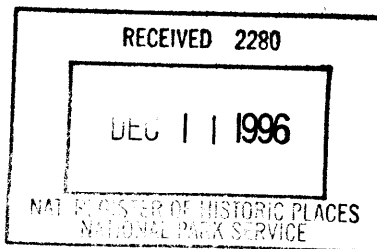


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mount Helena Historic District

other name/site number: Mount Helena City Park

2. Location

street & number: a high promontory bounded roughly by LeGrande Canon Boulevard on the north, Last Chance and Grizzly Gulches on the south and east, and Helena National Forest boundaries on the west


not for publication: n/a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 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 _____
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.4.96 _____
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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet		Date of Action 1-9-97
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: public local/private

Category of Property: District

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

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

		Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
		_____	_____ building(s)
		_____ 13	_____ sites
		_____ 3	_____ 13 structures
		_____ 1	_____ objects
		_____ 17	_____ 13 TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Recreation & Culture: Outdoor Recreation
Landscape: City Park
Industry/Processing/Extraction

Current Functions:

Recreation & Culture: Outdoor Recreation
Landscape: City Park
Industry/Processing

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

n/a

Materials:

foundation: n/a
walls: n/a
roof: n/a
other: n/a

Narrative Description

The Mount Helena Historic District is a cultural landscape and dedicated city park, shaped by nature and planned, modified, used and enjoyed by the residents of Helena since 1864. It consists of rolling grassy prairie, thicketed gullies, gulches and hills that rise sharply through coniferous forest areas, past exposed benches, to a prominent rock peak. Rock outcroppings are visible throughout the landscape. High on the north face, the "Devil's Kitchen" cave offers limited shelter in a wall of rugged, highly visible limestone cliffs. The mountains "mural" escarpment and pre-eminent position in the mountain range give it a unique identity. The over 680 acre park is contiguous to and enclosed by the city limits of Helena, offering seven recreational trails to carry hikers into a rugged, forest environment within minutes of the city center. Evidence of Helena's mining, settlement and industrial past occur in the landscape. Mount Helena's 5468 foot summit towers over its namesake, which originally nestled within the narrow Last Chance gulch directly to the southeast, over 1000 feet below. The north and east slopes of the mountain face the city and the twelve mile wide Prickly Pear Valley, which stretches out below the park, twenty miles in length, from the northwest to the southeast. Helena has spread significantly since its humble beginnings as a mining camp, with development crawling up the surrounding mountain slopes and spilling into the valley. Mount Helena, a passive participant in and benign witness to 131 years of Helena's history, presents an opportunity for a wide, clear view of the city's physical history from far above; inserts itself into and dominates much of the built environment below; provides respite and open space; and serves as a dramatic backdrop for the city of Helena.

Mount Helena stands out "grandly and clean-cut", though physically linked on the southwest side to a range of mountains that are a part of the Helena National Forest. The range is an eastward extension of the Rocky Mountains, which form the north-south Continental Divide. The Rockies were created by uplifted fault-blocks that are made of combinations of

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Precambrian, Paleozoic or Mesozoic rocks, all formed between 600 million years and 60 million years ago. Masses of hot rock began to rise around 100 million years ago, lifting, stretching, heating and breaking the earth's 25 mile thick crust. Masses of granite magma then rose and intruded the older surface rocks over a period of several million years, between 75 and 70 million years ago, forming the Boulder batholith. The massive dome of intrusive igneous rock helped to shape and characterize thousands of square miles in the mountainous region, a portion of which extends from west of Butte, over sixty miles away, to just east of Helena. The recipe for Mount Helena came together when the molten mass apparently cooked an interesting mix of Precambrian and Paleozoic sedimentary rocks and helped push them into prominence, at the northeasternmost point in the mountain range. Subsequent erosion left a cover over the landscape that could not cling to the steep limestone cliffs, rock outcrops and exposed top of Mount Helena, leaving a highly recognizable and venerable landmark for Montana's capital city.

The soils on Mt. Helena, formed from this rock, are deep and consist of slightly stony topsoils and very stony subsoils. Silty, limy soils, with a fairly high potential for erosion, cover the base of the mountain, with Windham-Channery loams most prevalent on the 8 to 45 percent shoulders and gentle to steep lower slopes of the north and east sides of the park. Windham-Whitecow-Lap channery loams are found on the southern 15 to 45 percent slopes. Characteristic vegetation supported by both of these soil families consist mainly of Bluebunch wheatgrass, Rough fescue and Idaho fescue with 10 percent or less of other perennial forbs, grasses and shrubs. The seemingly small percentage includes over 220 vascular plant species. The wildflowers, grasses and shrubs that make up the park's flora provide colorful, seasonal changes in the highly visible foothill area. Ponderosa Pine savanna areas also occur on these slopes, with a current canopy cover of approximately 15 percent. The "Prairie Trail" has become considerably less prairie-like over the past twenty-five years, with new growth moving into the area that is predominately Ponderosa Pine.

Soil types of the woodland, mountainside areas of the park consist of Whitecow channery loam (cool) on the 25 to 60 percent, moderate to steep slopes of the north side and Whitecow-Warneke channery loams on the 15 to 45 percent slopes south of the summit. Greater than 50 percent canopy cover is created by the predominant Douglas Fir tree species, with Ponderosa Pine and Common Mountain Juniper occurring in lesser numbers. Visibility is reduced in these forested areas and fewer seasonal changes occur.

The thinner soils of the mountain top produce shrubby, sparse vegetation amid rock outcroppings, cliffs and summit areas, with some unique tree forms, stunted by the relatively harsh conditions.

No water flows on or from Mount Helena, except for occasional run-off from rainfall or snow-melt, from the average 11.7 inches of precipitation that falls annually. The rugged topography and relatively fragile soils discourage agricultural use or timber production. Livestock grazing has occurred in the foothills, but throughout recorded history, residents have periodically railed against this practice on "their" mountain. The Boulder batholith, known for leaving rich deposits of gold, silver, copper and other metals, apparently did not favor Mount Helena with great mineral wealth. Evidence in the park tells of the hopeful, but brief search for the Mother lode. By the late 1870s, much of the timber on the mountain had been cut and put to work to build support structures for the rapidly growing mining industry and the building needs of the community. After a series of fires ravaged Helena's wooden buildings, attention then turned to the abundance of limestone available on Mount Helena. This, too, seems to have been a brief endeavor; just long enough to have played a role in Helena's stone building history and to leave evidence of the activity. Mount Helena's powerful presence and unique natural features ultimately proved its greatest wealth. In 1890, the Helena Improvement Society set out on a unique course to plan improvements, develop and acquire the mountain (in that order) for the recreation and enjoyment of the citizens of Helena.

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The park's cultural landscape contains many prospect pits or shafts; seven of these are indicated on the site map, as representative of the work of early prospectors. Only two appear to be located on a mineral claim. Deep shafts have been filled in, for the protection of recreational users, but the recognizable disturbances continue to tell the story of the search for precious metals. The "Prospect Shafts" trail takes hikers past the most prominent of the pits, which are included as contributing resources.

One significant limestone quarry, on the park's north side, and the ruins of a lime production site, in an east facing gulch, document the mountain's use as a source for stone building materials, as Helena grew from mining camp to a permanent city. Two prospect pits and the lime kiln site were evaluated by the Bureau of Land Management under Executive Order No. 11593 and Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, with the conclusion that they were ineligible for National Register listing. The sites, for which no written information was found, add significantly to understanding patterns of land use on Mount Helena and are important features in the landscape, contributing to the significance of the cultural landscape district. The most intact of the two kilns rises up against the south bank of the gulch about 20 feet; the top, accessible from the uphill side is approximately ten feet in diameter (interior dimension) and the mortared, stone walls are a minimum of 2 1/2 feet thick.

A 36' limestone structure spans the narrow gulch about 100 yards below the lime production site and a limestone retaining wall, which currently provides a transportation corridor across the gulch for the "Prospect Shafts" trail directly below the kilns, may be related to the historic use of the site. The structures (not previously evaluated) are also included as contributing elements in the district. A more in-depth investigation of these sites, and the (seemingly) associated lime kiln ruins could yield more information important to understanding the relationship and functions of the sites.

Two closely related limestone foundation ruins, near the northern boundary of the district, present the only visible evidence of human habitation on the park. One is approximately 25x35 feet, and directly behind it, the other is approximately 15x15 feet. No written information was found to link the foundations to either the patent holder or the subsequent owner of this site.

Very difficult to detect in the landscape are traces of long abandoned wagon trails. They were identified in four locations and are indicated on site maps. Because of minimal physical and written evidence they are not included in the resource count.

All of the historic exploration/ mining/settlement related sites display the effects of time, the environment and later uses, but are all that remain in the park to document its involvement in Helena's early history, adding significantly to their importance.

Two reservoirs, tucked in between Daisy Hill and Mt. Helena on the park's eastern side, have provided water for residents, one since 1887, the other since 1931. Only the 1931 Woolston #2 reservoir retains original integrity, and remains in service. It is a 160 foot diameter round, concrete structure covered by a wide, low, wood frame, mineral surface cone roof with a square, gable roofed monitor at the center of the cone. It holds 3.09 million gallons of water for distribution to residents. Built between 1886 and 1888, Woolston reservoir #1, with a 2.14 million gallon capacity, was originally an open, limestone lined structure. It has been covered with a low gable, corrugated metal roof and the sides enclosed with the same material. It is currently empty. While historically significant, the structure has lost too much of its original integrity to be considered a contributing element in the historic district. It is very likely that the reservoirs were sited in a former limestone quarry and that the limestone for the original reservoir was obtained from the site. No written documentation was found to support the physical evidence. The reservoir site is encompassed by a six foot chain link fence with a barbed wire top.

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Of the seven developed hiking trails, only one was built during the historic period of significance, documenting not only the growth of Helena, but the increasing recreational use of the park. The original "1906 Trail", actually built in 1903, retains its original integrity and was designated a National Recreational Trail by the U. S. Department of the Interior, in 1976. The two and one-half mile park trail includes West End Trail, which likely developed spontaneously as a connection into the Helena National Forest. The four and one-half mile trail segment which begins outside the southwest corner of the park and continues into the Helena National Forest was included in the designation. The remaining trails were developed in 1974, with the addition of erosion bars to assist in protecting the exposed soil from water damage. While they are not contributing elements in the historic district; they allow more people access to the mountain; discourage the creation of spontaneous and easily erodible trails; and present a variety of options for hikers in the steepness of the climb, and the proximity to cultural and natural resources for viewing. The 1974 Prospect Shafts trail begins at the Adams Street trail head and the Prairie trail branches off of the original trail, a short distance from the trail head. They quickly disappear into the timber and vast landscape of the district and do not detract significantly from the integrity of the district. Other developed trails are branches connecting the three main trails. The North access joins either the Prairie or original trail from the north side. This park is heavily used by the public and, given the soil conditions, trails develop rapidly in spite of efforts to encourage use of developed trails.

The "H", a white painted rock structure on a prominent east facing slope, has proclaimed the pride of Helena High School graduates since 1924. The rocks, laid flat on the ground, form an "H", which is ninety feet high. Sides and cross-member of the letter are in the form of narrow, open ovals, each fifteen feet wide. The cross piece spans 44 feet between the sides. Twenty-six feet south of the "H", single lines of white painted rocks indicate the current year. The numbers are eighteen feet tall and approximately ten feet wide; they are spaced three feet apart. The structure is accessed by an unofficial trail (or trails) 100 feet off of the "1906 Trail," at approximately mid-point in the slope. The tradition of lighting the "H" with flares on graduation night, as a farewell to Seniors, has been curtailed because of fire danger. The "H" is viewed by some in the community as a magnet for the antics of high-spirited students, however its historical roots are deep on the mountains face, and threats of its removal draws protest from the school's alumni. The annual painting of the "H" and changing the date to honor the current graduating class are well established cultural traditions for the school and the community. Built during the period of historical significance, it is included as a contributing object in the landscape.

Midway up the east face, directly above the "H" is a ten-acre area, burned in October of 1973. Winds carried the blaze over the large saddle below the summit of the mountain, before it could be contained. There is also evidence of an old burn, perhaps one of the turn-of-the-century fires, on the east side of the district, visible from the trails.

The fire-blackened, back wall of the "Devil's Kitchen" cave, speaks to years of campfire use, and layers of graffiti document the cave's contemporary use as a message center.

Vehicles are not allowed in the park, except at the Adams Street access, where a parking lot was built in 1976 to accommodate those who drive to the mountain to take advantage of the park. A three-sided, rectangular kiosk, nine feet wide and six feet deep, sheltered by a cross-gable, shingle roof was built at this access at the same time. It provides a map of the park and describes the trails, and outlines rules for trail use. A bench and portable restroom at this site are not included in the resource count, because of the temporary nature and small scale. The parking lot and sign are non-contributing resources in the historic district, but are functionally important and do not detract significantly from the integrity of the park. Prior to the development of the parking lot, which is the trail-head for all west bound trails, park users had difficulty finding a place for cars and an identifiable access to the park, which led to the development of many unplanned trails.

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Fences around the park are sporadic post and wire constructions typical of those that encompass thousands of miles of Montana's landscape, to the extent that they are generally a taken for granted, integral part of the land. Rarely visible from trails, they neither add to nor detract from the landscape. They are indicated on the site map. Wooden cross signs that mark trails are equally inobtrusive in the landscape and because of their small scale are not included in the resource count.

The park's height, identifiable face and strategic position likely marked it as a place of meeting and communication long before white occupancy of the area, though it is just as likely that evidence of that use by native people has been erased by the subsequent uses of the park. Only one reference was found that documents the cave as a meeting/communication place by white prospectors, prior to the discovery of gold and the rush to Last Chance Gulch. The position and height of the mountain also make it important to the communication technology of today. On a bench at the 4390 foot level of the northeast side of the park, are two communications facilities; one devoted to providing a "clean microwave" television transmission, the other serves to signal city police, county sheriff and fire departments of emergencies in the city and county. The site contains two antennae, and two small support buildings. The television support building is an 8'x10' foot, green painted, concrete block structure with a flat concrete roof. The city/county facility, built in 1985, is sided with two-tone green corrugated metal and is covered by a flat corrugated metal roof. The two structures are non-contributing elements in the historic district, as are the two antennae. Though visible from few places within the 680 acre site, a more appropriate material (preferred) or color on the small support buildings would make them less evident in the landscape and more compatible with the historic district. The electrical power service to the site runs up the east face of the mountain and is also a non-contributing element. Burial of the line would be an appropriate solution, and while the bedrock of the mountain would likely make that difficult, it is not impossible. The "clearing" for the power line, created a spontaneous, very steep trail up the mountain, greatly subject to erosion. Though marked "No Trail" it appears to receive heavy traffic, and forced the addition of erosion bars giving the appearance of a developed trail.

Subdivisions were created around Mount Helena to an elevation of approximately 500 feet above the base before 1890. Today, some of these subdivisions are being developed as the city "fills in," which is seen by some Helena residents as a threat to the mountain park. Developers have donated land adjacent to the park to the city as required by the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, and plans are being made to acquire additional land to expand the boundaries of the Mount Helena Park.

The boundary of the historic district is drawn to include only those portions of the park that were actively manipulated and used during the historic period and are related to the development of the park. The City of Helena received deed to Mineral Survey 1744, a privately held 20 acre piece within Section 36, in 1976, and received the patent to 150.21 acres of national resource land in Section 36, in 1978, under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926. The land shares the same history of use and cultural associations; contains significant cultural resources - the lime production site, prospect shafts and the Fred Kuphal Grove - associated with the history of the park; and is a significant physical component, reflecting historic landscape characteristics. The park land in Section 36, with the exception of the mining claims, remained public land, held by the Bureau of Land Management until transferred to the City of Helena.

The historic district boundary excludes those portions of the landscape that are currently subject to or undergoing development, and were subdivided prior to the establishment of the park. Land recently added to Mount Helena Park by developers of adjacent land is also excluded although it shares the same history of communal use and physical characteristics, because it does not share the same history of land acquisition and development associated with the historic district. The establishment of a "buffer zone" would be appropriate for the area around the park to include both new development and park sections. If improvements to the park, such as signs, gates, restrooms or other recreational needs, could be added within this zone, it would help protect the integrity of the Mount Helena Historic District.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A	Areas of Significance: Recreation, Conservation, Community Planning & Development, Industry
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1864 - 1946
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1887, 1899, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1931
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

Mount Helena City Park has continuously served community recreation and cultural needs for over 100 years. As a recreational landscape, significantly associated with local conservation efforts, the Mount Helena Historic District is eminently eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Reforested mountain slopes and the original trail, built in 1903, offer tangible evidence in the 680 acre district of the work of the Helena Improvement Society and the City of Helena in the creation of the park. The well-designed and executed trail continues to carry hikers the two and one-half miles past a prominent natural feature, the "Devil's Kitchen" cave and on to Mount Helena's rocky summit.

The planning and development of this unique park have preserved significant natural features in the landscape, along with remnants of Helena's early history. Indeed, the district gains significance for associations with the late 19th century development of Helena, Montana. The forested, mountainous landscape contributed lumber for Helena's earliest building needs; limestone and mortar for the city's second generation of building; a site and materials to construct water reservoirs that have continued to provide that important resource for residents, since 1888. Evidence of those settlement and industrial activities remain in the landscape, along with traces of early mineral exploration.

The Mount Helena Historic District also encompasses resources which may prove in the future to hold significant archaeological values, furthering the district's eligibility for the National Register under Criterion D. An archeological investigation of the lime production and habitation sites would likely yield information important to understanding the ways in which the land was used, and the period of occupation. No written information was found regarding these sites, the quarries or the prospect pits.

Exploration/Settlement/Industry/Recreation 1864-1900

The history of Mount Helena Park is intrinsically linked to federal land programs from the era when exploitation of the West was a national state of mind. The subsequent violations of those programs, and the reclamation and protective measures that followed are an integral part of the cultural landscape of the mountain. Throughout the 19th century, federal laws encouraged the "cut and get out" philosophy of timber management. Stockmen assumed the prairies as their domain; lumbermen likewise assumed the forests; and the iron, coal, copper and petroleum giants, the mineral fields. The biggest business in the West, however, was the giving away of federal land. By 1880, more than 3,000 federal statutes were in place, designed to transfer public land to private ownership. With the stroke of a pen on a recorded legal description, one half of the nation's land was transferred into private ownership during the 19th century. In many cases, the settlers met the letter of the law, but not necessarily the spirit. Land laws were subverted and short-cut, leading to fraud, land speculation and even land thievery. Settlers and prospectors swept through Montana Territory following the news of gold strikes, staking their claims on federal lands. Town builders and other mining support businesses and industries followed, to provide the necessary goods and services for the mining camps. Lumbermen and millwrights were generally among the first to put their skills to work. Some "settled" on a claim, others removed the resources without benefit of ownership, and legislation of the time even offered the opportunity to trade cut-over land for new forest land. Homeseekers often sought homes just long enough to patent the land, then used it for speculative purposes.

When gold was discovered in the narrow Last Chance Gulch, which cuts around the southeast base of Mount Helena, in July of 1864, the discovery was in a portion of the vast western landscape designated "Public Domain" and subject to legislative control and disposition by Congress. Within a year, the strike was legend and people flocked to Helena to make their fortunes mining or to make their fortunes off of the miners. Claims were quickly staked and throughout the 1860s the placer mines in Last Chance Gulch and the surrounding areas met with great success. The influx was

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additionally fueled by legislation that offered free land to those who would explore and develop the mineral wealth of the country, or clear the land and "settle" the West.

The area around Helena was explored, developed and settled with gusto and by the 1870s there were hundreds of businesses housed, for the most part, in rough lumber and log buildings, crowded into and spilling out of Last Chance Gulch. Timber, removed from the nearby mountains, including Mount Helena, was used not only to build the growing city, but to provide timbers, sluice boxes and other necessities to support the mining industry. Late 1870s photographs show a "denuded" Mount Helena looming over the city, with trees remaining only in areas too rugged to facilitate cutting. Helena's business district suffered several devastating fires during its first decade, and brick and stone buildings quickly replaced those burned, again calling on the resources of the nearby mountains for building stone and lime for mortar. The lime production site on Mount Helena is located partially on a Mineral Survey not patented until 1905. It is highly likely that the site was used prior to 1905, given the production history of similar facilities in the area which saw the greatest demand for lime during the 1870s and 1880s.

By 1875 most of the placer mines were exhausted and it appeared that the road to riches on the mining frontier was not in manual labor, but investment in land or other business ventures. Many of Helena's legendary millionaires got their start in the placer mining era, and quickly invested in large mining conglomerates, real estate, and other developing enterprises in the growing city. Helena remained the hub of a major mineral producing area, had become a significant platform for the exchange of goods coming in and minerals leaving the territory, and had neatly captured the seat of territorial government.

Although a portion of Mount Helena was originally patented under Homestead laws, an apparent lack of settlement related developments likely encouraged the community to assume the mountain remained in public domain. Communal and celebratory use of Mount Helena is well documented throughout Helena's history. When there was something to celebrate or oversee, Mount Helena rose to the occasion. The *Helena Daily Herald* reported on a "genuine frolic" which took place in 1875, when fifteen to twenty ladies and gentlemen made their way to the summit for a picnic, some on foot and others on horseback, which prompted them to say "that any young lady who can ascend and descend Mount Helena without a murmur is capable of accomplishing almost any feat of pedestrianism." A lunch "capable of satiating the keen appetites that were engendered by ascending this precipitous mount" was served along with two kegs of Nick Kessler's XXX lager beer and a dozen bottles of Heidsick's. When "night had drawn her sable curtain down-there were bonfires and illuminations, and a brilliant display of pyrotechnics, which were generally observed in Helena and greatly admired." A bicycle club, organized in 1883, also pitted its skills against the steep terrain for practice, but citizens were mainly drawn to the mountain just because it was there, and it offered spectacular views of the whole valley.

In the September 1, 1882 *Helena Daily Herald*, readers were encouraged to "indulge themselves in an hour's walk to the top of Mount Helena" where they could "witness a revelation of greater beauty than can be found in all the art galleries on both continents," and see the first signs of the railroad, bringing with it the promise of "deliverance, power, wealth and prosperity."

By the following year, great crowds of people were making their way up the mountain to see the Northern Pacific, smoking westward across the valley, ever closer to Helena. The railroad did bring improved connections between Helena and the outside world and within a few years of its arrival, the town's economy flourished and the population quadrupled. The "Queen City of the Rockies" had emerged from the little gulch and turned to lofty pursuits, befitting a community with mansions sprouting on its hillsides.

The first recorded efforts towards re-forestation of Mount Helena occurred on Arbor Day, 1899, as Helena school children made their way to a ravine facing the city, each armed with a basket holding an evergreen seedling and an orange. The ceremonial planting was accompanied by the sounds of music from Fred Kuphal's classical violin. Frederick William Kuphal

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went on to a 41 year career with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. It was not until 1966 that the Helena City commission formally recognized the Arbor Day ceremony of 1899. Though a suitable marker was proposed, surviving trees are all that remain to mark the Fred Kuphal Grove. Musicians from the Helena Symphony continue to hike to the grove each year, on the summer solstice, and play chamber music in the trees to commemorate the event.

Not all activities on the mountain were that gentle. On the 4th of July, 1888, the city watched and listened as the Helena Light Artillery, in a practice and celebration "shoot", bombarded Mount Helena with "12-pounders." "Full loaded shells were numerous exploded, and the scarred face of the mountain told the effect of every shot."

Helena's mining based prosperity took a major hit as well when the federal government announced its curtailment of annual silver purchases, and mining communities throughout the West were thrown into the "Panic of 1893." Helena reeled from the impact of the ensuing economic depression, which made ghost towns of many mining communities. The city never fully recovered from the blow, but was well established and went on to develop a more stable economy based mainly on the business of state government.

Montana's Territorial status gave way to full-fledged statehood in November of 1889, and in the rugged competition to determine an appropriate capital, promoters of Helena extolled the virtues of the community with great pride, including "their" Mount Helena Park. The city of Anaconda fought hard for the title, but Helena won and staged the "greatest celebration ever" when she emerged victorious from the race. On the evening of November 12, 1894, ten cords of wood blazed, fueled by 50 gallons of coal oil, on the rocky summit of Mount Helena, with two smaller piers burning on the flanks of the mountain, to announce and celebrate the victory.

Visible cultural resources in the Mount Helena Park are few, and none has served community needs longer than the Woolston Reservoir. Potable water was a scarce commodity in Helena's "tent, cabin and shack" period, when the Last Chance Gulch supply passed through the placer mining operations in the gulch before its arrival in town. A resident complained in the April 22, 1865 *Montana Post*: "The water in our gulch is not fit to drink after the early hours of the morning, it is so disturbed." Many were content to take their libation in the local saloons, rather than buy water from peddle-carts or take advantage of open cisterns on the streets. The need for water to wash minerals from the gravels of the gulch took precedence over drinking water, and the supply in the discovery gulch was extremely limited. In 1865 the Yaw Yaw ditch was built from Ten Mile Creek and a new source of water flowed in from the west, around the base of Mount Helena in an open, wood-stave lined ditch. When placer mining ceased and Helena "reached the dignity of subdivisions, lots and frame houses" the Hale reservoir captured water on the east side for distribution to residents. By the 1880s, "stone and brick blocks" were the measure of progress, with many of the buildings high above those on lower elevations. In 1886, the various water systems were purchased and consolidated by the Helena Water Works, a New York based firm. With a push beginning to develop the west side, improvements to the Ten Mile supply and construction of the Woolston Reservoir # 1 began. The open reservoir was lined with limestone, likely quarried on the site. It is also very possible that the site was an abandoned quarry. When completed, the reservoir had a capacity of 2.1 million gallons. The water supply from the Ten Mile Creek drainage, a mountainous area west and southwest of Helena, near the Continental Divide, continues to flow to the system. In September of 1887, the city approved the placing of 126 fire hydrants and within a year no less than 600 men were employed laying pipe for the new Woolston system, which was turned on in April of 1888. In 1911, the system, water rights, and real property was purchased by the City of Helena. Woolston Reservoir #2 was added to the system in 1931. The round concrete structure provided an additional three million gallons of water storage. Both reservoirs hug the ground in a basin between Daisy Hill and Mount Helena, at the eastern side of the park. The original reservoir is empty; #2 was connected to the Malben reservoir, south of the Capitol building, and the consolidated system continues to supply 90% of the water distribution for the city of Helena.

Only those portions of the Mount Helena Park which lie in Sections 35 and 36 were designated "mineral lands" and subject to exploration and mineral entry. In 1901, the Mount Helena Tunnel and Mining Company, organized by Thomas Cruse,

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Edward Zimmerman and others, piqued some interest in mining on the mountain, when they reported taking considerable copper ore out, "netting the owners \$20,000." The possibility of a considerable copper deposit running east-west under Mount Helena soon had both F.A. Heinze and W.A. Clark, Butte's famous copper kings, reportedly digging holes at the northwest foot of the mountain. Newspapers were vague about the location of these searches, but they apparently occurred outside of the park and were short-lived. The only other mineral claim in Section 36 was a parcel of land patented in 1905, which could have been linked to the search for copper or to lime production. It is the only remaining, privately owned land within the district boundaries. No mineral claims were filed on what was to become park land in Section 35. It remained in public domain until the City of Helena received patent in 1907 for park purposes.

Community Planning and Development 1900-1906

The Homestead Act of 1863 allowed a citizen to "earn" 160 acres of public domain by living on the land for five years, cultivating the land and making a home on it, or title could be gained after fourteen months by paying a minimum of \$1.25 per acre or \$176.00 for the entire tract. The land then went to "patent" and the settler became a landowner. It was not until 1881 that the one homestead patent was issued on what is now the park, with no evidence remaining on the land of a resident. The remaining sections on the mountain were "cash entries" and did not carry the home building or land cultivating requirement.

Near the close of the 19th century, there was already a new layer of ownership on much of Mount Helena. The original "settlers" were quickly gone, and the land passed into private ownership. It was generally recognized that the land, while important for recreational and aesthetic purposes, was of little economic value. Apparently, the portions considered not too steep to develop, from the east slope around to the west, were sold to developers or just subdivided by the new owners.

Environmentally, the mountain park was a disaster at the time. Several fires occurred between 1898 and 1901; one "played through the trees near the summit" for a week. Although it was a "beautiful spectacle by night", it left the great hill almost bare of trees. Cattle, sheep, horses and goats took advantage of the free range in the grassy foothills. One report indicated as many as 3,000 goats were trampling and grazing around the mountain.

But, residents continued to "gain fresh perspective for their lives" with treks to the summit of Mount Helena, and the *Daily Independent* vigorously promoted the development of a "great pleasure resort" complete with gravity railroad to whisk revelers to the top, past a series of "pleasure gardens" and wild animals imported from Yellowstone Park, to an astronomical observatory and elegant hotel. "Away from the heat and turmoil of the city, in this Arcadian retreat, what jolly times could be had?"

Concurrently, plans were unfolding for a sixteen-mile boulevard, one hundred feet wide, from the west around the base of Mount Helena and on to the east, to link three splendid parks across the city. Le Grande Cannon Boulevard was built on the graded route of the original Yaw Yaw water supply ditch, only a short distance around Mount Helena, and was cut short by development on the east side. Apparently, the "East side boys" had development ideas of their own.

The Helena Improvement Society, touted as the "most potent force for good in Helena", was organized in 1898 with 30 charter members. Helena had the reputation, at the time, of having more millionaires per capita than any other city in the United States, and yet it didn't have a park, and public landscaping was scarce. The Society set out to take on the "parking" of Helena, and other improvements geared to improving the quality of life for residents. The annual Improvement Society Ball, concerts and membership fees of one dollar per year or twenty-five dollars for a life membership, gave the group the finances to take on community improvements. In the annual report of the organization, President, H.L. Glenn spoke of the achievements for the year of 1900 and said, "We believe a place the size of Helena, and containing the refinement, intelligence and wealth that our city does, will very soon see the necessity of acquiring parks, improving our streets and generally beautifying the town."

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Trees and flowers were planted, school grounds improved, boulevards created, public grounds expanded and parks encouraged. Abuses, such as garbage in the streets, weeds, livestock running loose or improperly tied to trees, were publically denounced. Then, early in 1902, the Helena Improvement Society cast its collective eyes on the mountain that rose prominently over the city, desperately in need of "improvement."

Credit for the idea to formalize public use of Mount Helena and give the city a "perpetual breathing spot" is most often given to John S.M. Neill, the civic-minded owner of *The Helena Independent*. His free-wheeling, whole-hearted support of the project was partially kindled by the fact that he owned considerable interest in one of the subdivisions adjacent to the mountain, and he was in good company. Property ownership in the area read like a who's who in Montana business, politics and industry, including J.K. Toole, Peter Collins, Charles Cannon, T.C. Power, Samuel Hauser, and others.

Regardless of the impetus, the Helena Improvement Society, under the leadership of Harvey L. Glenn, began to formulate plans for the mountain park. Warren H. Manning, landscape architect of Boston, and author of "Landscape Gardening and Architecture", and H.M. Chittenden, who was in charge of Yellowstone National Park, were invited to address the citizens on the subject of civic improvement, under the auspices of the Society. The idea of a unique mountain park quickly gathered momentum. Former Senator Thomas H. Carter and the Surveyor General, E.W. Beattie, supporters of the plan to develop the park, were enlisted to "use their influence" in Washington, D. C. to have Mount Helena set aside as a forest "reserve." J. H. Kent, one of the architects of the state Capitol, designed a shelter house to be built on the summit, and a preliminary survey was conducted for the trail. Plans for the park faltered, briefly, with the discovery that people actually owned land on the mountain. The work of the Society simply expanded to include soliciting the donation of land for the park and getting permission to proceed with the work.

City Engineer, Charles W. Helmick, surveyed the trail and set the stakes, indicating that the selected grade would generally not rise in elevation more than three feet per hundred feet on the trail. Contractor, Louis Johnson, successful bidder on the \$300 trail project, commenced work in August of 1903. Within a month, the completed trail was ready for eager recreationists, with benches placed at intervals for the convenience of weary hikers.

By 1904, all of the property owners consulted had expressed a willingness to lease, and some had even agreed to donate their Mount Helena land to the city for the park. That was good enough for the Helena Improvement Society. The five-sided pavilion on the summit was nearly complete in time for the community 4th of July celebration and pavilion dedication. Nearly 200 residents "climbed the toilsome ascent made easy" by the efforts of the Helena Improvement Society, though the ceremony was detained for one half hour in deference to pedestrians who could be seen, still making their way up the mountain. In his lengthy and emotional dedication address, the Hon. E. C. Day, said "Man's love of nature is as deeply imbedded in his being as is love of liberty or life." Mountains, with their "silent, enduring, uplifting greatness" stamp upon people "loftiness of purpose, purity and clearness of intellectual vision, tenacity of will and endurance of body."

In his accolades, he spoke of the contributions to the community made by the Helena Improvement Society: "To make shady, grass-lined avenues of dusty, dreary streets, to make cool resting places for tired workers, to lure weary women and sickly children from dark and noisome houses out in open parks, where they may breathe pure air, enjoy glimpses of clear skies, inhale the perfume of flowers and listen to the songs of birds and hum of bees, is to renew the current of life and to lift and hold humanity upon a higher, healthier plane."

High praise, but the Society's work was far from over. Stumps remaining on the mountain, some up to two feet in diameter, were a constant reminder of the "days when the crest and sides of Mount Helena were green and dense with forests." Replanting and fencing to protect new growth from grazing would be costly, and a campaign to build membership in the Society was necessary to fund the improvements. John Neill and his *Helena Independent* joined in the push for new members with

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vigor, and with many of the businessmen of the city already supporting the cause, he encouraged the purchase of gift memberships for the ladies:

As a matter of choice between men and women for membership in the improvement society, women are preferable. Women are given to those causes which inspire the improvement society. Women are devotees. Women are zealots. Women are persistent, orderly, self-sacrificing, irrepressible. Women have civic pride above and beyond the thoughts of men.

Women will work strenuously at other things than mere business. There are not enough women in the Helena Improvement Society. It would be a good thing if the women "took hold" of it, dominated it, pushed it, promoted it in their own wise diligent and optimistic way. The men in the society are all right, but the women are better. They are always better than men in such esthetic enterprises.

If you can't afford to take out life memberships for yourself and your wife, by all means remit \$25 for her. It would be a gracious expression of your regard, for her and a practical demonstration of your faith in Helena. She will do more "missionary work" for the society than any three men. She will relieve you of the annoyance and worry of being an "actuary" in those public works and benefactions to which the society is committed.

Memberships in the Society grew steadily, from the 30 charter members in 1898. By 1904, the roster included 400 annual and 25 life members. Twelve new life members joined in 1905, and in 1906, the club added 113 annual and 72 life members.

In 1905, the Helena city council adopted a resolution authorizing the mayor and city clerk to file on 160 acres in the park, under an "Act to authorize entry of the public lands by incorporated cities and towns for cemetery and park purposes." The patent was official, and signed by President Roosevelt in October of 1907. Other tracts of former homestead land were deeded to the city in 1905, from former State Senator W. M. Biggs; W.G. Conrad, of the Conrad-Stanford Company; and Henry Parchen, leading supplier of pharmaceuticals in the territory and state. Some property owners were gone from the community, or the land in estates or trusts, but property was added to the park until it reached about 680 acres. Over 150 acres of National Resource land, in Section 36, was transferred to the city by the Bureau of Land Management, in 1978. A twenty-acre mining claim in Section 36, which was patented in 1899, was also acquired by the city and added to the park. Section 36, in the tradition of "assumed" ownership, has always been considered part of the park, contains a prime trail and significant cultural resources.

The Society -- with citizen support -- funding and finally, the land, was ready in 1905 to proceed with additional developments of the park. Initial contact with the Forest Service led to the decision to reforest the mountain and create a natural park environment, rather than the elaborate development originally planned. The environment of the mountain, and the fact that the new Forest Service planted trees, not showy flower gardens, sealed the future of the natural mountain park.

President of the Helena Improvement Society, Harvey L. Glenn, who was an assayer in the U. S. government assay office, was transferred out of Helena in 1906, but not before the mountain park was partially reforested and fenced. The community improvement work of the Society continued, but Mount Helena Park was essentially complete. Only the natural-appearing environment, the park boundary, and the mis-named "1906 Trail" remain to document the work of the Helena Improvement Society and the City of Helena in securing the mountain park, in perpetuity, for the enjoyment of the public.

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Conservation 1905-1995

Before the close of the 19th century, the slightly pitted, and nearly treeless Mount Helena rose over the city; a microcosmic symbol of the push to develop and settle the West; displaying the same symptoms of exploitation that generated broad popular support for conservation throughout the country. The condition of Mount Helena was typical of the whole region. It was also typical of the area east of the Great Plains, where little public land remained unclaimed. What did remain were great cut-over and burned out forests, with many of the "settlers" gone to settle the West. In the wake of this massive forest devastation came the first outcry for some protection of forests on public land. Congress responded by considering nearly 200 bills between 1871 and 1897 concerning public lands. Passage of any protective measure proved difficult because of strong opposition from those who feared a loss of all the activities common to the U.S. westward movement. A bill was finally introduced in 1874 authorizing the "appointment of a commission for inquiry into the destruction of forests," and a rider attached to the 1876 agriculture appropriation called for an individual "of scientific attainments" to be appointed to report on forest problems. Congress was impressed enough with the final report that a Forestry Division was in place within the Department of Agriculture in 1886. A stream of forestry bills followed that were considered, sifted, debated and referred, until 1891, when Congress acted on the Forest Reserve Act, which authorized President Harrison to set aside vast areas of timberland to be administered by the Department of the Interior. When Gifford Pinchot became Chief of the Division of Forestry in 1898, "conservation" became widely known and practiced, and public support for forest protection continued to mount. The close relationship between Pinchot and President Theodore Roosevelt helped further the development of resource conservation and Congress responded to the growing movement by passing favorable legislation. A new era in forestry began in 1905, when Congress transferred the Forest Reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Forestry became the Forest Service and the administration was decentralized, to better respond to local and regional needs.

The needs of the Mount Helena Park were quickly brought to the attention of the new Forest Service by the Helena Improvement Society and the *Helena Independent*. Correspondence in May of 1905, to Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot and his assistant, E.A. Sterling "elicited the most hearty expressions of the department's desire to demonstrate upon Mount Helena the astonishing results achieved by the expert foresters of the department of the interior."

Forester Frank G. Miller was dispatched to Helena before the end of June, 1905, to begin preliminary planning. Miller's initial 5:00 a.m. reconnaissance of the mountain park was in the company of Helena Mayor, R.R. Purcell; Senator T.H. Carter; Improvement Society president, H.L. Glenn; W.M. Biggs, a major Mount Helena landholder; J.S.M. Neill, and others. Impressed with both the "advantages" of the park and the "civic energy" of the community, he concluded that the project "in inception, in progress and in completion will be a great advantage to Helena and a fine exploitation of the possibilities of the bureau of forestry."

Mr. Miller's preliminary report on Mount Helena documented the existing environment, the replanting needs, and outlined the work necessary to accomplish reforestation. It indicated that the stand of trees present on the mountain were approximately twenty-five years old, and confirmed that many of the stumps still standing were up to two feet in diameter. Limestone quarries were noted on the east, south, and north sides of the mountain. He was obviously impressed with the situation and prominence of the mountain, "in full view of both the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads," in Montana's capital, with greatly interested citizens, and the press "giving the scheme wide publicity." He said that if accomplished "It will become one of the most prominent object lessons in forest planting in the country, and will be a conspicuous example of what can be done in reforesting denuded mountain sides."

The enthusiasm of the Forest Service was obvious in the detailed planting plan, completed in September of 1905, which recommended planting 575,000 seedlings, of which 75,000 would be provided by the Forest Service. The remainder of the seedlings were to be grown from locally gathered seeds, in a nursery to be built in Helena by the Improvement Society. This

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must have proven too great an undertaking for the Society, because in May of 1906, the Forest Service carried out a plan that was considerably reduced in scale. The 10,000 Ponderosa Pine and 20,000 Douglas Fir seedlings planted on Mount Helena, were provided by the Forest Service from the Halsey Nursery on the Dismal River Forest in Nebraska.

Local labor was employed for the planting, and E.O. Siecke, assistant Forest expert, reported that because of the short duration of the job, the work force consisted mainly of the "rif-raf, or floating population" of Helena, which required constant supervision. The men having homes in the city proved better workers and he included a "list of the more desirable men" for future planting jobs. They were paid \$2.50 per day, for the two day job.

In April of 1907, John E. Keach, Forest assistant, reported to Gifford Pinchot that the trees planted on Mount Helena had been inspected. It was found that 92 percent of the Douglas Fir were alive and "to all appearances thrifty." The Ponderosa Pine seedlings did not fare as well, with only 60 percent alive, and not in "such an encouraging condition "as the Fir trees.

Today, the original Mount Helena trail takes hikers through a forested area on the eastern slope, much of which was planted by hand at the beginning of a new era in forestry. It stands as a visual reminder of the cooperative efforts of the Helena Improvement Society and the U.S. Forest Service, in a striking demonstration of the planned management of a natural resource.

More than 148 million acres of public land were added to the National Forest Reserves during the Roosevelt administration, between 1901 and 1909, including the Helena Forest Reserve in 1906. It was renamed the Helena National Forest in 1908.

The two and one-half mile Mount Helena Trail was designated a National Recreational Trail in 1979, by the U.S. Department of the Interior, under the National Trails System Act of 1968, because of its significance and the cooperative effort involved by the City of Helena and the Forest Service. The trail connects to a four and one-half mile segment on the Helena National Forest, which was also designated a National Recreational Trail by the Forest Service for the Department of Agriculture.

A Memorandum of Understanding (draft) has been proposed to establish a framework for mutual support and cooperation between the City and the Forest Service to work together to achieve common goals of enhancing the recreational uses and natural resource conditions of the Mount Helena City Park and the adjacent Helena National Forest.

Mount Helena 1906-1942

Less than two weeks after the dedication of the shelter house, in 1904, lightning struck the structure, leaving it slightly twisted out of shape. The harsh environment of the summit and vandalism took a toll on the exposed shelter and it was gone by the 1930s. No plans were made to replace the shelter.

In 1919, Dr. C. K. Cole, a Helena pioneer who had moved to New York, was offered the opportunity to contribute \$100,000 to \$125,000 to develop a water well on top of Mount Helena that would help create a "scenic park not exceeded in natural beauty anywhere in the land." W. R. Church wrote the doctor that "Cole Park" would be a "splendid monument" to his "local pride," "genius," and his "splendid public spirit." The doctor died before these plans were fulfilled, but the idea resurfaced in 1922, when members of the Rotary, Kiwanis and Commercial clubs met in joint session and again turned their attention to the establishment of "Cole Park." They approached Dr. Cole's son, with the idea of supporting a memorial park, suggesting that his father had seriously considered investing "some two hundred thousand dollars in the enterprise."

Apparently funds for "Cole Park" did not materialize, since the Mount Helena Park environment remains dependent on nature for a water supply.

The steep terrain of the mountain presents a physical challenge, and there are rare occasions when organized activities take

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precedence over isolation. Runners have been rising to meet the challenge since at least 1913. The most significant race occurred in 1916, when Vic Harmon, a "coast athlete" visiting Helena made two training runs to the top of Mount Helena and back in anticipation of the Mount Helena Race, which was held April 29, 1916. He made the round trip in 45 minutes in his first try and cut two minutes off his time the second trip. But on Race day, a local boy, Ben Burgess, won the race in "handy fashion" with a time of 30 minutes and 58 seconds, considered remarkable for the "grueling climb." The visiting athlete came in third with a time of 36 minutes and 34 seconds, behind another local runner.

The traditional run up Mount Helena was revived in 1975, after an undefined hiatus, and Bill Lannan won with a time of 35 minutes 9 seconds. In the 20th Annual Mount Helena Run, September 23, 1995, Patrick Judge of Helena came in ahead of 114 runners, and beat the record in the 5.6 mile trek, which rises and falls 1360 feet from start to finish. He finished the course in 36 minutes and 10 seconds. Names of winners are inscribed each year on the "Ben Burgess Memorial" trophy board.

The rugged rock cliffs and terrain of Mount Helena also challenged an all-volunteer force of American and Canadian troops, which began training in July 1942 at Fort Harrison in Helena. The First Special Force was originally conceived, by British and American military officials, as the sole parachute-ski-commando-type unit of the Allied Armies in World War II. Mount Helena provided the elite force a wide range of mountain maneuver experiences, from rappelling off the limestone cliffs to winter warfare and skiing.

Following over a year of training, the First Special Force contributed greatly to "breaking the back" of German resistance in southern France and Italy. When they broke the major strongpoint of the German Winter Line, the Germans defined them as "treacherous, unmerciful and clever," and referred to them as the Black Devils. The action by the Force became the theme of a World War II movie starring William Holden, Carroll O'Connor and Cliff Robertson, titled "The Devil's Brigade."

Mount Helena users, throughout the 130 year history of Helena, have continued to climb the mountain that helped to shape their community for the view from above or to be in a "natural environment where there is a high probability of isolation from man's activities." The mountain park has reciprocated by offering people "loftiness of purpose, purity and clearness of intellectual vision, tenacity of will and endurance of body." Normally quiet trail users only come to the fore when an addition or change is being planned for their mountain.

Archaeology

The distinctive rock face, strategic position and summit of Mount Helena offer several advantages that could have been used in prehistoric periods: a wide, clear view of an expansive area for spotting friends, enemies or game; a cave for shelter; and it is easily identifiable, as a place of meeting.

Several large bands of Flathead and Salish tribes were known to have lived east of the Rocky Mountains, including what is now Lewis & Clark County, around 1600. Although it is probable that the mountain was used, it is just as probable that the hard use of the mountain in the ensuing years has erased any evidence of prehistoric use.

Dr. Carling Malouf tested the "Devil'sKitchen" cave in 1949 for evidence of human occupancy, but found no chips or artifacts. (24LC0140) He dug a test pit to a considerable depth (thirteen feet) and uncovered only extensive animal bones, perhaps evidence of carnivorous animals feeding their young.

A story was reported in the *Helena Independent* about a white hunting party that was "attacked by Indians" while in the Helena vicinity the year before gold was discovered in Last Chance Gulch. They escaped from their attackers and took refuge in the cave on Mt. Helena, where they knew, from prior discovery, there was a food cache. An earlier camper had left the food and a note, which read "Dear Tom: Me and the boys have gone to Bannack. We have leaft some flour and coffy and bacon. The

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sugar got spilt and is wet. The Indians stole the 2 pak horses."

Evidence of use during the historic exploration/ settlement period does remain on the mountain in the form of prospect pits, quarries, a lime production site, and foundation ruins. Although the land was divided into geo-political units, subject to settlement laws, there is little documentation to link these sites with land ownership.

An archeological examination (outside the scope of this inventory) of the lime production site would likely provide information important to understanding how the land was used in the industrial process, and identify the period of time the site was used. Retaining walls in the gulch appear to be related to the lime production site, and an archeological investigation might help to clarify the relationship.

No written information was found regarding the two foundation ruins or the quarry on the park's north side. Neither the original patent holders nor the subsequent land owners, prior to city park status, were recorded as living on or establishing a business on the land. An archeological investigation of the physical evidence might provide some information about the sites and establish a period of use.

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Mount Helena Historic District Resource List

Section 25	1. Mount Helena Trail	1903	P
	2. Woolston Reservoir #1	1888	NC
	3. Woolston Reservoir #2	1931	C
	4. Limestone Quarry	c 1890	C
	5. "H"	1924	C
	6. Parking lot	1976	NC
	7. Kiosk	1994	NC
	8. Power Line	1973	NC
	9. Habitation Site	ND	C
Section 26	10. North Access Trail	1974	NC
	11. Prairie Trail	1974	NC
	12.- 14. Prospect Pits (3)	ND	C
	15. T.V. Transmission Site	1973	NC
	16. Antenna	1973	NC
	17. City/County Transmission	1985	NC
	18. Antenna	1985	NC
	Section 35	19. West End Trail	c 1906
20. Backside Trail		1974	NC
21. Hogback Trail		1974	NC
22. Prospect Pit		ND	C
Section 36	23. Prospect Shafts Trail	1974	NC
	24.- 26. Prospect Pits (3)	ND	C
	27. Lime Kiln Site	c 1890	C
	28. Limestone Structure	c 1890	C
	29. Stone Retaining Wall	c 1890	C
	30. Devil's Kitchen site	n/a	C

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other -- Specify Repository: n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: approximately 680 acres

Table with 4 columns: UTM References, Zone, Easting, Northing. Rows A through G.

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Located in the SW 1/4, and the W 1/2 NW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 25; the SE 1/4, and the S 1/2 SW 1/4, and the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 26; the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 and the N 1/2 NE 1/4 of Section 35; the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4, and the NW 1/4, and the W 1/2 NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 36. All in T10N, R4W.

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

See Continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ellen Sievert, Private Consultant
organization: Sievert & Sievert, Cultural Resource Consultants date: January 1996
street & number: 1602 3rd West Hill Drive telephone: 406-761-6955
city or town: Great Falls state: MT zip code: 59404

With minor revisions by: Chere Jiusto, MT SHPO office, 1410 8th Ave., Helena, MT 59601 (406) 444-7778

Property Owners

name/title: City of Helena
street & number: 316 North Park
city or town: Helena, MT 59601
telephone: 406-447-8000

name/title: Church of Freedom
street & number: 2001 Oro Fino Gulch
city or town: Helena, MT 59601

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at Brass Cap being the intersection of the North line of Section 36 and the West boundary of the Helena Townsite, (reference point #1730), thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 10' 24''$ East a distance of 491.48' to reference point #1715, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 10' 31''$ West a distance of 295.67' to reference point #1908, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 57' 29''$ West a distance of 142.32' to reference point #1907, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 23' 38''$ East a distance of 150.00' to reference point #1906, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 46' 13''$ West a distance of 57.64' to reference point #1911, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 15' 35''$ West a distance of 107.51' to reference point #1771, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 35' 13''$ West a distance of 138.65' to reference point #1770, thence on a line bearing North $01^{\circ} 09' 52''$ West a distance of 85.59' to reference point #1782, thence on a line bearing South thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 16' 27''$ West a distance of 40.00' to reference point #1769, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 08' 24''$ West a distance of 39.99' to reference point #1781, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 43' 43''$ West a distance of 116.48' to reference point #1920, thence on a line bearing South $00^{\circ} 24' 54''$ East, a distance of 23.58' to reference point #1919, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 14' 58''$ West a distance of 60.00' to reference point #1918, thence on a line bearing South $00^{\circ} 24' 54''$ East a distance of 29.90' to reference point #1201, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 14' 58''$ West a distance of 140.10' to reference point #1921, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 23' 38''$ West a distance of 209.90' to reference point #1922, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 14' 58''$ West a distance of 883.12' to reference point #226, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 28' 14''$ East a distance of 219.70' to reference point #225, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 31' 46''$ East a distance of 660.00' to reference point #227, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 29' 51''$ West a distance of 608.63' to reference point #141, thence on a line bearing North $89^{\circ} 31' 46''$ West a distance of 140.26' to reference point #137, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 17' 47''$ West a distance of 169.77' to reference point #138, thence on a line bearing North $89^{\circ} 31' 46''$ West a distance of 1292.43' to reference point #139, thence on a line bearing North $00^{\circ} 17' 47''$ West a distance of 324.29' to reference point #145, thence on a line bearing S $89^{\circ} 23' 36''$ West a distance of 1664.83' to reference point #82, being the West 1/4 corner of Section 25, thence on a line bearing North $01^{\circ} 14' 10''$ East a distance of 682.62' to reference point #123, thence on a line bearing North $88^{\circ} 52' 14''$ West a distance of 2599.05' to reference point #101, thence on a line bearing South $00^{\circ} 21' 49''$ East a distance of 663.52' to reference point #98, being the center 1/4 corner of Section 26, T10N, R4W, thence on a line bearing South $00^{\circ} 21' 49''$ East a distance of 2743.96' to reference point #104, being the South 1/4 corner of Section 26, thence on a line bearing North $89^{\circ} 21' 51''$ West a distance of 1311.71' to reference point #102, being the 1/16 corner common to the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26 and the Northwest 1/4 of Section 35, thence on a line bearing South $00^{\circ} 06' 12''$ West a distance of 1320.78' to reference point #212 being the interior 1/16 corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 35, thence on a line bearing South $89^{\circ} 42' 12''$ West a distance of 1311.63' to reference point #211 being the 1/16 corner common to the Northeast 1/4 and the Northwest 1/4 of Section 35, thence on a line bearing North $89^{\circ} 55' 33''$ West a distance of 2604.14' to reference point #213 being the corner common to the Northeast 1/4 Section 35 and the Northwest 1/4 of Section 36, thence on a line bearing South $00^{\circ} 09' 33''$ East (the East boundary line of Section 35) to the intersection of said line with the Northeasterly boundary line of United States Government Lot #53 (Placer Claim #788), thence Southeasterly along the North boundary line of said Government Lot #53 to its intersection with the Northwesterly boundary of Mineral Survey #7592 (New York Lode), thence Northeasterly along the Northwesterly boundary of said Mineral Survey #7592 to the Northwest corner #4 of said mineral Survey #7592, thence Southeasterly along the Northerly boundary of Mineral Survey #7592 to its intersection with the East boundary of United States Government Lot #24, thence Northerly along the East boundary of said Government Lot #24 to the Northeast corner of said Lot 24, thence Easterly along the South boundary of United States Government Lot #11 to the Southeast corner, thence Northerly along the East boundary of Lot 11 to the Northeast corner of said Lot 11, thence Easterly along the South boundary of United States Government Lot #17 to the Southeast corner, thence Northerly along the East boundary of said Lot #17 to the Northeast corner being on the section line common to Section 25 and 36, thence North $89^{\circ} 18' 49''$ East along said section line to its intersection with the West boundary of the Helena Townsite, point #1730, which is the true point of beginning. The preceding Mount Helena Park boundary surrounds the property described as Mineral Survey #6764 (Mount Helena Lode), which remains in private ownership.

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Boundary Justification: The Mount Helena Historic District boundary is drawn to include only those portions that were actively manipulated and used during the historic period and are related to the original development of the park. The district contains one 14.1 acre patented Mineral Survey (6764), which is privately held. It shares the same history of use, contains significant resources and is an important part of the parks natural landscape.