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

# National Register of Historic Places **Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name John H. Huseby House

other names/site number

I a soft as

2. LO	ation									_
street	& number 511 Eas	st Sixth Ave	nue					N/A	not for publication	
city or	town Helena							N/A v	icinity	
state	Montana	code	MT	county	Lewis and Clark	code	049	zip code	59601	
		0. 110	242							-

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act. as amended.

I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> nomination <u>request</u> for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

Inationalstatewidelocal	10/31/2012 Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Natio	unal Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register other (explain:)	removed from the National Register
Signature of the Keeper	12.26.12

United States Department of the Inter	ior
National Park Service / National Regi	ster of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

John	H.	Huset	)y	House
		roperty		

5. Classification

Lewis and Clark Co., MT County and State

#### **Ownership of Property** Category of Property Number of Resources within Property (Check as many boxes as apply.) (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) (Check only one box.) Contributing Noncontributing private building(s) х 1 buildings x public - Local district sites public - State site structures public - Federal structure objects object 1 Total Name of related multiple property listing Number of contributing resources previously (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing) listed in the National Register N/A N/A 6. Function or Use **Historic Functions Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.) (Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC: single dwelling DOMESTIC: single dwelling 7. Description Materials **Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.) (Enter categories from instructions.) foundation: STONE LATE VICTORIAN; Second Empire walls: BRICK METAL- Copper; Synthetics-Membrane, Plastic: ASPHALT roof: other:

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John H. Huseby House Name of Property (Expires 5/31/2012)

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#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Located on a well-treed major east-west running street linking the politics of the state capitol to the commerce of Helena's downtown business district, the Huseby House is a Late Victorian Second Empire style two-story building retaining many of its original features. Constructed in 1891 by John Huseby, a stone mason and brick layer, the Huseby House continues to display most of the design features as originally constructed. Changes to the house are generally the result of the earthquakes of 1935.

#### **Narrative Description**

The John H. Huseby House is situated in the middle of the 500 block on Sixth Avenue in Helena, the main street linking the state capitol with the historic downtown business district. It was built on property that is part of the original Helena townsite.

The house is a Second Empire Victorian town house. It is two-story brick bearing construction with a stone basement. Construction includes a 9' deep rubble stone basement with rough cut  $2 \times 10$  joists on 16" centers. The brick displays a stretcher bond pattern. The north wall of the basement originally sported two full length windows and a door; these were subsequently in-filled with brick after the 1935 earthquakes. The walls of the first floor measure three bricks thick and the walls of the second floor are two bricks thick. The second floor joists are rough cut  $2 \times 10$  s on 16" centers; the ends bear on the interior most brick.

#### North Facade

The primary façade of the house, which is situated on the south side of Sixth Avenue, faces north. A short walk between two massive elms leads to the main entry, a one-light, two-panel wood door and transom slightly offset to the northwest and covered by a porch supporting a second story balcony. West of the entry is a 13-light fixed window with original colored and frosted panes of glass. Above and aligned with the ground floor entry is a second story multi-light wood door providing egress from the interior to the balcony. A double hung window is immediately west of the upper story door.

The east half of the front of the house, balancing the entry and porch is a three-sided bay which extends from the stone basement to the top of the second story where it is covered by a small gable. The first floor central bay window is topped by leaded stain glass; the lateral windows are one-over-one double-hung. Second story bay windows include paired one-over-one double-hung lateral windows.

The roof, a modified saltbox with a long shallow pitch to the rear (south) and short steep pitch on the front (north) interrupted by the small gable covering a bay, gives the appearance of a Mansard roof when viewed from the front of the house. The front of the house is faced with copper shingles. Original wood brackets and cornices visually connect the brick walls to the second story roof. All the windows on the front have granite window sills, directly above the window openings are rowlock brick segmentally arched tops.

Originally, the house displayed three northern elevation doorways on three different levels; a ground level stairway descended to a basement door, a main level entry accessed from the porch, and a second story door provided egress out to the balcony. Damage from the 1935 earthquakes resulted in a concrete slab replacing the original front porch with square wooden posts supporting a roof. In the intervening years since 1935, the concrete slab began to separate from the house necessitating its removal and replacement in 2003 with the current two-story porch, which sits in the original porch footprint. The removal of the concrete slab yielded evidence of an earlier fire which may have been the cause of the loss of the original front porch.

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#### West Elevation

The west side of the house is bordered by a small walk way and the neighboring house which is only 12 feet away. Typical of a townhouse, only two small one-over-one double hung windows, one lighting the basement staircase and the other lighting the staircase to the second floor occur in the west elevation. These windows display incised wood carving directly above the window openings and brick segmentally arched lintels and brick sills. Other than these two windows the west brick wall is devoid of fenestration. The two interior wall chimneys on the west sit flush with the brick wall so they can only be discerned by looking to the top of the wall where they protrude another two feet. The east and west roof parapet hides the main sloping portion of the roof which displays a three-foot elevation decrease across the length of the 30-foot roof.

#### **East Elevation**

The wall of the east side of the house, similar to the west elevation, displays Spartan fenestration; it is solid brick except for one small one-over-one double-hung window in the middle of the second story. Like the windows on the west wall, this window displays cut work directly above the window opening, a brick segmented arched lintel and a brick window sill. The two interior wall chimneys on the east are flush with the brick wall so they can only be discerned by looking to the top of the wall where they protrude another two feet. A parapet graces the top of the elevation as previously described for the west elevation. After the earthquakes of 1935, a concrete retaining wall was built along the base of the east wall.

In 2001, an end-to-end two-car garage was added on the east elevation. It is set back five feet and clad with horizontal clapboard siding; the siding displays a color of paint that closely matches the natural brick of the house. It has a hipped roof with two cross gables at the northeast side.

#### South Elevation

The original south wall of the house had two double-hung windows with brick segmented arch lintels as well as brick window sills. There was also a backdoor which led directly into the kitchen. The 1935 earthquakes caused significant damage to the south wall, most of which was replaced with new bricks at that time. A small wooden back porch was attached to the back door and contained a floor to ceiling cupboard on the west side and windows on the south and east side as well as an outside covered back door. There was also an outside stairway to the basement which had a door. In 2002, the back porch and the outside stairway covering were removed and a sun room added across the back, south wall of the house. The original window on the southeast corner was converted into a French door, linking the back parlor with the sunroom.

The interior retains the original floor plan, apart from the half bath on the main floor which originally served as part of the front hall. Except for the kitchen and this half bath, the home retains the wide routed baseboards, decorative woodwork, bulls-eye rosettes and picture rails on the main floor. On the second floor, each of the four rooms preserves its transom above the entry door. To return the house to its former glory, the current owners removed the dropped ceilings throughout the house, and the barn wood from the kitchen installed in the 1970s.

A small barn originally stood near the alley southeast of the house. A garage was built in the location of the barn by 1930; however, it is not known if the barn was removed to construct the garage. Like the barn, the garage was also removed at an undetermined time.

#### Integrity

The Huseby House retains very good integrity including integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship. Most of the materials used in its construction are intact and remain important components of the building. The workmanship and materials of house easily convey their historic associations including the design intent of not only the architect, but also the builder, John Huseby. The building rests in its original location in a setting that differs little from when the house was originally built. Most of the changes that have occurred over time are related to the earthquakes of 1935. The quake related changes include the replacement of a concrete slab (which replaced the original porch damaged by the earthquakes) with the current two-story porch (which sits in the original porch footprint), the replacement of much of the south elevation, and the addition of a concrete retaining wall along the base of the east

John H. Huseby House Lewis and County and

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wall. Recent alterations not related to the earthquake include the addition of a sun room across the rear of house, and the construction of a garage off the east elevation; the garage, intentionally stepped back to the south off the front of the house to avoid visual completion with the main façade, does not overly detract from the historic design of the building. The building still strongly conveys its original character and design 100 years after its construction.

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John H. Huseby House

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)



В

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.



C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### **Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1891-1947

Significant Dates

1891, 1935

**Criteria Considerations** 

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious
	purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

#### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the completion of the construction of the house in 1891 through 1947 when the house passed out of Huseby family ownership.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Architect/Builder

John Huseby/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The John H. Huseby House represents the homes in Helena constructed during its transformation from a mining community to a territorial capital. The house was constructed by John H. Huseby, a stone mason who came to Helena in 1880. Steady work during the late 1880s allowed construction of the house by Huseby in 1891. The John H. Huseby House is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the John H. Huseby House is associated with the building boom that facilitated the shift of Helena from mining camp to city. John H. Huseby, a brick layer and mason who built the house, also assisted with the construction of many other buildings built during this time in Helena. In addition to Criterion A, the building is also eligible for listing under Criterion C. The house, a Second Empire brick townhouse, is characteristic of the period, and continues to display details representative of the style, and remains the only such styled house in the neighborhood.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Located on a well-treed major east-west running street linking the politics of the state capital to the commerce of the downtown business district, the John H. Huseby House is representative of the comfortable homes constructed in Helena during its transition from a rough mining community to a territorial capital. John H. Huseby came to Helena in 1880 and worked as a stone mason, eventually learning the brick laying trade. Steady work during the late 1880s, the result of one of the most prolific building booms in Helena, allowed Huseby to construct the house in 1891. The John H. Huseby House is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the John H. Huseby House is associated with the building boom that helped change Helena from a small mining camp to the biggest city in Montana at the time. Not only is the house associated with that specific building event, the builder of the house, John H. Huseby —a brick layer and mason—literally had a hand in the physical construction of not only the John H. Huseby House, but also many other buildings constructed during Helena's rise to prominence.

The building is also eligible for listing under Criterion C. The house, a Second Empire brick townhouse, is characteristic of the period, continuing to display details distinctive of the style. While other Second Empire townhouses are found in limited numbers in Helena, few still present as well as the John H. Huseby House and none exist within the neighborhood and surrounding area.

### **Physical Development of Helena**

The following is from *Helena: A Historic City*, by Herbert L. Jacobson, Donald L. Byrd, and Chere Jiusto, prepared for the City of Helena and MTSHPO, January, 1982.

Helena's physical growth, that is the actual buildings, was largely determined by its topographical features. By virtue of the rich gravel bars extending from the surface to bedrock located at the lowest levels of the gulch, placer mining usurped that location as building sites for the first year. Bridge Street, located to the east side of the gulch, became the first commercial area of the mining camp.<sup>1</sup> The earliest pictures of Helena in 1865 show the original porch footprint business establishments extending from Main Street to the top of the hill at Rodney Street. Nearly all of the structures were constructed of log. Bridge Street was also the center of Helena's first residential neighborhood because there were building sites available there and because the proprietors of its first businesses lived in the back portions of their stores. It was impossible for the town to develop to the west because of the steep hillsides that comprised the gulch's western edge. Main Street was extended north, down the gulch as mining was terminated, claim by claim, and it was here that the first permanent structures of stone and brick were located.

<sup>1</sup> Bridge Street became State Street in 1890 to commemorate Montana's statehood.

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The old Fire Tower, known as the "Guardian of the Gulch," is now the symbol for the City of Helena, and with good cause. From its prominent location, a person could have witnessed nine fires in a period of five years, from 1869 to 1874. The last most general and disastrous fire of all occurred January 9, 1874. It began in Chinatown. The wind was blowing furiously. The magnificent International Hotel, one of the finest buildings ever erected in Helena, costing \$75,000 burned and Bridge Street to Grand Street was gutted. Following the 1874 fire, the Lewis and Cark County commissioners passed a fire ordinance forbidding the erection of frame buildings on Main Street below Wood Street on May 22, 1874.

The delivery of water to the area immediately east of Last Chance Gulch was an added advantage for its development as Helena's first residential area. The first water system consisted of a series of hollowed-out logs that transported water from Grizzly and Oro Fino Gulches. In 1869, the Helena Water Company improved and expanded the system by extending pipes along Warren Street to Fifth Avenue and east on Fifth to Rodney Street (*two blocks west of the Huseby House*). Finally, the construction of the Hale Water Works reservoir above Pine Street in 1884 assured the east side of an adequate water supply.

As far as Helena's early business district is concerned, it should be remembered that as late as 1884, it was only four blocks long, extending from the corner of Bridge Street, north on Main Street to Sixth Avenue, and only two blocks deep, from Jackson Street on the east to Clore (Park Avenue) on the west. The site now occupied by the Power Block (southwest corner of Sixth and Main), was taken up by the Holter's Lumber Yard and Mill.

A number of the early merchants who built buildings in the original business district had a great deal of faith in future events in that they didn't have title to the land upon which they built. The United States Land Office was first established in Helena in September 1867, and until then no titles other than possessory right, could be acquired. It was not until sometime after this, March 20, 1868, that the Helena townsite was filed on by Probate Judge Truitt. The patent was dated June 15, 1872, and it became possible to acquire title to the ground on which stood at least \$2,000,000 worth of improvements.

The development of local industries in Helena was largely a response to the construction needs of the community. The first industry was lumbering and by the summer of 1865, two sawmills and a planing mill were operating at capacity. Stone quarries were opened both east and west of Helena and by 1867, brickyards had been constructed. The basic bedrock formation in the Helena area is limestone and lime kilns were built in Oro Fino and Grizzly Gulch just a mile south of town.

By 1884, several other basic industries had been added. There were three sawmills and a planing mill, four breweries, two foundries, two brickyards, an electric light company, a soda water factory, and a sash, door and blind factory. Within six years, two more sawmills and planing mills had been established, another electric light company, a vinegar works, a sampling works and a gas works (coal-gasification plant).

The height of Helena's building boom was 1889. No less than 425 homes were built in 1888. The City Directory of 1889 lists nine architectural firms, four brick manufacturers, two stone quarries, eight lumber companies, three tile manufacturers, five stone contractors, fourteen carpenters, eight painters, four wallpaperers, and three calciminers. There were also four cornice manufacturers, three mantel firms, and two skylight manufacturers.

Although the townsite of Helena was laid out in 1864-65, there was a definite need to have it resurveyed, which was done by a professional in 1884. There is relatively little difficulty in tracing the ownership of various lots within the original townsite. However, it is a far different question in the adjoining land that was incorporated into the city later. A definite pattern of the original ownership emerges. Nearly all of it was first a mining claim. With little or no thought to actually mining the land, filing a claim upon it was tantamount to gaining ownership. And enterprising miners, with an eye to the future and ambition to establish a permanent city, quickly claimed all of the land surrounding the townsite. The government land office, established in Helena 1867 deeded the title of the land to those having filed claims, creating the basis for a quick fortune in real estate development. The next step in the process was the surveying, sub-dividing and filing of addition plats to the city with the county commissioners. Then, sale of lots to prospective builders and real estate investors and speculators completed the process.

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A study of the additions to the city and the dates they were filed reveals its pattern of growth (see map of Helena and listing of Helena Additions on continuation pages). However, like every other city, large portions of each division were not built upon before other additions were added. That is, there were many unoccupied city lots even as the perimeter of the city was being enlarged. For example, both the Lennox Addition on the eastside and the Kenwood Addition on the westside were created in 1890 –at least two miles from the extremities of the city. Yet it was not until the late 1950s and 1960s that the town eventually built out to join them.

The first addition to the original townsite was the Mauldin Addition on Helena's southwest side in 1879. In both 1883 and 1887 there were eight additions added, the former caused by the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Helena in June of that year. During the years 1888 and 1889, six more were added each year. By the year 1893, a watershed had been crossed in the development of Helena. From that date until 1948, only two small additions were added to the city.

Up to 1893 (two years after the construction of the John H. Huseby House), the city of Helena witnessed unprecedented growth, and a huge expansion of economic, political, and social influence. This optimism and fiscal reward translated into the physical development of the town with substantial construction within and outside the newly-formed additions to the town.

However, the Panic of 1893, a severe national depression, marked an end of an era.

By the latter part of the 1880's, Helena, with a population of 15,000, was the foremost commercial city in the Territory. Prosperity and growth continued until the Panic of 1893, which coincides with the termination of the most energetic and opulent era of architecture in Helena's past...the depression of 1893 eliminated many fortunes in Helena, thereby terminating that period of romantic commercial building – the most productive architectural period in Helena's past. It had lasted less than a decade, from 1886 until 1893, but in no other Montana city was the romanticism and optimism of Nineteenth Century businessmen so clearly and boldly expressed.<sup>2</sup>

The real estate developers, speculators, and their unwitting customers were hard hit:

A real estate boom in the late 1880's triggered the rapid expansion of Helena. Suddenly people began to buy vacant lots. There were few of these in the original townsite so owners of adjacent property laid out "additions", subdivided them into lots and sold their acreage at prices, if they could sell their entire holdings, would net them 100% to 200% on their investment.

One of the first to sense the possibilities of the boom was Charles Cannon, proprietor of the leading grocery store in Helena. "Charlie Cannon", as he was locally known, was gifted with imagination, and he envisaged a greater Helena, with additions and suburbs which would accommodate a much larger population. So he laid out his acre property adjoining Helena into town lots and began advertising in the papers. One of the favorite advertisements read: "Lots-lots of lots in the Cannon Addition at lowest prices."

The newspapers began featuring real estate. They carried stories everyday about the property sales and thus helped along the boom. In a year the people were real-estate mad, paying hundreds of dollars for a lot which probably cost the owner only a few dollars. The craze lasted two years, and in that time the owners of land adjoining the Helena townsite made millions. When the boom subsided, many purchasers found themselves loaded up with lots which they could not put to profitable use. The town did not grow fast enough to justify the inflated values. Several speculators lost all they had invested and those able to hold on had to wait years before their lots became marketable.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Willard H. Robinson, "Helena's Fabulous Business Blocks," Montana the Magazine of Western History, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, p. 46.

<sup>3</sup> James Blair Walker, A Boy Pioneer in the West and Other Remembrances, n.p. 1963.

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### Helena in the Twentieth Century

Helena's economy and population declined after 1893 and building construction regressed. The town slowly changed from a commercial and transportation center to an economy based on the government. Centralization of federal and state government resulting from the New Deal legislation of the 1930s spurred the change; Helena administered public works projects and relief programs. Highway and bridge construction increased in importance as the first system of paved highways were constructed.

Population figures throughout the history of Helena truly reflect its history. Three thousand six hundred twenty-four people lived in Helena in 1880. By 1890, only 10 years later, the population exploded to 13,834, reflecting the associated building boom of the town. This dramatic population increase symbolized Helena's greatest decade of growth and its greatest building period. The Panic of 1893 ravaged Helena's economy, demonstrated by the sharp 35 percent population decrease the following decade to 10,770 in 1900. An additional 40 years passed before Helena witnessed a population similar to that of 1890.<sup>4</sup>

On October 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 1935, Helena witnessed major earthquakes that shook the city. Numerous larger buildings were severally damaged; many sustained structural damaged and were lost. The earthquakes affects weren't limited to larger buildings as smaller buildings such as houses also incurred damage. No pattern was evident regarding damage from the quakes; some homes were completely destroyed while other nearby houses suffered no apparent ill effect. Because of the quakes, the use of stone and brick in construction decreased dramatically.<sup>5</sup>

By 1940, Helena again achieved a population similar to that of its 1890s glory. New construction increased, dominated by homes east and west of the downtown business district, near the older more established neighborhoods. The entry of the United States into World War II greatly aided Helena's and the surrounding area's economy. The East Helena smelter operated at full capacity processing lead, a critical material in the war effort. The increase in rail transport resulted in the hiring of more train crews and maintenance personnel. Smelter and the railroads crews were considered as part of the strategic labor force, and, exempt from the draft. Fort Harrison, west of town, served as an Army training camp for the First Special Forces, a combined American and Canadian paratroop regiment. After the War, the return of veterans sparked another building boom in Helena with hundreds of homes built in both the eastside and westside areas of the city.

#### John H. Huseby and the John H. Huseby Home

John H. Huseby came to Helena in 1880 as a stone mason. In 1889, his address was listed as "rooms 6 Ashby block" in the 1889-1891 Helena, Montana Directory.<sup>6</sup> Huseby, born in 1865 in Norway, was married to Anna, a lady 16 years his junior who was also born in Norway. By 1910, John and Anna had two children; Marie (also known as Anna Marie), nine, and Henry who was five at the time of the census.<sup>7</sup> Not long after arriving in Helena, John expanded his trade to include bricklaying.

Huseby's arrival coincided with Helena's greatest period of growth—1880 to 1893. This period marked not only incredible population growth, but also concomitant growth related to construction. The continued development of local industry was also related to the construction needs of the town. As the town grew, the requirement for an adequate water supply also grew as residential areas expanded. The continued increase in population growth spurred the construction of the first decent sewer system which employed 600 men on the project in 1889.<sup>8</sup> Population-wise, 3,624 people called

6 http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gsfn=John+H&gsIn=Huseby&gss=angsg&pcat=ROOT\_CATEGORY&h=2787&recoff=4+5+6&db=1890helenmt&indiv=1

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. Decennial Censuses of Population, 1890-2000.

<sup>5</sup> Jacobson, Herbert L, Byrd, Donald, L. and Juisto, Chere. Helena: A Historic City. Montana Historical Society, 1982, p.14.

<sup>7 1910</sup> United States Federal Census database.

<sup>8</sup> Jacobson et al. p. 12.

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Helena home in 1880; only 10 years later, the town boasted a population of 13,834.<sup>9</sup> By 1890, 26 passenger trains rolled through Helena, including two transcontinental and 24 regional lines.<sup>10</sup> Trains transported more than people as the first load of bananas arrived in 1891.<sup>11</sup>

Less than two blocks west of the future site of the John H. Huseby house, Rodney Street between Sixth and Broadway and Warren and Davis streets became a commercial apartment and rooming house center in the 1880s, likely because of the proximity to the courthouse. Many of these buildings were utilitarian in function and appearance. By the late 1880s, numerous apartments sprang up in the area including one located on the corner of Sixth and Davis, less than a block west of the future John H. Huseby house.

The continued growth of the town in 1889 resulted in decent wages for skilled trades people, such as John Huseby; brick layers earned \$6.50 to \$7.00 a day and stone masons made \$5.00 a day, good wages for the time.<sup>12</sup> The economic prosperity of the late 1880s instilled a confidence in Helenans, including John Huseby, regarding the permanence of the community. By 1891, steady work and the good pay allowed John to build his residence at 511 East Sixth Avenue. Unfortunately, no documentation has surfaced regarding the architect of the John H. Huseby house. However, it is possible John designed his own house; "There are many craftsmen such as bricklayers and carpenters, who, as they work with their hands, develop a sense of propriety of materials which is one of the bases of good design. Many such craftsmen could be shown a photograph of a particular style of building and go about reproducing it without any formal plans and specifications."<sup>13</sup> The house sits along but just outside (by three lots) the west edge of the additions of Hoback & Cannon, and Blake, established in 1883 and 1896, respectively, and marked by the north-south running Gem Street. John and Anna lived in this house for 24 and 27 years, respectively, and their daughter Marie owned the house for an additional 29 years after her parent's passing.

The modest Second Empire brick townhouse was spacious for them with a front entry hall, front and back parlors and kitchen on the main floor and four bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. The 1892 Sanborn map indicates the house was one of a few buildings in the neighborhood not of frame construction at the time. The all-brick John H. Huseby house is unique to the area for this reason. By 1891, the year the John H. Huseby house was built, the area began to fill in. The double block of 500 East Sixth had an apartment house on the corner and eight other modest homes spread out along the block. Similar to his neighbors to the immediate west, Huseby rented out part of his home. The 1910 United States Federal Census indicates R.F. Wilkinson, age 47, lodged with the Husebys that year.

The location of the John H. Huseby House was prime in terms of access; at the time of its construction, the electric trolley ran on Davis, just 1/4 of a block to the west. The location, near the corner of Davis on the south side of Sixth Avenue, was ideally situated for John's business, which did quite well as a result of the town's building boom and his involvement. Helena continued to grow, eventually garnering the state capital, which was constructed at Sixth and Montana avenues, eight blocks to the east.

The Husebys built a small barn near the alley where they kept a horse and wagon which hauled Mr. Huseby's bricks and rocks for use in his profession as a brick layer and stone mason. It is not known when this building was removed, but a 1930 building permit application indicates the construction of a garage. The garage was subsequently removed at a later unknown date.

Soon after the construction of the John H. Huseby House, full measure of the Panic of 1893 stung Montana and Helena especially as a result of federal curtailment of silver purchases. Despite the significant downturn in the economy, John continued to stay busy working and being involved in numerous associations. John belonged to many fraternal and

<sup>9</sup> Jacobson et al. p. 14.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. p.7.

<sup>11</sup> Helena Daily Herald, April 15, 1891, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Jacobson et al. p. .9.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. p. 11

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	OWB NO. 1024-0016	

John H. Huseby House	Lewis and Clark Co., MT
Name of Property	County and State

political organizations during his lifetime. He was a member of the Scandinavian Republican Club and supported Benjamin Harrison for President in 1889. He ran for alderman of the seventh ward in 1894; unfortunately, council records don't survive dating to that time which would indicate if he was successful in his alderman pursuit. Later John ran an unsuccessful campaign for mayor on the socialist ticket. A member of the Bricklayers & Mason International Union of America, Union#4, John attended their state conference in 1910. The Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World lodges also counted John as a member.<sup>14</sup>

His political activism included election to the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly in 1896 as a Populist. Also known as the People's Party, it promoted public ownership of telephone and telegraph systems, the railroads, and steamship lines. The party also supported a system of graduated income tax, the free and unrestricted coinage of silver, the elimination of national banks, and the direct election of United States Senators.<sup>15</sup> During his time in office, John was the victim of an attempted holdup on Sixth Avenue near his home. Though the incident was reported in the paper, it apparently ended well. The "highwayman" pulled a gun and ordered him to throw up his hands; John apparently slowly backed away and went home without further interference.<sup>16</sup> During his political service and through his entire life, John worked out of his house as a masonry contractor until 1915, when he died at age 58.<sup>17</sup> Anna died shortly thereafter in 1918 at which time the house passed to Marie.

After her parent's passing, Marie continued to live in the house. It was Marie who was forced to deal with the damage resulting to the house from the 1935 earthquakes. Like much of Helena, the effects of the quakes were felt at the John H. Huseby House.<sup>18</sup> The quakes caused significant damage to the south wall, much of which was replaced with new bricks. At the same time, a small wooden back porch was constructed off the back door which contained a floor to ceiling cupboard on the west side and windows on the south and east sides. A concrete slab replaced the original porch on the north façade (which has since been replaced with a recent porch built on the original porch's footprint), three basement windows associated with the projecting bay and two basement windows and a basement entry in the north basement wall were damaged and in-filled with brick, and the addition of a concrete retaining wall was added along the base of the east wall.

Between 1947 and 1950, during the ownership of the house by John P. Morgan, an exterior set of covered concrete stairs accessing a door into the basement was added to the south wall. A second building permit application from 1947 indicates construction of a shower on the main floor in the half bath, a pouring a concrete floor in the basement, and rebuilding the outside basement stairs. It was during this period that the house was converted to apartment use, one on the main floor and one on the second floor. The Polk's City Directories suggest the house returned to a single family dwelling in 1963.<sup>19</sup> In 2002 the back (south) porch and the outside stairway covering were removed and a sun room added across the back. The original window on the southeast corner was converted into a French door, linking the back parlor with the sunroom.

15 State Legislator, 1889-1898. Found online at:

http://montanahistorywiki.pbworks.com/w/page/21639841/State%20Legislators,%201889-1898

17 Independent Record, January 24, 1915, p. 7.

19 R. L. Polk & Company. Helena City Directory, 1963, Householders Section p. 6.

<sup>14</sup> Irene Morton, 2012. Information relating to John Huseby's fraternal and political involvement is partially derived from documents in the possession of the current owners of the Huseby House.

<sup>16</sup> The Anaconda Standard, "That Lone Highwayman, He Attempted to Hold Up John H. Huseby, But He Didn't Do It." October 31, 1896.

<sup>18</sup> Oscar Baarson served as the Helena City Manager for many years including 1935. Baarson assessed much of the damage to the city; however, a report contained within the Oscar *Baarson* papers housed at the Montana Historical Society in Helena indicates the mayor of Helena at the time of the earthquakes didn't want to involve the city in assessing the quake damage, and thus provided no help to Baarson. Baarson apparently did a commendable job regarding damage assessments to as many properties as he could, unfortunately, the John H. Huseby House is not included in his assessments.

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John H. Huseby House Name of Property

John and Anna raised two children in the house. Their son, Henry, who passed away in 1956, ran a confectionery and ice cream shop with George Viscon at 320 N. Main in 1929.<sup>20</sup> Daughter Marie, who continued to live in the house after the passing of her parents, became a teacher. Since title passed from the Husebys, nine different owners occupied the building.<sup>21</sup> After Marie sold the house in 1947 to John P. Morgan, he in turn sold the house in 1950 to Roscoe S. Butler. In 1957 Mr. Butler sold the house to Mabel E. Baxter. She lived in the house until 1967 when she sold the house to Victor J. Rice. Mr. Rice sold the home a year later to Harold E. Blanchard. The Blanchards lived in the home from 1968 to 1974 when it passed to Thomas Olson. Mr. Olson only kept the house for two years and then sold it to Michael T. McCourt. From 1976 to 1977 Michael T. McCourt owned the house, and in 1977, Diedre J. Crammer purchased the home. The current owners, Chester G. Miller and Irene C. Morton purchased the home in 1989 from Ms. Crammer.<sup>22</sup>

#### Architectural Significance:

The John H. Huseby House reflects a late Victorian style displaying Second Empire touches. Second Empire elements were common in townhouses during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Residences often display a rectangular, square, or simple box form and are highly symmetrical. High mansard roofs typify the style. However, townhouses often display mansard roofs only at the front façade with high parapet walls occurring on the sides of the building.

Decorative details may include iron cresting on the roof, heavily bracketed cornices, quoins, and balustrades. The general effect provides strength mixed with elaborate detailing, appropriate to the style's Napoleonic roots. Fenestration often includes windows placed over an entrance in pairs or occasionally as triple sets. Frame homes of the style were designed with elaborate window hoods supported by brackets, multiple layers of wood trim, often with incised patterns. Decorative eyebrow shapes often occur over windows and doors, and dormer windows were common. Brick homes tend to be simpler than wood due to the associated expense of elaborate brick and stone work. Bay windows were often used as an architectural feature on a façade that could accommodate ornamentation.

Second Empire entrances often display a projecting pavilion in the form of a porch or elaborate canopy with some form of protection from weather. The entrances are usually elevated above the grade by several steps and doors are typically double or an extra wide single door.

The John H. Huseby House displays many of the characteristics associated with this style of building. The house retains the key exterior materials dating from the period of its historical significance, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a late Victorian Second Empire style townhouse. The roof, a modified saltbox with a long shallow pitch to the rear (south) and short steep pitch on the front (north) interrupted by the small gable covering a bay, gives the appearance of a mansard roof when viewed from the front of the house. Other characteristics of the style include parapet walls, simple bracketed cornices, balustrades, bay windows, porch with associated detailed covering, and slightly elevated entrance grade.

#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

21 Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> R. L. Polk & Company. Helena City Directory, 1929, p. 161.

<sup>22</sup> Property Records of Lewis and Clark County, 140-210.

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark Co., MT County and State

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g&pcat=ROOT\_CATEGORY&h=2787&recoff=4+5+6&db=1890helenmt&indiv=1.

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John H. Huseby House Name of Property					Lewis	and Clark Co., MT	
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		e by the National Register		Local government			
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11. Form P	repared By						
name/title	Irene C. Mortor	î.					
organization					date May	12, 2012	
	nber 511 East	Sixth Avenue			telephone	(406) 4	
city or town					State MT		zip code 59601
e-mail	millermorton(	@bresnan.net				-	
assisted by:							
	John Boughton						
organization	MTSHPO	1 The second			date Octo	ber 2012	, 2012
	nber 1410 8th	Avenue			telephone		
city or town	Helena				State MT		zip code 59620
e-mail	jboughton@n	nt.gov					

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark Co., MT County and State

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

#### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: John H. Huseby House

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Kate Hampton

Date Photographed: October 16, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Please see "Continuation Sheets"

Property	Owner:			
(Complete t	his item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)			
name	e Chester G. Miller and Irene C. Morton			
street & number 511 East Sixth Avenue		telephone (406) 442-9179		
city or tow	vn Helena	state MT zip code 59601		

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

(Expires 5-31-2012)

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John H. Husbey House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

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Location of the John H. Huseby House. Found on the Helena 7.5' quadrangle map (Provisional Edition 1985).

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Sketch Map of the John H. Huseby House. 511 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT. Dashed lines indicate features no longer extant.

NPS Form 10-900-a (R	ev. 8/2002)
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Main and Second Floor Floorplan of John H. Huseby House

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Section number Maps Page 20 Sand in the of ONE AL HELENA CITY Location of John H. Huseby House 58

Map Showing Additions to Helena. Numbers correspond to the table on the following page.

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John H. Husbey House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

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# DEVELOPMENT OF HELENA

	ADDITION	DATE	Al
1.	Original Townsite	1865	32.
2.	Maudline-Storey	1879	33.
3.	Hauser	1880	34.
4.	Easterly	1881	35.
5.	Hoback & Cannon	1883	36.
6.	Capitol Hill	1883	37.
7.	C. W. Cannon	1883	38.
8.	Gabisch	1883	39.
9.	Tietjen	1883	40.
10.	Basset	1883	41.
11.	Lockey	1883	42.
12.	10 <sup>th</sup> Street	1883	43.
13.	Northern Pacific #1	1883	44.
14.	Central #1	1884	45.
15.	Depot Parchen	1885	46.
16.	Central #2	1885	47.
17.	Blake	1886	48.
18.	Shaw	1886	49.
19.	Grand Avenue	1886	50.
20.	Parchen	1887	51.
21.	Valley View	1887	52.
22.	Broadwater #1	1887	53.
23.	Cannon	1887	54.
24.	Ming	1887	55.
25.	Barretts	1887	56.
26.	Montana Avenue	1887	
27.	East Valley View	1887	
28.	Flowers	1888	
29.	Joseph Cox	1888	57.
30.	Central #3	1888	58.
31.	Beattie	1888	59.

	ADDITION	DATE
32.	Floweree	1888
33.	Northern Pacific #2	1888
34.	Flowergarden	1888
35.	Thompson Placer	1888
36.	Getchell-Childs Placer	1888
37.	Fairmont Park	1889
38.	Chessman-Davis Placer	1889
39.	Sizer	1889
40.	Richmond Hill	1889
41.	Hersfield	1889
42.	Allen	1889
43.	Rodney Street Tracts	1889
44.	Phoenix	1890
45.	Lenox	1890
46.	Corbin	1890
47.	Chris Kenck	1890
48.	Broadwater #2	1890
49.	Courthouse	1891
50.	Burlington	1891
51.	Cambridge & Grand	1893
52.	Collins & Neil	1908
53.	Conrad Stanford	1914
54.	Airport	1948
55.	Carson	1949
56.	Sunhaven #1	1959
	Sunhaven #2	1960
	Sunhaven #3	1962
	Sunhaven #4	1963
57.	Barney	1969
58.	Prospect Heights	1973
59.	Shaffers	1977

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1892 Sanborn map showing location of John H. Huseby House

### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

John H. Husbey House	
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Section number \_\_\_\_\_Interior Photographs



Interior photograph of second story hallway.

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Interior detail of staircase.

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Interior photograph displaying stained glass.

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Interior photograph of living room showing stained glass.

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Detail of stained glass in living room.

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Detail of interior door.

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Section number <u>National Register Photographs</u>

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National Register Photographs Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: North elevation, view to the south-southeast. Photograph: 0001 Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: North elevation, view to the south-southwest. Photograph: 0002 Name: John H. Huseby House Lewis and Clark County, Montana County and State: Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: North and east elevations, view to the southwest. Photograph: 0003 Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: North and west elevations, view to the southeast. Photograph: 0004 Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: West elevation, view to the southwest. Photograph: 0005

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number National Register Photographs Page 30 Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: South elevation, view to the north. Photograph: 0006 Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. South elevation, view to the north. Description and view of camera: Photograph: 0007 Name: John H. Huseby House County and State: Lewis and Clark County, Montana Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: South elevation, view to the northeast. Photograph: 0008 John H. Huseby House Name: Lewis and Clark County, Montana County and State: Photographer: George Miller January, 2012 Date of Photograph: Location of original negative/digital image: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Description and view of camera: Detail of window on second story north façade. View to the south. 0009 Photograph: John H. Huseby House Name: Lewis and Clark County, Montana County and State: Photographer: George Miller Date of Photograph: January, 2012 Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana. Location of original negative/digital image: Description and view of camera: Detail of window on main story north façade. View to the south. 0010 Photograph:

024-0018

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Photo 0001: North elevation, view to the south-southeast.

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Photo 0002: North elevation, view to the south-southwest.

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Photo 0003: North and east elevations, view to the southwest.

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Photo 0004: North and west elevations, view to the southeast.

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Photo 0005: West elevation, view to the southwest.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number National Register Photographs

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Photo 0006: South elevation, view to the north.
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photo 0007: South elevation, view to the north.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

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Photo 0008: South elevation, view to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Photo 0009: Detail of window on second story north façade. View to the south.

John H. Huseby House	
Name of Property	
Lewis and Clark County, MT	
County and State	
-	

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>National Register Photographs</u>



Photo 0010: Detail of window on main story north façade. View to the south.

John H. Huseby House Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, MT County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Huseby, John H, . House NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Lewis and Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 11/09/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/14/12 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/31/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/26/12 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001086

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN

REJECT 12.26.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

DISCIPLINE	
DATE	

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



John H. Huseby House Photo # 000 1



John H. Huseby House Lewis and Clark 6., MT

Photo # 0002



John H. Huseby House Lewis and Clark G., Miton Photo # 0003 G., Miton







# John H. Huseby House Lewis and Clark Co., MT Phoro # 0005



John H. Huseby House Lewissand Clark 6, MT. Photo # 0006



John H. Huseby House My Lewis and clark Co. ; Mit Photo # 0007 



John H. Huseby House. Lewis and Clauk Co., MT Phoro # 0008 



John H. Huseby House Lewis and Clark 6., MT Phoro # 0009







coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic) 10 000-foot ticks: Montana coordinate system, south and central zones Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 12

The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check





Historic Preservation Museum Outreach & Interpretation Publications Research Center

October 31, 2012

Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 1201 Eye St. NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280) Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed please find the following nomination for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

#### The John H. Huseby House, Lewis and Clark County, Montana

Please be advised that I submit the enclosed nomination under your revised procedures. I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting and received no notarized objections to the nomination from the property owners of record. The Review Board unanimously recommended that this property be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Mark Baumler, PhD State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

225 North Roberts Street P.O. Box 201201 Helena, MT 59620-1201 (406) 444-2694 (406) 444-2696 FAX montanahistoricalsociety.org