

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Silverman, Morris House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 412 North Rodney Street N/A not for publication

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of congressional district Western

state Montana code 030 county Lewis and Clark code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Kenneth G. Lindell

street & number 412 North Rodney Street

city, town Helena vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

street & number City-County Building

city, town Helena state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Helena Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana Historic Preservation Office

city, town Helena state Montana 59620

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A three-storied dwelling of brick and frame construction, the Morris Silverman house is approximately thirty feet wide and forty feet long, and faces east on a 50' x 100' city lot. A three-storied turret occupies the southeast corner of the house. The first two stories are made of brick, while the third floor, with a steeply pitched gabled roof, has wooden dormers on the north, east and south sides. On the first floor, a wooden porch with a latticed base and a roof supported by pairs of thick round pillars and fan-shaped brackets, extends across the front, or east, side, around the turret and half-way to the back of the house on the south side. Above the front steps is a fan-shaped pediment. Bargeboards on the dormers feature a scroll-like design. On the east side, a second floor porch over the front entry is topped by a third floor porch of similar design. Thick round pillars support the roofs and a stick and ball bracket is placed between the pillars. A similar bracket appears in the archway of the front entry hall. The windows have a thick granite lintels and sills.

Seven of eight panels of leaded stained glass are placed on the east side of the house. The largest panel rests above the double-doored front entry. Two unusually shaped panels grace the second floor turret room: an ellipse with a floral design on the east side, and a diamond with a lyre and flute design on the south side.

Five interior doors open onto the first floor entry hall and an open stairwell rises to the third floor. Oak is used in the stairs and bannisters, and in all of the woodwork in the entry and the two front room parlors. The woodwork in the center rooms on each side of the entry hall remains an excellent example of the Victorian art of woodgraining. Access to the back of the house may be gained by going through a small door under the stairs that leads to the back stairs, bathroom and kitchen. In each of the two front parlors is a tall, mirrored fireplace mantel, featuring hand carving and decorative tile. Pairs of sliding doors separate each parlor from its adjoining room, and third pair of sliding doors open from the parlor on the right onto the entry hall. All of the doorknobs and hinges on the first floor are plain brass, but on the second and third floors they are embossed and decorative; each floor has its own design. The original lighting fixtures were removed in 1969, but a few gas lamp brackets remain. The turret room parlor and adjoining dining room have oak flooring; the remainder of the floors are pine, or possibly fir.

A wood-framed, tin-roofed portion of a carriage house stands on the southwest corner of the lot. A concrete block garage was built on the back of the lot in the 1950's. The carriage house predates this house, as do the houses on the adjoining lots, a three-storied brick house across the street, and a brick church on the corner of the next block to the north.

An architect, in 1890, produced an energy efficient design for this house. The north side has only five windows, while the east and south sides have a total of twenty-seven, not counting the stained glass panes. The porches shade the windows in summer and let the winter sunshine in. The turret and first floor bays also allow more sunlight to enter.

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MAY 28 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Two basement windows on the north side can be opened in the summer to allow cool air to enter, while transoms above most of the doors can control the air movement. A central heating system fired by a coal furnace features fancy cast metal warm air vents and cold air returns in each room. The furnace was removed several years ago, but the ductwork remains.

Today, the Morris Silverman house retains all of its turn-of-the-century charm, although certain architectural features have been lost. Three tall paneled chimneys, featuring highly detailed brickwork, fell or were damaged during a series of earthquakes in Helena in 1935. Decorative metal cresting on the roof line, finials, and a turret ornament were removed. The original shingle roofing remains, possibly in a restorable condition, underneath the present asphalt roofing. Refer to the accompanying photograph of the house, taken in about 1892, that was found in the files of the Montana Historical Society.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890-92 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morris Silverman house is significant due to its distinctive architectural features and because the original owner was an important early settler in the Helena area. Although slightly altered in appearance, the house remains an excellent example of late Victorian eclectic architecture. With its corner turret, gingerbread trim, and leaded stained glass windows, the house typifies the excellence in craftsmanship common to many "grand" houses of the period. The use of locally made brick and native granite lend substance to the dwelling, while the wooden porches and decorative gingerbread give it a unique appearance. The pleasant aspect of the house, with solid, straight-forward brick lines softened by graceful gingerbread porches and beautiful stained glass windows, reveals much about the underlying spirit of creative whimsy in the otherwise straight-laced Victorian era. The interior of the house has not been altered and, except for the lowering of the ceilings in the first floor rooms and of the kitchen and bathrooms, is in its original condition. The architectural integrity of the house has been well-preserved.

A Jewish immigrant born in Russia-Poland in 1842, Morris Silverman arrived in the recently established city of Helena in 1867, after crossing the plains in a wagon train drawn by teams of oxen. At first part owner with his brothers in a dairy farm and ranch, Silverman later owned and operated a mercantile business on Helena's Main Street in an area that contained many other Jewish-owned businesses. The Silverman Block was razed during the urban renewal program of the late 1960's. A well-known businessman and city council member, Silverman presided over a committee formed to establish a Jewish congregation and to build a synagogue, in 1888. The synagogue still stands in the next block to the north of this residence. Silverman lived in the house with his family from the time of its completion in about 1892 until his death in 1931. His youngest daughter Dorothy taught in the Helena Public School system for thirty-seven years, and was well-known to two generations of schoolchildren. Dorothy lived in the house continuously until her death in 1969 at the age of 88.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Helena City Directories, 1883-84: 1889-90; 1931
Census tapes, Helena, MT 1870; 1880
Helena Independent Record, Nov. 11, 1931 and July 9, 1969
Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Geroge Swanson, June 1979, Helena, MT (cont.)

10. Geographical Data

UTM & AREA NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre (50'x100' Lot)
Quadrangle name Helena Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Allen Addition, Block 435 Lot 6
Township 10N, Range 4W, Section 30, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Loretta Lindell, owner

organization _____ date _____

street & number 412 North Rodney telephone (406) 443-0681

city or town Helena state Montana 59601

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

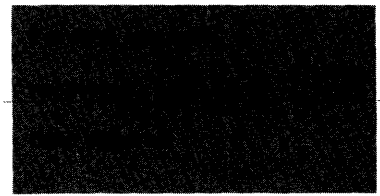
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcelle Sherry

title Deputy SHPO date 3-10-82



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 10

Page 1

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Helena 1884; 1886; 1890
Dean, Patricia Lynn, "The Jewish Community of Helena, Montana, 1866-1900",
thesis, Carroll College, Helena, MT 1977