OMB No. 1024-0018

United States	Department	of the	Interior
National Park	Service		

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

	RECEIVED 2280
	Mar - 5 1996
304	RECESTER OF HISTORIC PLACES MATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name: Stedman Foundr	y and Machine	Co.			
other name/site number: Helena	Sand and Grav	el Co.			
2. Location			1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
street & number: 2650 Euclid Av	ve.		,		not for publication: N/A
city/town: Helena					vicinity: x
state: Montana code:	MT cou	unty: Lewis and Clark	code: 049	zip code: 59601	L
3. State/Federal Agency Certi	fication				
As the designated authority under for determination of eligibility me the procedural and professional of Register Criteria. I recommend th for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title <u>Montana State Historic Pre</u> State or Federal agency or burea	ets the documenta requirements set f hat this property b servation Offic u	ation standards for registe orth in 36 CFR Part 60. In the considered significant	ering properties in n my opinion, the nationally _X 2/ 2/ Date	the National Registe property <u>X</u> meets _ statewide <u>X</u> locally	r of Historic Places and meets _ does not meet the National
Signature of commenting or othe	r official	<u></u>	Date		
State or Federal agency and bure	au			······································	
4. National Park Service Cert	ification	dan			
, hereby certify that this property is:		Signature of t			Date of Action
<pre>ventered in the National Register see continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet determined not eligible for the</pre>		<u>linterec</u> Bational	Register.		<u> </u>
determined not engible for the National Register see continuation sheet see continuation sheet stee continuation sheet other (explain):	ster			·····	

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private	Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing
Category of Property: building	<u>3</u> <u>1</u> building(s)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{3} & \underline{1} & \text{building(s)} \\ \underline{0} & \underline{0} & \text{sites} \\ \underline{0} & \underline{0} & \text{structures} \\ \underline{0} & \underline{0} & \text{objects} \end{array}$
Name of related multiple property listing: 0	<u>3</u> <u>1</u> TOTAL
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions:	Current Functions:
Industry/manufacturing facility	Vacant/not in use Other: maintenance building
7. Description	
Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Other: Industrial Mill	foundation: stone
	walls: Stone roof: metal
	other: n/2

Narrative Description

The Stedman Foundry & Machine Company is sited on the Ten Mile Creek flats, in the southwest corner of the Prickly Pear valley. It is located on the western edge of the city of Helena. Originally, this area on the western fringe of town developed as an outlying industrial zone and connected via a rail spur. When the Stedman complex was built in 1892, it joined nearby brickworks and a large brewery in the vicinity. During the mid 20th century, quarrying by the Helena Sand and Gravel Company created two large pits just to the north. Gravel mined from this site was used to construct Highway 12; when quarrying activities ceased, the pits filled with water creating what is now known as Spring Meadow Lake. The buildings which remain are the primary buildings in the complex, and today they stand on approximately five acres of land overlooking the lake.

Stedman erected a complex of three large stone buildings and several outbuildings in 1892 to house the Stedman Foundry & Machine Company. A Sanborn map of the day clearly depicts the layout of the shops, sheds and warehouses. The three main buildings still stand today: the machine shop, the foundry, and the pattern house. These three buildings lie parallel to one another and were separated by narrow alleys for fire protection and circulation. Other outbuildings and structures which are no longer extant include a small office, a barn with corral; along the rail spur leading to the machine shop stood a coal and sand shed, and an iron and coal warehouse. A water tank house and an oil house stood just outside of the machine shop on the east. The three original buildings remaining on the property all retain a high level of integrity and contribute to its significance. An additional office stands just west of the machine shop. It is a temporary modular building and does not contribute.

The stone buildings in the Stedman complex are typical of early Montana industrial buildings, with low-pitched central gable roofs covering cavernous open interiors. They are distinguished, however, by the use of ""thick random pattern, rough quarried limestone bearing walls instead of the traditional brick used for this building type". The massive, wooden

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structural members and heavy plank roof assemblies were designed to burn slowly as well as carry substantial loads. The "slow-burning system obviously worked since evidence of fires that were controlled can be seen in the interstitial attic spaces of both the Machine Shop and Foundry buildings."¹

Tall story center gable masses with full-length, lower shed appendages characterize the industrial buildings. Tall dividedlight windows in multiples of fixed, 9-light units light the interior workspaces. Lofty interior spaces have high ceilings supported by iron I-beams. Corrugated steel roofing now covers these buildings. All three stand on stone foundations.

Machine Shop: Essential to the business was the machine shop, where machinery was made and patterns were cut and assembled for casting iron. This large mill-type building features a tall story-height hoisting bay running the full length under a broad central gable. A single story shed massing spans the south side of the main bay. The low pitched roof is covered with corrugated steel roofing, and the projecting rafters are revealed by open box cornices.

The shed projects along the south and is characterized by a series of 11 large openings alternating with stone piers. These house tall, divided light wooden windows and at center, the primary entrance. The doorway houses a single door, and is covered by a projecting gable, supported on knee braces. Windows include narrow muntins and mullions of delicate scale, and window frames which are massive and unarticulated. Various portions of these openings are partially or completely cemented in; the clerestory above the shed roof is boarded over.

Large loading bay doorways are located on the east and west ends of the machine shop. In general, the doorways are spanned by heavy wooden lintels and framed with squared timbers, about 12" in cross section. On the east end, there are three door openings: a large loading door, and two smaller pedestrian entrances. Original loading doors have been replaced by a panelled, roll-up overhead door with a window band. The northern entrance is located in a tall, narrow opening with a 12-paned transom and multipaned windows above. The other original doorway, near the center of the building, is now cemented over.

On the west facade, there are four openings in the masonry wall. A loading doorway and a tall window are located under the main gable. The loading doors have been replaced by a modern, metal rollup overhead door, the lintel was removed and the framing is now cemented. Four of the original 9-pane window units remain, the upper units were removed and that area cemented in. On the west wall of the shed, the other two openings once housed a doorway and windows. Two multi-pane window units remain, while the remainder above and below are cemented. The doorway opening is completely infilled and cemented. The masonry is reinforced with metal tierods, they are anchored to the wall with decorative, starshaped fittings. Design of the north wall featured a series of tall window openings, spanned by wooden lintels and fit with multi-pane windows. This wall remains intact; however, it is currently obscured by a later addition along this side.

The interior spaces reflect 103 years of industrial use. The open machine shop features two massive timbers running the full length of the hoisting bay, placed along the walls for a traveling crane or hoisting mechanism. (It is rare to see this methodology crafted from wood materials). The original heavy timber supports are evident, running along the bearing line where the shed joins the center mass, but structural roof members are concealed by later fiberboard and drywall constructions which drop the central ceiling and compromise the historic mill design. The step in the roof between the hoisting bay and shed roof area contains a heavy timber truss (currently not visible) that provided lateral stability to the actions of the hoist or crane. The main shop occupies most of the interior, which has become cluttered to some degree by the introduction of later mechanical and electrical systems.² Work bays and a small locker room are defined along the south portion in the shed. Floors are of concrete slab on grade.

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Foundry and Molding Building: The second industrial building in the complex housed the foundry and molding room, along with the blacksmith shop. This building involves a tall story hoisting bay under the center gabled mass, spanned along the south and north sides by lower story shed appendages. Main access was from the east, where two openings were symmetrically placed under the gable. One housed loading doors into the hoisting bay, which are now replaced by a panelled, roll-up wooden overhead door. The other, originally a divided-light window, has been partially replaced by a pedestrian door. A third door for loading was set in the side of the north shed. There are no openings in the upper masonry. The remains of a red brick chimney are still in evidence in the southern portion of the facade; the wall of the north shed is now cemented.

On the west facade, there are four openings on the first floor. These include large windows under the gable, housing four, 9-pane units each. Doorways are placed in the sides of the sheds. To the north, the doorway appears to have been a pedestrian entrance with upper multi-pane windows. The opening was later enlarged to house loading doors. To the south, a second doorway houses a pedestrian doorway, while the rest of the opening is fitted with multi-pane windows. The upper level formerly housed four windows; however, the entire upper facade, windows and all, is now cemented over.

On the north side, masonry walls enframed a series of tall windows patterned after those on the Machine shop, but shorter, wider and set lower in the wall. Currently, the lower portions of these windows are infilled with concrete. An addition linking this building to the pattern building ties to the west end of this wall.

On the interior, the blacksmithing room filled the west end. A heavy stone wall separates this room from the foundry and molding room. A large doorway at the center opens into a work bay and the foundry room beyond. To either side, smaller doors open into work bays along the sides. Large wooden double doors swing out to the south, where the later addition was placed linking the foundry to the machine shop.

In the foundry room's hoisting bay, upper walls are trussed with heavy timbers, rolled steel beams and cast iron columns support the heavy roof members. Steel beams remain which once supported the hoisting and heavy iron work done in the building. Floors are of concrete; the north wall is cemented over. Along the south and east walls, remains of brick chimneys and hearths where the casting took place are visible. West of the casting hearths, a portion of the floor was raised to facilitate material handling.

Pattern House: The third building in the complex, the pattern house, was used for storage of foundry patterns and molds. This building is three stories high: the lower story is relatively tall, with each of the upper stories, shorter, less than 8' in height. A blocky building, the pattern house echoes the mill design in its rugged masonry, broad central gable, and divided-light, deeply recessed windows.

Primary entrance was apparently from the west. Here, wooden loading doors and a pedestrian door provided entrance. On each of the upper two stories there is a single center window, now boarded over. The design of the east facade is similar. The loading doors are now boarded over, while the pedestrian entrance is cemented and boarded. On the upper levels, window openings remain. At some point they were fitted with smaller windows, which are now boarded up.

Design of the north and south sides was similar, with three or five square window openings across each level. Windows are now boarded over, except for the lower units on the north, which are fitted with newer windows. On the south, concrete walls were added to join the pattern building to the foundry.

On the interior, the "structure of the floors departs from mill construction or heavy timber technology and is more closely related to late 1800s commercial building with wood joist and beam floors of light framing supported by masonry bearing

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walls."³ The interior was designed with large open floors and wooden stairs between levels; on the first floor an apartment was installed in the northwest corner with a single bedroom and kitchen which appears to date to the 1950s or 1960s. On the upper levels, many original patterns remain.

Additions: Concrete walls were added during the 20th century, joining the three buildings together. These create a single room between the machine shop and foundry, and the foundry and pattern house. They each are small and appear to have been intended for storage or garage space.

Integrity

The Stedman Foundry & Machine Company complex retains a very high level of integrity, in a setting relatively unaltered from historic times. Located on the outskirts of Helena, in an area which was relatively industrial during the late 19th century, the building is surrounded by open land on the interface between town and the surrounding agricultural lands. It remains in view of other 1800s industrial complexes as well, including the historic Kessler brewery, and the Western Clay Manufacturing Company. The gravel pits to the north are of later vintage; none-the-less the area remains open and sparsely developed and settled.

The buildings stand together as a strong complex, conveying the industrial nature of the area and historic usage of the buildings. Architecturally, their sturdy stone design has changed little, although minor alterations over time have resulted in some changes. These are readily reversible and mainly involve the simple concrete walls adjoining the buildings, and removal and infilling of many original windows, and replacement of historic doors.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C	Areas of Significance: Industry, Architecture
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1892-1903
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1892
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Stedman Foundry & Machine Company is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant associations with historic industry in Helena, and the important contributions made by the Stedman company to the construction legacy of this capital city. According to Criterion C, the Stedman complex gains significance as a well-preserved early example of industrial building and standard mill construction in Montana.

The Stedman Foundry specialized in manufacturing mining and milling machinery as well as architectural iron work. While cast iron as a decorative material was only briefly popular in Helena a prime example of its use can still be seen in the Iron Front Block located on North Last Chance Gulch. More important than cast-iron's decorative use was its compressive strength. As a structural material, cast iron was used within masonry walls for vertical columns and floor supports which allowed for the construction of buildings with relatively unrestricted floor space and inlighting that characterized commercial buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. "Cast iron played a preeminent role in the industrial development of our country during the 19th century. Cast-iron machinery filled America's factories and made possible the growth of railroad transportation. Cast iron was used extensively in our cities for water systems and street lighting. As an architectural metal, it made possible bold new advances in architectural designs and building technology, while providing a richness in ornamentation."⁴

Born in 1836 in Hartland, Maine, John Stedman journied to California in 1855 by way of Nicaragua. After working in California for three years, Stedman moved to the gold fields around the Frazer River in British Columbia where he built and operated a saw mill. In 1867 Stedman arrived in Helena where he operated a sawmill. In 1870, he built the first planing mill in Helena, and in 1877, he opened the foundry which he managed until his death in 1897.

John Stedman was married in 1873 to Alice Armor, a native of Pennsylvania and had three children, Clara, Blanche and William. An active member of the business community, in 1880 he was elected to the Territorial Legislature as a Republican. He also served as a member of the Helena City Council, School Board Trustee, and vice-president of the Board of Trade. John Stedman was also a member of the Masonic Order and served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Montana in 1878.⁵

The Stedman Foundry opened in Helena in 1877 on Clore Street, one block west of Last Chance Gulch. Stedman's foundry became the second foundry to open in Helena, after the Helena Iron Works, owned by B.K. Tatem. Together these foundries produced most of the cast iron in the growing town of Helena. The Stedman company began as a small operation with Stedman employing only one other person than himself.⁶ The Helena Daily Herald Business directory of December 1877 listed Stedman as an assayer and described the foundry work as "brass castings, stamps, seals and brands." But it was the demand by local industry for the services of a foundry, especially for mining and milling equipment, that allowed the Stedman Foundry to expand and prosper.

By 1882, Stedman's business had outgrown its facilities, and a large stone building measuring 40 x 90 ft. was built on West Sixth and Union. The building housed a foundry and a machine shop alongside a blacksmith and pattern shops. The foundry now employed 20-25 people and the business was continually growing. In a business pamphlet of the day, the writer stated that Stedman "has one of the best equipped foundries and machine shops in Montana, and can make anything in the way of brass or iron castings, from a door-key to a ten-thousand-pound casting." The same article goes on to say Stedman "has made all the iron building work used in Helena in the last five years, and is doing a large business in that line for Butte, Great Falls, Missoula, Philipsburg..."⁷

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In 1887, the Stedman Foundry moved again, to the corner of Fuller and Placer Streets. In one of their first projects at the new site, John Stedman and his staff made the cast-iron components used in the construction of the facade of Helena's Iron Front Block.

The appeal of cast iron was that it could be easily mass produced and assembled at a reasonable cost. But by the mid-1880s the appeal of cast-iron facades was declining reflecting a reaction against the "uniformity of mass production" which "was in direct opposition to the architectural individuality so admired during this period."⁸ While the use of cast iron as a decorative material declined, its importance as a structural material was increasing as architects strove to maximize inlighting and interior spaces.

From 1877-1890 John Stedman was the sole owner of the foundry, but in 1890, lacking the capital to further expand his business, John Stedman incorporated. Among his biggest investors were some of Helena's most influential businessmen, including A.M. Holter and Nicholas Kessler. John Stedman remained the largest investor and as such retained the position of general manager.

With the infusion of capital from the sale of stock John Stedman again moved his foundry. In 1892 he built three large stone buildings to house the foundry operations near the Kessler Brewery west of the city. With this move Stedman again increased his production and employed nearly 50 people.⁹ An 1892 Polk Directory advertisement for the foundry listed "Architectural Iron Work, Iron and Brass Casting to Order." The foundry also advertised "steel I beams in stock" which allowed for the construction of commercial style buildings in the latter part of the nineteenth century that used large sections of glass to let in light and maximize the interior space. Prior to the introduction of iron and steel beams the contemporary masonry construction was limited by its sheer weight in its ability to provide large window openings and open interior spaces.

The urban streetscapes of downtown Helena and other Montana towns amply reflect the influence of Stedman and other founders of the day. As the Montana territory was settled, and aspirations for stable communities and larger buildings grew, the contemporary technology of cast iron enabled the construction of increasingly larger and more involved building designs. Today, many commercial buildings display that early metal work and the open storefront format that resulted, along with the maker's stamp of the manufacturing foundry.

John Stedman continued to manage the foundry until his death in 1897. After his death the Stedman Foundry no longer appeared in Helena's classified business listing in the city directory but the foundry appears to have remained in operation until at least 1901. It was listed until 1903 in the general city listings. In September of that year, an advertisement listing a variety of mining and milling equipment appeared in the Helena Herald in September 1901 and read "For Sale by Stedman Foundry & Machine Co."¹⁰

During the 20th century, a series of businesses operated in the former foundry. Title transferred after dissolution of Stedman's company around 1904 to A.L. Smith, president of the National Bank of Montana. In 1908 the National Bank of Montana sold it to the Western Wire Fence Co.¹¹ who had an office there for two years.¹² From the Western Wire Fence Co. the property was transferred to Northwestern Metals Co. in 1910, a metal refining company that operated between 1910-1914 on the property.¹³ Following bankruptcy the property sold to the New York-Montana Testing and Engineering Co. in 1917.¹⁴ From 1917 - 1920, New York - Montana Testing operated an assaying, ore testing and engineering business on the property. Taking advantage of rail and motorized access, they advertised ore testing by carload lots. They also produced highgrade manganese.¹⁵ Later the property was sold to George Jacoby (Deed Book 97, p.143) who sold the property to the Helena Sand and Gravel Co. in the early 1930s. The Helena Sand and Gravel Co. opened a gravel pit that operated for three decades behind the foundry buildings (now Spring Meadow Lake). Helena Sand and

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Gravel sold the property to Carson construction in 1960. Carson Construction sold the property to Montana Powder and Equipment Co. in 1964 who owned the property until it was sold to Walter and LaDonna Bell in 1992.¹⁶

In 1995, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks acquired a 5.3 acre tract of property encompassing the Stedman Foundry, through the Mikal Kellner Foundation For Animals for use as an environmental education center, a rehabilitation center for animals, and an area office to serve the 55.8 acre Spring Meadow Lake State Park.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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 #	Action of Additional Data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Other State agency Local government University X Other - Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
10. Geographical Data	

Acreage of Property: 5.3 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing 12 417670 5162050

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Located in the SW¹/₄ SE¹/₄ NW¹/₄ and the NW ¹/₄ NE¹/₄ SW¹/₄ of Section 23, Township 10 North, Range 4 West.

Verbal Boundary Description

The site is located at 2650 Euclid Ave. outside the city limits of Helena. The property is bordered to the North and west by a surface water drainage and lake system, referred to as Spring Meadow Lake. The southern and eastern boundaries of the property borders the former trackbed of the Northern Pacific Railway and Kessler Road. See continuation sheet for legal description of the property boundaries.

Boundary Justification

The legally recorded boundary of this property encompasses the significant extant resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John Phillips, intern and organization: SHPO street & number: 1410 8th Ave.	Chere Jiusto, SHPO staff date: 12/1/94 telephone: 406-444-7715	Davidson, Kuhr & Assoc. Great Falls, MT 59405
city or town: Helena	state: MT	zip code: 59620

Property Owner

name/title: Montana Department of Fish,	Wildlife & Parks
street & number: 1420 E. Sixth Ave	
city or town: Helena	state: MT

telephone: (406) 444-3750 zip code: 59620

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Campbell, William From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch, Helena, vol. 1, p. 151.

Helena Commercial Club "Helena, Montana: A Rich Spot on Earth". Committee on Mining, Helena, 1920. Helena Herald Sept. 1901

Leeson, Michael History of Montana 1739-1885. Chicago, Warren, Beers & Co., 1885.

Lewis and Clark County Deed Records. City-County Building, Helena.

U.S. Department of Interior Metal in America's Historic Buildings. U.S. GPO, Washington D.C., 1992.

Miller, Joaquin An Illustrated History of the State of Montana. Chicago, Lewis Pub. Co., 1894.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks "Spring Meadow Lake State Park Nature Complex: A Partnership Between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Mikal Kellner Foundation." Draft Proposal, published by the agency. July 1994.

Polk, R.L. & Co. City Directories for Helena, Montana, 1876 - 1904. Helena & Butte.

Robinson, Willard B. "Helena's Fabulous Business Blocks." Montana Magazine of Western History. Vol. 18 no.1, Jan. 1968, p.44-59.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. "Map of Helena, Montana, 1892". Chicago.

Sievert, Ken <u>Spring Meadow State Park - Long Range Planning Analysis of the Stedman Foundry & Machine Co. Building</u> <u>Complex</u>. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, September, 1995.

Waite, John G. "The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Cast Iron," <u>Preservation Briefs 27</u>. U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C., 1991.

No author <u>Resources, Business and Business Men of Montana</u>. Pamphlet, Montana Historical Society.

Photographs

View of Stedman Foundry, c. 1900. Montana State Magazine. MHS Photoarchives.

View of Stedman Foundry, c. 1900. MHS Photoarchives.

Archives

Correspondence of the Montana Lead Company, 1934-1939. MC 95, P.R. Barbour collection, Montana Historical Society.

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Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 10 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST. P.M.M., in Lewis and Clark County, Montana and particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point on the centerline of the Burlington Northern Railroad Company track from which the center of said Section 23 bears N. 69°50' E., 362.2 feet and South 92.5 feet; thence S. 69°35'W., 585.5 feet along said centerline of the Burlington Northern Railroad Company track to a point located on the North side of the county road leading from U.S. Highway 12 to the Kessler Brewery, and other places, which county road is known as the Kessler Road; thence N. 81°31' W., 232.4 feet along said Kessler Road to a PK nail in the pavement of said Kessler Road; thence N. 81°31' W., 232.4 feet along said Kessler Road to a PK nail in the pavement of said Kessler Road; thence N. 21° 41' E., 374.9 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 48°08' E., 139.2 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 82°35' E., 336.0 feet to an iron pin; thence S. 32°51' E., 374.6 feet to the point of beginning.

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Endnotes

1. Sievert, Ken <u>Spring Meadow State Park - Long Range Planning Analysis of the Stedman Foundry &</u> <u>Machine Co. Building Complex.</u>

2. ibid, p. 13.

3. ibid, p. 15.

4. Preservation Brief #27, p.1

5. Leeson, p. 1253-54; Miller, p. 151.

6. Resouces, Business and Business Men of Montana, p. 74.

7. ibid.

8. Robinson, p.49

9. Miller, p. 151.

10. Helena Herald, September, 1901.

11. Deed Book 33, p.560.

12. Polk City Directories.

13. Deed Book 66, p.36

14. Deed Book 76, p.257.

15. Helena Commercial Club, "Helena: A Rich Spot on Earth", p. 20.

16. Lewis & Clark County deed records, Helena Polk City Directories.



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