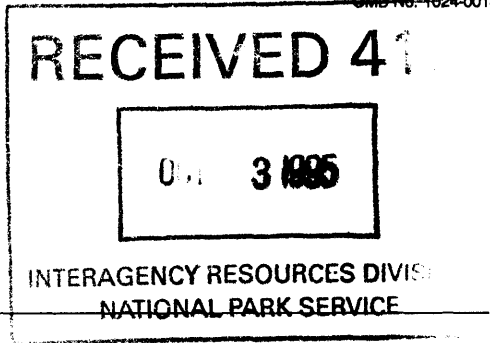


1262

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Childs Carriage House

other name/site number: Hollow Law Firm

2. Location

street & number: 318 E. Sixth Avenue

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: n/a

city/town: Helena

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Lewis & Clark

code: 049

zip code: 59601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 determined eligible for the
National Register

 see continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the
National Register

 see continuation sheet
 removed from the National Register

 see continuation sheet

 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Edson A. Beall

Date of Action

11-2-95

Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing Noncontributing

Category of Property: Building

 1 ___ building(s)
___ ___ sites
___ ___ structures
___ ___ objects

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

 1 ___ TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Current Functions:

Agriculture: animal facility

Commerce/trade: professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials:

Other: Stone Barn

foundation: stone
walls: stone
roof: wood shingle
other: n/a

Narrative Description

The Childs Carriage House is a small, one-and-a-half story stone barn, built of coursed native stone. The barn is a rectangular mass with a clipped gable roof. Heavy cut stone quoins finish the southeast corner, apparently a repair. Window and door openings feature segmental brick arches and heavy wooden sills. Windows depicted in an historic photograph are broken out, but appear to have been 2-over-2 units. Currently, fixed single panes fill these spaces.

The primary facade faces south toward Sixth Avenue. A central opening spanned by a heavy wooden lintel marks the primary barn entrance, and a dormer is centered above the entrance. Original doors have been replaced by glass. An opening offset to the east once housed a panelled wood door; the base of the opening has been infilled and a fixed window now fills the space. The dormer, once a shed-type finished with bead board, has been converted to a gabled dormer finished with wooden shingles like the roof.

On the east side, a doorway and window open on the first floor, a pair of windows are located in the gable. While the openings here are original, the modern panelled door and single pane window units are not. On the west, three small windows illuminate the first floor, and a larger unit is centered beneath the gable on the second story.

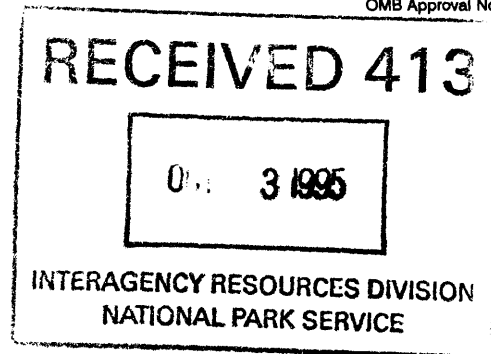
The interior of the barn was converted to residential use some years ago, and over the past two years, to office space. Elements of the original interior design were retained, helping to preserve some vestiges of the historic interior character, although the feeling now differs substantially from its days as a barn. Brick flooring, exposed masonry walls, plain and deeply set wooden window frames all still remain; however, sheetrock walls, wooden flooring and acoustic ceiling tiles have been added.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Child Carriage House
Lewis & Clark County, Montana



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Set along an alley running north-south between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, the barn is accessed from Sixth Avenue, although it is set deeply away from the street. Linked to the nearby Childs Residence, the barn is an essential part of the fabric of this East Side Helena neighborhood and the early patterns of settlement and transportation evidenced here.

Integrity

Many small elements on this barn have been altered over time, apparently due to abandonment first, and later conversion to residential use. Recently the building has been refurbished for office space. That work restored some integrity to the building, being sensitive to the original design and use of the building. As a result, on the exterior an incompatible greenhouse was removed to expose the original carriage entrance, while on the interior, some original detailing remains to convey a feeling of the historic nature of the building. Overall patterns of fenestration remain intact, however, window units and doors are all replacements, and while compatible, do differ from the originals.

While the Childs Carriage House no longer serves its original function, it retains a good degree of integrity. On the exterior, the original design and masonry is represented, with some alteration of the main doorway. On the interior, the building has been finished but many details tell the earlier story. These include deep window ledges due to thick stone walls; plain, original wooden window frames; brick flooring in the east portion of the first floor; and exposed masonry walls, brick arches, wooden lintels and brick chimney.

The setting for the barn has been somewhat altered with the addition of a parking area on the south portion of the property. However, other elements of the original surroundings -- nearby residences, carriage houses, the alley -- all remain intact, as does the relationship to 6th Avenue.

In summary, the many small alterations made over time do add up, and the interior has been adapted to new uses. Still, much remains of the historic design, character, workmanship, feeling and setting, enabling the barn to convey both its historic associations and to provide an important early example of the stone masonry practiced in Helena during the settlement period.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1872 - 1900

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1872

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Childs Carriage House harkens back to a time when barns and carriage houses were commonplace throughout the towns of Montana, providing shelter to horses and storage for wagons and buggies used in 19th century transportation. The Childs Carriage House is an excellent representative example of the type of small barn or carriage house commonly built, and is also well preserved local representation of early stone masonry construction. For these reasons, the building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, according to Criterion C.

Historic Background

William C. Childs was a native of Iowa who moved to Helena, Montana during the gold camp era. He established the White Face Farm in 1871 and the following year he and his wife Mary built a brick residence on Ewing Street. Having purchased the entire block 48 of the Original Helena Townsite, their residence was the first built on the block. Behind the house, they also erected a stone chicken coop and this barn. All three buildings still stand today.

Childs later became owner of the Montana Sheep Company. The sheep ranch was located just east of Helena, near the Prickly Pear Creek on land purchased in 1886. On that property, with the assistance of forty-two masons imported from Italy, he erected an octagonal house and a huge 3½ story stone barn. (See National Register Nomination for Childs Ranch, Lewis & Clark County.) A comparison of that stone barn to this one reveals strikingly similar handling of the native stone masonry, although otherwise the designs are quite different. It may well be that the same masons worked on these buildings for Childs.

Architectural Significance

The Childs Carriage House is a well-preserved stone barn/carriage house, typical of pre-automotive days, when horses and animal-powered transportation was the norm. In town settlements, livery stables where people boarded their horses were common, as were individual small barns or carriage houses built behind one's home. These small barns provided shelter for just a horse or two, usually with space for a carriage, tack, feed and sometimes a stable hand. Following the settlement patterns laid down in neighborhoods where land was at a premium and residential lots were not spacious, the barn was often just tucked in at the back of the property, and was frequently accessed by an alley. No additional corral or pasture space was provided for the animals on the property. The 19th century maps of Helena clearly illustrate this patterning east of the downtown gulch. Here small blocks accommodated about six residences, each with such outbuildings as woodhouses, outhouses and chicken houses; generally one or two on the block would include a carriage house. The Childs Carriage House, and other such buildings remaining within Helena's early neighborhoods, reflect these settlement and use patterns.

The Childs Carriage House also provides an important example of early stone masonry methods and design. Constructed of a shale native to the area, the masonry and design of the building are very well preserved. Massive stone walls are all in good condition, complete with exposed stonework, heavy wooden lintels and brick arches, and all original openings retained. The masonry shows some signs of repair over the years, but retains a high level of original workmanship and materials. Good examples of such early stone masonry are rare in Helena, in part because many buildings of the 1860s and 1870s era were replaced or enlarged during the 1880s boom years, and in part because the 1935 earthquake damaged masonry buildings severely throughout town, and many were demolished. Those that were repaired were frequently completely stuccoed. The Childs Carriage House remains as a very early, very strong example of settlement period masonry design and construction ideas.

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Childs Carriage House
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As mentioned above, carriage houses often served to accommodate a stable hand or carriage driver in addition to housing animals. It is of special local interest that according to recollections of early Helenans, western painter Charles M. Russell resided in this carriage house for a brief period during the time that he was painting. Probably the most renowned of 19th century western genre artists, Russell, not only captured western life on his canvases, he in many ways epitomized the rugged individualist and cowboy lifestyle. Residents of Montana are fondly attached to the man, the painter and the legend, and his connection to this carriage house adds interest and significant values to the building in the eyes of many Montanans.

The Childs Carriage House, is a good example of an early barn/carriage house and of early stone working methods during the settlement era in Helena, Montana. Carefully converted recently to office use which keeps it functional and maintained today, the building still clearly reads as a historic carriage house, and conveys both its original use and its historic associations with the Childs residence and early transportation patterns in Helena.

Childs Carriage House
Name of Property

Lewis & Clark County, Montana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Abstract of Title North Half Lots 13 - 15, North Half South Half Lot 9, Block 48, Helena Townsite

Baucus, Jean Helena: Her Historic Homes Bar Wineglass Publishing Co., Helena, 1979.

Helena Historic Resource Survey Historic & Architectural Inventory Forms for 305 N. Ewing and 318 E. 6th. 1981.

Lewis & Clark County Clerk & Recorder Records Deed Records for Block 48, Helena Townsite, 1871 - 1991.

Sanborn Map Company Fire Insurance Maps for Helena, Montana, 1884-1927. Chicago.

Polk, R.L. & Co. City Directories for Helena, Montana, 1886 - 1900. Butte.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	12	420840	5159630

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Located in the SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 30, T10N, R3W.

Verbal Boundary Description

The N1/2 of C 25' of Lot 2, W 45' of Lots 1 & 2, W 70' of Lot 3, W 70' of S 19 1/9' of Lot 4, in Block 48 of the Helena Townsite.

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the lots forming the carriage house site in this residential neighborhood since its construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Margaret Hollow with Chere Justo, SHPO staff	
organization:	date: April 1995
street & number: 428 Washington Drive	telephone: (406) 442-8119
city or town: Helena	state: MT
	zip code: 59601

Property Owner

name/title: Hollow Law Firm	
street & number: 318 E. 6th Avenue	telephone: (406) 443-5790
city or town: Helena	state: MT
	zip code: 59601