

MP-915

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dorsey Grocery and Residence

Other names/site number: Gloege Grocery and Residence / Site No. 24LC2433

Name of related multiple property listing:

African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 401 N. Hoback Street (a.k.a. 403 N. Hoback St., 900 8th Ave.)

City or town: Helena State: MT County: Lewis & Clark

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X nomination request 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:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

<p><u>Mark F. Zumber / SHPO</u></p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><u>3/6/2017</u></p> <p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

4/24/2017
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/specialty store (grocery)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel

STORAGE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Western commercial

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: foundation: stone
walls: metal/steel
roof: asphalt/shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The property commonly known as 401 N. Hoback Street (previously 900 8th Avenue/403 N. Hoback) is located in an historic residential neighborhood located east of Rodney Street and Helena's downtown. It occupies a rectangular lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of 8th Avenue and N. Hoback Street. A gravel alley borders the north side of the parcel. The property contains two separately-constructed wood-frame buildings, a commercial store building and a residence, that were moved onto the site and attached to form a single building, as well as a detached carriage-house-cum-garage. The store-residence is situated in the south portion of the lot, abutting both the south and west property lines, while the carriage-house/garage abuts the north property line and the alley. A yard, planted to grass, lies between the two buildings and runs along the east side of the store/residence. A wood privacy fence encloses the yard. City sidewalk bounds the parcel on its south (8th Avenue) and west (N. Hoback St.) sides. A concrete walkway runs northward from the rear entrance of the residence to a concrete parking pad, which extends from N. Hoback Street to the west wall of the garage. A second, shorter concrete walkway runs westward from the rear of the residence to the city sidewalk along N. Hoback Street. A deck, built of wood, extends off the northeast corner of the residence building. A variety of trees grows on the property, and lilacs line the west edge of the backyard. The Dorsey Grocery and Residence retains essential integrity of design, setting, feeling, and association. Though the buildings were moved onto the site, the move occurred at the behest of

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the Dorsey family when they purchased the vacant property; the buildings conjoined to serve as their grocery and residence. Their installation at the site marks the beginning of the property's association with the Dorseys and the beginning of its historic significance. The grocery/residence thus retains integrity of location where it attained historic significance. Although the cladding on the building has been changed (compromising integrity of materials) and the corners of the false front were sawn off after they rotted, the exterior remains largely intact and easily conveys its essential historic character and significance. Extant interior plans and details support the property's integrity, as does its enduring historic function as a combined commercial-residential property.

As noted in the "African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT" Multiple Properties Documentation form, extant African American historical properties in Helena are rare. This fact is important to keep in mind when evaluating a property's eligibility for registration in the NRHP. It is especially important to take it into account when evaluating integrity. For rare resources like the property types associated with Helena's African-American history, physical characteristics must be sufficiently intact to convey the property's historic associations, but the seven specific aspects of integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association—should be assessed in the context of other surviving resources related to the history Helena's black community. Few of these rare historic resources are unmodified. In this context, the Dorsey Grocery and Residence meets the registration requirements set forth in the "African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT" Multiple Properties Documentation form.

Narrative Description

Two attached wood-frame buildings—a store and a dwelling—comprise the historic main building on the property. Reportedly moved onto the lot in 1904, owners joined them to form a single building. The one-story grocery component faces south onto 8th Avenue (its original address was 900 8th Avenue) while the two-story residence attached to its rear (north wall) faces west onto North Hoback Street (its original address was 403 N. Hoback Street). The entire building purportedly lacks a formal foundation, resting instead on piled stones parged with concrete, its underside covered with lye to keep out insects. Aluminum siding clads the building's walls and overlays the original wood siding on three sides (a second-generation siding, asbestos, was removed when the metal siding was installed in the late 1970s. The original siding on the west side of the building was removed when the asbestos was installed and is no longer extant beneath the metal). Asphalt composition shingles clad the roof. Unless otherwise noted, all windows in the building are original and have wood frames.

Grocery

The south-facing grocery component stands as a one-story Western Commercial-style building with a north-south oriented rectangular footprint. It has a front-gable roof that originally featured a false front. The corners of the false-front deteriorated over time and, by 1975, were sawn off (leaving the triangular gable). Faux-brick plastic panels (in a red, running bond brick design) veneer the bottom quarters of the west and south walls.

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The façade (south wall) of the grocery component is a relatively intact commercial storefront.¹ It features a central, recessed entry, with wood floor, flanked to either side by storefront display windows. Each of the window openings contains eight fixed lights beneath four-light full-width transoms. Original double doors fill the entry, each of which has two large lights over a wood panel. Angled side lights in the same glazed-and-paneled pattern flank the doors. The entry is accessed by a concrete step.

The north end of the west wall of the grocery component contains the original rear entry, which accessed the storeroom (and later accessed Clarkson's photography studio at 401 N. Hoback). The entry consists of a modern one-light metal door beneath an original wood-frame one-light transom. It is accessed by concrete steps and a scored concrete parking pad, originally used for deliveries. Immediately south of the door is a single window opening, filled with a single fixed sash.

The north end of the east wall of the grocery component contains a small window opening filled with a fixed, one-light sash situated high in the wall that lit the original storeroom. Immediately to the north are paired units on the ground floor; these partially overlap into the residence.

Residence

The two-story residence has a cross-gabled roof and an irregular footprint with an integral front (west) porch and a one-story enclosed side porch on its north wall. Both porches have shed roofs. A square wood post, with decorative brackets that may be original, supports the northeast corner of the front porch roof, and the same faux-brick panels that clad the lower portions of the grocery's west and south walls cover the porch's knee wall. The enclosed porch off the north wall side has exposed rafter ends. On the primary residence component both original interior brick chimneys are extant, one at the edge of the south roof slope and the other, which served the kitchen, at edge of the east roof slope. Unless otherwise noted, the windows in the residence component are original, wood-frame, one-over-one double-hung sashes with decorative wood shutters.

The primary entrance is located in the north wall of a small enclosed entry contained beneath the south end of the porch's shed roof. It is filled with a metal security door paired with the original one-light glazed-and-paneled door beneath an original one-light transom. Also beneath the porch roof is a window opening filled with a single window located in the west wall. Other window openings in the west wall include a single small fixed light centered in the enclosed entry, and large paired windows centered in the front-gable bay's first story. A window opening filled with a nine-light fixed-sash window occurs in the west wall of the enclosed one-story north wall porch. Two window openings punctuate the west wall's second story: one set off-center to the north in the side-gable bay, and another centered in the front-gable bay.

The aforementioned enclosed side porch covers the west side of the first story of the residence's north wall. The porch has a window opening on the east side of its north wall that was originally filled with three six-light sashes; one, however, has been replaced with a one-over-one double-hung sash. The east wall of the enclosed porch contains a window opening at its north edge

¹ Original siding exists under the current faux-brick and aluminum cladding.

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filled with a nine-light sash. South of the window, the porch's east wall contains an entry consisting of a metal security door that fronts a solid modern door.

East of the enclosed porch, the residence's north wall's first story contains an opening filled with a single window, and another centered in the second story gable end.

The east wall of the north-projecting gable contains a window opening, with a single fixed light, set off-center to the south in the first story, and another original window, a two-over-two double-hung in the second story. The east wall of the east-facing gable bay features additional window openings that include the previously mentioned paired ground story windows that overlap between the grocery and residence. Other windows include a small opening filled with a single fixed light immediately north of the paired units in the ground floor, and two openings in the second story, each containing a single window.

Grocery and Residence Interiors

In both the grocery and the residence, the interior plan and numerous details remain intact.

The grocery's interior consists of a single large room with original wood floors. On either side of the entry, the original deep built-in display shelves (situated behind the storefront windows so items can be seen from the street) remain intact. The original high ceilings remain, and the location of original light fixtures is identifiable, as is the location of the original stovepipe. Original walls are extant, and have not been covered or re-painted: the silhouette of original grocery shelving is visible on the east wall. (See appended historic interior photo for comparison).

The interior of the residence consists of six main rooms, three on each floor, around a central hallway-stairwell that runs east-west. Upon entry from the front door (on the north wall at the south end of the west-side front porch), one stands in an entry hall that opens onto the parlor, with adjoining dining room (which together form the south portion of the first floor), with the staircase and first-floor hallway to one's left. At the east end of the hallway are doors to the dining room (south side) and large kitchen (north side) with original cabinetry. The kitchen connects to an enclosed side porch through a doorway in its north wall, and a door to the dining room in its south wall. Upstairs, the landing opens to three doors and a hallway that runs west, with a door at its west end. The bathroom is located at the top of the stairs, east of the landing. Bedrooms are located in the southeast and southwest corners and the north portion of the second floor. Walls and floors have been updated throughout. Original woodwork includes wide baseboards, window trim and door casing (with bullseyes and plinth blocks), and turned balusters.

Garage (a.k.a. Carriage House)

A detached wood-frame garage, originally a carriage house, occupies the north end of the property, along the alley. It has a rectangular footprint composed of a north-south oriented, 1 and one-half story gabled component (which contains a hayloft and horse stalls) on its east end, and a shed-roof one-story component on its west end. Both components existed by 1930 (a later west-end addition was subsequently removed). Asphalt composition shingles cover roof surfaces, and a variety of wood siding, including board-and-batten, droplap, vertical tongue-in-

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groove, and T-1-11 plywood panels, clads the exterior walls. No foundation underlies the building.

The west wall of the garage contains a garage-door opening filled with an overhead wood multi-panel garage door accessed by a concrete parking pad. The north wall of the one-story component is featureless, while the north wall of the taller gabled component contains a centered hayloft door, made of board-and-batten, and on the first floor, a window opening infilled with boards. The east wall of the garage lacks fenestration. The south wall of the gabled component contains a boarded-over two-light Dutch, or stable, door. The south wall of the one-story component contains a window opening that contains two six-light fixed-sash windows.

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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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1904-1932

Significant Dates

1904, 1932

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Constructed in 1904 and closed in 1932, the Dorsey Grocery and Residence is locally significant as a residential and commercial property associated with the history of African-American people in Helena, Montana.² Established by one of Helena's most prominent black families—the Walter and Almira Dorseys—the residence and store housed several generations of extended Dorsey kin while the store was the most visible and substantial black-owned business in town. As such, it not only served African-American and other customers but also functioned as a focal point of the local black community, an exemplar of black achievement and an independent space owned by, and supportive of, African-American residents. The Dorsey Grocery and Residence thus represents two of the three historic contexts documented in the *African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT, Multiple Property Document*, ie. “The Heyday of Helena’s African-American Community, ca. 1877-1910,” and “Decline and Endurance of Helena’s African-American Community, ca. 1910-1970.” Eligible for listing under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, the Dorsey Grocery and Residence was significantly associated with Helena’s African-American community for over 25 years. The property’s period of significance thus extends from its initial construction in 1904 through 1932, when Almira Dorsey sold the property and it passed out of African-American ownership and operation.

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

Around 1866, in Sandy Spring, Maryland, Caroline Dorsey (nee Holland) gave birth to her third son, Walter R. Dorsey. Walter joined older brothers William (four) and Augustus (six). What happened to the boys’ father Elijah is unknown, but by 1872 Caroline had remarried, to farmer Horice Mitchell. Over the next seven years Horice and Caroline had six more children, and 1880 found the African-American Mitchell-Dorsey family in Berrys, Montgomery County, Maryland. Not long thereafter, at least two of the Dorsey boys headed west. By 1891, middle son William Dorsey had made it to Marysville, Montana, where he worked as a helper at the Montana Co. and boarded at the Bon Ton Hotel. That year, his younger brother Walter was also in Montana. He could be found not too far away, in the booming mining city, and state capital, of Helena: there, on the last day of 1891, Walter R. Dorsey, 26, married Almira E. Kelley, 29.³

Almira was from Weston, Missouri, the oldest, and only daughter, of Richard and Anna Estes Kelley’s five children. Just 11 when her daughter was born, Almira’s mother Anna was

² This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

³ Bureau of the Census, “10th Census of the United States, 1880: Population Schedules: Montana Territory” (Washington, D.C. : National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1880); “Marriage License, Lewis and Clark County (Dorsey-Kelly),” December 31, 1891; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk’s Helena City Directory* (Helena, Mont.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1900).

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widowed around the time she had her fifth child, ca. 1878. Almira was by then 17, and had likely spent much of her young life working with her mother to help take care of the family. After their marriage, Almira and Walter, who may have known each other before arriving in Montana (one source suggests Walter came to Helena from Missouri), settled at 21 S. Jackson and soon started a family of their own. Daughter Annie A. was born in 1892, and two years later daughter Carolyn E. (Carrie) followed. Other relatives joined the growing family in Helena. In 1892, William Dorsey lived next door at 17 S. Jackson while he worked as porter at the Montana Club. By 1894, Annie Kelley, Almira's Missouri-born mother, lived with the Dorseys.⁴

In these early years, Walter worked a variety of jobs to support his family. In 1892, Walter ran a restaurant at 104 Broadway. Two years later he was at the Montana Club, where he worked as a steward and a waiter. He remained at the Montana Club in 1895 (during which time the family lived at 122 Grand), but by 1896 Walter and Almira opened a grocery store at 114 N. Rodney. They moved their family—including Almira's mother Annie—onto the premises and established an enduring family-owned business: the Dorseys operated a grocery in Helena for the next 35 years.⁵

The first Dorsey grocery location proved fleeting, as 1898 brought change to both the family and the business. That year, their daughter Annie died, and Walter and Almira buried her at Forestvale Cemetery (NR Reference #90000145).⁶ At the same time, they welcomed a new baby, daughter Lena M., and after successfully establishing their business on Helena's booming east side, they moved both their residence and their grocery from Rodney Street to an existing combination grocery/residence that they rented at 843 8th Avenue (24LC2446).⁷ For the next five years the Dorseys, along with Annie Kelley, ran their grocery and lived at 843 8th Ave., providing staples and other goods to the growing east side neighborhood. During that time Walter sometimes took additional work to make ends meet (1900 found him working as a clerk at the Union Mercantile Co.) but the Dorsey family, and grocery, persevered.⁸ In 1901, at the age of 39, Almira bore a fourth and final daughter, Emma O.⁹

With their growing family living in the midst of an expanding neighborhood, the future must have seemed promising, and the Dorseys began to explore the possibility of buying their own place. They stayed in the neighborhood where they had an established clientele: in the spring of 1904, they purchased the vacant lot on the northeast corner of the nearest intersection, North Hoback Street and 8th Avenue, which they could see—a literal stone's throw away—from their front porch. First platted in 1883 as part of the Bassett Addition, the lot remained undeveloped

⁴ Bureau of the Census, "10th Census of the United States, 1880: Population Schedules: Montana Territory"; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Bureau of the Census, "12th Census of the United States, 1900: Population Schedules: Montana: Lewis and Clarke County" (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1978); Hornsby, Jr., *Black America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2011), 474.

⁵ Hornsby, Jr., *Black America*, 474; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*.

⁶ "Annie Dorsey Headstone (Forestvale Cemetery)," *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current - Ancestry.com*, September 5, 1898.

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from the 1888, 1890, and 1892 show the main (front) building at 843 8th with a grocery in its east half and a dwelling in its west.

⁸ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Bureau of the Census, "12th Census of Population, 1900 [Microform]." By 1900 older brother William Dorsey was back in Maryland, where he'd remain.

⁹ Bureau of the Census, "13th Census of the United States, 1910: Population Schedules: Montana, Lewis and Clark County" (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1910).

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through a series of previous owners, including Isaac Cutler (1883-1887), Charles Senior (1887-1891), Charles K. Anderson (1891-1900), and Jay K. Sheffy (1900-1903). It wound up in the hands of the Pratt & Heath Company in December 1903, from whom the Dorseys purchased it about three months later.¹⁰ (Figure 1)

The Dorseys reportedly moved a store building and a house onto the property almost immediately, joining the two buildings into a single entity with two facades: the store faced south to 8th Avenue while the home faced west toward North Hoback Street. Longtime neighborhood resident, and current owner Bob Clarkson, believes that the buildings may have come from the small town of Canton when that Missouri River settlement was flooded after the construction of the Canyon Ferry dam; however, it was the 1954 dam, not the dam constructed in 1898, that flooded Canton. Regardless, physical evidence does suggest that the buildings were moved from elsewhere onto the site—no permanent foundation underlies them but rather

both structures sit on piled stones . . . they dug out a trench for the areas with plumbing on the east side and also a large space was excavated under the now studio for the floor heater in the house. That area was used as a root cellar for produce while the store was open. Except the root cellar storage, the entire area underneath the buildings is covered with a thick layer of white lye to keep out insects and vermin.¹¹

It thus appears the buildings were set on the property already assembled and then joined. Other evidence of this is that the sawn ends of the original store-roof rafters are visible in the attic of the house.

With a store/dwelling in place, the Dorseys set about moving their business and home to their new property. By 1905, city directories listed the Dorsey Grocery at 900 8th Avenue, where the business sold “Groceries, Provisions, Salt Meats, Canned Goods, Fruits, Vegetables, Confectionary, Tin and Granite Ware.” The following year, the Dorsey Grocery boasted a telephone, and could be reached by dialing number 236-B.¹² The attached three-bedroom residence, with large kitchen and formal parlor and dining room adorned with embossed *fleur de lis* wallpaper, provided a spacious and elegant residence for the grocery’s proud owners.

The substantial and successful grocery and residence reflected, and deepened, the Dorsey family’s prominence in Helena’s African-American community. Walter Dorsey had by then been a noteworthy personage for some time—the local black newspaper published in 1894, the *Colored Citizen*, reported on his activities in its pages—and by 1906 he stood as a pillar of the close-knit black community. In addition to being perhaps the most visible and prosperous black business owner and operating a business that was itself a valued community institution, Walter played a variety of formal and informal leadership roles. In a 1970s interview with historian Quintard Taylor, longtime community members Mr. Ad E. and Elenorah (Anderson) Banks

¹⁰ “Lewis and Clark County Property Title Records,” Clerk and Recorder’s Office. Lot 16 was still vacant when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company mapped it in 1892, and the current property owner has always believed that the Dorseys moved the buildings onto the property. It is possible that the buildings were extant by the time the Dorseys purchased Lot 16.

¹¹ Bob Clarkson to Delia Hagen, “Re: Dorsey Eighth Av Grocery,” August 24, 2016.

¹² R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk’s Helena City Directory*.

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remembered the Dorseys as “the most prominent people” among Helena’s African-American population.¹³

The Dorseys were especially active in the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, located three blocks to the south of their grocery on the southwest corner of Hoback and 5th Avenue (24LC2430). When the church gave a reception to welcome the Reverend and Mrs. Osborne in October 1906, Walter served as the event’s Master of Ceremonies, and he was also one of the leaders of the St. James Literary Society.¹⁴ At that time, under the leadership of Walter Dorsey as well as the new Reverend (W. T. Osborne), Mrs. Eugene Baker, and Joseph Clark, the Literary Society “boast[ed] over 100 participants at its weekly meetings. The society provided black Helenans with a forum for discussion of community issues, an audience for performing artists, and an opportunity for local poets, playwrights, and essayists to present their work.” Prominent among Society activities were formal debates (followed by “furious discussions”) on such topics as “Resolved, that the Negroes of the South enjoy more prosperity than in any other section of the U.S.” or “Resolved, that slavery was a benefit to the Negro race”; or “Resolved, that woman suffrage is detrimental to the welfare of the nation.”¹⁵

In addition to his business skills and religious and intellectual pursuits, Walter Dorsey was an accomplished musician. He was a noted member of Helena’s “local all-black band,” and put his musical talents to use in support of other central institutions in the black community. In May, 1907, when residents held a benefit concert for the African-American newspaper, the *Plaindealer*, at Electric Hall, Dorsey starred as “premier vocalist and musical director” of the grand event.¹⁶ The *Plaindealer* hailed his assistance in the fundraiser, as it did his other community endeavors. The previous January the paper reported his presence—along with Nathaniel Ford, B.F. Hooper, H. Baker, Eugene Clark, and many unnamed others—at a banquet of one of Helena’s two “colored” Masonic lodges.¹⁷ A prominent member of the Masonic orders, Dorsey was also active with the local black Odd Fellows Lodge. He played a leadership role in area Republican Party activities as well, serving as convention delegate on at least one occasion.¹⁸

The Dorseys also served as community leaders in less formal ways. The parties they hosted—like the summer 1906 group outing to the Missouri River Dam—were among the notable social events of the season and made the pages of the *Plaindealer*.¹⁹ Meanwhile, they stepped in to assist other community members in less enjoyable affairs. In December of 1906, Mrs. James Ingram, who lived on the next block at 311 N. Hoback, shot and wounded her husband, apparently in self-defense during a domestic violence altercation. When she fled to the police

¹³ “Local and Personal,” *The Colored Citizen*, September 3, 1894; A. E. Banks and Elenorah Banks, Banks, Mr. and Mrs. A.E. July 21, 1973, interview by Quintard Taylor, Sound, July 21, 1973, Black Oral History Interviews, 1972-1974: Washington State University; “Local and Personal: 1894,” *The Colored Citizen*, September 3, 1894.

¹⁴ *The Montana Plaindealer*, October 26, 1906.

¹⁵ William L. Lang, “The Nearly Forgotten Blacks on Last Chance Gulch, 1900-1912,” *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 70, no. 2 (1979): 55.

¹⁶ *The Montana Plaindealer*, May 10, 1907; Lang, “The Nearly Forgotten Blacks on Last Chance Gulch, 1900-1912,” 52.

¹⁷ “*The Montana Plaindealer*, January 4, 1907.

¹⁸ Other black delegates were Edward Johnson, L.V. Graye & David Gordon; Lang, “The Nearly Forgotten Blacks on Last Chance Gulch, 1900-1912,” 52.

¹⁹ *The Montana Plaindealer*, August 31, 1906.

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station “to have him arrested for assault,” the authorities arrested her instead, and her bond was set at a significant sum—\$750. But she was soon released: B.F. Hooper and Walter Dorsey arrived and acted “as her bondsmen.”²⁰

With their business and personal lives apparently flourishing in 1907, the Dorseys must have looked forward to marking their 16th wedding anniversary on December 31st. Perhaps they planned one of their famed parties, or maybe they looked forward to a calm, cozy New Year’s night spent in their handsome North Hoback home. Whatever their hopes for that day, they were surely shattered: on the last day of 1907, Walter Dorsey died. Just 41 years old, Dorsey succumbed to sickness variously reported as pneumonia or “la grippe” (ie. influenza).²¹ His death made front page news in the African-American community, and both the *Plaindealer* and Helena’s main daily paper, the *Independent Record*, reported on the “The Last Sad Rites” of W. R. Dorsey.²²

Almira Dorsey, 45, must have been devastated by her husband’s sudden death, but she had little choice but to soldier on. She had a business to run and a family to support. Moreover, when Walter died “his children [were also] ill with *la grippe*”: Carrie (13), Lena (9), and Emma (6) needed their mother’s care.²³ Saddled with these multiple burdens, Almira weathered her early widowhood with the help of her extended family. In February 1908, Walter’s older brother Augustus G. Dorsey arrived to “assist Mrs. Dorsey in conducting the business left by her husband,” bringing with him his 12-year-old son Bernice A. Dorsey. Almira’s mother Annie also remained with her, traveling temporarily to Weston, Missouri in 1909 and bringing another relative, Floyd Kelly, back to Helena when she returned. Although Anna Kelley was widowed long before he was born, census takers enumerated Floyd as Almira’s much younger brother in 1910 when, at the age of 17, he was living at the Dorsey Grocery property on 8th and Hoback.²⁴

With her family by her side, Almira Dorsey continued the successful grocery business tradition she’d begun with her husband. She would own, occupy, and operate the property for another 25 years (see appended photo). During that time, she ran the grocery and shared the dwelling—and sometimes the store work—with a shifting array of relatives. In 1910, census takers enumerated a total of eight people at 900 8th Avenue, including Almira and her daughters and mother, Annie Kelley, as well as Floyd Kelley and Augustus and Bernice Dorsey. That year, Floyd and Augustus, at least, both worked with Almira in the store, which enjoyed pride of place in the *Plaindealer*’s May list of the “many business enterprises in Helena conducted by colored people.” According to the newspaper, first “among them should be mentioned a very large grocery store, operated by Mrs. R.C. Dorsey [sic].” Dorsey’s grocery served as the anchor of Helena’s black business sector, which that year also included “Miles York Express line &

²⁰ *The Montana Plaindealer*, December 7, 1906.

²¹ Another version of his death has him dying of a heart attack. See “The Eighth Ave Store in Helena, Montana,” *clarksonstudio.com*, accessed September 13, 2016, <http://www.clarksonstudio.com/wisembldg.htm>.

²² *The Montana Plaindealer*, January 10, 1908; *Helena Independent*, January 1, 1908.

²³ *The Montana Plaindealer*, January 10, 1908

²⁴ *The Montana Plaindealer*, February 14, 1908; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk’s Helena City Directory*; Bureau of the Census, “13th Census, 1910.” Missouri census documents from Almira’s childhood suggest her mother Annie was only 11 year older than her: in 1880, 19 year old Almira was the oldest of 30-year-old widow Anna Kelley’s 5 children, the other four of whom were boys ranging in age from 2 to 16.

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barbershop, J.E.W. Clark's hair dressing parlors, A.J. Walton's second hand store & the Broadway Suitatorium conducted by Harry Salsburg" and his wife Ada (Site 24LC2429).²⁵

In the wake of Walter's death, the Dorseys managed to maintain their active role in the African-American community more broadly. Like his late brother, Augustus Dorsey became a leader in community affairs. In 1911, he was among "a delegation of colored men from this state" appointed by Governor Edwin Norris, a Democrat, "to attend the National [Negro] Educational convention" to be held that year in Denver, joining longstanding local black luminaries like "Nathaniel Ford, Arthur Palmer, B.F. Hooper, J.E.W. Clark . . . G.W. Alexander, H.J. Baker, Miles York, [and] Rev. B.R. Guy" as well as African-American men from other Montana cities. Bernice Dorsey, meanwhile, joined up with the son of famed black Helena mine developer, and one-time millionaire, H. Porter Grove, and together the young men struck out "to make it for themselves." The *Plaindealer* reported the departure of Bernice and Sirlas Grove in August 1911, noting that "the last heard of them, they had got as far as Bozeman."²⁶ Several years later, the *Kansas City Sun* reported on Dorsey family members in its regular Helena news column, noting that Emma Dorsey had attended "a delightful surprise party" in honor of Milton Wilson's 16th birthday and Augustus G. Dorsey had been at a "delightful luncheon" given by "Mrs. Wm. Mason of Cannon Street."²⁷ Augustus, who frequently made the pages of the *Kansas City Sun* in this period, was at the time something of a newlywed: on a June day in 1915, at the age of 55, he married 42 year-old widow Carrie J. Walker (b. Bowling Green, Kentucky).²⁸ The network of Dorsey kin in Helena expanded accordingly.

In subsequent years, as it shifted with life events, the extended Dorsey family activities continued to center around the grocery and home on the corner of 8th and Hoback. In 1918, city directories showed Almira's mother Mrs. Anna Kelly at 834 8th Avenue, where she lived with Catherine A. Kelly, a stenographer who was probably a relative.²⁹ The following year, Walter and Almira's third daughter, Lena, married Elihu J. Reid, 28, in Fergus County, Montana.³⁰ Lena had been living at her parents' house, going to school and helping at the grocery or working as a "maid," but after her marriage she moved with her husband to Lewistown, where he was a barber. Sixteen-year-old Emma O. remained at home with her mother in 1920, working in the grocery and as a maid at the Marlow Theatre, but she likely married and moved out soon

²⁵ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Bureau of the Census, "13th Census, 1910.," *The Montana Plaindealer*, May 27, 1910; Delia Hagen, "Montana Historic Property Record: 106 E. Broadway, Helena" (Helena, Mont.: MT Historical Society, September 2016).

²⁶ "The Montana Plaindealer, August 4, 1911. Additional Montana delegates included Great Falls: David Knott, W. McCracken; Missoula: Edward Miller; Billings: Charles Browning, Henry Canola; Bozeman: William Walker; apparently there were none from Butte.

²⁷ *Kansas City Sun*, May 27, 1916.

²⁸ "Marriage License, Lewis and Clark County (Dorsey-Walker)," *Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950 - Ancestry.com*, June 2, 1915.

²⁹ The Dorseys likely owned this nearby property as well: members of the Gloege family, that later took over their grocery, also lived in 834 8th in later years.

³⁰ "Marriage License, Fergus County (Reid-Dorsey)," July 14, 1919, <http://interactive.ancestry.com/60062>. Reid was previously a Helena resident, and leader in the local black community. In 1910, the *Montana Plaindealer* listed "J. Reid" as one of the members of the "house committee" of the newly reorganized Manhattan Club. *The Montana Plaindealer*, February 25, 1910. The records of the Manhattan Club are held at the MHS.

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thereafter: in 1922, when eldest surviving daughter Carrie Dorsey married Leroy Martin in Silver Bow County, one of her witnesses was Emma Dorsey Phelps.³¹

Walter Dorsey's brother Augustus eventually took work outside of the grocery—in 1920 he was a porter at Whitman's, and in 1922 a wiper at the Northern Pacific shops—but he stayed close by. He and his wife Carrie J., who worked as a “charwoman” (ie. cleaning lady), lived briefly at 541 5th Avenue, next door to Ad E. Banks, before moving to 1002 E. Broadway, where they remained for years. Augustus' son Bernice Dorsey was less settled, but stayed in the region, moving repeatedly between Helena and nearby cities. He married Sophonia Brown (b. Great Falls, daughter of Priscilla Dennison Brown) in 1922 in Anaconda, worked in Butte and Anaconda in subsequent years, and in 1931 could be found working as a porter at Helena's Harvey Hotel and living with his dad and stepmother at 1002 E. Broadway.³²

Almira Dorsey was by then about 69 years old, and she'd been running a large grocery, as a widowed mother and a black businesswoman in a realm dominated by white males, for 35 years. In 1932, as the Great Depression set in, Almira sold her property, home and business, and moved to Los Angeles. There, she joined daughter Lena, who by 1930 had divorced and moved to L.A.: that year, Lena lived with Althea Mitchell, whom census enumerators identified as her sister but who was likely a cousin, daughter of one of her Maryland-born father's Mitchell half-siblings. Almira died in L.A. several years later.³³

The Gloege Grocery Era

By the time Almira sold the store and residence on the corner of 8th and Hoback, the lot contained the grocery with attached dwelling as well as several outbuildings, including a carriage house that had been converted to a garage (situated at the north end of the lot, along the alley), and a shed that sat off the northeast corner of the house along the east property line.³⁴ The grocery business that occupied the store portion of the building was well established, and the house in the rear was ample and attractive. Soon, another family saw the property's appeal and bought it with the intent of carrying on its grocery tradition. In 1935, Caroline D. Gloege acquired it from Schroeder Bros. Corp.³⁵ Like the Dorseys before them, the Gloege family became resident grocers. They immediately undertook some repairs to the property, re-shingling the roof and re-building the back porch as well as other unspecified improvements (including, at some point, an addition to the west end of the west component of the garage), and then settled in.³⁶

³¹ R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; Bureau of the Census, “14th Census of the United States, 1920: Population Schedules: Montana, Lewis and Clark County” (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1992). Carrie may later have become Mrs. Gibson and Emma may later have become Mrs. Hillman.

³² R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk's Helena City Directory*; “Marriage License, Deer Lodge County (Dorsey-Brown),” *Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950 - Ancestry.com*, September 14, 1920.

³³ “Lewis and Clark County Property Title Records”; Bureau of the Census, “15th Census of the United States, 1930: Population Schedules: Montana, Lewis and Clark County” (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1930); “California, Death Index, 1905-1939 (Almira Dorsey),” December 6, 1935.

³⁴ Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1930” (Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1930).

³⁵ “Lewis and Clark County Property Title Records.”

³⁶ “City of Helena Building Permit Records.”

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Like Almira before her, Caroline was soon thereafter widowed. Husband Henry Gloege died in August 1941, at the age of 70.³⁷ Led by son Louis and his wife Margaret M., the Gloege family continued living in the 403 N. Hoback dwelling portion of the building, and they ran the 900 8th Avenue grocery store for some thirty years.³⁸ In the 1950s, Richard Richter briefly became a partner in the business, and the Gloege and Richter Grocery operated for several years before it reverted, by 1956, to the Gloege Grocery once again. By that time, large “national chain stores [had] moved into the community,” undermining the business of local, neighborhood groceries. The 1956 city directory was the last that listed the Gloege Grocery, and Gloege family members were thereafter identified as working elsewhere. Louis and Margaret continued to live at 403 N. Hoback, but Louis spent his workdays as a steward at the Eagles Club.³⁹

Dorsey family members may have been among Gloege Grocery customers. Augustus and Carrie J. Dorsey remained nearby at 1002 E. Broadway until Augustus died, at about 83 years of age, in 1942. Bernice Dorsey continued his established pattern of moving between area cities. In 1942, when he registered for the draft, he was living in Anaconda. In 1950 and 1953, at least, he roomed with the Irvin-Donnell family in the family’s longtime Helena home at 212 S. Beattie (Site 24LC2431), and several years later he could be found renting a room at Helena’s YMCA.⁴⁰ He continued to work in this period—as a porter at Hand’s Barber and Beauty Shop, and a shoeshiner at Lee Leary and then at Guy’s Barber Shop—but he may have been in failing health. In 1960, Bernice Dorsey died in Spokane.⁴¹

Bernice Dorsey’s death came just a few years after the grocery established by his uncle Walter and aunt Almira closed its doors for good. Louis Gloege continued to own the property and occupy the residence, with the store building subsequently used as a “paint contractor’s warehouse for about four years” before becoming the Wise Penny Consignment Store. Gloege still owned the property when he died, and in 1975, current owner Robert Clarkson, acquired it from his estate. Thereafter, the Wise Penny operated for years in the store component of the building—run first by founders Ms. Kellner and Ms. George before being taken over by Gerda Anderson. It closed after Gerda Anderson’s death in 2002.⁴²

According to Sanborn Maps, the footprint of the main building at 401 N Hoback/900 8th Avenue has not been modified since before 1930 (or likely since being brought to the site). The building has, however, been modified in other ways. In 1974 “the building was partially remodeled and upgraded for the media assignment and portrait photography studio, business and retail store selling Magic Items and Theatrical Make-up” (with the “old carriage house, or small barn, in back of the building, used for storage of the Magic Show’s Illusions”). In the late 1970s, the second-generation asbestos siding was removed and metal siding applied over the original wood.

³⁷ “Henry W. Gloege Headstone (IOOF Cemetery, Helena),” *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current - Ancestry.com*, August 27, 1941.

³⁸ Louis’ brother Wilbur M. Gloege clerked in the store, living with his wife Dorothy T. in the nearby house previously inhabited by Annie and Catherine Kelley, ie. 834 8th Avenue.

³⁹ “Richard Edmond Richter,” accessed August 17, 2016, <http://helenafuneralhome.com/obituaries/richard-edmond-richter/>; R.L. Polk & Co, *Polk’s Helena City Directory*; “The Eighth Ave Store in Helena, Montana.”

⁴⁰ The 1950 city directory listing identifies a “Billy Dorsey” at that address, which is likely Bernice, who was at that address in 1953.

⁴¹ “Augustus G. Dorsey Headstone (Forestvale Cemetery, Helena),” 1942.

⁴² “Lewis and Clark County Property Title Records”; “The Eighth Ave Store in Helena, Montana.”

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Various other upgrades, to wiring, heating, roofing, etc. were completed in the years that followed. Then in 2002-2003, “the house was vacated” and the residence portion of the building renovated. The “house became the Sleepy Senator . . . operating as a Bed and Breakfast Suite.”⁴³ It continues to be used as a vacation rental.

The outbuildings have also been modified over the years. The shed along the east property line was removed sometime after the 1950s. So, too, was the west-end addition to the west component of the garage, which restored the garage to the footprint it had on the 1930 Sanborn Map of the Dorsey Grocery and Residence.⁴⁴

⁴³ Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1930”; Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1951” (Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1951); Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1958” (Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, 1958); “City of Helena Building Permit Records”; “The Eighth Ave Store in Helena, Montana.”

⁴⁴ Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1958”; Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1951”; Sanborn Map Company, “Fire Insurance Maps of Montana: Helena, Lewis and Clark County- 1930.”

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The Montana Plaindealer, August 31, 1906.

The Montana Plaindealer, December 7, 1906.

The Montana Plaindealer, February 14, 1908.

The Montana Plaindealer, January 4, 1907.

The Montana Plaindealer, January 10, 1908.

The Montana Plaindealer, May 10, 1907.

The Montana Plaindealer, May 27, 1910.

The Montana Plaindealer, October 26, 1906.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 24LC2433

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.1478

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 46.587924 Longitude: -112.025481
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 12 Easting: 421439 Northing: 5159885

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 16, Block 6, Bassett Addition to the City of Helena (MT) (Sec. 30, T 10 N R 03 W)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is based on legally recorded boundary lines and is drawn to include the land historically associated with the property and that conveys the property's historic setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Delia Hagen, PhD
organization: Hagen Historical Consulting
street & number: 660 River Court
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59801
e-mail: deliahagen@yahoo.com
telephone: _____
date: September 2016

Owner information

name: Robert N Clarkson
address: 916 8th AVE
city: Helena
state: MT
zip code: 59601-4411

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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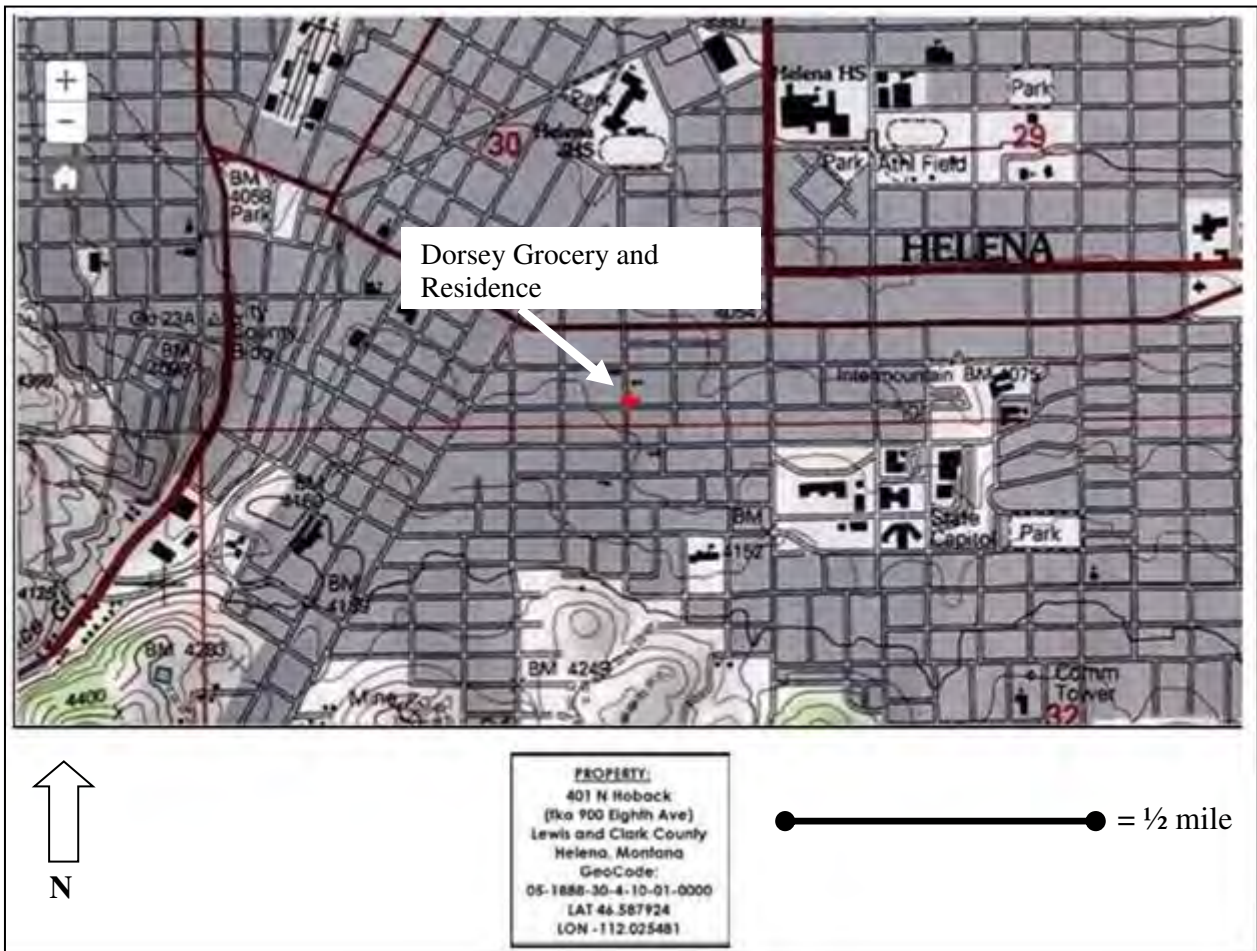
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Maps



Location of the Dorsey Grocery and Residence. Found on the Helena, MT 7.5' quadrangle map.

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Aerial view of Dorsey Grocery and Residence, Helena, MT.

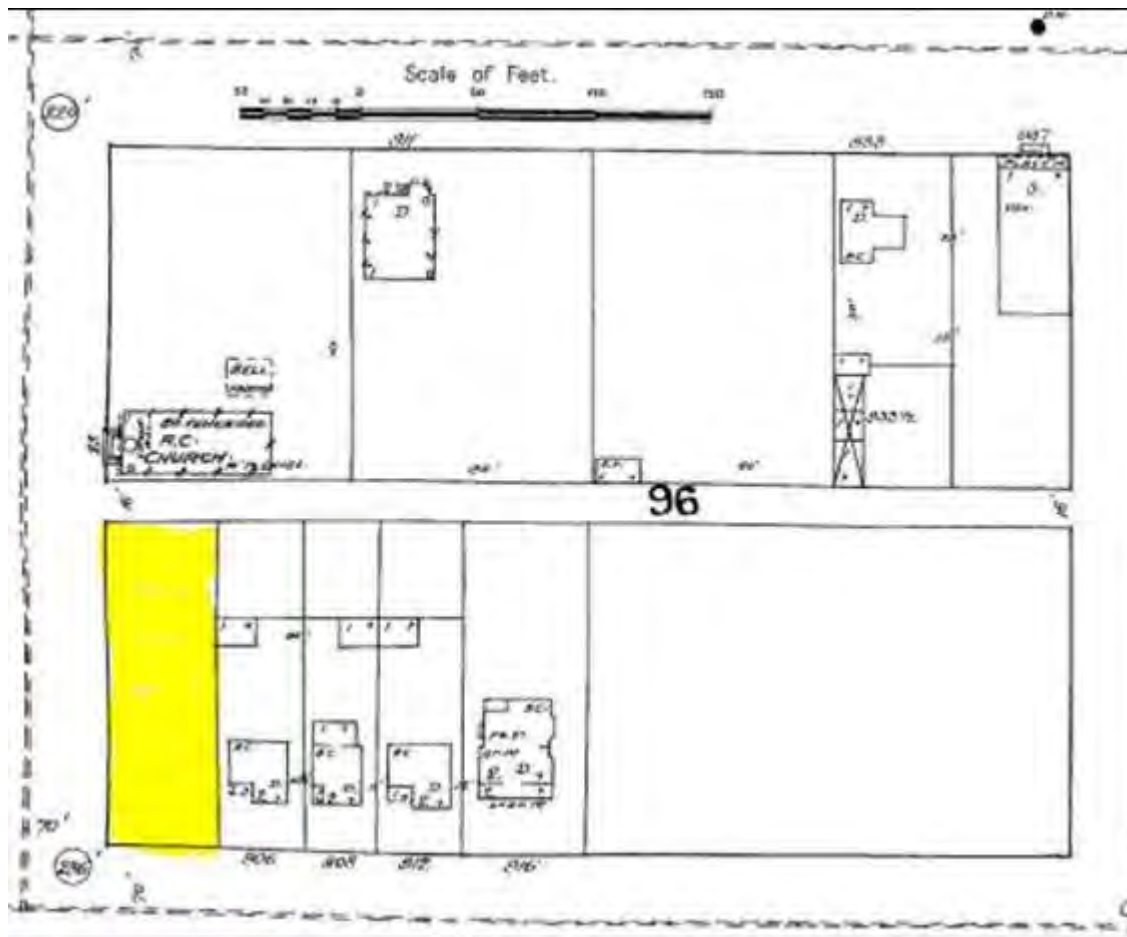
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Detail of Sanborn Insurance Company Map of Helena, 1892, Sheet 40. Highlighted parcel indicates the location of the Dorsey Grocery and Residence.

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Walter, Carrie, and Lena Dorsey together with unidentified boy, standing in front of Dorsey Grocery, ca. 1905. Montana Historical Society Research Center, PAc 74-104.266GP.

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

All Photographs:

Name of Property: Dorsey Grocery & Residence (401 N. Hoback)
(originally 900 8th Avenue/403 N. Hoback)

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark

State: Montana

Photographer: Delia Hagen

Date Photographed: August 23, 2016

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MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0001. Overview, west wall and south façade, view to NE.

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MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0002. Overview, view to SE.

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MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0003. Grocery, façade (south) and west wall, view to N-NE.

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MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0004. Grocery, façade (south), entry detail, view to N-NE.

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MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0005. Grocery, west wall, view to SE.

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MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0006. Grocery, east wall, view to NW.

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County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 36



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0007. Residence, façade (west), view to NE.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 37



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0008. Residence, façade (west) and north walls, view to SE.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 38



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0009. Residence, east (left) and north (right) walls, view to SW.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 39



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0010. Residence, east wall, view to SW.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 40



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0011. Grocery, interior, view to NE.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 41



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0012. Grocery, interior, entry detail, view to S.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 42



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0013. Grocery, interior, east wall with silhouette of original shelving, view to E.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 43



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0014. Residence, interior, entry hall, view to W from stairs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 44



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0015. Residence, interior, parlor, view to S-SE from entry hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 45



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0016. Residence, interior, stairway and hall, view to E-SE from entry hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 46



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0017. Residence, interior, kitchen with original cabinet, view to NW from doorway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 47



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0018. Residence, interior, upstairs landing, view to E-NE.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 48



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0019. Residence, interior, upstairs bathroom, view to E from doorway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 49



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0020. Residence, interior, SW bedroom, view to SW from doorway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 50



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0021. Garage/Carriage House, north and west walls, view to SE.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 51



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0022. Garage/Carriage House, north and east walls of carriage house component, view to S-SW.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 52



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0023. Garage/Carriage House, south wall, view to NE.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 53



MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_DorseyGroceryAndResidence_0024. Garage/Carriage House, south wall of carriage house component, view to N.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dorsey Grocery and Residence
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—Disclaimer Page 54

Disclaimer:

<p>This material is based upon work assisted by grants from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service and the Montana History Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior nor of the Montana History Foundation.</p>
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8TH
AVE
POB

FORD



8 TH AVE
900





Sorry

We're

CLOSED

900

The Eighth Avenue
Trading Company

18



CLIFF'S STUDIO
PHOTOGRAPHY

8 TH





40

Sena



403







BEHRM

Fluorescent light fixture

Small box on top of the desk

Small Christmas tree and figurine

Cardboard box with "12-32 07" printed on it

Cardboard box labeled "NitraStretch"

Light blue display case with glass doors and metal shelving

Wooden shelving unit with green support posts, holding various boxes and items

Dark wood cabinet with multiple drawers and a decorative front

Small wooden shelf with multiple compartments



The Eight Avenue
Trading Company

Come in!

We're

OPEN

STOP

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Dorsey Grocery and Residence

Multiple Name: African-American Heritage Places in Helena, Montana MPS

State & County: MONTANA, Lewis and Clark

Date Received: 3/10/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 4/24/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100000915

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 4/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Dorsey Grocery and Residence meets National Register Criterion A at the local level in the area of Ethnic Heritage -African American (Black). Constructed in 1904 by moving and combining two older local buildings, the Dorsey Grocery and Residence property was developed by one of Helena's most prominent African American families--Walter and Almira Dorsey. The site served as a significant commercial enterprise within Helena's small twentieth century African American community. Full, private ownership of the property and its substantial commercial operation by the Dorseys marked the family's social and economic status within the tight-knit community during the early twentieth century. The property meets the Registration Requirements of the African-American Heritage Places in Helena MPS.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept National Register Criterion A.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 4/24/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



March 6, 2017

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether,

Enclosed please find the following: **African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT Multiple Property Document**, and the **Crump-Howard House, and Dorsey Grocery and Residence** (both Lewis and Clark County, Montana) National Register nomination forms for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

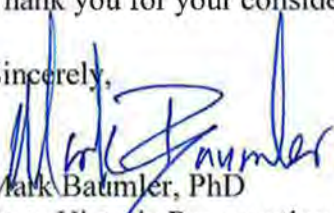
The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT Multiple Property Document, and the Crump-Howard House, and Dorsey Grocery and Residence for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Multiple Property Document and two National Register nominations were prepared in part through an "Underrepresented Communities Grant" from the National Park Service.

Please be advised that owners and public officials were notified in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting. The Review Board unanimously recommended that these properties be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mark Batmaler, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer

*Thanks to APS
for support of
this endeavor!*

Enclosure