblestone walls with smear mortar joints finished with a raised bead to lend an impression of coursed ashlar.
- 1905 **Residence at 809 West Watson**, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
Another pyramidal-roofed small residence of coursed rubble stone with smear mortar joints, this house was built in conjunction with 805 and 813 West Watson. The stonework has been repointed and it is likely that the raised, beaded mortar joints were lost at that time.
- 1905 **Residence at 813 West Watson**, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
Another pyramidal-roofed small residence of coursed rubble stone with smear mortar joints, this house was built in conjunction with 805 and 809 West Watson. The stonework has been repointed and it is likely that the raised, beaded mortar joints were lost at that time.
- 1907 **Blacksmith shop**, 301 W. Janeaux, Lewistown (Courthouse Historic District)  
This late vernacular building constructed by R.D. Baker from Canada features uncoursed rubble stone walls finished with stone voussoirs over the relieving arches of the small, multi-paned windows, cast-in-place concrete lintels over the wide door openings and concrete coping.
- 1898 **Hopkins Brothers Warehouse**, 612-616 Forth Ave. North, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
A one-story false fronted, barrel-roofed coursed rubblestone building.
- 1900 **Hopkins Brother Grocery**, 117 West Main St., Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
The coursed rock-faced ashlar building is a simple, one-story commercial block with a decorative parapet. The builder(s) have not been identified, although the stone work resembles that completed by the Croatian masons.

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- 1900 **Judith Hardware**, 307 West Main St., Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
The builders of this two-story, coursed rock-faced ashlar building with a pressed metal cornice have not been identified, but the stone work, again, resembles that completed by the Croatian masons. The window openings have flat stone arches and sills.
- 1901, 1912 **Power Mercantile Co.**, 302 West Main St., Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
Designed by the prestigious architectural firm of Link and Haire, this well appointed, two-story, coursed rock-faced sandstone building was built in stages. The addition to the west features stepped jack arches over the windows.
- 1902 **Lewis House**, 702 Boulevard, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
Built by Croatian stonemason Peter Tus, this cubic form, 2-story house features roughly coursed cut stone finished with smear mortar joints with raised beads to give the impression of coursed ashlar. The rear elevation of the house has more of a rubble work appearance.
- 1902, 1912 **Bright House**, 707 West Boulevard, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
Constructed in two phases, likely by Peter Tus, this house was originally a carriage house associated with the Lewis property across the street. In about 1912, the building was converted into a house. It appears that the same masons may have worked on the remodelling because of the close match in techniques of stone cutting and joint work.
- 1904 **Fergus County Jail**, 712 W. Main St., Lewistown (Courthouse Historic District)  
Designed by local architect C.E. Bell and built by the Tubbs Bros. The building features coursed, rock-faced ashlar walls.
- 1904 **Warr Building**, 210 West Main Street, Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
Designed by architect John Kent and built by stone mason John Laux, this simple two-story building features alternating courses of cut smooth and rock-faced stone. The "flamboyant" flattened arches over the windows add interest.
- 1902 **May Apartments**, 803 W. Main, Lewistown (Courthouse Historic District)  
This coursed, rock-faced, irregularly sized sandstone building with stone sills and cast-in-place concrete lintels was built by local stone mason John Laux. Laux also built the Lewistown Brewing Co. in 1894.
- 1903 **Commercial block at 109 4th Ave. South**, Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
A more crudely fashioned two-story commercial block built by the Tubbs brothers using rock-faced coursed ashlar.
- 1903 **Clark/Cardwell House**, 523 W. Watson, Lewistown  
The coursed, rock-faced ashlar home was constructed using blocks of uneven size. The name of the builder is unknown.
- 1903 **Schroeder Hospital**, 502 Fifth Ave. South, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
This Queen Anne style house features coursed, rough-cut sandstone with smear mortar joints.
- 1903 **Residence at 324 West Corcoran**, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
A two-story, pyramidal hipped roofed house fashioned of random-sized cut stone set with flush joints. The builder is unknown.

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- 1903 **Mill House**, 4½ miles southeast of Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD) This two-story building of coursed ashlar construction was built to house an electric power mill.
- 1904 **H.H. Lang Block**, 413 West Main, Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
This four-bay commercial block features heavy stone lintels over Chicago style windows on the second floor. The builders have not been identified, but a high level of skill is evident in the coursed rock-faced ashlar facade.
- 1905 **Carnegie Library**, 701 W. Main, Lewistown (Courthouse Historic District)  
Designed by T.J. Tubb and built by the Tubb Bros., this Classical Revival style building features coursed, quarry-faced, random-sized sandstone block wall construction with stone lintels and sills. Smooth dressed stone is used for belt coursing and architrave, and the columns flanking the entry are finely carved.
- 1905 **Residence at 712 E. Broadway**, Lewistown (Courthouse Historic District)  
This finely detailed random, rock-faced ashlar, two-story house was built by T.J. Tubb. Sills, lintels, coping and squared porch columns are of pitched-face ashlar. Two specially carved scuppers drain the porch floor.
- 1906 **St. Joseph's Hospital**, Lewistown  
This mammoth stone hospital was constructed in stages from 1906 through 1945, and exhibits many masonry styles and levels of skill of the various stone masons. The Croatian stone masons were all Catholics and this building is a wonderful testimony to their work in Lewistown over a 40-year period. John Plovanic was one of the primary contractors.
- 1906 **Stone Barn**, 1 mile south of Lewistown (Big Springs Stone Quarry Historic District Nomination)  
Likely built by Peter Tus, this coursed rubblestone barn and its adjacent stone residence feature the typical smear mortar joints.
- 1907 **Diamond Block**, 417 West Main Street, Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
Designed by John Kent and built by Wells and Ellsworth, who likely employed Croatian stone masons, the two-story, three-part commercial block features subtle variations in the stone work to lend contrast and elegance to the facade. Alternating widths of coursed rock-faced ashlar enliven the facade.
- 1908 **Ligatich House**, Upper Spring Creek, Lewistown (Big Springs Stone Quarry Historic District Nomination)  
This small stone house features high quality craftsmanship with cut stone sills on the facade. The side walls are of coursed rubblestone.
- 1908 **Masonic Temple**, 322 West Broadway, Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
Designed by Wasmandorff and Eastman, this three-story masonry building combines coursed rock-faced and smooth ashlar with carved Ionic pilasters, cornice, etc. The stone work was completed by Peter Tus (general contractor), Pete Drezick, George Drezick, George Ligatich, Vincent Kalafatic and John Plovanic. An interesting aspect of the design is the free-standing archway composed of elaborate cubic Corinthian columns and cut stone voussoirs and an exaggerated carved keystone that marks the entrance to the building.
- 1909 **Abel Brothers**, 511 West Main Street, Lewistown (Central Business Historic District)  
Another simple, two-story commercial block of coursed, rock-faced sandstone construction, this building was designed by Madison Cooper Co. of Watertown, N.Y. The builders have not been identified. An interesting feature is the use of dressed stone lintels with "flamboyant" arches, similar to those found on the Warr Building.

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- 1909 **Blackford Residence**, 713 W. Main, Lewistown, (Courthouse Historic District)  
The first story of this craftsman style residence, that was designed by the local architectural firm of Wasmandorff and Eastman and built by the Tubbs Bros., is of random, rock-faced ashlar. A smooth finished belt course encircles the building. Sills and lintels are of rock-faced stone.
- 1909 **Symmes Residence**, 220 W. Boulevard, Lewistown (Silk Stocking Historic District).  
Designed by the local architectural firm of Wasmandorff and Eastman and constructed by Croatian stone mason J.F. Plovanic, the first story walls of this Craftsman style house utilized hand-cut, quarry-faced coursed ashlar of irregular sizes with smooth dressed stone lintels, stone columns and capitals on the porch, and a dressed stone string course at the base of the first floor windows. The second story is of wood frame construction.
- 1909 **Waite Residence**, 316 N. 3rd Ave., Lewistown (Silk Stocking Historic District).  
The first floor of this eclectic residence, which was designed by Harry W. Jones of Minneapolis, exhibits uncoursed, rock-faced sandstone. Sills, lintels and stone steps are rub finished. There is a matching stone garage at the rear of the lot. The names of the stone masons who worked on this residence are not known.
- 1912 **First Presbyterian Church**, 215 5th Ave. South, Lewistown (Lewistown MRA)  
Designed by Wasmandorff and Eastman and built by the Tubbs brothers, this cut stone church exhibits a high quality of craftsmanship. The exterior walls are coursed rock-faced ashlar. This is a fine, complex building.
- 1912 **Addition to St. James Episcopal Church**, 502 West Montana St., Lewistown  
This later addition to the vernacular English Gothic church that dated to 1899 exhibits the tradition, skill and craftsmanship of the Croatian stone masons. The coursed, rock-faced ashlar walls are finished with chiseled margins at the corners and on support columns.
- 1914 **Anderson House**, 105 West Watson, Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
A two-story American four-square style house of random-sized coursed cut stone with smear mortar joints. The original hipped roof of the house has been replaced with a gabled roof and the historic windows have recently been replaced with casements.
- 1916 **Huntoon Residence**, 722 W. Water, Lewistown  
A Craftsman style stone residence designed by Link and Haire and built by Lee Dysart. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the use of rock-faced ashlar for the complex form.
- 1934 **Lewistown Airport Hanger**, 1½ miles northwest of Lewistown (Stone Buildings MPD)  
This unique stone structure was built of recycled stone from the First Christian Church. The walls feature projecting "skilted" stone in each 8-10-foot section.

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