

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 27 1986**

date entered **SEP 25 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Harmon, William, House

and/or common Rivenes House

2. Location

street & number 1005 Palmer N/A not for publication

city, town Miles City, Montana N/A vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Custer code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name David G. Rivenes and Ella M. Rivenes, husband and wife, as Joint Tenants

street & number 1005 Palmer

city, town Miles City N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Custer County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Miles City state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Harmon House, built in 1887, is a 2 1/2 story brick modified Queen Anne style residence constructed on a sandstone foundation. As originally built, the house had an irregular plan with an elaborate arched, pedimented and corbeled porch leading to the entrance in the southwest corner. Decorative corbeled brick encircled the building at the eaves, and scalloped shingles covered the uppermost part of the front gable. Flanking the entrance on the first floor was a wide, two story bay with a large, cottage window featuring a decorative header and a double segmented arch, and a pair of 1/1 double hung windows on the second story. The west side of the building had an elliptical bay with three 1/1 double hung windows capped by a conical roof. Toward the rear of the house on the west elevation was another bay which was three-sided with two 1/1 double hung windows on the first floor and four on the second level. All of the double hung windows had sandstone sills and either jack or segmentally arched brick window heads. Two hipped dormers, both covered with scalloped wood shingles and featuring one 1/1 double hung sash, were located on the east elevation. A low, wide gabled dormer with five small, fixed windows jutted from the west side of the hip roof. Attached to the rear was a one story brick lean-to with a 1/1 double hung window and a brick chimney. By 1893 a small, square wood frame lean-to shed with a pair of 1/1 double hung sashes had been attached to the entrance at the northeast corner.

Between 1903-1910 the Harmon House was altered by the addition of a large wrap-around veranda on the first floor. Supported by a series of brick columns, the Neo-Classical veranda fully enclosed the main facade and both sides of the front half of the house. The veranda featured lattice work at the base and a beaded, tongue-and-groove ceiling. The arched entry and cottage window on the front, and the three-sided bay window were retained in the addition. At the same time the elliptical west-facing bay was changed to an angular, two-sided configuration, with the conical roof becoming partially enclosed in the new roof. All other windows and details remained the same in the addition.

A two story, gable roofed, wood frame barn was also built behind the house between 1903-1910. The exterior is sheathed with beveled lap siding, and there is a second floor porch on the south side which is accessed by a modern door constructed from a gable dormer. Windows on the facade are 9-light fixed; several windows on the rear have been closed with lap siding. A shed addition with several 6-light windows was attached to the west gable end at an undetermined date.

In 1951 the house was converted into five small apartments and about ten years later the current owners remodeled the building back to a single family residence. Today, the first floor interior features three elaborate fireplaces with imported European tiles in the dining, living and music rooms, wainscoting and patterned linoleum on several walls. Floors are hardwood with some parquet patterns. Three tall, brick chimneys pierce the wood shingle roof.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association with William Harmon	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Harmon House is significant predominantly for its architecture as an excellent example of one of the earliest surviving brick Queen Anne style houses in Miles City. It is very significant as well for its association with the original owner, William Harmon, who was a prominent Miles City businessman, rancher and stock farmer. The Harmon Residence also possesses important associations with Kenneth McLean, a rancher and politician who purchased the Harmon House in 1900. Within ten years after buying the building, McLean added a Neo-Classical veranda and altered an existing bay window to give the house its present appearance.

The Harmon House, despite being modified between 1903-1910, is a good example of an elaborate masonry Queen Anne style residence. Typical of the style, the house has an irregularly-massed hipped roof with a lower cross gable that is front-facing and asymmetrically placed on the facade. Also in keeping with the Queen Anne style, the house uses wall surfaces, in this case masonry, as primary decorative elements. A variety of bays, wall projections, windows and decorative brick patterns provide random changes in the horizontal continuity of the wall plane. These features have remained clearly distinctive even after the early 20th century alterations.

The Harmon House was one of the first brick houses constructed in Miles City; in 1888 there were a total of six brick residences within the city limits. Palmer Street, on which the Harmon House is located (two blocks from the central business district) was sparsely developed in 1888, but already had a number of large, irregularly-shaped, wood frame Victorian period houses spaced intermittently along both the north and south sides. By the time the Harmon House was constructed, one other spacious brick residence and an Episcopal church had been built nearby on Palmer, indicating that the street was soon to become a fashionable residential area in town.

Miles City (1980 pop. 9,620), the county seat of Custer County, serves as the business, retail and medical center for the surrounding rural area, and is the only major business district located in southeastern Montana. Settlement in the Miles City area occurred in the mid-1870s after Fort Keogh had been established at the mouth of the Tongue River on the Yellowstone River. The location at the mouth of the Tongue was excellent for fording the Yellowstone and for trading; it soon became an important stopping place for the long cattle drives from Texas. As ranchers poured into the Territory's range country, cattle, sheep and horse ranching became an integral part of eastern Montana's rural economy. Consequently, the population in Miles City expanded from 200 in 1877 to 2,000 in 1883. Soon after the Northern Pacific railroad entered the city in 1881, the surrounding area became a major point for shipping livestock.

William Harmon arrived in Montana in 1882 and immediately established a 2,500

9. Major Bibliographical References

Leeson, Michael A. History of Montana. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1888, 1893, 1903, 1910, 1916, 1928.
Miller, Joaquin. An Illustrated History of the State of Montana. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1894.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Miles City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	4	3	4	9	2	0	5	1	3	9	7	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9 & 10 of Block 71

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Rivenes, edited by Michael Koop, Montana SHPO

organization SHPO date

street & number 225 N. Roberts telephone (406)444-7715

city or town Helena state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

MK mms

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

Maureen Sheps

title SHPO date 6-27-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-25-86

Maureen Sheps
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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head cattle ranch on O'Fallon Creek near Ekalaka (75 miles southeast of Miles City) which was organized as the Harmon and Hale Cattle Company. Known as the Old 22 Ranch, the property included "an excellent, well-furnished residence and farm buildings, and a water tank [for irrigation]...carriages for driving...large herds of cattle and some of the finest blooded horses in the State" (Miller 1894, p. 695). Harmon also specialized in breeding mules for Southern markets. He reportedly lived with his family at the ranch primarily in the summer months. In 1885 Montana cattle ranchers created the Territory-wide Montana Stockgrowers Association which met annually in Miles City and wielded considerable economic and political power. Immediately after its inception, Harmon moved to Miles City to solidify his cattle ranching interests and assume two new positions as Vice-President of the Stockgrowers' Association and Vice-President of the Stock Growers' National Bank. Within two years after relocating in town he had constructed one of the first brick residences in Miles City, regarded as "the finest and best furnished" in the community when it was built. Harmon's substantial and attractive Queen Anne style house would illustrate well to his peers his refined taste and his stature in Miles City after his recent appointments. Harmon also served as a member of the Board of County Commissioners in 1892, the Patriotic Order of Sons of America, and held the position as Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Grant Post No. 14 in Miles City.

In 1900 Harmon sold his residence at 1005 Palmer to Kenneth McLean, the owner of a 23,000 acre ranch also located along O'Fallon Creek east of Miles City. Three years after he purchased the property, McLean altered his house with Neo-Classical details -- in keeping with national architectural trends and his own desire to have the building be a suitable social statement. McLean owned other property including a 680 acre ranch in the Yellowstone Valley about nine miles east of Miles City, on which he raised sheep and cattle and bred Hambletonian trotting horses. McLean was also politically active and was elected as a republican State Senator in 1900.

Although the Harmon House has undergone minor exterior alterations, these changes occurred during the historic period. Furthermore, they significantly add to the architectural character of the property, and illustrate very well a common pattern of altering a Queen Anne residence in the early 20th century with Classical ornamentation. The two early, historically important owners of the property are, therefore, very clearly represented as well in the Harmon House.