

HISTORIC NAME: Rouse House
ADDRESS: 506 E. Babcock
LEGAL BOUNDARY: Rouse 2nd Addition,
Blk A, tract of land
measuring 96' x 65' at
the NW corner of block
OWNER'S NAME: Colorado-Montana Land Co.
c/o Dave Brown
OWNER ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1440
Boulder, CO 80302
SPECIFIC DATE: 1881
ARCHITECT: Unknown
BUILDER: Unknown
ORIGINAL OWNER: Daniel E. Rouse
ORIGINAL USE: residence
PRESENT USE: residence
UTM REFERENCE: 12/497750/5058070
ACREAGE: less than one
U.S.G.S. QUAD: Bozeman, 1953



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Applicable Criteria: B and C

Areas of significance: settlement, architecture

Number of Contributing Properties: 1

This fine brick I-House, which bears elements of both the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles, is individually eligible for listing in the National Register for both its architectural and historical significance. It is not only one of the finest residences in Bozeman dating from the early 1880's, but was built by and for Daniel E. Rouse, who was one of the city's founders. The Rouse House is the last architecturally significant property still standing in Bozeman that is associated with one of the city's original founders.

Of special architectural note are the stone springers and keystones that ornament the segmental arches of all windows and doors. While the present entry porch and balcony is similar to the original one that probably fronted the house, it is of very recent construction and is non-contributing. The house, with its Gothic cross dormer and narrow plan, is a fine example of the I-House building type common in Bozeman.

The house was built during the building boom triggered in the early 1880's by the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad. At the beginning of that boom, when this house was built, brick was both the preferred material for construction, and a scarce commodity due to demand. Brick represented the permanence and opulence that Bozeman residents envisioned for the future of their young city. Rouse probably acquired the brick from his own brick yard.

Rouse, who settled in Montana in 1861 from Minnesota, was among the original town founders in 1864, along with John Bozeman and W.J. Beall, when the "Original Townsite" was laid out. Rouse's Additions are consequently among the first extensions of the original plat. Rouse saved a large corner lot of his second addition for this house, which is considerably more refined than the log cabin he built for himself in 1864.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This detached, one-and-one-half story, brick, single family residence has an ell-shaped plan with an open front porch and open balcony accessed by a pair of second story doors in the cross-gable above. The one-bay facade is symmetrical and consists of a central glass-paned front entrance with transom light above flanked by double hung two-over-two windows. The windows and doors have brick segmental arches above with stone voussoirs and key stones. There are inoperable shutters on the bottom windows. The buildings rests on a concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with pink asphalt shingles and features overhanging eaves. A small sunroom addition was built in the southwest corner of the ell. There are two brick chimneys, one exterior and one interior.

A two-story brick building was built to the rear (south) of the Rouse House ca.1980. Although this new building is attached to the historic property by a small enclosed hallway, it both reads and functions as a separate structure and is not included in this nomination.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City Directory: 1892-3, p. 147

Avant Courier, August 4, 1881, p. 3

FORM PREPARED BY: James R. McDonald, P.C. (1983-84); Matthew Cohen (1985-86 revision); Patricia Bick (1987 revision), State Historic Preservation Office, 225 No. Roberts, Helena, Montana 59620 (406) 444-7715



Roll # 80 Frame # 14