

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Christmas Gift Evans^{House} Home
and/or common Myhre residence

2. Location

street & number 404 North Benton Ave. not for publication
city, town Helena vicinity of _____ congressional district Western #1
state Montana code 30 county Lewis and Clark code 049

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Myhre Advertising
street & number 4225 2nd Ave North
city, town Great Falls vicinity of _____ state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lewis and Clark County Courthouse
street & number _____
city, town Helena state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Christmas Gift Evans House is one of Montana's finest examples of eclectic Victorian architecture. The original building was essentially a rectangular floor plan with bays on the north and south sides. This two-story bell-cast mansard roofed residence shows the influence of the French second empire style combined with high victorian detailing of the late 1870's.

The house sits towards the center of the corner lot at the intersection of Benton Ave and Lawrence Street on the northwest corner. An early day photograph of the house shows the property to have been bordered by a wood fence surrounded by a wood plank sidewalk. The property was originally without trees or landscaping. The site is now well foliated with trees bordering the sidewalk and property line. Concrete sidewalks and low shrubs surround the house with a lawn covering the east, west and south side of the property. A gravel drive and parking area now cover the north side and only the stone foundation of the fence is still in place.

The original front elevation of the house was adorned with a full porch with four columns, a decorative balustrade, and ornamental bracketing supporting a low bell cast mansard porch roof. This porch has been replaced by a pedimented portico that covers only the front entrance. The columns, brackets, and jigsaw cut balustrade appear to have been used from the original porch. The rest of the front elevation remains in original condition with two one over one double hung sash windows capped by round arches with keystones. These windows are located to the left of the main entrance and are typical of all of the windows located on the brick walled lower portion of the house.

Above the brick lower portion of the house sits the dormered bell-cast mansard roof. The wood trim line between the roof eaves and the walls are decorated with paired brackets and panels spaced between the dormers and roof corners. The dormers are recessed at the center of the mansard roof slope and the windows run flush with the wall line. The bell-cast mansard roof is capped by wood trim and topped with cast-iron cresting. The cresting is intact and runs the perimeter of the roof and dormer line. This window, dormer, mansard roof system comprise the basic elements of the exterior.

On the south side, facing Lawrence Street is a one story half octagonal bay that protrudes from the south wing extending from the main portion of the house. In the southeast corner is a side entrance with a covered porch that is similar to the original main entry porch. The bay is centered on the south elevation although symmetry is disrupted by the porch and a set of three windows on the southwest side of the main house. There is a single dormer in the mansard on the bay as compared to the two dormers equally spaced on the front elevation.

The rear side of the building has a kitchen addition and a breakfast wing that extends from the kitchen. There is a single centered dormer on the rear mansard.

The north side of the house which fronts upon the parking area is similar to the south side with a two story bay that has window on the main floor and a dormer above. A rear stair enclosure was added in the 1930's that has an arts and crafts style entry roof. The enclosure is stuccoed and fills the recess originally created by the bay and main building in the northwest corner. There is a single window in the recess on the northeast side.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 26 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 16

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The house is currently being restored by the present owner with a multi-color paint scheme on the exterior. A light olive green is being used on the exterior walls with a blue to highlight the panels on the trim band below the roof. A yellow-gold is being used for highlighting trim elements.

The interior is being restored to original in the main part of the house with such elements as the original brass light fixtures, hardwood floors, and woodwork being restored. The main staircase and upstairs bedrooms will retain their original design with new paint and refinishing. The architectural integrity of the house will be retained as an example of one of Helena's unique historic homes.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1878 **Builder/Architect** John B. Sanford-builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Christmas Gift Evans House is significant under Criterion C of Criteria for Evaluation. The house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Second Empire and High Victorian architecture that represents a unique residential design in the City of Helena and a rare example in the State of Montana.

The house, built in the late 1870's is one of the early Helena Homes that remains intact and near original condition. The original owner Christmas Gift Evans was so named because of his birth on Christmas Day. Evans was an early day Helena merchant who operated the Sanford and Evans Feed Store. The house was built by his partner Mr. John B. Sanford and sold to Mr. Evans.

This house is one of the finest surviving examples of eclectic architecture in Helena and as described in the Part 7 is architecturally significant to the City of Helena.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Helena, her historic homes". Text by Jean Baucus, Illustrations by Gayle Shanahan
 Historic Helena - printed by Thurber Printing Co., Copy right 1964 pictures pages 6 and 29

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name USGS Helena 1950

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED 15 minute

UMT References

A

1	2	4	2	0	2	7	15	5	1	6	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

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E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of lots 9, 10, 11 Block 394 Helena Townsite, City of Helena, Montana

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

state NONE code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Myhre Advertising-Richard Shope Architects

July 15, 1979

organization

date

street & number 4225 2nd Ave North

telephone 406-453-6591

city or town Great Falls

state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

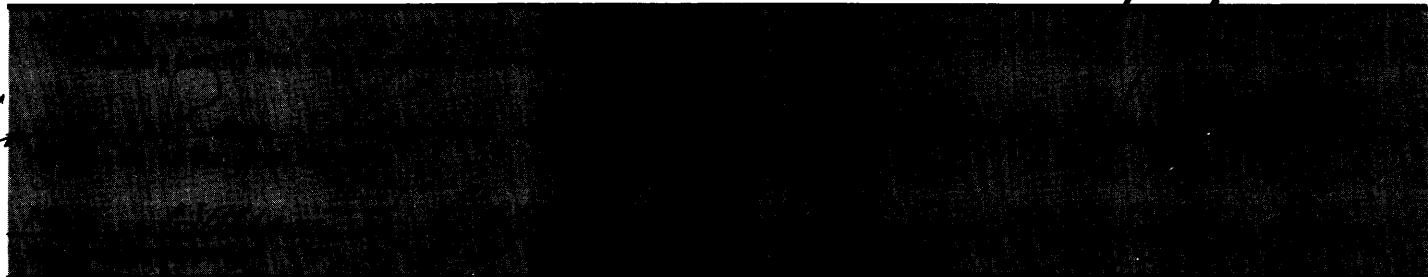
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Acting SHPO

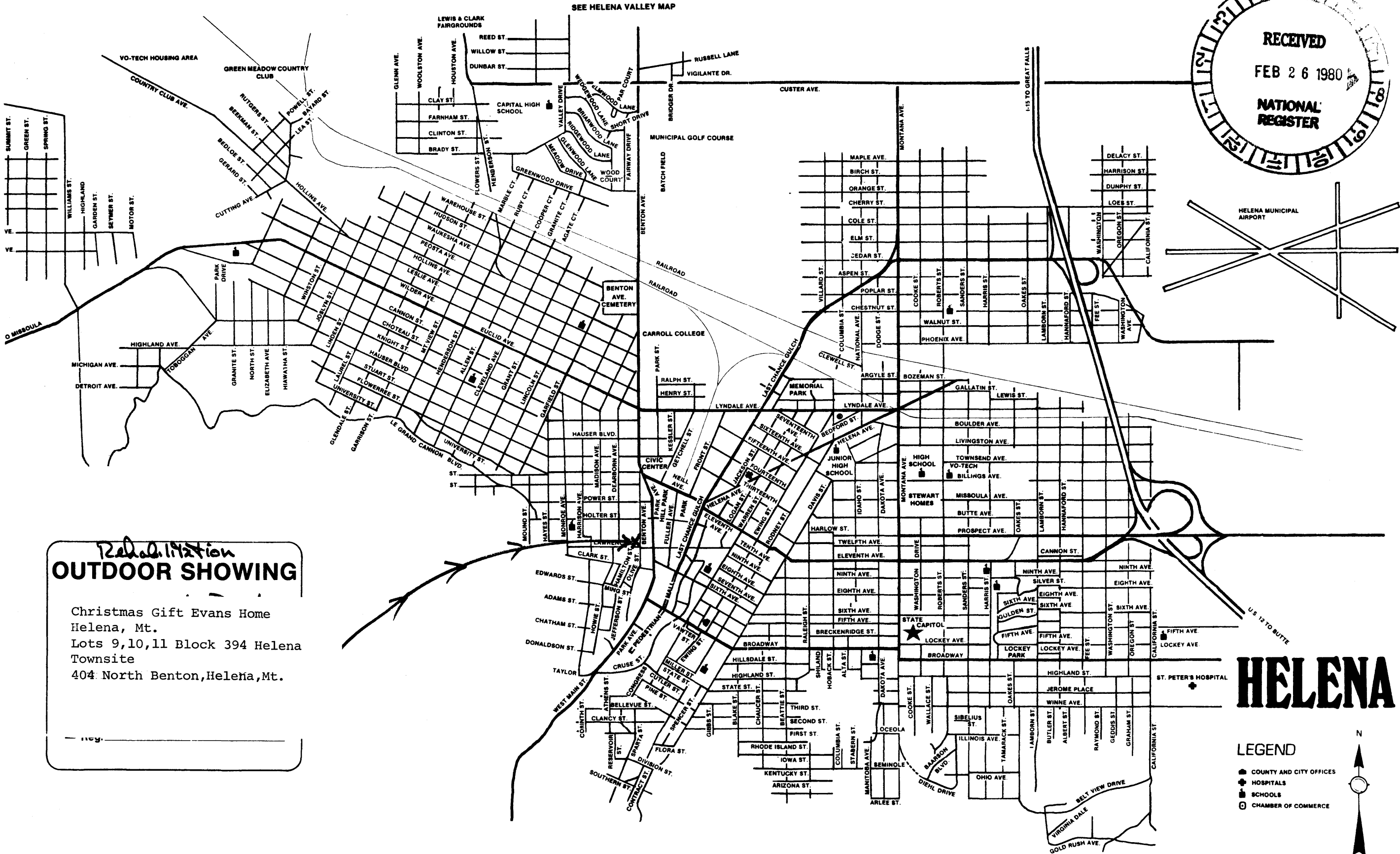
date 2/21/80



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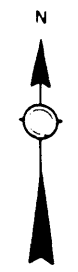
Rehabilitation
OUTDOOR SHOWING

Christmas Gift Evans Home
Helena, Mt.
Lots 9,10,11 Block 394 Helena
Townsite
404 North Benton, Helena, Mt.

HELENA

LEGEND

- COUNTY AND CITY OFFICES
- ⊕ HOSPITALS
- 🏫 SCHOOLS
- 🏢 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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