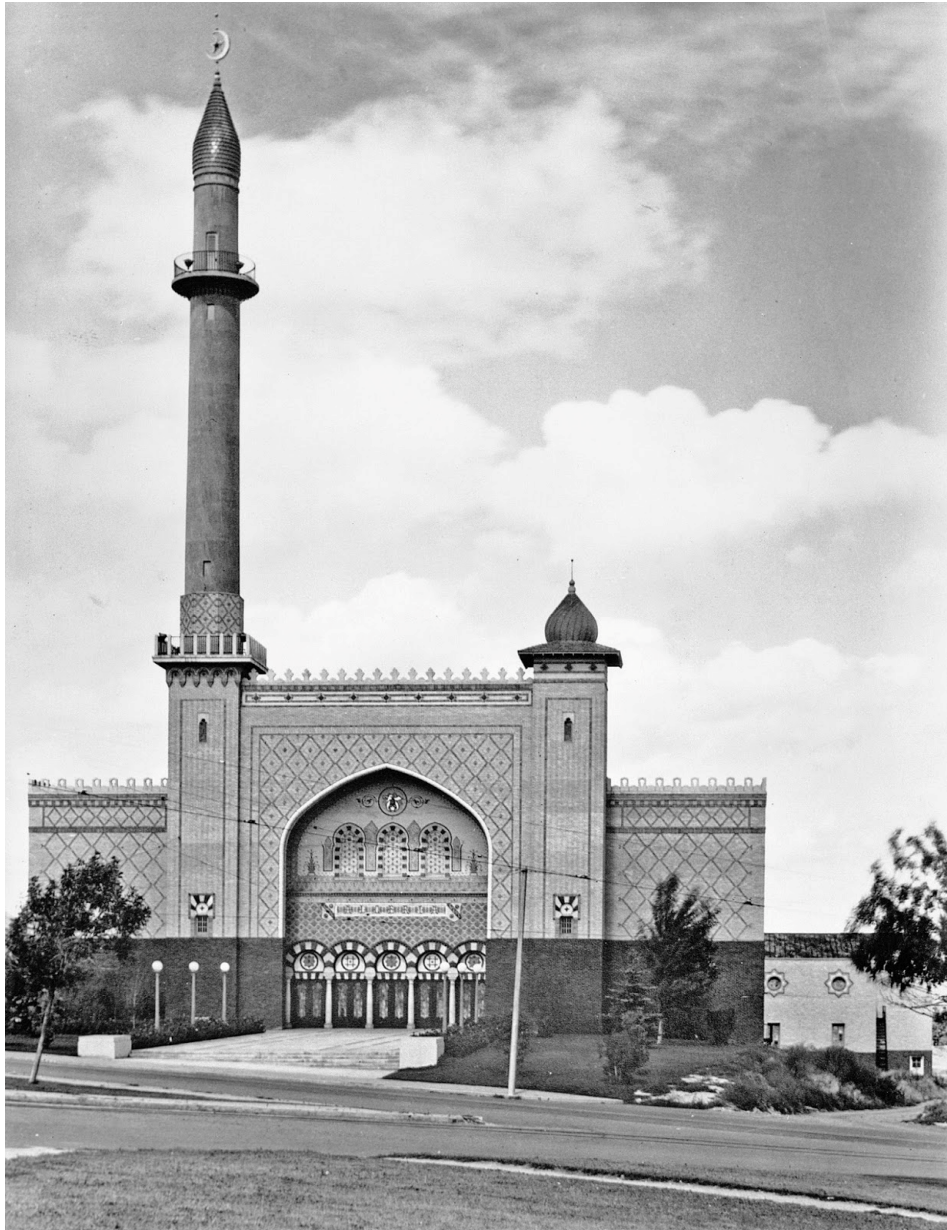


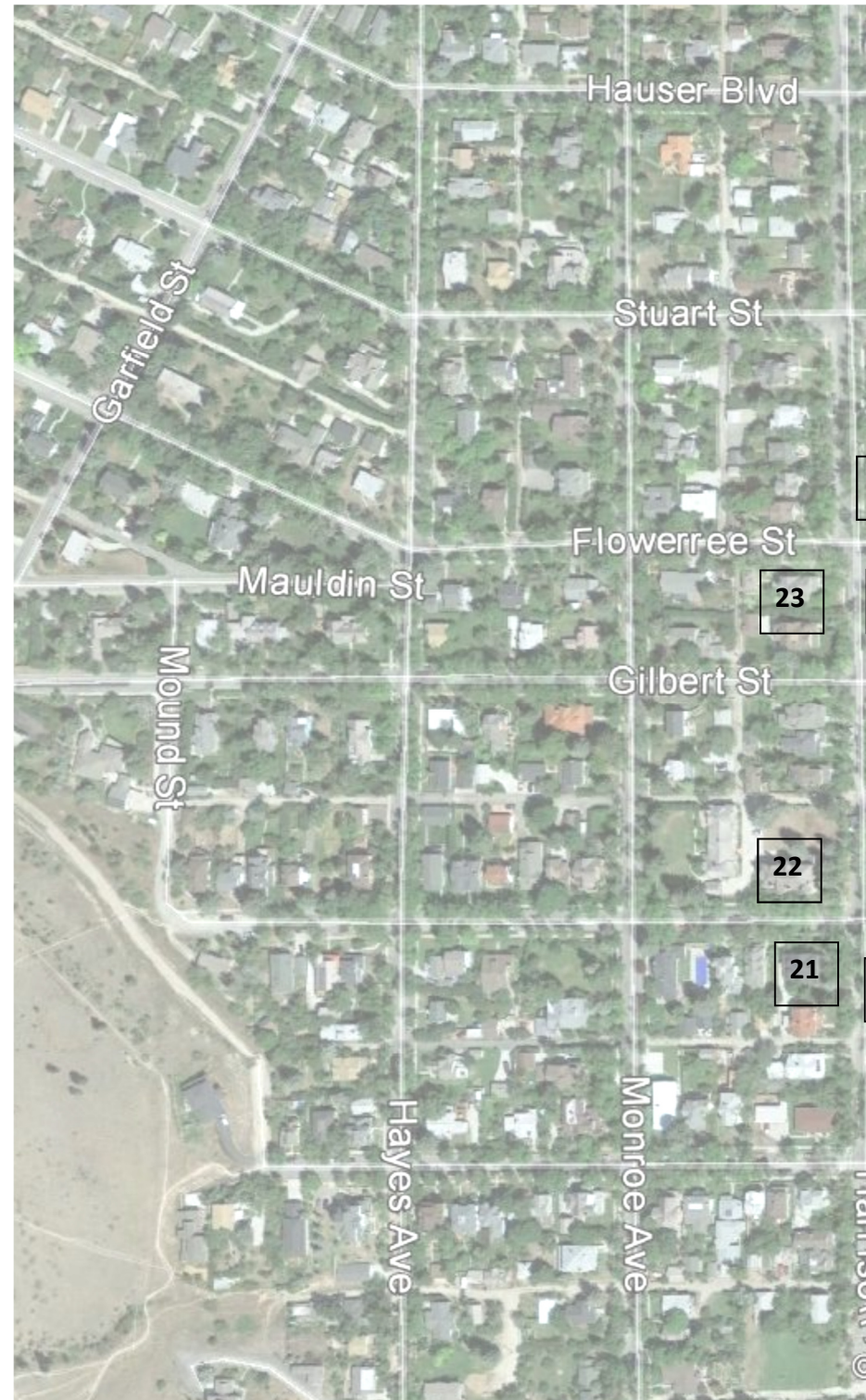
HELENA'S HISTORIC WEST SIDE: AN ADVENTURE IN ARCHITECTURE

Montana History Conference

September 20, 2014



Algeria Shrine Temple, Designed by G. Carsley and C. Haire, 1921.





Site #1 - Algeria Shrine Temple, Park and Neill Avenues



The Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine built their temple in 1921 both for their use and for public events. George S. Carsley and Charles S. Haire, designed this Moorish Revival building. Its minaret rises seventeen stories, and its façade six. The most impressive example of Moorish Revival architecture in Montana, the building displays many essential characteristics of the style, including poly-chromatic brickwork in geometric patterns. A massive lancet archway frames the entry, highlighted by colorful brick and tilework designs above a bank of five pairs of round-arched entry doors. Multiple courses of fanned tan brick, edged by a narrow course of raised dark brick highlight light window and door openings throughout the building.

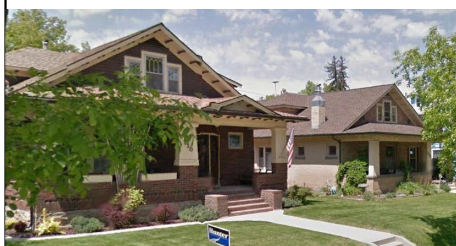
Site #2 - Little Western Life, 600 N. Park



Constructed in 1961 and designed by Morrison-Maierle and Associates, the Western Life Insurance Company Helena Branch Office is a good example of curtain wall construction that characterized mid-century commercial and institutional design. The small scale building displays asymmetrical massing and the use of varied finish materials for

decoration. Colored metal panels, Norman brick, small ceramic tiles, concrete screen block, and polished granite add depth and character to the building while complementing the aluminum-frame glass curtain walls. While this variety might ordinarily lead to visual confusion, the harmonious presentation and flow of both structural and finish elements at the Western Life branch office exemplify mid-century Modern design ideals.

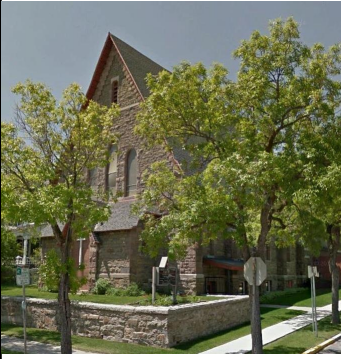
Site #3 - 700 and 800 blocks N. Benton



The Craftsman style homes along this block date to the 1910s, and are a relatively rare property type in Helena. Unlike other cities in the state, Helena witnessed a decline in population after 1892, and residential construction, particularly on the west side, slowed until the mid-twentieth century. This grouping of craftsman homes displays

architectural elements characteristic of the style, including front-gable roofs with bracketed eaves; deep, wide porches; and multi-light double-hung windows. These blocks also contain a couple of examples of the Four-Square style, also popular at the turn of the twentieth century, and like the Craftsman, available as kit houses or through house plan catalogs. The Four-squares, also known as the Prairie Box, are generally two-story, roughly square houses with hipped roofs, a wide one-story hipped porch, and even fenestration.

Site #4 - Congregational Church, 311 Power



One of the earliest church buildings in Helena, the Congregational Church appears on the 1880 Sanborn map in this location, and is a prominent feature in many historic photographs of the city. Its distinctive steep gable roof, even fenestration, and lancet-arch windows are indicative of its Gothic Revival Style. Beginning in the early 19th century in England, a growing chorus of churchmen, religious philosophers, and architects espoused the Gothic Style as the only one suitable for churches. Led by Augustus Pugin and others, the Ecclesiologists, advocated a return to

traditional medieval forms of worship within suitable church buildings. Ecclesiologically correct church buildings and furnishings were not merely decorative; they reflected the liturgical and symbolic functions of the worship service.

Site #5 - Boyer/Hawkins Residence, 524 Dearborn Avenue



Isaac Boyer and Carrie Feldberg Boyer moved to their new home within a year of their 1907 marriage. The refined, hipped-roof residence may well have been built to order. The two-story house features popular Colonial Revival style details, including a symmetrical façade, Acanthus leaf designs in the leaded glass windows, façade windows grouped together, and egg-and-dart molding. The interior still boasts the original molded ceilings and a hand-carved fireplace. A successful merchant, Isaac was also an active community member: president of the Helena

Mercantile Club; president of Temple Emanuel, the Jewish synagogue; and a member of the King Solomon Masonic lodge. Mrs. Boyer sold the home in 1929 to Thomas and Harriet Hawkins.

Site #6 - Gilpatrick Root House, 604 Dearborn



Stephen and Luella Gilpatrick married in 1867 and lived in what is known today as the Pioneer Cabin, Helena's oldest documented dwelling. In 1875, the Gilpatricks built this home, originally a simple brick cottage with gingerbread trim. It was one of the first in the neighborhood, and friends protested that the Gilpatricks were "moving to the country" to build so far from town. By the early 1930s, Mr. Gilpatrick sold the house to John Root and his wife, Jennie. The Roots remodeled the Gilpatricks' Victorian-era home into a stylish Cotswold cottage. Although its original

footprint, roofline, and window placements remain intact, the updated style reflects architectural trends of the twentieth century.

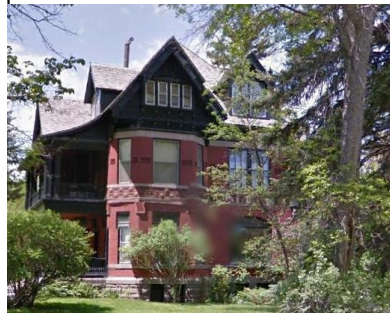
Site #7 - Bickett Residence, 628 Dearborn



Designed by Gustav Link and Charles Haire in 1908, the Bickett Residence displays stylistic characteristics of the Prairie School. While not known for their Prairie designs, Link and Haire employed the hipped roof, full-width porch, and horizontal emphasis common to the American Four-square. Hipped dormers, boxy massing, and wide eaves contribute to its architectural significance. The building also contains elements typical of the Arts and

Crafts movement, including tripled, multi-light windows, thick brick porch support posts, and exposed rafters.

Site #8 - Ashby-Carter Residence, 642 Dearborn



Designed by T. W. Welter and completed in 1887, the Ashby-Carter residence stood as one of the most impressive residences in the city at the time, and continues to grace the west side. Described as the a "modernized Queen Anne," Welter used decorative brickwork and terracotta accents to accent the home, rather than extensive bracketing and bright paint often associated with the style. Shirley Ashby was one of Helena's early successful financiers. He sold the building to

Senator Thomas Carter in 1903. The house later became the home of Charles S. Power, who gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Thomas D. Tobin. The home is one of the few mansions in the neighborhood that was never broken up into apartments, and has always functioned as a single-family home.

Site #9 - Heitman-O'Connell House, 712 Dearborn



When Architects Purcell & Elmslie received the contract for this house in 1916, they were among the most famous and successful architects in the country. As Elmslie was busy with other contracts, Purcell designed the house himself, using a steep-pitched roof design he admired and learned from his mentors, Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. The result is a unique Prairie style home. Built with redwood, the house features leaded and stained glass windows throughout. The interior remains much as it

was during the Heitman's residence, with a spectacular Hebron brick fireplace, and numerous built-in features.

Site #10—Kohrs Mansion, 804 Dearborn



Constructed in 1890, this large fanciful house exemplifies Queen Anne architecture, with its steep roof, front-facing gable, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows. Its asymmetrical design and porch with turned posts and delicate woodwork are also indicative of the style. The foundation and sill are constructed from native granite. Deer Lodge rancher Conrad Kohrs and his wife rented this house in 1899, and moved here permanently in 1900. Theodore Roosevelt was a friend of Kohrs from the 1880's when he ranched in the Dakota Territory. In 1911, when Roosevelt was on a

political tour of the west, he dined with Kohrs in this home.

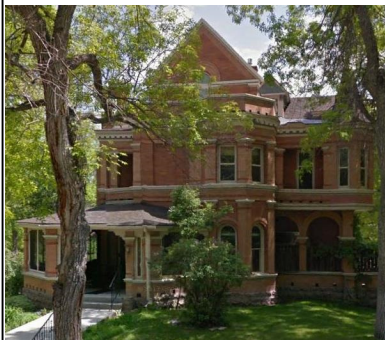
Site # 11 - Seligman House, 802 Madison



This home was designed by the internationally recognized architect Cass Gilbert and built in 1886. Gilbert was also the architect responsible for designing the Woolworth Building in New York City and the United States Supreme Court Building. Gilbert's work can also be seen in downtown Helena, as he designed the Montana Club. The Shingle-style house contains 22 rooms including a third floor ballroom. Originally painted plum, this home has wood shingle siding and also features a native granite foundation. The history of the home revolves around Albert Seligman, who

moved to Helena from New York when he was 22 to manage the Gregory Mine for his uncle. Albert served in the Montana State Legislature from 1884-5. In 1912, the home was purchased by head of the Montana Republican party, Dr. Oscar M. Lanstrum.

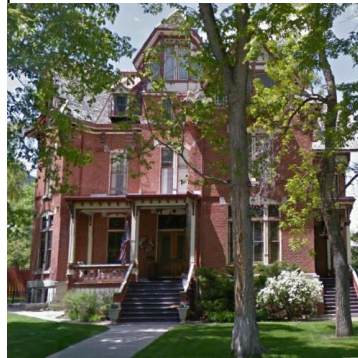
Site #12 - Hauser-Neill Residence, 725 Madison



Governor Samuel T. Hauser had this home built as a wedding gift for his daughter in 1888. In 1903, the home was sold to John S. M. Neill. Neill also purchased the *Helena Independent* in 1895 and became its publisher and editor. This home was designed by Paulsen and McConnell. Paulsen would eventually become state architect for Montana. One of the best preserved of Helena's nineteenth-century mansions, this rose-beige brick home features a grand central hall. Off the hall are the parlor, the dining room, and a

card room with a window of bottle glass and walls of bamboo, an example of exotic Oriental influence. The house was likely remodeled on the exterior after 1903, converted from a traditional Queen Anne to a house with more conservative, classical features, including pilasters and arched openings.

Site #13—Samuel T. Hauser Residence, 720 Madison



This home was built for Samuel T. Hauser in 1885, the year he was appointed Montana's seventh Territorial Governor by President Grover Cleveland. The home was the site of many a social function. Hauser lived here until 1913. In 1914, the Catholic Diocese of Helena bought the property. Though the architect of this 29-room mansion is unknown, it is thought to have been remodeled by Paulsen and McConnell in 1890. Gables, dormers, and porches embellished with carved wood and windows with stone trim of locally quarried porphyry highlight the fine design. Interior appointments include black

walnut wainscoting and parquet floors of cherry, walnut, and oak. An intricately carved oak stairway graces the grand hall and one of the nine fireplaces features a ceramic hearth depicting Hauser family scenes. Two exquisite stained glass panels, crafted in Germany by the designer of the St. Helena Cathedral windows and installed by Bishop Carroll in 1915, remain intact.

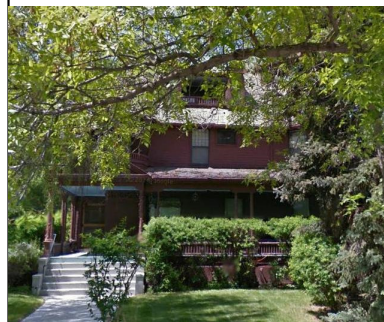
Site #14—Grossberg Residence, 710 Madison Ave.



George and Esther Grossberg built this Craftsman style bungalow in the early 1920s. The mix of multi-colored brick and stucco blends beautifully into the surrounding landscape. Tucked between two Victorian-era homes, this charming 1920s residence represents the careful infill of the neighborhood that took place after World War I. The lovely home has an offset porch with a graceful, welcoming arch and Chicago-style

picture window. These features and the natural brick harmonize with the shaded streetscape, capturing the ambience of the 1920s and the flair of the bungalow style..

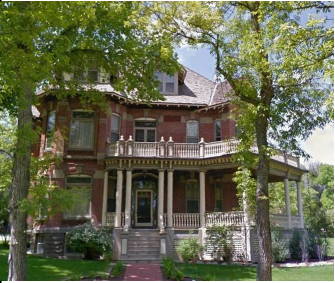
Site #15—Marcus E. Downs Home, 702 Madison



It is assumed that this home was built in 1889 for Marcus E. Downs. A wrought iron "D" can actually be seen in the center of the beveled glass on the interior front door. The master artisan even signed his name and date—Puchata-1889—when he completed the exceptionally fine paneling and wood flooring, wainscoting, and interior trim. He was also the builder of the home's oak dining table and various other pieces. The house has three Tiffany windows which were installed with the

flower pattern on its side. An interesting exterior feature which can be noted is the scrollwork on the pediment over the porch entrance.

Site #16—Swett –Bickett Residence



This home built around 1887 was also designed by the Helena architects Paulsen and McConnell. It was designed for Charles Swett, a prominent cattle king in the Montana Territory. He traveled to St. Paul with McConnell to purchase finishings and furniture for the house. Unfortunately, Swett developed pneumonia while away and died within a few days. A few years later, Mrs. Swett married Mr. William J. Bickett. The couple found the home too large so they sold it in 1906. They moved into their

newly constructed home at 628 Dearborn two years later. The current owners meticulously reconstructed the porch using historic photographs.

Site #17—425 Gilbert



Constructed in 1938, this house stands as another example of in-fill construction during the mid-twentieth century. Slightly larger than other minimal traditional designed houses, this home evokes an English country cottage. Its stuccoed walls, central turret, and a heavily shingled, steep side-gable roof, together with multi-light casement windows

contribute to the style. Note also that by 1938, houses began to display attached garages, and element new to the neighborhood.

Site #18—613 Madison



Another example of early infill in the neighborhood, this tri-plex dates to the early 1920s. Its Spanish Revival style was quite popular during that decade, and Montana features several nice examples. This small-scale building features a stuccoed surface, very low-pitched roof with almost no overhang, prominent arches placed over the

doors, and clay tile roof covering. Note the tile decorative elements, and Moorish opening over the central entrance.

Site #19—Charles Haire Residence, 528 Power



Architect Charles Haire designed this home for himself in 1905. Constructed of local brick at the first floor and frame above, the building displays the typical design elements of the Queen Anne style, including the asymmetry, wrap-around porch, and multiple dormers. This variant shows a Tudor influence, with half-timbering and decorative stickwork.

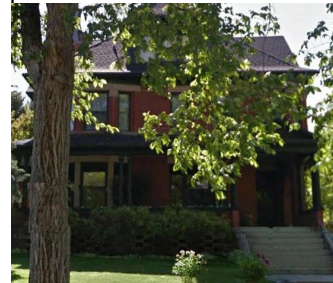
Site #20—Cox-Longmaid Home, 531 Power



George Appleton designed this home in 1890 for William E. Cox. Cox was the owner of the firm Porter, Muth, and Cox which was responsible for the construction of over \$500,000 worth of Helena homes and the Iron Front Building at 413 Last Chance Gulch. The home was purchased by John Henry Longmaid in 1897. Longmaid operated mines in both Marysville and Elkhorn. The property is now referred to as the Galusha house, as it was later owned by Hugh D. Galusha who founded the firm Galusha, Higgins, and Galusha. This is one of the near twenty homes in Helena designed by Appleton. It has an elaborate roofline with gables, two towers and a

miniature tower for a ventilator. The design exemplifies the skill of W.H. Orr, the home's contractor and builder. The sidewalk in front of the home is paved with cross-hatched Kessler Bricks. The interior has a grand hall and stairway of oak and a dining room paneled in oak.

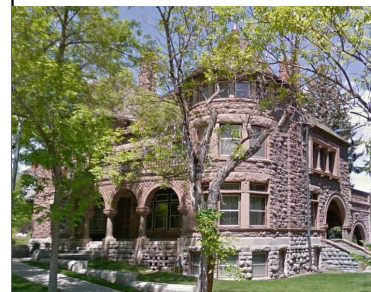
Site #21—Henry Sieben Residence, 520 Harrison



This home was designed by the architect C. S. Haire for Henry Sieben in 1898. Sieben arrived in the Montana territory in 1864 and worked cattle for the DHS outfit. He also bought and developed ranches of his own. He and his wife took an active interest in the affairs of the Helena community and helped to establish the Unitarian Church and the Montana Children's Home. Like many other Helena homes, this house is built of the high quality pressed brick that was manufactured by Nick

Kessler at his brickyard west of Helena. The interior is finished with finely crafted cherry, walnut, birdseye maple and oak, and the walls of the hallways were covered with what appears to be embossed leather.

Site #22—T.C. Power Home, 604 Harrison



Famous Chicago architects Willett and Pashley designed T.C. Power's home in 1889, and it was completed in 1891. Designed in the Romanesque style, it displays rose granite which was extracted from Power's own quarry. The exterior features rounded arches, an arcaded porch, and a heavy tower, all of which are softened by the addition of elaborate terra cotta designs. Terra cotta also surrounds the central front window. The interior was given

much attention, adorned with hand-carved cherry wood and Tiffany gas light fixtures. The fixtures are still in use today, as they have been converted to electricity. The massive carriage house at the rear now houses an architectural firm.

Site #23—Tracy-Power and Babcock-Child Residences



These two homes are nearly mirror images of each other. They were both constructed c. 1897, designed in consultation with the two sisters who were to occupy them with their husbands. Both houses feature local rough-cut granite, Palladian windows in the gable end, and modified turrets above the porches. Heavily shingled on the second and third stories, they represent a modified Shingle style of architecture.

Site #24—713 Harrison



Constructed in 1949, this in-fill house displays a common form of architecture popular at mid century. The split-level form began to appear in the late 1930s both for practical and aesthetic reasons.

They provide an economy of space—and are therefore better for smaller lots, but give the appearance of a larger home. This bi-level example features beautiful modern design, with flagstone highlights and a recessed entry.

Site #25—Tatum –Young House, 529 Floweree



This home was built by B.H. Tatem c.1890. Tatem was active in the rapid growth of Helena, as he had many successful mining interests. President McKinley appointed him assayer in charge of the Helena U.S. Assay Office in 1901. Tragically, Mrs. Tatum died at age 82 in front of the house when she stepped from the curb and was struck by a streetcar. Mrs. SS Huntley, widow of the Yellowstone Park Company founder, married

General S. B. M. Young, and they lived here for many years. Described by the *Helena Herald* as “one of Helena’s most elegant west side homes”, this residence displays many elements associated with the Victorian interpretation of the Tudor style. These includes the false half-timbering, lancet arches within the gable ends, and extensive bracketing. The steeply-pitched, shingled rooflines of the multiple dormers and paired symmetrical gables across the front porch also indicate the Tudor influence. The multiple heights of the rooflines, overall asymmetry of the massing, and the full porch, however, reveal a Queen Anne influence as well.

Site 25—410 Floweree



One of the most popular trends in early mid-century design, the Minimal Traditional house often features a low or intermediate-pitched roof with shallow no overhanging eaves. They stand one-story tall, often with a full basement. Side gables are most common, but front-gables appear often, as do lowered gables across the entries. Minimal Traditional houses

appear just as they sound, with simple, rectangular or I-shaped massing and few architectural details on the exterior. The Federal Housing Administration’s *Principles for Planning Small Houses* described the style in 1936, as providing “a maximum accommodation within a minimum of means.”

Montana Historical Society
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