

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Montana	
COUNTY: Lewis and Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-25-0004	DATE 4/28/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Former Executive Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Governor's Old Mansion - William Chessman Mansion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Ave.*
6th ~~Street~~ and Ewing *St.*

CITY OR TOWN:
Helena

STATE Montana	CODE 25	COUNTY: Lewis and Clark	CODE 049
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Montana

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Helena

STATE: Montana	COUNTY: Lewis and Clark
CODE 25	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lewis and Clark County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Helena

STATE: Montana	CODE 25
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

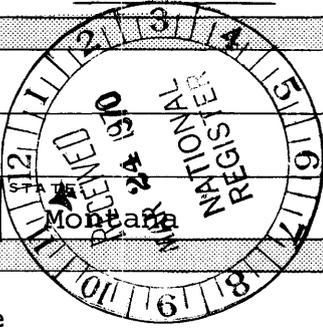
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:
National Park Service

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The handsome, three-story pressed brick, terra cotta and stone Victorian mansion was designed by Cass Gilbert in 1884. At a cost of \$85,000, the structure was completed in 1885.

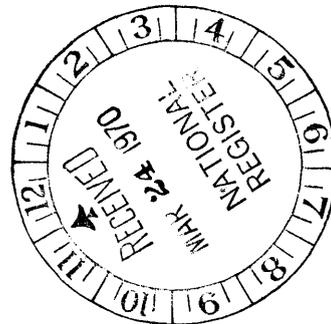
Gilbert was a distinguished architect from New York and St. Paul, Minnesota. He insisted on using such materials as brick from Ohio, granite from Vermont, and interior hardwoods from the East and South America. The granite eventually was obtained from the Helena area.

The interior has seven fireplaces and twenty rooms. Fine woodworking in quartered oak, mahogany and cherry is found throughout the home. The main floor of the home included two parlors, a circular dining room, a den, and a very large kitchen.

An offset roof with ornate turrets, cupolas, chimneys and trim exemplify the Victorian architecture on the exterior.

A two-story brick carriage house near the main building was also completed in 1885 and still stands.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1884

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William A. Chessman was born in Massachusetts in 1830 and spent time at placer diggings in California and Virginia City, Montana, before coming to Helena in 1865. In Helena he worked his way up to become president of the Consolidated Water Company which in future years became the city's water system. In 1875 he married and bought the property at 6th and Ewing.

The mansion at 6th and Ewing was built ten years later in 1885 to become the elegant home of William A. Chessman and family, prominent Helena citizens. The home was furnished in the fashionable decor of the time with fine furnishings and furniture of the period to match the beautiful interior woodwork. The second floor of the mansion was used as sleeping quarters and the third floor was used for social events and recreation. The first floor contained the living, dining, and cooking areas. Victorian style architecture characterized the exterior as well as the interior.

The property was subsequently owned by Peter Larson, a railroad contractor, and G. H. Conrad, a bank official, before being purchased in 1913 by the State of Montana to be the first official governor's mansion.

It has served nine Montana governors during 46 years and was finally replaced by the new executive mansion in 1959.

It is a fine, well-kept structure which is an example of Victorian architecture and which is reminiscent of Montana's colorful territorial affluence and culture.

Photographic coverage and historical and architectural evaluations are recorded in the HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE, January 15, 1961, page 10
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 THE MONTANA WOMAN, December, 1963, page 6

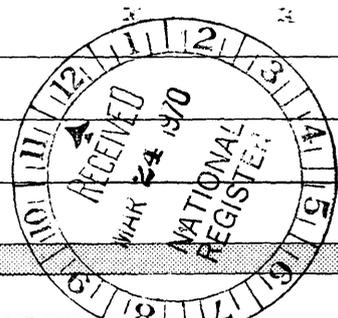
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	46°	35'	16"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	112°	02'	03"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John N. DeHaas, Jr., Architect, Professor

ORGANIZATION: Montana State University DATE: Jan, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bozeman STATE: Montana CODE: 25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Wesley R. Woodgerd
 Title State Liaison Officer

Date March 23, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date APR 28 1970

ATTEST:
William J. Burdette
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 13 1970

U. S. G. S.
HELENA, MONT. QUAD
15 MINUTE SERIES
1954



940,000 FEET
(SOUTH)

46° 35' 16" N LAT

EAST HELENA 3.5 MI.
FORMER EXCLUSIVE MANSION
SOLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION

10 N

112° 07' 03" W LONG

HELENA

OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION



37 M T O U S 91
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