

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FEB 9 1979

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC HAUSER MANSION

AND/OR COMMON

BABCOCK MANSION

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 720 MADISON AVENUE

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WESTERN

STATE

MONTANA

CODE

30

COUNTY

LEWIS &amp; CLARK

CODE

49

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE  MUSEUM  
 COMMERCIAL  PARK  
 EDUCATIONAL  PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 ENTERTAINMENT  RELIGIOUS  
 GOVERNMENT  SCIENTIFIC  
 INDUSTRIAL  TRANSPORTATION  
 MILITARY  OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME MR. & MRS. TIM BABCOCK

STREET & NUMBER 720 MADISON AVENUE

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

VICINITY OF

STATE

MONTANA 59601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

LEWIS &amp; CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

STATE

MONTANA 59601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

HABS PHOTOGRAPH DATA BOOK REPORT

DATE

1967

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

CITY, TOWN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Samuel T. Hauser Mansion, erected in 1885, is located in the Hauser Addition to the City of Helena, Block 7, Lots 4, 5, and 6. The stately two-story red brick structure has a steep gable and hip roof containing an attic. The building has a full basement of dressed granite partially raised above grade to allow for basement windows. The approximate square footage of the building is 3,000 square feet on each of the two floors.

The building faces to the east on Madison Avenue. Access is gained by a flight of nine steps leading to the entry porch. Due to the height of the first floor, the basement is lighted by relatively tall double hung windows. There is a square turret on the southeast corner of the building and the porch is set between this turret and the rectangular projection of the front parlor located on the northeast. Another wooden porch is located on the north side of the building alongside the front parlor and terminates in the dining room bay projection.

The windows are wood double-hung units of 1/1 lights with squared heads. Those on the first and second floors, either grouped or single units, are set in brick arches. The tall windows of the front parlor on the east are in a group of three units. The center unit is wider than the windows that flank it. Each unit has a transom light of stained glass. The basement windows beneath this follow the same basic spacing but are only a little more than half as tall as the windows of the first floor and lack the transom lights. The windows on the second floor of the front facade are grouped in pairs of two. They have no transom lights but are set in arched openings. The windows of the attic do not have the arched frame and are square-headed. Some of these fixed units are divided into small square panes of glass, such as the group of four windows in the gable above the entry where there are two tall central windows having flanking smaller windows. The intermediate landing of the main staircase is lighted by a 9-unit stained glass window. The master bedroom on the second floor has three stained glass windows featuring The Nativity, St. Margaret of Scotland and St. John. These were installed by Bishop Carroll about 1915; he used the room as a chapel.

The main entry has two large paneled oak doors with a rectangular stained glass transom. The doors themselves each have a single vertical stained glass light. The vestibule doors are similar to the entry doors. There is a grand entry hall centrally located that has dark oak paneled wainscoting. The wainscoting of recessed panels is also carried up the main stairs to the second floor. All of the ornate trim on the first floor is of oak. Especially noteworthy are the carved newel posts and the staircase itself.

To the left of the main hall is the front living room. It has a projecting square bay on the southeast corner and a fireplace on the south wall. Beyond the living room to the west is the library or den; it has a fireplace on the west wall. The main hall also has a fireplace. The front parlor which is located on the northeast corner of the building has a fireplace on the south wall. Beyond the front parlor to the west is a spacious dining room with a fireplace in the main hall. All of the fireplaces have decorative ceramic tile hearths and facings. One of them features eight custom-made tiles showing scenes from the life of the Houser family surrounding the opening.

Farther back to the west are to be found the pantry, the kitchen that has been modernized, stairs to the basement and the rear or servants' staircase to the upper floors. The second floor contains nine bedrooms, a study and an office. There are six rooms on the third (attic) floor. No doubt some were originally servants' quarters while the remainder was probably a ballroom. The house has a total of twenty-nine rooms with eight storerooms and pantries, five bathrooms and eight fireplaces.

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The tall impressive brick structure has stone window trim, brick mouldings, stained glass, leaded and frosted glass, and a steep wood shingled combination and gable roof--the latter having dormer windows. It is crowned with ornate chimney pots. The corner site is well landscaped. A one-story brick carriage house is located behind the house.

During the time the house served as a convent the bedrooms were partitioned into two, three or four smaller rooms; it had a total of 32 bedrooms. Tim and Betty Babcock, its present owners have had the partitions removed and the house restored. The fine finish of the interior sets this handsome late - 19th century mansion apart in a city that boasts numerous outstanding mansions.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1885      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      ARCHITECTS WALLACE & THORNBURG

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hauser-Babcock Mansion was built in 1885, one of the earliest of the big homes on the west side of the city of Helena. At the same time, its owner, Samuel T. Hauser, was appointed Governor of the Territory of Montana by President Cleveland. The Territory did not possess a "Governor's Mansion"; so this house served that function.

Hauser was a Montana pioneer and one of the men most responsible for the development of this vast area into a state. He had been born and educated in Kentucky. In 1854, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked as a civil engineer for several railroads. In 1862, he traveled up the Missouri River to Fort Benton and tried prospecting for gold in the Idaho-Montana area. He wintered in Bannack. The following spring he joined the "Yellowstone Expedition" to explore down the Yellowstone River looking for gold. Indian attacks forced the party back; when they returned, they found that another big gold discovery had been made in Alder Gulch, not far from Bannack. Hauser moved there and prospered. In 1865, in partnership with N. P. Langford, he organized a bank at Virginia City under the firm name of S. T. Hauser & Co. The next year, he organized the First National Bank of Helena, and eventually, the First National Bank of Butte, the First National Bank of Fort Benton and the First National Bank of Missoula.

Hauser had retained connections with friends in Missouri and became an intermediary for investments of St. Louis money in Montana. In 1866, he organized the St. Louis Mining Company at Philipsburg, later the Hope Mining Company. The first silver mill in the Territory was erected there. The ties with St. Louis were strengthened in 1871, when he married Ellen Farrar, daughter of a physician in St. Louis.

As capitalist, financier and builder of the state, Hauser was associated with the building of a number of small railroads in Montana, among them the: Helena & Boulder Valley, Helena & Jefferson County, Drummond & Philipsburg, Helena & Red Mountain, Helena Northern, and Missouri & Bitter Root Valley. He also was an organizer of the Helena & Livingston Smelting and Refining Company.

In 1870, a number of prominent citizens of Montana banded together to explore the area now known as Yellowstone National Park. This became known as the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition & from this group came the inspiration for setting aside and preserving this natural wonderland for the use of all the people. Samuel T. Hauser was one of the members of this expedition.

Hauser was a Democrat, and in 1884, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In July, 1885, President Grover Cleveland named him to be governor of the Territory of Montana. He was the first resident of the Territory to become governor; the other chief executives had been sent out from the east. Hauser served in this capacity until February 7, 1887.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- An Illustrated History of the State of Montana, Joaquin Miller, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894, pp. 126-7.
- Progressive Men of Montana, A. W. Bowen & Co., n. d., pp. 202-3.
- Helena Weekly Herald (newspaper), Helena, Montana, Feb. 26, 1885.
- Helena Illustrated, Frank L. Thresher, publ. by author, Minneapolis, 1890.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.52 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Helena, Montana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 4200215 511601500  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Hauser Mansion is located in the Hauser Addition, Block 7, Lots 4, 5, and 6. It is bound on the east by Madison Avenue and on the north by Stuart Street.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE JOHN N. DeHAAS, JR., ARCHITECT DATE JULY 28, 1977

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER 1021 S. TRACY TELEPHONE 406-486-2276

CITY OR TOWN BOZEMAN STATE MONTANA 59601

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE XX LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 1/23/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]  
 FOR THE  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-9-79

ATTEST: William H. Braxton  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2-7-79

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In 1913, Hauser deeded the house to his daughter, Ellen Hauser Thatcher. She and her husband sold it to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, John P. Carroll. Carroll, Second Bishop of Helena, used the mansion as a residence and Chancery Office. Following the death of Bishop Carroll in 1925, the mansion was occupied by successive Bishops and their Chancellors until 1935. During the Christmas holidays of 1935-36, the teaching Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, moved in and the building served as their convent until 1969.

The mansion was purchased by former Governor Tim and Betty Babcock in 1969. They have carried out a thorough restoration, removing partitions, fixing fireplaces, etc. It was chosen to receive one of the 1975 Burlington House Awards for American Homes for taste and ingenuity in the furnishing of the interiors.

Lieutenant Governor Babcock, a Republican, succeeded to the office of governor in January, 1962, following the death of Governor Donald Nutter in a plane crash. Babcock won election to a full term of office in 1964, so he served as Governor of Montana from 1962 to 1969.

This mansion, then, has been the residence of two governors of Montana, has housed four Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church of Montana, and for some thirty-five years, was a convent for a group of nuns engaged in education in the state. It's history is interwoven with the history of Montana.