

Jezick Barn

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, CIRCA 1890

This stone barn, just up the hill from downtown Helena, is one of the few “in town” barns left in Helena. It is a wonderful, mostly unaltered example of the work of Croatian stonemasons who helped build prominent structures in the capital city. The barn, built by Frank Jezick in the late 1880s, once housed dairy cows and was a workshop for his team of stonemasons.

Frank Jezick immigrated to Montana in 1882 and began work on the Hale Reservoir at the top of Clancy Street. He soon found other work on buildings such as the Clark-Parchen mansion, the Montana Club, and the Helena High School (now demolished). Eventually, he was responsible for bringing some thirteen other Croatian men to Helena between 1888 and 1900. Nine of the men were stoneworkers, ranging in age from fifty-six to eighteen, who lived in the one-story building near the barn.

The clipped gable roof, or gherkin-head roof, and limestone walls on the barn reflect centuries-old building traditions commonly found in central and southeastern Europe. Luckily, the barn was not severely damaged by Helena’s devastating 1935 earthquake, which saw many of the city’s beautiful masonry buildings, including the Jezick house, repaired with a coat of stucco.



The Jezick house and barn are located a stone’s throw from downtown Helena.