

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: **1003 9th Ave.**

Historic Address (if applicable): **1003 9th Ave.**

City/Town: **Helena**

Site Number: **24LC2450**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Lewis and Clark**

Historic Name: **Crump - Howard Residence**

Original Owner(s): **James and Clarissa Crump**

Current Ownership Private Public

Current Property Name:

Owner(s): **Lincoln, Roxann and Phillips, Kenneth**

Owner Address: **1003 9th Ave., Helena, MT 59601**

Phone:

Legal Location

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

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ **SE** $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section: **30**

Lot(s): **1**

Block(s): **5**

Addition: **Bassett** Year of Addition: **1883**

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

Historic Use: **DOMESTIC/single family residence**

Current Use: **DOMESTIC/single family residence**

Construction Date: **c. 1889** Estimated Actual

Original Location Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov

NAD 27 or NAD 83(preferred)

Zone: **12** Easting: **421581.82** Northing: **5159946.63**

Geocode: **05-1888-30-4-11-39-0000**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District:

NRHP Eligible: 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: **9/20/2016**

Evaluator: **Kate Hampton**

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

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Architectural Description

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**

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:

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The property commonly known as 1003 9th Avenue is located in an historic residential neighborhood located east of Rodney Street and Helena's downtown. It occupies a rectangular lot on the southeast corner of the intersection of 9th Avenue and N. Idaho Street. A gravel alley borders the south side of the parcel. The property contains two dwellings, with the Queen Anne main house situated in the north half of the parcel, facing 9th Avenue and the smaller, simpler back house (which now serves as a garage/shop) situated at the south end of the lot, facing N. Idaho Street. A yard, planted to grass, lies between the two buildings and runs around the main house as well as behind the back house. An unpainted picket fence runs along the north and west property lines, while wood privacy fence encloses the backyard on the east and south sides. City sidewalk bounds the parcel on its north (9th Avenue) and west (N. Idaho St.) sides. A concrete walkway runs southward from the north property line (where it is stamped "1003") to the primary entrance of the main house, and wraps around the west side of the house, meeting a poured concrete parking pad at the southwest corner of the building. Concrete steps access the front, (west) side, and rear entrances. A raised flower bed, built of dry-stacked concrete blocks, extends across the east half of the south wall of the main house and wraps around the southeast corner. A concrete driveway runs from N. Idaho to the north half of the west wall of the rear house. A large conifer grows in the northwest corner of the yard, and a variety of deciduous trees grow elsewhere. Lilacs are located at the southwest corner of the lot, next to the alley off of the rear house.

Main House

The main house is a 1.5 story wood-frame north-south oriented Queen Anne building constructed on a stone foundation. In classic Queen Anne fashion, it has a steeply-pitched hipped roof with lower cross gables (with a dominant, decorated front-facing gable) and an asymmetrical façade, and features a pent roof enclosing the gables, a variety of wall textures (including patterned shingles), simple window and door surrounds and single-light windows. As originally constructed, the house was of the spindlework Queen Anne variety, featuring an off-set partial front porch with turned supports and gingerbread ornamentation (topped by a widow's walk), a bay window, ornamented gables, several types of cladding, and walls that flared out at the bottom of the second story in order to disrupt the wall plane.

Its several main components (primary 1.5-story component and one-story enclosed original front porch and back addition) together create a rectangular footprint, with an enclosed applied front entry porch and an integral side entry porch. The roof is covered is architectural asphalt composition shingles, representing at least the fourth roof to shelter the house (new cedar shingles were installed in 1950, and an asphalt composition roof was completed in 1968). A widow's walk is located on the northwest corner of the house, above the original front porch (now enclosed). Exterior walls are primarily clad in fiber cement siding—in board form on the first floor and patterned shingle form on the second—and gables are clad in original wood shingles, with the façade gable boasting original stickwork ornamentation. Original fenestration patterns are for the most part intact, but unless otherwise noted the wood-frame windows have been replaced with modern wood-frame windows of the same style as the original, ie. one-over-one double-hung sashes.

Modern cladding mimics some of the original Queen Anne detailing, but the ornamentation on the side gables and the flared walls, as well as the bay window and spindlework porch, are no longer extant (the porch and bay window having been integrated into a single one-story enclosed front component ca. 1962). Current cladding is fourth-generation. The

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original wood was covered with asbestos shingles in 1950, which was in turn covered with aluminum in 1962 (around the time the front porch was enclosed—the enclosed section had no previous siding beneath the aluminum, and the aluminum matched that on the rest of the house).

The main entrance is located in the enclosed entry porch applied to the façade (north wall) of the house. The entry porch extends off of what was the original integral front porch, which was enclosed in 1962. The entrance is filled with a vinyl storm door paired with a modern metal door. The single-story original front-porch component (which initially featured an integral porch on its west half) has a clipped northeast corner (it was originally a bumped-out bay that was incorporated into a single front component when the porch was enclosed in 1962). There is a window opening in the north wall to the east of the entrance that is filled with a pair of windows. A single window is located in the northeast wall of the porch component, and a small fixed hexagonal window is located west of the entrance in the north wall. On the front-gabled upper level of the north wall there is a window opening, filled with a pair of windows, that breaks pent roof and extends into the gable.

The west wall of the enclosed one-story porch component contains a window opening filled with a single window. The west wall of the primary component has a single window on the first floor, a four-light fixed-sash half way up the wall (which lights the landing of the interior stairway) and a single window on the second floor (which, like that on the north wall, extends into the gable). A louvered vent is located in the peak of the west gable. A one-story hipped-roof addition, originally constructed as a carport in 1960 and enclosed in 2008, extends of the south side of the house. There is a secondary entrance located in its west wall, beneath the integral west-side porch. That entrance is filled with a scrolled wood screen door paired with a 3-light glazed-and-paneled door. The side porch mimics the original spindlework front porch, with turned supports and decorative brackets.

The south wall of the single-story carport-cum-addition contains a large entry opening, filled with a pair of ten-light French doors, in the west end and three window openings, each filled with a single four-over-one light window, to the east (above the raised flower bed). The east wall of the carport addition contains an opening filled with a four-over-one light window, and the east wall of the primary component contains two window openings. The opening on the first floor contains a pair of windows—original wood sashes—while the opening on the second floor (which like the others extends into the pedimented gable) contains a single window. There is a louvered vent in the peak of the east gable.

Interior of Main House

In the interior of the main house, the floorplan remains mostly intact, as do numerous details. The interior of the residence consists of six main rooms, three on each floor. Upon entry from the front door (on the north wall) one stands in an entry area, originally the front porch, off the northwest corner of the living room. There is a modern bathroom to the right, and past the bathroom the stairwell rises to the second floor. The kitchen is straight south across the living room, and the dining room adjoins the living room at the east half of its south wall. The modern carport addition (with a sunroom/office) is accessed through a doorway, which originally opened to the exterior, in the south kitchen wall. The staircase climbs up from the west side of the living room. Upstairs, the landing opens onto four doors. Three of these lead to bedrooms (at the northeast, southeast and southwest corners) and the fourth, at the south end of the landing, leads to the bathroom. Floors have been updated throughout, though some of the updates (like the wood flooring in the living room) seem to date to the historic period. Extant original interior details include intact coved plaster in the upstairs (walls and ceiling) as well as woodwork like corner guards, wide baseboards, window and door casing (with bullseyes and plinth blocks) and doors. Original transoms are extant, as is the original built-in dining room cabinet.

Rear House/Garage

The single-story wood-frame house-cum-garage at the southwest corner of the property is built on a rubble foundation and retains its original L-shaped footprint, with the base of the L on the north and the leg of the L on the west. It has a gable-

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on-hipped roof covered with interlocking asphalt composition shingles. The original brick interior chimney is intact, and rises from the south slope of the west component of the L. The original entry overhang that once extended off of the west wall, and featured scrolled brackets, has been removed. A driveway extends from N. Idaho to the north end of the west wall of the house, and a short sidewalk runs south from the driveway to the original main entry. The west and north exterior walls are clad in clapboard siding, as is the south wall of the leg of the L. The remaining three walls (the east walls and the north wall of the base of the L, as well as the east gable) are covered in large, wide asphalt composition shingles. Extant windows in the house are all one-over-one double-hung wood-frame.

The façade (west wall) of the rear house has been modified by the addition of a garage door opening that dominates its north half. The garage door opening is filled with a modern vinyl overhead garage door. Just south of the garage opening is the original pedestrian entry, filled with a modern nine-light glazed-and-paneled door. Additional west wall features are limited a single window located in the south half. The south wall of the house once contained a secondary entrance at its west end. When the clapboard siding was replaced in 2014, that entrance was covered over and the south wall is now featureless. The east wall of the leg of the L and the north wall of the base of the L are featureless. The gabled east wall of the base of the L has only an entry opening filled with an original wood-paneled door. The south wall contains two window openings, each filled with a single window.

The 1954 conversion of the rear house into a garage seems to have resulted in just three exterior modifications. The garage door was cut into the north half of the façade (likely replacing an original living room window opening) and a concrete parking pad was poured in front of it. At some point, the roof overhang above the original front pedestrian entry was removed.

Interior of Rear House

In the interior of the rear house, the floorplan is no longer intact, for the two primary interior walls were removed when the building was converted to a garage. But several interior details convey the building's original residential character. The original layout is still discernible (marked by the remnants of original walls and flooring): the interior of the residence consisted of three main rooms. Upon entry one from the front door (on the west wall) one was standing in the small living room. To the right was the bedroom (with a secondary entrance in its south, ie. alley, wall). The kitchen was on the east side of the living room and it, too, had a secondary entrance, located in its east wall. An extant interior brick chimney, located at the inside corner of the L, served all three rooms. Extant original interior woodwork includes examples of wide baseboards, window and door casing (with bullseyes and plinth blocks) and doors.

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HISTORY OF PROPERTY

Sometime in the 1840s, Mrs. Clarinda Crump gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, James Wesley Crump, in Jackson County, Missouri. Little James was black, but unlike most African-Americans at that time, he wasn't born into slavery, he was born free.¹ As a young man he used that freedom to help end slavery and free the millions of enslaved black people: in 1863 James Crump, along with his brother John, enlisted in the Union Army at Leavenworth, Kansas.² Described as "a 17-year old laborer, 5' 6" height, with yellow complexion, brown eyes and black eyes," Crump became a private in the Douglas Independent Battery, U.S. Colored Light Artillery Brigade (a.k.a. the Independent Colored Kansas Battery), a unit unusual for being commanded by black officers. Crump's unit saw combat in "a week-long running cavalry battle" that ensued when Confederate Maj. General Sterling Price invaded Missouri and Kansas from his Arkansas base. Price's troops were ultimately driven back into Arkansas, and their expedition would be the last major Confederate operation west of the Mississippi River. The Civil War soon ended, and James Crump mustered out of the victorious Union Army in July 1865. He left Fort Leavenworth and headed west, bound for the booming new mining territory of Montana.³

A young enslaved girl named Clarissa Jane Powell traveled west around the same time. Born into slavery in Booneville, Virginia around 1854, eleven-year-old Clarissa had been taken from her parents at a young age and was brought to Montana from Pettis County, Missouri, by her owners, Philip E. and Mary (Powell) Evans, in April of 1865.⁴ On a spring St. Louis day, little Clarissa boarded the Fort Benton-bound steamer *Lily Martin*, and headed up the turbulent Missouri River, each turn of the paddlewheel taking her farther from home. The river journey would be transformative in more than ways one: on May 9th, U.S. President Johnson declared the Civil War over, the Union victorious. The news soon reached the *Lily Martin*: as the boat chugged toward Montana Territory, Clarissa learned she was free.⁵

As two African-American people who came to Montana at about the same time from the same general area of Missouri, the pro-south central part of the state known as Little Dixie, Clarissa Powell and James Crump likely met soon thereafter.⁶ The territory was then in the midst of a large influx, but there were only a handful of settlements in the region, and very few black people inhabited them. After the *Lily Martin* docked at the mouth of the Marias, where it was forced to stop in late June due to low water, Clarissa climbed into a wagon and traveled overland to the raw mining camp of Helena. When James Crump arrived in the territory a little later, he went to work hauling freight. Helena was then rapidly becoming Montana's principal city, and a regional center: by the late 1860s, in the employ of the Diamond R Overland Freighting Company, Crump was making a living hauling freight from Corinne, Utah, to Helena and Fort Benton, supplying the Montana settlements with goods shipped by train to the terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad.⁷ In the course of his

¹ Raymond Crump Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena," November 4, 2013. Howard said his great-grandfather, James Crump was "born a free black in 1847 in Jackson County, Missouri." The 1900 census says he was born in Aug. 1842.

² "1890 Veterans Schedules - Ancestry.com," accessed August 22, 2016, <http://search.ancestry.com>

³ Ken Robison, "Historical Black Americans in Northern Montana: James Wesley & Clarissa Jane Crump: Free Black & Slave Come to Montana Territory," *Historical Black Americans in Northern Montana*, June 9, 2013,

<http://blackamericansmt.blogspot.com/2013/06/james-wesley-clarissa-jane-crump-free.html>; "1890 Veterans Schedules - Ancestry.com," accessed August 22, 2016, <http://search.ancestry.com>

⁴ "Clarissa Crump, Who Came to Last Chance Gulch in Gold Rush Days, Is Dead," *Independent Record*, March 11, 1941; Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena." 1900 Census says Aug 1853; Helena IR, "Area Deaths: Joel Wendell Howard," *Helena Independent Record*, December 29, 2002; Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena"; Martin J. Kidston, "A History of Pride," *Helena Independent Record*, January 18, 2009. "Phil Evans [clarissa crump's owner] had a son, John Morgan Evans, who became the first mayor of Missoula under the new city charter in 1911, and later won a seat in the Montana Legislature."

⁵ "Clarissa Crump, Who Came to Last Chance Gulch in Gold Rush Days, Is Dead." Robison, "Historical Black Americans in Northern Montana." She was educated by the Evans family and for the rest of her life remained in touch with the family including their son, John Morgan Evans who served as U. S. Congressman from Montana."

⁶ Robison, "Historical Black Americans in Northern Montana."

⁷ Ibid.

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travels, James got to know Clarissa, and she must have joined him on the road—in 1869 they solemnized their marriage in Corinne, Utah.⁸

The following year, James and Clarissa Crump started a family. Clarissa gave birth to daughter Emma Eudora in Helena in December of 1870.⁹ Her husband James continued working on the road—hauling freight for Charles Broadwater and John T. Murphy or, as sheep-raising proliferated, hauling wool—and 1870 census takers encountered him in Virginia City. Clarissa wasn't with him when he was enumerated there, as a "laborer," at the home of prosperous farmer S.E. Bickford.¹⁰ Subsequently, the Crumps seemed to prosper. In the 1870s, James mined at Moose Creek, near Butte, and acquired mining claims in Marysville, Silver Butte, and Helena.¹¹ By 1879, he and Clarissa and Emma had settled in Helena, on Benton Avenue north of Spruce: as Clarissa recalled (in 1894), "I told Jim as soon as I could get my breath that Helena was good enough for us."¹² The following summer, in August of 1880, Clarissa Crump bore a second daughter, whom they called Clarinda after James' mother. Clarissa stayed home with their children—Emma attended Helena's segregated South Side "colored" school—while James supported the family as a "saloon keeper."¹³

James likely did a lively liquor business, for Helena grew rapidly in the 1880s. The town's elite became fabulously wealthy, and real estate developers platted new neighborhoods in all directions. Among them was George Bassett, who in 1883, platted the nine-block Bassett Addition east of Helena's bustling downtown. Lots in the addition sold gradually, and in 1888 Clarissa Jane Crump purchased a prominent corner lot at the intersection of 9th Avenue and North Idaho Street.¹⁴ There, the Crumps soon built a handsome, L-shaped 1.5 story Queen Anne home, 1003 9th Avenue, completed by 1889. Early the following year, they constructed a second, smaller L-shaped house on the property, at the rear of the lot, facing N. Idaho Avenue (417 N. Idaho).¹⁵ The homes they built those first two years would house the family for over a century. [See ca. 1891 photo of house, MHS PAC 79-53.1]

The family's endurance at their stately new home reflected, and deepened, the family's prominence in Helena's African-American community and the town as a whole. As Montana attained statehood in 1889, "pioneer" citizens like the Crumps enjoyed a certain prestige, and when Helena's black population burgeoned in the 1880s the Crumps became senior statesmen of the community.¹⁶ In 1894 the local black newspaper, the *Colored Citizen*, reported that "James Crump . . . has the distinction of being the oldest of the pioneer colored citizens of this state [and] has one of the neatest homes in the city."¹⁷ Steadfast James had by then been working for at least 5 years as a janitor at the First National Bank building, a line of work he'd continue for many years, and the family took an active part in local affairs. The played leadership roles in the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, and James was a prominent member of the Manhattan Club (an

⁸ "Clarissa Crump, Who Came to Last Chance Gulch in Gold Rush Days, Is Dead."

⁹ Bureau of the Census, "12th Census of the United States, 1900: Population Schedules: Montana: Lewis and Clarke County" (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1978); "Marriage License, Lewis & Clark County (Rideout-Crump)," February 21, 1894.

¹⁰ Bureau of the Census, "9th Census of the United States, 1870: Population Schedules: Montana, Lewis and Clark County" (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1870); "Clarissa Crump, Who Came to Last Chance Gulch in Gold Rush Days, Is Dead."

¹¹ "Clarissa Crump, Who Came to Last Chance Gulch in Gold Rush Days, Is Dead." "Negro Pioneer J. Crump Dies Here," *The Independent Record*, April 19, 1919; Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena."; Kidston, "A History of Pride."

¹² "Local and Personal" *The Colored Citizen*, October 1, 1894.

¹³ Bureau of the Census, "12th Census of Population, 1900"; *Catalogue of the Helena Graded Schools, 1879; Catalogue of the Helena Graded Schools, 1880*; Bureau of the Census, "10th Census of the United States, 1880: Population Schedules: Montana Territory" (Washington, D.C.): National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1880); R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory* (Helena, Mont.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1900).

¹⁴ "Lewis and Clark County Property Title Records," Clerk and Recorder's Office. When the addition was originally platted, 9th Avenue was Centre Street.

¹⁵ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Sanborn Map Company, "Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1890" (Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1890). Newspapers used for insulation in the walls of the rear house date to March 1890.

¹⁶ "Helena," *Minneapolis Observer*, November 20, 1890.

¹⁷ "Local and Personal," *The Colored Citizen*, September 3, 1894.

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African-American social club), and the black Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges, as well as the integrated Civil War veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.).¹⁸ When the contest to be the state capital raged in 1894, James became a leader in area politics. That September, Helena residents organized the Afro-American Republican Club, and James gave an "interesting address" at its "large and enthusiastic" first meeting.¹⁹

Eldest daughter Emma was by then a newlywed—she married William T. Rideout of Butte in Feb. 1894—and Clarinda was maturing into an accomplished young woman in her own right.²⁰ At an evening church event that October, James and Clarissa likely watched proudly as Clarinda carried on the family tradition of support for St. James: according to the *Colored Citizen*, "Misses Crump, Donnell, and [?]arkin gave a very enjoyable entertainment . . . for the benefit of the A.M.E. church."²¹ That same year, in a testament to the family's status, Clarinda posed for a full-length professional photo. James was by then about 50. He may have been struggling with health issues—in 1898 he filed an "invalid" application with the Civil War Pension Department—but he continued working as a janitor.²² Daughter Emma may also have begun having health problems. In 1900 she was again living with her parents at 1003 9th Avenue, and she died early the following year. On a sad February day, James and Clarissa buried their firstborn at Forestvale Cemetery.²³

The resilient family soon had reason to rejoice again, for on December 10, 1901, Clarinda C. Crump married Bismarck, ND, native James H. Howard.²⁴ Howard, 28, had been in Helena for some time—the 1900 census recorded him as a resident of the busy boarding house run by Alice Palmer, a prominent local African-American woman, at 309 N. Rodney—and upon marrying Clarinda he joined the Crumps in their 9th Avenue home. He helped support the family with wages earned as a waiter at the Montana Club, and he and Clarinda soon welcomed a son, Lawrence Arthur, born in 1902. With more mouths to feed, the Crumps may also have earned extra income by renting the rear house or taking in boarders: the 1901-02 Helena city directory listed a man named Douglas Sampson, a janitor, living at 1003 9th Ave. in addition to the Crump-Howard family.²⁵

As they became grandparents, the Crumps continued to be active in a variety of community organizations. James joined other surviving G.A.R. members in an official capacity at the July 4, 1902 dedication of the impressive new state Capitol, located a couple blocks to the southeast of the Crump home, the lone black man among the Civil War veteran luminaries. Some years later, the Manhattan Club re-organized, with J.W. Crump as its President.²⁶ James was still a janitor, but had recently moved to the Post Office, and his federal position there likely enhanced his stature in the community.²⁷ The Crumps' ongoing local prominence was reflected in the pages of the period's black newspaper, the *Plaindealer*, which regularly reported on the family. The paper's readers learned, for instance, that "C.F. Jones of Butte" was a "guest of Jas. Crump" in January 1907, and, the following July, that "Mrs. Crump returned Thursday from Townsend where she went to

¹⁸ "Negro Pioneer J. Crump Dies Here"; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Robison, "Historical Black Americans in Northern Montana."

¹⁹ "Local and Personal" where "Prof. Cole's excellent band enlivened the proceedings with patriotic airs. President J.P. Ball, Sr., delivered his inaugural address . . . [and] interesting addresses were also made by Jas. Crump, B. F. Hooper, W. P. Hough, Mr. Wheaton of Livingston, and others."

²⁰ "Marriage License, Lewis & Clarke County (Crump-Rideout)."

²¹ "Local and Personal" *The Colored Citizen*, October 8, 1894.

²² "U.S. Civil War Pension (Invalid Class) Application No. 1204833 (James Wesley Crump)," February 26, 1898.

²³ Bureau of the Census, "12th Census of Population, 1900"; "Emma Crump Headstone (Forestvale Cemetery)," February 7, 1901.

²⁴ "Marriage License, Lewis and Clark County (Howard-Crump)," December 10, 1901.

²⁵ *Ibid.*; Bureau of the Census, "12th Census of Population, 1900."; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Bureau of the Census, "13th Census of the United States, 1910: Population Schedules: Montana, Lewis and Clark County" (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1910),

²⁶ *The Montana Plaindealer*, February 25, 1910. The Manhattan Club has been reorganized, the new officers are J.W. Crump Pres., J.B. Bass sec/treas, M.O.J. Arnett, J. Ellis, J. Reid, A. Smith & W. Irvin house committee." The records of the Manhattan Club, in which Crump appears, are held at the MHS.

²⁷ "Negro Pioneer J. Crump Dies Here."

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attend the funeral of Richard Wheaton who met such a tragic fate at that place last week by being killed in the hayfield by a stroke of lightning.”²⁸ The next year, the *Plaindealer* printed a clipping from the *Colorado Statesman* on the death of James’ mother. Mrs. Clarinda Crump was living in Denver at the home of her daughter when she died, at about 66, and was known there as “an old pioneer.” Like her son, she played a prominent role in her city’s African-American community, where “her daughter Mrs. Johnson was the first col’d child to enter the white school.”²⁹ In 1910, the *Plaindealer* reported financial details about the Crumps that illuminated their prosperity and local status: that year, the family owned property valued at the impressive sum of \$6,000.³⁰

The home at 1003 9th Ave. continued to be the center of Crump family life, and by 1906 it had been graced with three grandchildren. James and Clarinda Crump Howard welcomed a second son, Norman Crump Howard, in 1903, and two years later, in January 1906, daughter Naomi Eudora Howard arrived. In these early years, Clarinda’s husband James may have seemed a good match. Like his wife’s parents, he became a leader in the local African-American community—when the Summer Outing Club morphed into the Autumn Leaf Club in 1906, James Howard served as secretary of the new black social club—and his exploits made the pages of the *Plaindealer*. In September of that year, the newspaper detailed Arthur Palmer and James Howard’s “thrilling encounter” on a hunting trip to the Musselshell River, during which they killed a bear.³¹ But by 1908, James likely lost his lustre in the eyes of the family. That May, the *Plaindealer* reported that “Mrs. Clarinda Howard has sued James Howard for absolute divorce she alleges desertion as the cause.”³² Not six months later, James re-married, in Helena, taking as his bride “Mrs. Marion Farlow.”³³

Clarinda and her three young children stayed with her parents in their 9th Avenue home. In 1914, Clarinda remarried, wedding Detroit-born widower Mark Augustus Lowery, 49, in June. At the time, Lowery lived in Anoka, Minnesota, where he worked for “the Great Northern Railway Company (dining and sleeping car department),” and Clarinda and the children returned with him to Anoka. From there, Clarinda kept in close touch with her parents, writing many letters to James and Clarissa that survive to this day. After a year or two in Minnesota, the Lowery-Howard family moved back to Helena, where Gus, as he was known, took a job as a porter at the Montana Club, as did young Norman.³⁴ They again settled in the Crump family home, and lived there when James Crump died, at the age of 74, in 1919. The passing of the locally renowned “negro pioneer” made the pages of the *Independent Record*, Helena’s daily paper.³⁵ Clarissa buried James next to their daughter Emma, at Forestvale Cemetery.

The family was still grieving the loss of its patriarch when Clarinda’s daughter Naomi, just 14 years old, died in 1920. They again bore the body of their loved one to Forestvale, where Naomi joined her aunt Emma and grandfather James in the family plot.³⁶ In the wake of Naomi’s death, “Clarinda and her 2nd husband, Gus Lowery . . . moved from the ‘big house’ . . . to their own home on Alta Street.”³⁷ The Howard boys, Norman and Lawrence, then 16 and 18, stayed at 1003

²⁸ *The Montana Plaindealer*, January 11, 1907; *The Montana Plaindealer*, July 26, 1907.

²⁹ *The Montana Plaindealer*, July 31, 1908.

³⁰ *The Montana Plaindealer*, May 27, 1910.

³¹ *The Montana Plaindealer*, September 21, 1906; *The Montana Plaindealer*, September 28, 1906.: “The Autumn Leaf/a new social club was organized last Monday evening to take the place of The Summer Outing club, which was so popular during the Summer months. The new club will be known as “The Autumn Leaf Club”, & will perform the same functions as its predecessor. The following officers were elected: A. Palmer, Pres; James Howard, Sec; Gus Mason, Treas. The club is making arrangements to give their first entertainment on next Thurs evening at Electric Hall & all look forward to a delightful time.”

³² *The Montana Plaindealer*, May 29, 1908.

³³ “Marriage License, Lewis and Clark County (Howard-Farlow),” November 2, 1908.

³⁴ Clarinda Lowery, “Letters from Clarinda Lowery to Her Parents James & Clarissa Crump,” n.d., private collection, Roxann Lincoln & Kenneth Phillips, owners, 1003 9th Ave. (Crump House); Sally Hilander, “Helena Native Has ‘Roots’ Galore,” *Independent Record*, December 9, 1979. Norman Howard subsequently “worked part-time [at the Montana Club] for 50 years.”

³⁵ “Negro Pioneer J. Crump Dies Here.”

³⁶ “Naomi Eudora Howard Headstone (Forestvale Cemetery),” February 15, 1920.

³⁷ Ray Howard, “History of the Crump/Howard Home as Told by Ray Howard”.

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9th with their grandmother Clarissa. Norman was by then working—in 1922 he was an elevator operator at the Harvey Hotel—and the Crump family home continued to serve as a social center for Helena’s African-American population.³⁸ A 1923 photo shows the elegant dining room filled with about a dozen of the community’s young adults, formally-dressed Norman and Lawrence among them.

The guests in the photo may have dined on recipes still available in Montana repositories: Clarissa Crump was an active founding member of Helena’s African-American women’s group, the Pleasant Hour Club (est. 1916), and contributed to the Montana Negro Women’s Clubs Cookbook, published around the time the photo was taken.³⁹ Clarinda’s second husband, Mark Lowery, in what had become time-honored family tradition, was by then also an integral part of the local African-American community. When 63 year-old Miles York died in September of 1925, Lowery was among the “active” pallbearers, joining community leaders like Arthur Palmer, George M. Lee, Nathaniel Ford, Julius Anderson and Charles Harrell as well as “honorary” pallbearers “B.F. Hooper, W.C. Irvine, Randall Reed, M.O.J. Arnett, George Christian, [and] Patrick Keys.”⁴⁰

As the 1920s progressed, the Montana Crump kin network, with its 1003 9th Avenue base, expanded. In 1927, attended by their maid-of-honor and “best friend” Maxine Elliot Ladd, Norman Crump Howard and Dorothy Watts (b. Keuane, IL) wed. Watts was a member of the black community in Billings, where she’d moved as a teenager with older brothers Buster and Brady to “live with ... grandparents Edna and Ray Brown.”⁴¹ Before long, Dorothy gave birth to a son, Norman Robert “Bob” Howard (a.k.a. Norman Jr.), inaugurating a fourth generation in the Crump family home. The main house on the property had by then been expanded. Sanborn Maps from 1930 showed it as a two-story dwelling with a small rear addition adjoining the original rear porch on its east side, extending to the east corner of the house. Two small outbuildings had also been constructed in the southeast corner of the yard. By 1930, Norman and Dorothy and Norman Jr. were living one block away, at 1012 8th Avenue, and Clarinda and her husband Mark had moved into “the little house” on the rear of the 9th Avenue property (417 N. Idaho), where they stayed for years.⁴² The rear house at the time still featured a small front entry overhang and a small applied rear porch, but the original attached outbuilding off its southeast corner had been replaced with an attached garage that opened to the alley. When Clarinda and Mark eventually moved out of the little house, they didn’t go far: 1941 found them back on Alta Street (at 19 Alta).⁴³

Aging matriarch Clarissa Jane remained relatively spry. A 1930 photo shows her happily visiting with “close friend” Mrs. Sidney (buried in Townsend) and others, her great-grandson Norman Robert Howard by her side. She was 81 when Dorothy and Norman Howard Sr. welcomed another boy, Raymond Crump Howard, in 1935. Four years later, great grand-daughter Dorothy Ann Howard arrived. After the birth of their daughter, Norman Sr. and Dorothy and their three children moved back into 1003 9th to live with Clarissa. At that time, Clarissa, 85, deeded the home to her grandson, Norman Howard Sr. Two years later, on March 10, 1941, she died at the family home. As with her husband, local newspapers heralded her passing, calling her the “last negro pioneer of the Treasure State.”⁴⁴

The death of Clarissa Jane Powell Crump marked the end of an era in several ways. In the wake of Clarissa’s death, the multi-generational family that had long centered on the Crump home at the corner of 9th and Idaho suffered a series of difficulties. The year after she died, in 1942 “shortly after Pearl Harbor,” Dorothy Watts Howard boarded a “military

³⁸ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk’s Helena City Directory*.

³⁹ *Montana Negro Women’s Clubs Cook Book*, 1925.

⁴⁰ September 1925—Miles York death, Notice of funeral. York was 63.

⁴¹ Howard, “Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena.”

⁴² That year city directories listed Norman and Dorothy Crump living at 1012 8th Avenue.

⁴³ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk’s Helena City Directory*; Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1930” (Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1930).

⁴⁴ “Clarissa Crump, Who Came to Last Chance Gulch in Gold Rush Days, Is Dead.” The Helena *Independent Record* noted that she had made her home in Helena for 75 years w/ “brief residence at Virginia City.”

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troop train” and took her six-year old son Ray and her toddler Dorothy Anne—“suddenly” it seemed to young Ray—to Los Angeles, where they joined a man the children called “Grandpa Ray,” possibly Dorothy’s father. Thirteen-year-old Bob (Norman Jr.) stayed in Helena with his dad, Norman Sr., until the end of the school year and then he, too, moved to L.A. Norman Crump Howard remained at the family home in Helena, and his older brother Lawrence soon joined him there.⁴⁵ The house that had long harbored multiple generations of the Crump family became, temporarily, something of a bachelor pad.

The Crump-Howard house was not quiet long. In 1944, young Ray moved back to Helena to live with his dad, and his parents, Norman Sr. and Dorothy, divorced.⁴⁶ That same year, Gus Lowery died, and widowed Clarinda moved in with her sons and grandson at 1003 9th Avenue. Clarinda herself died shortly thereafter, in 1945 at the age of 66, and was buried with her parents, James and Clarissa, her sister, Emma Eudora, and her daughter, Naomi Eudora, at the Crump family plot in Forestvale Cemetery. With all the major transitions in the family, Ray Howard bounced back and forth between L.A. and Helena, starting school in Helena in the fall of 1945 after months in California. His father, Norman Howard Sr., remarried the following year, entering what proved to be an enduring union with his widowed former maid-of-honor, Maxine Elliot Ladd.⁴⁷

Maxine was herself an active member of Helena’s African-American community. She’d been born in Iowa in 1906, and was orphaned as a six-year old, when both of her parents died within a single year. She and her younger brother, Elmer, were thereafter raised by a great-aunt and uncle. At some point in her childhood she ended up in Montana, and “beginning in her teenage years, Maxine was active in the Montana Federation of Negro Women’s Clubs,” where she formed “lifelong friendships with other black teens throughout Montana. Her best friends were Norman Howard and Dorothy Watts.” She served as maid of honor at Norman and Dorothy’s 1927 wedding while she herself first married a Mr. Ladd, with whom she had two sons, Delmer and Chuck. Her husband subsequently died, leaving Maxine a widow.⁴⁸

Like generations before them, Norman Howard Sr. and Maxine Elliot Ladd Howard began their married life in the 9th Avenue family home. Initially, at least one of Maxine’s two sons lived there with them, as did Ray Howard. But in 1947, Norman and Maxine were in a “serious car accident,” and 12-year-old Ray again went to L.A. to live with his mother Dorothy. As Norman and Maxine healed in 1948, Ray returned to Helena to live with them, and with his stepbrother Chuck Ladd, and relative stability returned to the family home.⁴⁹

The tumultuous years after matriarch Clarissa’s death were not easy on the family. In addition to the frequent transitions and the tragedy of the car accident, Ray and his kin struggled to make a living in WWII-era America. In looking back on his life, Ray said, “my parents always worked multiple jobs when I was growing up. They worked several jobs to get by financially...as a young kid I always worked. . . in third grade, as part of the war effort during WWII, I collected scrap iron house to house and delivered it to a local collection site to be weighed. I worked as a shoe shine boy at a barber shop, a newspaper boy, mowed lawns, and worked briefly as a ‘pin setter’ at a bowling alley.” Resourceful Ray also sold newspapers on street corners in L.A. Remarkably, when he was just ten years old, he worked a stint as an L.A. hod carrier as well.⁵⁰

The 1940s also brought a changing racial landscape that impacted the family. The local black community was by then a shadow of its former self: from its peak in the years leading up to the first World War, the African-American population had plummeted to the point that it no longer supported the independent institutions that sustained the community in the

⁴⁵ Howard, “History of the Crump/Howard Home as Told by Ray Howard.”

⁴⁶ Howard, “Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena.”

⁴⁷ Howard, “History of the Crump/Howard Home as Told by Ray Howard.”

⁴⁸ Howard, “Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena.”

⁴⁹ Howard, “History of the Crump/Howard Home as Told by Ray Howard.”

⁵⁰ Howard, “Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena.”

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face of an oft-hostile, racist world. As Ray recalled, “in the family home on 9th Avenue in Helena, the conversations focused on what all families talk about on cold winter nights and hot summer days. Outside the home, however, lessons on being black in Montana came fast, and at times they were hard learned. Throughout his youth, Howard and his family were turned away from restaurants. Classmates used the ‘N’ word when addressing him at recess. Barbers wouldn’t cut a black man’s hair, so he had to wait for a traveling barber.”⁵¹

In the family’s eyes such treatment represented a decline in the treatment of black people in Montana. Ray learned from his elders that “in the early days of the Montana Territory . . . the African-Americans were treated fairly well. There weren’t many of us, and those that were here blended right in to the population through mining, freight, or whatever they were doing.” But in subsequent decades, as Ray’s father Norman recalled, “racism thrived. . . Blacks faced tougher discrimination problems than Indians. They were excluded from nearly every restaurant in town and held low-paying jobs. ‘And you better not go in a bar to drink.’” From a young age, the Crump descendants “were taught by my great-grandmother Crump, all the way up through my father, how to walk in both worlds, the white world and the black world.” When confronted with “the racism he encountered at school, on the town or in the streets,” Ray learned to think that “it wasn’t malicious . . . but rather it was guided by ignorance.”⁵² The best response, he was told, was “to ignore it, or politely say we didn’t appreciate it.”⁵³

In this context, from the family home on the corner of 9th Avenue and N. Idaho, Ray moved through the Helena school system. It was no longer the segregated school district of his great-aunt Emma Eudora’s time, but his school years nonetheless reflected an enduring system of anti-black racism. Ray “attended Jefferson School in 4th grade and Central School in 5th, 7th and 8th grade,” before moving on to Helena High School. In high school Ray blossomed into a standout athlete and student. By sophomore year the kid who’d earlier played basketball at “the 7th Avenue gym” stood 6 foot 4, and the next year he grew another two inches. As he shot up, Ray said, he “wasn’t putting on much weight no matter how much I ate. I was still a skinny black kid. This is what they called me one time in the Butte newspaper. . . ‘it looks like Helena has great promise with a very slender, Negro boy, Ray Howard.’”⁵⁴

If, to the outside world, Ray was just a “skinny black kid” with a talent for basketball, within Helena’s remaining black community he was a model young man and a source of great pride. Jules Harrell and his sister Janet Harrell Campbell, descendants of another extended, multi-generational Helena black family, recalled that their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Emma (Bridgewater) Harrell, was great friends with Ray’s parents, “so close that we considered them extended family.” As the Harrell siblings remembered, a “picture of Dr. Ray Howard in his Bengal basketball uniform rested on a book shelf in our house when we were children on North Ewing St. . . . He was over a decade ahead of us in school, so when our parents provided updates on all of his accomplishments, we sensed that much was expected of us. The life that Dr. Ray Howard lived encouraged us to strive for excellence and the manner in which he carried himself reminded us to stand a little taller.”⁵⁵

Ray graduated in 1953 and moved to Missoula where he would fulfill the early promise he showed in basketball at the University of Montana as “a member of the ‘Fabulous Frosh’ team of 1953-54.”⁵⁶ Ray’s departure marked the end of an era: he would be the last of the descendants of Clarissa and James Crump to be raised in the 9th Avenue home. But although no new generations grew up in the Crump-Howard Queen Anne, Norman Sr. and Maxine lived there for another 40 years, and other family members occasionally joined them (eg. Bob, a.k.a. Norman Jr., lived there briefly in the mid-

⁵¹ Kidston, “A History of Pride.”

⁵² Ibid.; Hilander, “Helena Native Has ‘Roots’ Galore.”

⁵³ MARTIN J. KIDSTON Independent Record-, “A History of Pride.”

⁵⁴ Howard, “Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena.”

⁵⁵ Remembrances offered on funeral homes website on Raymond Crump Howard’s obituary page. The Harrells were living in Adelphi, Maryland at the time.

⁵⁶ Howard, “Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena.”

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1950s).⁵⁷ As they long had, Norman and Maxine continued working. In the early '50s Norman worked as a janitor at the Jorud Photo Shop, and in the late '50s he was a guard at the Federal Building. Meanwhile, Maxine stayed at the Montana Club in various capacities, serving the prestigious private club's white male members as a "bar maid" and a "waitress."⁵⁸ After they retired, Norman and Maxine "traveled extensively throughout the world with various Montana senior citizens groups."⁵⁹ They also took an active part in promoting recognition of, and documenting, Montana's African-American history. In what would become a family tradition, they assisted numerous journalists and historians by discussing their family history for a series of stories and projects.⁶⁰

During this period, Norman and Maxine Howard also undertook a variety of home improvement and maintenance projects that altered the family home. In the summer of 1950 they hired a contractor by the name of Nelson to "reshingle and repair frame"—ie. apply the second-generation siding, asbestos shingles—and install a "cedar shingle roof." Four years later Nelson converted the rear house into a garage for the Howards, who also planned on tearing down the sheds at the same time but ended up leaving them in place. In 1955 Norman Howard built a new picket fence, and the following year Farrier Construction was contracted to "remodel [the] house," likely removing the rear porch and rear addition, which were no longer present when the Sanborn Company mapped the property in 1958. Two years later, Norman built a carport that extended along the entire south wall of the main house, accessed from N. Idaho. In 1962 the Howards again got new siding—applying aluminum over the asbestos—and probably enclosed the front porch and built the applied entry at the same time: no other siding underlay the aluminum on that component, and the aluminum was the same as that applied to the rest of the house. Additional projects in the 1960s included updated wiring, fence repair, a new asphalt composition roof, and other unspecified improvements. At some point the sheds, which they'd planned to demolish in 1954 but ended up keeping, were removed, as was the garage that had been attached to the southeast corner of the rear house/garage.⁶¹

These projects kept the home in good repair for the duration of the Crump-Howard family occupancy. In 1990, Norman Crump Howard Sr., 87, died in the home his grandparents had built over a hundred years before. His son Raymond Crump Howard retired and moved back to Helena that year, while Norman's widow, Maxine Elliot Ladd Howard, remained at 1003 9th for another two years.⁶² In 1992, Maxine moved into Helena's Vista Square Apartments, and the family sold the Crump-Howard home to Stephen and Wanda Jackson. Ray and his family, meanwhile, "had a home on Hauser Lake and host[ed] family gatherings there, where Ray remembered "the family would come from all parts of Montana for our July 4th gatherings."⁶³

Maxine died in Helena in 1999, at the age of 93. The 9th Avenue house that she occupied for almost half her life still stood, and in 2002 the Johnsons sold it to Allen Hulett and Diance Taff-Roy. Current owners and occupants, Roxann Lincoln and Kenneth Phillips, bought it in 2007 and began a series of sensitive restoration projects on the property that have since transformed it into a closer approximation of what it was before Norman and Maxine's mid-century updating. They first enclosed the carport (in 2008) and then removed the second and third generation siding (leaving the original wood intact where it remained, including the soffit and fascia) before re-siding it with fiber cement products that mimicked the original clapboard and shingle cladding.⁶⁴

Epilogue: The Crump Family Elsewhere

⁵⁷ Howard, "History of the Crump/Howard Home as Told by Ray Howard."

⁵⁸ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*.

⁵⁹ Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena."

⁶⁰ Ellen Baumler, "Early History of African-Americans in Montana," *Great Falls Tribune*, November 3, 2015; *Independent Record*, December 9, 1979; Gale Morgan, "Griot in Pink House Worth His Salt," *Tribune*, September 10, 1978.

⁶¹ "City of Helena Building Permit Records."

⁶² Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena." Howard's ex-wife, Dorothy Watts died in 1980, at age 72.

⁶³ *Ibid*.

⁶⁴ "Lewis and Clark County Property Title Records"; "City of Helena Building Permit Records."

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Even though it has passed out of the family, the Crump-Howard home represents an historic legacy that endures in the building and beyond. From the family's physical foundation on the corner of 9th and N. Idaho, descendants dispersed to make a mark across Montana and the West. Norman Robert Howard became a professional musician, playing with the likes of Quincey Jones, and had three children who settled in Texas and Washington.⁶⁵ Dorothy Ann Howard became Mrs. Donnie Scott, raising four children and ending up in Las Vegas. Charles "Chuck" Henry Ladd, Maxine's son, lived in Helena when he died in 2008. With him in Helena at the time was his stepbrother, Raymond Crump Howard, who stayed in his hometown after his father died in 1990.⁶⁶

In his later years in Helena, Ray Howard carried on the tradition, begun by his father, of preserving and publicizing the history of his Helena family and Montana's African-American community. The Crump-Howard family thus became a part of state history in new ways, its pioneer legacy coming full circle. Since leaving Helena in 1953, Ray had lived a remarkable life in his own right. He graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in education in 1958, having married Marylou Crowley the year before, and tried to get a job teaching in his hometown, but "the Helena school district, which educated Howard as a boy, would refuse him a teaching job as a man, saying white parents wouldn't appreciate a Negro lecturing their kids."⁶⁷ Initially unable to find work in Montana as a black teacher, he moved with his wife and infant son Tony to Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, where he'd "been hired as a high school teacher, coach, and part-time counselor." The family subsequently lived in Missoula, Dillon, and Bozeman, as well as "on a ranch outside Logan, [MT]," and in Iowa, and South Dakota, "based on where job opportunities in my field were offered." Along the way Marylou bore three more sons, Michael, Jeff, and Joel, while Ray earned his master's in education and psychology and PhD in educational psychology at the University of San Diego.⁶⁸

Marylou and Ray divorced in 1970, and Ray went on to "work various positions in the education field and as Professor at the University of Northern Colorado ["where he developed a class on the psychology of race"] and Professor at San Diego State University in the Departments of Counseling and School Psychology."⁶⁹ In San Diego, Ray met and married Charlene Cruz Nava, and in 1980 they had a daughter, Nava Cruzita Howard. Charlene and Nava moved with Ray to Helena when he retired in 1990, and Nava, like generations before her, later graduated from Helena High. In 2005 Nava married Brandon Carl Thomas, and she later became Mrs. Jake Connor. Dr. Raymond Crump Howard died in Helena in 2013. He left an African-American family legacy in the forms of descendants scattered in towns across the West, in Texas and Arizona, Nevada and Washington as well as Hamilton, Belgrade, Bozeman and, especially, Helena, his family's home for some 150 years.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Lowery, "Letters from Clarinda Lowery to Her Parents James & Clarissa Crump."

⁶⁶ Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena."

⁶⁷ Kidston, "A History of Pride."

⁶⁸ Howard, "Raymond Crump Howard, Age 78, of Helena."

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

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Statement of Significance

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**

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: **1889-1966**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1889, the Crump-Howard House is significant under NRHP Criterion A (local level) as a residential property associated with the history of African-American people in Helena, MT. Built by two of Montana's earliest and most prominent black residents—James and Clarissa Powell Crump—the home was subsequently occupied by the Crumps and three generations of their descendants. The Crump-Howard house is thus associated with two historic contexts, ie. The Heyday of Helena's African-American Community, ca. 1877-1910; and Decline and Endurance of Helena's African-American Community, ca. 1910-1970. The Crump-Howard house was significantly associated with Helena's African-American community for over 100 years. The property's period of significance thus extends from its initial construction in 1889 through 1966 (ie. 50 years ago).

The Crump-Howard house represents these significant historic themes in a number of specific ways. Located not far from the black St. James AME Church (Site LC2430), it was one of multiple homes in the surrounding east-side neighborhood that housed a cluster of African-American people. And like other black families in the region, its residents migrated to Helena in the late 19th century from border-states, like Missouri, and other southern locales. Once in Helena, the Crump-Howards lived in a close-knit, multigenerational extended family milieu. Like many black families in Helena, the home's owners occasionally took in boarders to help make ends meet and provide lodging to the African-American community. Crump-Howard men worked as janitors, waiters, porters, etc.—prototypical positions for black men, who in this period were oft-confined by structural racism to low-status, low-waged work. Family members' stints at the Montana Club, which was the single largest employer of black Helena residents, were likewise representative. So too was family members' leadership in African-American organizations. Helena's black population tended to be highly educated and politically active, taking active roles in their community and its institutions, many of which focused on "racial uplift" and combatting racism in its many forms.

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Integrity

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**

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

The Crump-Howard House retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. Although the cladding on the building has been changed (compromising integrity of materials), modern cladding mimics the original, and conveys characteristic features of the Queen Anne style. Cladding on the dominant front gable is intact. Moreover, modifications to cladding, as with the enclosure of the front porch, date to the historic period. The house was associated with the African-American Crump-Howard family for generations, and was modified in the course of time and changing use. Modifications to design and cladding that occurred during the period of significance reflect those evolving uses and associations, and do not irredeemably compromise the integrity of the resource. Extant interior plans and details add to the property's integrity, as does its enduring historic function as a single family dwelling. The extant rear house, largely intact and still identifiable a historic residential building, also contributes to the property's integrity. The Crump-Howard House continues to convey its essential historic character and significance.

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Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**



Feature #
Facing: S

Description: 1003 Ninth Avenue, Crump-Howard House, north elevation view to south.

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Photographs

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

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Feature #
Facing: SW

Description: 1003 Ninth Avenue, Crump-Howard House,
north and east elevations, view to southwest.

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Photographs

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**



Feature #
Facing: E

Description: 1003 Ninth Avenue, Crump-Howard House,
west elevation, view to east.

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

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Photographs

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**



Feature #
Facing: NE

Description: 1003 Ninth Avenue, Crump-Howard House,
west and south elevations view to northeast.

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

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Site Map

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**



MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

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Topographic Map

Property Name: **Crump – Howard Residence**

Site Number: **24LC2450**



PROPERTY:

1003 Ninth Ave
Lewis and Clark County
Helena, Montana
GeoCode:
05-1888-30-4-11-39-0000
LAT 46.588488
LON -112.023638