

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

For the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201202, 1301 E Lockey
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **617 E. Broadway**

Historic Address (if applicable): **613 E. Broadway**

City/Town: **Helena**

Site Number: **24LC2440**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Lewis and Clark**

Historic Name: **Julian Anderson Residence**

Original Owner(s):

Current Ownership Private Public

Current Property Name:

Owner(s): **Thompson, Daniel Carlson and Elizabeth**

Owner Address: **617 E. Broadway, Helena, MT 59601**

Phone:

Legal Location

PM: **Montana** Township: **10 N** Range: **03 W**

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section: **31**

Lot(s): **N 94' Lot 5**

Block(s): **M**

Addition: **Blake Amended** Year of Addition: **1887**

USGS Quad Name: **Helena** Year: **1992**

Historic Use: DOMESTIC/single family

Current Use: **DOMESTIC/single family**

Construction Date: Estimated Actual

Original Location Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov

NAD 27 or NAD 83(preferred)

Zone: **12 T** Easting: **421021.35** Northing: **5159487.03**

Geocode: **05-1888-31-1-27-29-0000**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District:

NRHP Eligible: X Yes No

Date of this document: **7/20/2016**

Form Prepared by: **Delia Hagen**

Address: **660 River Court, Missoula, MT 59801**

Daytime Phone: **(406) 360-0120**

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Eligible for NRHP: yes no

Criteria: A B C D

Date:

Evaluator:

Comments: Identifying Montana's African American Heritage Places Project.

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Architectural Description

Property Name: Julian Anderson Residence

Site Number: 24LC2440

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style: **Other:** If Other, specify:

Property Type: **Residential** Specific Property Type: **Single-family dwelling**

Architect: **unknown** Architectural Firm/City/State:

Builder/Contractor: **unknown** Company/City/State:

Source of Information:

The property historically known as 613 E. Broadway occupies a rectangular parcel on the south side of East Broadway Street, which runs east-west. The house is centrally located on the block which is bordered by Chaucer St. to the west, Hillsdale St. to the south, and S. Beattie St. to the east. It hugs the northern portion of the parcel, and is one of two buildings on the property. City sidewalks run along the north side of the parcel. A perpendicular concrete slab walkway connects the city sidewalk to the front entrance. Landscaping includes a large eastern side yard, mature deciduous trees and shrubbery.

The two story residential building comprises four components, including one main section with a gable-front roof; a hip-roofed, one-story, enclosed front entrance porch that spans the width of the north elevation; a one-story hipped extension across the east elevation, and an attached front-gabled garage on the west side the of south elevation. With the exception of the garage that sits upon a concrete slab, all components are wood-frame constructed on stone foundation walls masked by stucco cladding. Together, the main gable-front component creates a rectangular footprint. The hip-roofed enclosed entrance porch spans the width of the main component. A small pedimented dormer highlights the porch entry. With the exception of the garage which is clad in wood shingle, architectural asphalt composition shingles cover the roof slopes. All components display overhanging eaves, but only the more modern garage features exposed rafter tails. A brick interior chimney straddles the main ridgeline, set off-center to the south, and a shed dormer appears low on the main gable's east slope. The exterior of the house is uniformly clad in stucco which covers the original horizontal wood board. The garage is clad in wood droplap horizontal siding.

North (front) elevation:

The façade of the building faces north to E. Broadway St, and features a hipped, enclosed porch across its first story. Four wooden steps lead to the raised porch's entry, located on the west side of its north elevation. The entry is filled with a twelve-light wood storm door flanked by two rectangular transom lights on both sides, and three rectangular lights on top. Wood trim surrounds the transom entryway. To the east of the entrance, the porch north wall contains four, twelve-light windows. These fixed window panels are removable, as evidenced by the one-over-one-light screens set forward of them within each frame. The east extension's narrow north elevation contains a single, tall one-over-one window with a one-over-one storm. The second story of the north façade has a centrally located set of three double-hung windows within the gable end: a four-over-one light unit flanked by single three-over-one-light units. A one-over-one-light wood-frame storm protects each window.

West (side) elevation:

Three distinct bays define the west elevation, including the porch to the north, the main building at center, and the garage's west elevation to the south. Above a stuccoed half-wall, a pair of twelve-light units, identical to those across the porch's north elevation, comprises the one-story north bay. Four vinyl-clad replacement windows within original wood-frame openings puncture the central bay: two one-over-one single hung vinyl windows and a one-by-one vinyl slider on the first floor, and a one-over-one single hung vinyl window on the second floor. The garage bay protrudes slightly from

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the house plane. A pair of centered six-light wood-frame windows illuminates the garage's interior from its west elevation.

East (side) elevation:

The east elevation's three bays include the porch to the north, the main central bay dominated by a full-width hipped extension, and the garage. Like the west elevation, the porch's east wall has a pair of twelve-light windows atop a stuccoed half-wall. The central bay's extension has four openings: a small multi-paned diamond-light leaded glass hopper to the north; a pair of one-over-one vinyl-clad units off center to the north; a set of three units off-center to the south (a one-light fixed flanked by one-over-one double-hungs); and a smaller one-by-one slider to the south. At the second story, a centered shed dormer shelters a pair of original wood-frame one-over-one double-hungs. The garage's east elevation sports a centered opening with a ribbon of three, four-light, fixed, wood-frame windows, and a wood-paneled pedestrian door to the north.

South (rear) elevation

The residence's south elevation contains two opening in the gable end: a single one-over-one double-hung to the west, and a pair of identical windows to the east. An original opening at the first floor, centered in the east side and partially obscured by the garage roof's overhang, originally contained a one-over-one double-hung, but now has a single fixed light above a wood infill panel. A vinyl, multi-light/multi-paneled overhead garage door fills the garage's south elevation. A concrete slab driveway about eight feet long extends from the garage door to the rear alleyway.

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History of Property

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HISTORY OF PROPERTY

This property was first platted in 1887 as Lot 5 of Block M of the Blake Addition (Amended), along the south side of East Broadway Street, just southeast of its intersection with Gem Street.

Although tax records indicate the current house was built in 1900, it was actually constructed years earlier: when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company first mapped the neighborhood in 1888 the lot contained the current house, then a 2-story rectangular dwelling identified as 613 E. Broadway. At that time it was likely owned by members of the Beattie family, who soon undertook improvements to the property: between 1890 and 1892, a one-story front porch was added to the house and an outbuilding was constructed at the rear of parcel along the west lot line.¹

In 1913 Edward and Jennie Beattie, along with George Beattie, sold 613 E. Broadway to Julian Anderson, who already occupied the home. Anderson was a prominent member of Helena's African-American community who had worked at the Montana Club since ca. 1893. Anderson and his descendants would own the property for more than 60 years.

City directories listed the Anderson family at 613 E. Broadway by 1910, and that year census takers enumerated the household. At the time it included Julian, 44, born in Germany to Virginia-born parents and working as a "steward" at the Montana Club, and his 41-year-old wife Margaret (nee Bertrand or Burton, born in Canada of French Canadian parents, likely of indigenous descent), whom he'd married in Helena in 1888.² It also included their children, sons Harry (21), Julian Jr. (a.k.a. Pete, 11), Joseph (1) and Page Thomas (2) and daughters Elenorah (16), Francis H. (18) and Florence (19), as well as Florence's husband Floyd Turner (24), all of whom were born in Montana.

Shortly thereafter Julian and Margaret divorced, and in 1915 Julian remarried. His new wife, Tennessee-born Ella Newton Davis, 25, likely joined him at his E. Broadway home, which housed a shifting mix of extended family in subsequent years. By 1930, east side additions to the house had been completed, and occupants of the expanded home (by then shown as 613/617 E. Broadway) included son Julian Anderson Jr. and his Missouri-born wife Mattie, 45, who worked as a "chamber maid" at a "club house," as well as daughter Elenorah and her husband of three years, Ad Edison Banks, a native of Alabama who worked as a porter at a hotel.³ Three years later a new baby, granddaughter Bertrand Banks (a.k.a. Cornelia), joined the household. By 1940, Julian Sr. was a widower, while daughter Florence had divorced and was again living at 617 E. Broadway while working as a beautician at a beauty parlor. The Banks family was still living with the Andersons, and so, too, was a lodger, 53-year-old widower George Williams, a native of North Dakota who made a living bartending at a "club house."

Julian, and his home on E. Broadway, remained a stable focal point for the family for decades. In 1953, a June 20th celebration marked Julian's 60th anniversary of working at the Montana Club, where the 90-year-old man was a revered institution. Julian lived for another ten years—likely in his E. Broadway home—dying in December 1962 at about 100 years of age. His daughter Elenorah Banks inherited the family home, and after she died it passed in 1974 to her daughter Cornelia Bertrand Maney and Paul W. Banks. Cornelia lived in Portland, and that same year she conveyed the property to Estella Hersey. Hersey owned it only briefly, deeding it almost immediately to Michael Pech. Less than three years later, Michael and his new wife Deena conveyed it to Ruth A. Simerly, who in turn sold it two years later, in 1979, to Edward and Vivian Reeves. The Reeves owned 617 E. Broadway for more than fifteen years. In 1995 it passed to Richard and

¹ Searches of Lewis and Clark County grantor/grantee indexes provided no information about ownership of this property prior to 1892. That year, owners August H. Weiber & Gertrude H. Wieber (H & W), Edward W. Beattie (widower), George D. Beattie (single) and James Blake (single), conveyed the bottom 6' of Lot 5 (along with the bottom 6' of other lots) to the City of Helena.

² In 1900, the Andersons were living at 99 Alta Street. Census takers that year described Julian as being born in Virginia of a Swedish father. Julian's 1888 marriage certificate stated he was born in Washington, D.C. Two years later, city directories listed Anderson living at 223 Broadway.

³ Ad Banks previously lived at 835 5th (1917) and at 565 5th (1920), where he lodged while working as a mail clerk for the railway.

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History of Property

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Andrea Razzeca, and in 1999 to Gary Miller and Rebecca Ritchter. The current owner occupants, David (or Daniel) and Elizabeth Carlson-Thompson, acquired it in 2000. According to Sanborn Maps, the footprint of the house at 613 E. Broadway was not modified from before 1930 to after 1958.

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Information Sources/Bibliography

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INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1887 Blake Addition (Amended)

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Statement of Significance

Property Name: Julian Anderson Residence

Site Number: 24LC2440

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NRHP Listing Date:

NRHP Eligibility: Yes No Individually Contributing to Historic District Noncontributing to Historic District

NRHP Criteria: A B C D

Area of Significance: **Ethnic Heritage & Social History** Period of Significance: **c.1910-1966**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Purchased in 1913 by longtime Helena resident Julian Anderson, a black man born in Germany, and his Montana-born wife Margaret Bertrand, who was likely of American Indian ancestry, the Anderson-Banks house is significant under NRHP Criterion A (local level) as a residential property associated with the history of African-American people in Helena, MT. The extended Anderson-Banks family occupied the home as a rental for at least three years before purchasing it, and the home would be owned and occupied by three generations before Julian and Margaret's grandchildren (heirs of their daughter Elenorah Banks) sold it in 1974. The Anderson family was prominent in the local African-American community. Or 60 years, Julian worked as the head bartender at the Helena's largest black employer, the Montana Club, and as such was critical in helping a large portion of the community (including his daughter) find employment. By virtue of his long association with the Montana Club, Julian was also well known in the white community, intimately associated for six decades with the local, national and even global white elites who patronized the private and exclusive social club. The Anderson-Banks house is thus associated with two significant historic contexts: its black owner-occupants lived there during the heyday of Helena's, and Montana's, African-American community, ca. 1875-1910, and they sold their home and left it after the deep community decline that followed, ca. 1910-1940. The property's period of significance is the period during which it was owned and occupied by African-American people, ie. ca. 1910-1966 (ie. 50 years ago).

The Anderson-Banks house represents these significant historic themes in a number of specific ways. Located between the black St. James AME Church (Site LC2430) and Helena's historic downtown, it was one of multiple homes in the surrounding east-side neighborhood that housed a cluster of African-American people. Julian and Margaret Anderson were an unusual couple in some respects—most black people in this period married other black people—and their union illuminates something of the contours of “social” segregation, a.k.a. prohibitions against interracial intimacy: Margaret was likely of Metis indigenous descent, a non-white woman whose union with Julian was more acceptable to a white supremacist society than it would have been if she were white. In other ways, the Anderson-Banks household was representative of the larger African-American community. Like other black families in the region, family members came from border states, like Missouri, or arrived in Helena as a result of “colored” troops being stationed at Fort Harrison—Ad Banks cousin was a soldier there. Once in Helena they lived in a close-knit, multigenerational extended-family milieu.

The economic activities of the Anderson-Banks house residents likewise were representative. Like many African-American families in Helena, the home's owners took in boarders to help make ends meet and provide lodging to other local black people. And although the duration of Julian Anderson's Montana Club tenure was exceptional, his occupation (like that of other men who resided in the house, working as porters and bartenders) was not—these were prototypical positions for black men, who in this period were oft-confined by structural racism to low-status, low-waged work. Moreover, probably in part due to Julian's influence, the Montana Club, along with other hospitality businesses like hotels, was the largest employer of black Helena residents. Women's labor, too, was typical: many black women worked at arduous jobs to help support their families, and cleaning positions like “chambermaid” were primary among them.

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Integrity

Property Name: Julian Anderson Residence

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INTEGRITY (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association)

Resting in its original location within its historic residential setting, the Anderson House displays a high degree of integrity. Though covered in stucco and featuring some replacement windows that compromise its materials, the house's integrity of design and workmanship remains intact from the historic period. It remains a single family home, and its feeling and association are apparent.

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Photographs

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Feature #
Facing: S-SE

Description:

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Photographs

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Feature #
Facing: SW

Description:

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Photographs

Property Name: Julian Anderson Residence

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Feature #
Facing: NE

Description:

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Photographs

Property Name: Julian Anderson Residence

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Feature #
Facing: NW

Description:

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Site Map

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Topographic Map

Property Name: Julian Anderson Residence

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PROPERTY:
617 E Broadway St
(fka 613 E Broadway St)
Lewis and Clark County
Helena, Montana
GeoCode:
05-1888-31-1-27-29-0000
LAT 46.584302
LON -112.030879