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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED  
NOV 24 1993  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: House of the Good Shepherd Historic District

other name/site number: 24LC

2. Location

street & number: 9th Avenue and North Hoback Street

not for publication: n/a  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.)

Marcella Steffy Montana SHPO 11-16-93  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

for Marcella Steffy Entered in the National Register Date of Action 12/23/93  
Signature of the Keeper

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### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing      Noncontributing

Category of Property: Buildings

  4                          2   building(s)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_\_ objects

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

  4                          2   TOTAL

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### 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions:**

RELIGION: Religious Facility,  
Church School, Church-related Residence

**Current Functions:**

OTHER: Artist's Studio  
DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling  
RELIGION: Religious Facility

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### 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification:**

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire,  
Gothic Revival

**Materials:**

foundation: stone, concrete  
walls: stucco, brick  
roof: metal, asphalt shingles

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The House of the Good Shepherd Historic District lies at the corner of North Hoback Street and 9th Avenue in Helena, Montana. Comprised of four primary buildings built between 1888 and 1895, the buildings sit on both sides of North Hoback Street within the town's eastside residential neighborhood. Still reflective of the original land use patterning, the landscaping and buildings are representative of Helena's settlement, as residents expanded away from the commercial area further into the eastern part of the city. The larger neighborhood was built between 1880 and 1920, and the district fits with those surroundings, exhibiting characteristically rectilinear lots within a gridded street system, and orderly landscaping achieved by sidewalks, trees and boulevards, and regular setbacks from the street.

Development of the House of the Good Shepherd Historic District began with the Convent, followed by the Dormitory, the Church and finally the Chapel that is adjoined to convent. Currently, the buildings are owned by four separate parties. No land use changes have occurred in the district, and the lot to the north of the church remains vacant.

### CONVENT

The convent, built in 1888, faces the north and east and is a 1½-story brick residence with Second Empire influences. The building is rectangular in massing with projecting bays. These bays are balanced by open porches on either side which wrap the corners on the main facade.

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The first story is composed of brick, and the openings are characterized by brick-relieving arches that span the openings and are decorated with simple rosettes above the window heads. The plain sills appear to be stone but are painted. The brick work is common bonded, and the foundation is of field stone. Fenestration on the house is slightly narrowed, and the double-hung windows are arranged singly or in pairs.

The second story windows interrupt a mansard roof line that once ended abruptly above the window level, but it is now capped with a hipped roof of recent construction with adorned projecting eaves. Once a single residence, the convent was converted into five apartments by 1922.

The original north entry is protected by an open porch roof which, along with the projecting bay and rear features, echoes the mansard roof treatment. The porch features free-standing and engaged turned columns with squared posts and squared mid-sections. Historic wooden decking and steps were replaced by poured concrete. The front entry door is paneled with glazing in the upper section bordered with small paned multi-colored glass. Rectangular transoms above each door have been infilled with wood. A pair of double-hung windows illuminates the projecting bay windows. Two windows are placed on the north elevation, and the second floor is centered in the bay above the porch. A brick chapel was later constructed and adjoins this building at the northwest corner (see description below).

The east elevation is dominated by a one-story square bay that features a pair of double-hung windows on the east with a single window set in each side. The side porch at the southeast corner visually balances the main entry porch on the northeast. The porch was designed with a mansard roof and turned columns, however, a simple shed roof has now replaced the mansard; the porch decking and steps were replaced with poured concrete. Partial rock retaining walls enclose the lot on the east side. A separate entrance located under the porch includes a historic wooden door with upper glass. The rectangular transoms above each door have been infilled with wood.

On the west, the convent's rear porch has been expanded, and a flat, single-story brick addition projects asphalt shingles on the roof. The wooden porch is clad with clapboard siding and includes a paneled wooden door. Three single fixed-pane windows, and a fourth window with three vertical panes light this porch. Across the west elevation, windows are double-hung 1-over-1 at the main level. The upper levels include 2-over-2 and 6-over-1 windows. There is a floral pattern under the segmental arches on the windows.

A shed or garage was built between 1892 and 1920 at the northeast corner of the convent lot. The building is a single-story garage with a gable roof, projecting eaves, and exposed rafter tails. It is rectangular in massing and has hinged, wooden swinging doors. This simple building is clad with clapboard siding and includes one single-fixed window on the north and south sides. The one opening on the south side is covered with plywood. Although compatible in scale and design with historic buildings on the property, it is non-contributing to the district.

### **DORMITORY**

The dormitory is a wood frame building built in 1890. An early photograph depicts a plain rectangular block with a central projecting porch, capped with a hipped roof and wide eaves. Through a series of historic additions, the primary entrance once placed on the north now opens on the east, and the building has been greatly modified. Because of the large number of girls who requested to live at the House of the Good Shepherd, the demand for space grew rapidly.

The first addition was built in 1892, only two years after the school opened. This addition was two stories and was added onto the southwest corner of the building. The basement was fully expanded as well to match the upstairs expansion. In

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1894, another two-story addition was built to the north of the first expansion. A porch was added on the north side of the original building; it was removed in 1911. Again at this time, the basement was fully expanded.

In 1896, another two-story addition was added to the west of the first two expansions. The porch was enclosed, and the basement was enlarged. The last two-story and basement expansions were added in 1903. After the Good Shepherd moved to its new location in 1909, the building was used for furniture storage. The primary entrance was moved the east side, and a vehicle ramp was added to the north facade in 1911, and in 1966 stairs were added to the loading ramp.

The foundation is of stone, and the building is entirely stuccoed except for the north side where the original clapboard siding remains. The main door is accessed by a short flight of wooden stairs, and a pair of glazed wooden doors with narrow sidelights forms the entrance. The entry is framed with rough-sawn timber.

Directly above, the wooden loading doors open to access the second story, and slender double-hung doors fill the window opening. Window units are arranged 1-over-1. The building is now covered with a hipped roof with corrugated metal roofing, and a tall brick chimney stack rises along the southeast corner. The one-story addition at the northeast corner toward the street was used as a loading entrance. The addition is covered with a gable roof and holds a pair of swinging wooden garage doors. The upper north side is covered with clapboard.

The north elevation of the dormitory shows that parts of the foundation have been reinforced with cement. The doorways were converted to windows after the furniture storage company moved. All of the openings are framed with wood and trimmed with plain wood. The doorway is infilled with lap siding and the double-hung windows are arranged 1-over-1, except for one 6-over-6 unit.

The windows on the west elevation on the upper addition portion are like those on the east side, and the lower windows on the addition are fixed windows with ripply-textured glass.

The original main entrance opened on the north facade into the living room or parlor, and the dining room was behind the living room. The school and living quarters were upstairs, and the kitchen was located in the basement. Currently, the ground floor is divided in the front. Inside, the third addition retains the original hand-painted flowers with stenciled leaves on the upper walls and ceiling. In the fourth expansion, the distinct green and pink colors become diffused to blend, and the original stencils still appear on the upper walls and ceiling.

An original sink and spigots are located on the first floor, and another is located in the upper sleeping quarters. Also upstairs in the dorm, there are original boards that line the walls, and it is assumed the girls used them to hang their clothes. Some original stencils are visible on the ceiling in the upper room at the west end of the dormitory. A blackboard used to hang here, and this room was probably used as a classroom.

### CHURCH

The church is a one-story rectangular brick building with a gabled front. The church, which was built in 1891, is symmetrical in design with a central entrance on the west elevation. The building rests on a coursed stone foundation, with a belt coursing of brick at the water table level. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

A short wooden steeple rises above the west gable and emphasizes the entry to the church. The steeple is octagonal and has wooden, louvered vents. Patterned metal siding panels now clad the sides of the steeple, and the octagonal roof is

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crowned with a metal cross. The main entrance is set under a gothic arch and has been altered. The original double entry doors have been replaced, however, the amber glass banding above the door remains. The window opening in the gothic window is now infilled with plywood that bears a non-historic crucifix. The steps have been replaced with poured concrete and heavy poured cement railings. The granite cornerstone rests above the foundation on the southwest corner of the main facade. The simple granite stone shows the date of dedication as 10 March 1889, and an engraved cross that sits mid-stone separates the day and month from the year. In keeping with Catholic tradition, religious relics may have been placed inside the cornerstone when it was laid.

The gothic arch is trimmed with a projecting molding of brick, and this pattern repeats on the windows on the north and south sides. A small brick-framed round window placed directly above the door entry is now filled with plywood. Holy Parish Church is working to replace the stained glass in the small window.

On the north and south elevations, four single gothic windows are symmetrically placed along the building length. Window heads are infilled with plywood, and the units appear to be the original 2-over-2 double hung windows, glazed with milky white and yellow glass. Segmental brick arches span the basement windows. On the north side, the brick chimney rises above the roof. A large free-standing belfry used to stand near the northeast corner of the church, and it was removed before 1930.

The east elevation includes a rear doorway with a non-original solid wooden door. Drip molding hangs from the corners of the bricks that surround the door. The non-original steps are made of poured concrete and have a pipe railing. The original bulkhead entrance was constructed with stone similar to the foundation; a gable-roofed, wooden weather lock was added at a later date. This entry has a modern wooden door, with wooden siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

A shed or garage was built northwest of the church at the front of the lot between 1958 and 1965. The building is rectangular in massing, rests upon a poured concrete foundation, and has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The garage includes wooden doors with metal hinges and has no windows. This garage is a non-contributing building in the Good Shepherd Historic District.

The inside of the church has been remodelled, but it still retains the original basic design. The small entry-way to the church has a cloak room and the stairway to the choir balcony. The balcony is a small rectangular-shaped area with an organ and pews for the choir. The church is a large open room lined with windows. The walls and ceiling are painted white, and the ceiling was lowered. A sanctuary behind the altar is used to store the vestments.

The 7th Day Adventists built a sanctuary across the front of the church. They did not have an altar, or they removed it when they vacated the building. Holy Cross remodelled the sanctuary to hold an altar, but part of the sanctuary area remains enclosed. An oak altar was built by Mike Foley of Helena, and religious relics are stored underneath it. Original oil paintings hang on both sides of the altar. Non-original cabinets were placed in the sanctuary to store the vestments used for mass. A wooden, arced baldachin, purchased from the East Helena Catholic Church before it was demolished in 1989, hangs above the altar. Scalloped edges grace the bottom of the baldachin, and small, round openings are carved in the beams that surround the outside perimeter. The bottom is a golden color that slowly blends and changes into green at the top.

The simple gold chandeliers are the original fixtures of the church, and the six openings in the chandeliers are filled with white opaque glass. The chandeliers hang from a non-original ceiling, but the parishioners plan to remove the ceiling and

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restore the original. This work will enlarge the church and improve the acoustics of the choir. A non-original crying room that enclosed the southwest half of the choir balcony was removed. The open area is now filled with an organ and pews for the choir.

The window frames are also original and although they have been painted, one of the parishioners has volunteered to strip and stain them. The pews in the church are not original; they were purchased from another church and are stained a medium dark-brown. Carpeting was laid across the original floors. Originally, the organ was placed at the northeast corner of the church, but it was removed.

The basement of the church was sometimes used as a schoolroom and has been remodelled extensively. Two modern bathrooms have been added along with a complete kitchen area. A small room between the bathrooms is used for storage, and modern cupboards have been installed. A medium-sized room on the southwest corner of the building contains a sleeping area for the priest. The stone foundation can be seen in the window wells on all sides of the basement.

### CHAPEL

The chapel is a 1½-story Gothic Revival building and was adjoined on the northwest corner of the convent in 1895. The chapel is constructed of common bonded brick and sits on a coarse, rough-cut stone foundation. The building is of rectangular massing with a gabled roof and buttresses along the side and the corner ridge.

The symmetrical design features a projecting gabled entry under a gothic arch, and paired paneled wooden doors. Quatre foil windows are set above the gothic arch, and leaded stained glass fills the top of the arch. The stained glass windows that flank the door, and a round window set in the upper gable appear to have the same quatre foil motif.

On the north elevation, a series of four gothic windows are placed along the wall. The glass is edged with rectangular panes of blue and red, and the central panels are gold. Only one central panel of yellow glass remains. The brick work projects above the window heads forming a continuous shouldered molding which ties the design together.

The daylight basement is illuminated by four windows with fixed two-pane units in the wooden window frames, and they sit directly below those on the first story. Wooden lintels span these openings on the west elevation.

On the north side, a large circular window opening, once accentuated by points, is placed in the upper portion of this wall and framed with brick; the original window is missing. Four square, brick engaged posts travel halfway up the sides of the chapel. The triangular caps that once crowned the posts are missing.

The decorative brick work and buttressing repeats on the south side of the building. An original south entrance to the convent opens into the yard, placed where one window would be on the opposite side. There is a tall, brick chimney, square in shape, on the south side of the building.

### INTEGRITY

The House of the Good Shepherd Historic District retains a high level of historic integrity, both the buildings themselves, and their surroundings. The Good Shepherd Historic District retains most of its original architectural design. The vicinity of the district also remains virtually untouched from the major changes that many cities have experienced throughout the

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last 100 years. Although some alterations have been made to the buildings, most of the original design elements have been preserved and are still visible.

The Convent retains most of its original Second Empire design. The mansard roof was altered on the southeast corner when the shed roof was added to the porch, but the Second Empire style is still plainly visible. The mansard roof line is very distinct, even though it was partially replaced on the south porch. The porch and projecting bay echo the mansard roof line. All of the windows appear to be original, and the first story windows are decorated by simple rosettes arches. The sectional rock retaining wall still surrounds part of the east yard. The outside of the Convent has been maintained very well because of its use as apartments and does not show many signs of deterioration.

The Dormitory was altered considerably throughout the years it was used. Although it does not maintain its original vernacular design intent, the dorm was altered to provide basic, functional service as a shelter and school for young women. Modifications to the dorm have changed the original design, and hold historic importance as they embody the service of the dorm and the amount of funds that were readily available at the time of construction. These factors combined to shape an irregularly unique building that proudly bears a style of its own. The original inside decorations, such as the hand-painted floral designs and stencils and the molding, still remain intact. The new owner of the building has completed major renovations to both the inside and the outside of the building and has restored some of the original integrity.

The Holy Cross Church retains much of its original integrity as well. The belfry was removed probably because of earthquake damage, and the original doors and porches have been replaced. The original window frames are still in place. The original chandeliers continue to illuminate the inside of the church, and although much of the inside has changed, the parishioners are working to restore some of its original integrity. The brick was painted a cream color, but the stone foundation continues hold the church in its original rough state. The chimney on the north side of the church was lowered from its original height, but many chimneys in the Helena area were lowered because of the earthquake damage during the 1920s and 1930s.

The Chapel retains its original Gothic Revival architecture. The outside of the chapel has deteriorated because it has not been used except for storage. Most of the stained glass windows on the sides of the chapel have been broken and are filled with plywood, but almost all of the original stained glass on the east side of the chapel remains intact. Although the chapel has decayed somewhat, the outside can be fairly easily restored to its original style, and no visible alterations have been made to the outside. The insides of the convent and the chapel have not been inspected, and their conditions have not been examined.

The buildings in the House of the Good Shepherd Historic District grace the neighborhood with their presence and reflect the history and development of the area during the late 1890s and early 1900s, a period of rapid and intense growth.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Religion, Education, Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Period(s) of Significance: 1889-1909

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1889, 1891, 1895

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Unknown

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The House of the Good Shepherd Historic District is the first and the only Good Shepherd Home that remains in the state of Montana. For associations with the broad and lasting contributions by the Catholic Church to establishing education and social services during Helena's settlement and early history, the House of the Good Shepherd Historic District qualifies for the National Register under Criterion A. In addition, the District qualifies under Criterion C because it represents design sensibilities and national architectural styles of the late 1800s that gained popularity in Montana. Gothic and Second Empire architecture of the late 19th century are still plainly evident on these buildings.

#### Historical Significance

As white settlers flocked to the gold strikes in Montana, religious groups followed, preaching to miners and other early settlers as well as to Native Americans. Reform and education were highly valued by residents of fledgling communities who saw churches as both an anchor to community growth and a necessity for their children. During the territorial and early statehood period, the Catholic order played a leading role throughout Montana establishing social institutions, schools, and health facilities along with religious institutions.<sup>1</sup>

The Catholic Church was the first religious order to enter Montana, sending Jesuit missionaries to the area in 1841 at the request of western tribes. During the ensuing settlement years, the Catholic Church held the highest per capita population in the state and it still maintains a high membership in Montana. Throughout the state's settlement, the Catholic Church seized the responsibility for meeting social needs and started mission churches, schools, hospitals, asylums, social organizations, orphanages, and many other social services. By 1900 in Helena alone, the Catholics had erected five churches and established 12 different organizations to provide a multitude of services for its members.

The Catholic Church played an enormous role in the settlement of Montana and the west. Other religions also made a large impact during Montana's frontier years, but the majority of the population that immigrated to the state were Catholic. These large communities were quick to utilize and support all of the services and organizations the churches provided, in efforts to counteract the free-living, harsh and lawless conditions they perceived in mining communities across the west. Bishop Brondel, the first bishop in Montana, very capably built the sturdy foundation from which these organizations were able to take root and prosper during those settlement years, some of which still function today.

The temporary, first church in Helena was a small log cabin with a rough wooden cross nailed to the mud gable. The cabin faced Broadway, and the cross was a sign to Catholics that confessions would be heard. Father Giorda presided over the confessions for several days before traveling on.

See continuation sheets

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<sup>1</sup>Justo, Chere. "Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart, Miles, City," National Register Nomination. Unpublished 1991, on file Montana SHPO.



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In the spring of 1865, Father Kuppens started the process to secure ground for a church on what would be called "Catholic Hill." J.M. Sweeney built the church for approximately \$2,500, and a petition signed by prominent town leaders was taken to Father V. Grassi with the request that two priests be sent to Helena to establish a mission. Father Kuppens and Father D'Aste, his assistant, were assigned to the territory at that time. In October 1866 on All Saints Day, the Helena Mission was formally established, and the new church was dedicated and named the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.<sup>2</sup>

The Catholic community grew rapidly in Helena, and St. Helena's Church was built to help ease the overcrowding in the main church. It was easier for people to travel to a church at a location on the eastern side of town closer to their homes. The cornerstone for St. Helena's was laid on 10 March 1889, and the church was formally dedicated on 27 October 1891. This occasion was doubly blessed by the ringing of a new bell in the belfry. The brick structure cost approximately \$5,700, and it served roughly 500 members.<sup>3</sup>

At the time the church opened, there was no resident priest, but it was attended by Father Charles G. Follet who had arrived from Belgium. In September 1888, Follet was appointed principal to St. Aloysius Select School for boys, and he taught the higher classes at the school. Most of the residents in this area of town were of German descent, and since Follet was fluent in both English and German, he took charge of St. Helena's Church on Easter Sunday 10 March 1889. On the day of dedication, he was also "entrusted with the care of the Good Shepherd" in 1889.<sup>4</sup>

The Good Shepherd Order started in France in the mid-1600s to convert sinners (prostitutes) to a better way of life. The sisters strove for purity and virtuousness in order to help ill-fated women, and to provide shining examples of morality for them. The Order gradually spread across Europe and eventually to the United States.

As part of his plan to build Helena into a successful, progressive Catholic community in the northwest, Bishop Brondel invited a colony of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, to come to Helena to help with young, wayward girls. Five sisters and one young girl arrived in Helena on 12 February 1889, and they settled into a newly-built small convent at the corner of Hoback Street and 9th Avenue. A two-story dormitory with a full basement south of the convent was completed in 1890 and within two years, it was filled to capacity.<sup>5</sup>

The House of Good Shepherd provided a safe haven for girls and was designed to teach them a better, healthy way of life. Although it was a Catholic institution, the home was non-denominational. While the nuns preferred that the girls have some religious background, they treated their charges equally regardless of their spiritual beliefs.

While they lived at the home, the girls also worked in the laundry facilities that were established in 1904 and were housed in the basement of the dorm. It was a commercial laundry, and it was described as the most up-to-date facility in the state at that time. Although the girls had to work, they also attended school in the dormitory, and time was made available for recreation and exercise.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Palladino, L.B. "Indian and White in the Northwest. John Murphy & Company. Baltimore, Maryland. 1894. pp 282-283.

<sup>3</sup>Palladino. pp 377-378.

<sup>4</sup>Palladino. pp 377.

<sup>5</sup>Palladino. pp 377-378.

<sup>6</sup>Helena Weekly Herald. 20 December 1908.

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In 1892, a controversy about the home erupted in the vicinity of the Good Shepherd and in Helena. Linnie Connor, a girl in the neighborhood was often mistreated by her father. One evening, her father forced the sisters to allow Linnie to enter the home although it was full. Mr. Connor, on previous occasions, had tried to put Linnie in the home because he claimed she was incorrigible. After she entered the Good Shepherd, the townspeople were furious. They wrote protests to the paper claiming the home held girls against their wills. Some of the people even burned an effigy of Linnie's father because of his mistreatment of her. Bishop Brondel's response at the time to the local newspaper explained the purpose and intent of the home--to teach young women a better way of life and that no girl was held against her will. Eventually, the furor died down.<sup>7</sup>

Because of the high demand for its services, the dormitory underwent several additions to the original structure. In 1892, a small two-story addition was added on to the west of the building, and the basement was expanded. In the succeeding years of 1894, 1896, and 1903, three, two-story additions were added, and the basement was expanded each time. The 1894 addition to the dorm also included a porch on the northwest side of the structure. The porch was removed in 1911 and was replaced with a vehicle ramp to the basement when the Home was converted into a storage facility for furniture.

The dormitory served as living quarters, a school, and a commercial laundry for the girls from 1890 to 1909 when the institution was moved to larger facilities elsewhere in Helena. The order was referred to as "one of the strongest of its kind in the United States."<sup>8</sup> This small complex is the only surviving site of the House of the Good Shepherd in the state of Montana.<sup>9</sup> In 1909, the House of the Good Shepherd moved to its new and larger location east of town. There were enough rooms to house 200 girls. The new facility operated until 1967 when it closed because of decreasing enrollment and requests by other dioceses in the midwest for the services of the sisters.<sup>10</sup>

For a brief time in the 1940s, the east portion of the dormitory was used as a polling place until a woman fell down the stairs. The voting hall was then moved to the church across the street. Otherwise the Home remained a furniture storage facility until 1990, when the dormitory was converted to an artist's studio. The artist has worked for over two years to restore some aspects of the building's original character and design, and has saved numerous hand-painted floral designs and stencils on the upper walls and ceilings in the process.

There is no known history on the convent and chapel from the time the sisters moved in 1909 until 1922, when the convent was converted into five apartments. The chapel was and still is used for storage and otherwise remains empty. St. Helena's Church was sold to the Seventh Day Adventists, and it remained so until it was purchased by the Holy Cross Catholic Church.

Providing important social services to the communities they served, the Sisters of the House of the Good Shepherd accepted the duties of educating, housing, and ministering to show young women a better more healthy way to live. Through the years from 1889 to 1967, the Sisters helped approximately 2,700 girls in Helena alone.

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<sup>7</sup>Helena Weekly Herald. 14 April and 7 October 1892.

<sup>8</sup>The Helena Daily Independent. 20 December 1908.

<sup>9</sup>Dawson, Herbert. "House of the Good Shepherd Historic District Historic Preservation Certification Application. Unpublished, Montana SHPO. 1991.

<sup>10</sup>Flaherty, Cornelia M. "Go With Haste Into the Mountains." Falcon Press Publishing Company. Helena, Montana. 1984. pp. 171.

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### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Reflecting design sensibilities of late 19th century architecture, the House of the Good Shepherd Historic District represents popular Victorian era styles that gained significance in much of the United States. Distinctive examples of Second Empire and Gothic architecture, the buildings of the Good Shepherd Historic District reflect a willingness by the people of Helena to support more richly-designed buildings, and their desire to create beautiful spaces for their church organizations and social services.

The French Second Empire style of the convent was at its height throughout the United States when the residents of Helena embraced the design. There are many good examples of this style in Helena, and the convent is one of them. Embodying key elements of the French Second Empire style, the convent features projecting and receding surfaces which are evident on the receding porches and the projecting bay window, and a characteristic mansard roof which is pierced with dormer windows to allow more light into the attic space. Window treatment, brick-relieving arches with simple rosettes above the window heads, and turned columns on the open porches are also common to the Second Empire design.

By choosing the Gothic design of the church and the chapel, people of Helena followed the fashion of the times, and used a style found on churches and public buildings throughout the world. Both buildings feature the characteristic pointed arched windows with leaded stained glass that are prominent characteristics of Gothic style; the chapel further features wood foliated ornamentation gracing the stained glass windows on the east facade. Pointed arches incorporated into the door frames of both buildings, steeply pitched roofs and uninterrupted walls on the gable ends, are also attributes of Gothic architecture. The chapel and the church both provide good examples of the Gothic style so popular in ecclesiastical architecture.

The original construction of the dormitory changed rapidly during its years as a home for wayward girls. These modifications are important because they signify the demand for the services provided for the girls and for the Helena area by the order. The additions integrate the functions of dormitory and education, while reflecting the amount of money that was available for construction. The dormitory became a uniquely styled and shaped building which features characteristics that make it unusual, including hand-painted floral designs and stencils on the inside which add to the distinctive flair of this building.

Spatial relationships evidenced by the landscaping and placement of the buildings reflect the daily operations of the dormitory run by the nuns. The convent, chapel and dormitory are tightly contained in a small area with a private inner yard that presents a cloistered effect. This closeness established cohesion inside the Good Shepherd's boundaries. There was an abundance of private space for the nuns; their exclusive chapel adds to the sequestered air of the convent. This secluded atmosphere maintains the church's long tradition of separating the private lives of people of the cloth from the public. By contrast, the church is situated in an open area close to the road, and was easily accessible and inviting to the public. The unobstructed expanse of the church illustrates the church's desire to ensure its doors were open to all who wished to enter.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

See continuation sheet

**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 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	421420	5159650
B	12	421470	5159650
C	12	421420	5159600
D	12	421530	5159570

Legal Location (Township, Range &amp; Section(s)): T10N R3W Sections 30 &amp; 31

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic property boundaries for the House of the Good Shepherd Historic District encompass Lots 19 and 20, Block 603, Hoback and Common Addition where the convent, chapel and dormitory are located and travel south and east across North Hoback Street to encompass the south 45 feet of Lots 1 and 2, Block 6 in the Bassett Addition where the church is located in Helena, Montana. The boundaries are further defined on the enclosed USGS quadrangle map, as the ell formed by the four UTM reference points.

**Boundary Justification**

The historic property boundaries encompass those lots and portions of blocks associated with the House of the Good Shepherd Historic District throughout its history.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Carol J. Zottnick  
 organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office date: June 1993  
 street & number: 1410 E. 8th Avenue telephone: 444-7715  
 city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section numbers 9 & 11

House of the Good Shepherd Historic District

Page 1

Section number 9

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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- Sanborn Map Company, Maps of Helena; 1892, 1930, 1958, 1965.
- Helena Weekly Herald. Helena, Montana. 14 April 1892, 7 October 1892, 25 May 1907, and 20 December 1908.

#### Secondary Sources

- Gannon, John Benjamin. "The Growth and Development of Catholic Education in Montana 1783-1930." Master's Thesis. The University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame, Indiana. 1931.
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- Norton, Sister Mary Aquinas, M.A. "Catholic Missionary Activities in the Northwest 1818-1864." The Catholic University of America. Washington, D.C. 1930.
- Sanders, Helen F. "A History of Montana. Volume 1." The Lewis Publishing Company. Chicago and New York. 1913.

Section number 11

### PROPERTY OWNERS

- name/title: U.S. Windpower Development Corp.  
street & number: 500 Sansome Street, Suite 600  
city or town: San Francisco  
telephone: (415) 398-3825  
state: CA zip code: 94111
- name/title: Tim Holmes  
street & number: 1515 Winne  
city or town: Helena  
telephone: (406) 443-1690  
state: MT zip code: 59601
- name/title: Holy Cross Church  
street & number: 415 N. Hoback  
city or town: Helena, MT 59601  
telephone: (406) 458-5243  
state: MT zip code: 59601
- name/title: Terry & Tamara Zimmerman  
street & number: 4595 Liberty Dr.  
city or town: Helena, MT 59601  
telephone: (406) 442-9543  
state: MT zip code: 59601

# House of The Good Shepherd Historic District

Helena, Montana · Lewis and Clark County

