

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201202, 1410 8th Ave
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **516 Spruce Street**

Historic Address (if applicable):

City/Town: **Anaconda**

Site Number: **24DL0822**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Deer Lodge**

Historic Name: **Frank & Sarah Q. Walker Residence**

Original Owner(s): **Frank & Sarah Walker**

Current Ownership Private Public

Current Property Name:

Owner(s): **David Alan Penney**

Owner Address: **26 Bendemeer Dr
Evergreen, CO, 80439**

Phone:

Legal Location

PM: **Montana** Township: **04 N** Range: **11W**

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ **SW** $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section: **03**

Lot(s): **5**

Block(s): **79**

Addition: **Anaconda Original Townsite**

Year of Addition: **1883**

USGS Quad Name: **Anaconda North (24K)** Year: **1989**

Historic Use: **Single Family Residence**

Current Use: **Single Family Residence**

Construction Date: **1903-1905** Estimated Actual

Original Location Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference [Montana Digital Atlas](#)

NAD 27 or NAD 83(preferred)

Zone: **12** Easting: **348235** Northing: **5110082**

Geocode: **30-1285-03-3-15-03-0000**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District:

NRHP Eligible: Yes No

Date of this document: **8/3/2016**

Form Prepared by: **Anthony Wood**

Address: **1957 University Street
Helena, MT, 59601**

Daytime Phone:

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Eligible for NRHP: X yes no

Criteria: X A B C D

Date: 8/10/2016

Evaluator: Kate Hampton

Comments: Property record form written as part of the "Identifying Montana's African American Heritage Places Project."

Property surveyed during the late 1990s and mistakenly determined ineligible, and therefore is a noncontributor within the Butte-Anaconda NHL. NHL form should be amended.

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merge pages with this form

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NRHP Listing Date:

NRHP Eligibility: Yes No Individually Contributing to Historic District Noncontributing to Historic District

NRHP Criteria: A B C D

Area of Significance: **African American History** Period of Significance: **1905-1920**

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Architectural Style: **Shotgun** If Other, specify:
Property Type: **Single Family Residence** Specific Property Type:

Architect: Architectural Firm/City/State:
Builder/Contractor: Company/City/State:
Source of Information:

Architectural Description:

Setting and Location

The Walker residence at 516 Spruce Street is located on lot 5, in the southeast quadrant of block 79 of the Original Anaconda Townsite. The block is bounded by West 5th Street to the north, Spruce Street to the east, West 6th Street to the south, and Willow Street to the west. 516 Spruce sits in what was originally the southwestern most neighborhood of Anaconda. One block to the south and to the west, the city streets meet the base of a foothill of the nearby Pintler range, locally referred to as the "A" Hill. Originally the neighborhood stood close to the Anaconda Company's Lumber operations, two blocks to the west, where local recreation softball and track fields now exist. The adjacent homes at 514 and 518 Spruce were built roughly around the turn of the century, and with the Walker residence, exhibit the classic smelter-housing style construction of small, narrow homes usually built extremely close to the adjacent structures. The houses on the same block, and across Spruce Street feature many of these same themes, mixed in with occasional craftsmen style homes, built in the 1930s, and some slightly larger, folk Victorian homes, built by the city's middle class residents.

The front yard of the residence features a long, narrow lawn, split in the center by a cement path leading from the city sidewalk to the front entrance door of the structure. A large lilac bush grows on the south side of the lawn, near the southeast corner of the home, obstructing some of the view. The house sits very close to the adjacent homes, only about four or five feet from 514 Spruce to the north, and 518 Spruce to the south. For this reason, side yards consist only of a very narrow strip of grass or gravel, running from the front to the rear of the house. The back yard features a narrow grass lawn, with a wooden privacy fence enclosing the property, with a metal chain-link gate opening to the alley. There is no garage.

Introduction

The Walker residence at 516 Spruce is a small, wood-frame, shotgun style house that sits on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls feature horizontal clapboard siding that extend to eaves of the gable front. The roof style is unique in that exhibits a typical gable front with steep slopes, but it features a flat, decked ridge about five feet wide, and running the length of the roof front to back. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The structure also features a rear, kitchen extension. The extension matches the width of the original house, but features a gable and shed roof, with the shed section on the south side. The rear, west elevation of the extension also features a pent roof covering that is open, supported by two wood beams, and covered by metal sheeting.

East Façade

The façade of the Walker residence features a gabled entry door extension set on the south (left) side of the elevation. It contains the front screen door which sits atop a single cement step. The north elevation of the front door extension features a square, single light window. To the north of the entry door the façade is dominated by a large rectangular four-by-four, eight light window on the first floor. The siding on the first story of the main section of the house is painted white, contrasting with the natural wood finishing featured on the top half story, as well as the front door extension. Above the first-story picture window, a rectangular, three-over-three, six light window is set within the gable peak. The peak of the gable exhibits its flat top construction.



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Rear Elevation

The rear of the structure showcases the kitchen addition. The top half story of the main home is visible from the rear, and contains only the rectangular space where an original window has since been boarded. The kitchen extension features a gable and shed design, with the shed roof section extending to the south (right). The siding of the rear elevation is painted white. The elevation appears to only contain a single window feature, likely a large multi-light fixture, however, a clear view is mostly obstructed. The elevation also features a lean-to style portico, covered by a pent metal roof, which extends off the rear of the house. The roof is supported by two wood beams, one on each western corner.

The north and south elevations of the home are not visible due to their proximity to the adjacent houses. It is unlikely that they contain any features beyond a small widow or vent opening.

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History of the Property

After moving to the smelter city of Anaconda, Montana around 1896, Frank Q. Walker, his wife of five years Sarah, and their adopted daughter Eralee settled into their first home at 507 Cedar Street.¹ Frank worked as a laborer for the Anaconda Company's Reduction Works from as early as 1900 until sometime after 1920, when records of Walker in Anaconda end. Between the years of 1903 and 1905, Walker likely purchased the lot at 516 Spruce Street from the Anaconda Company, the primary landowner of the original Anaconda Townsite, and started building a small home for his family.² Cadastral records indicate that the small, shotgun style house was completed in 1905, the year Walker is first listed at the Spruce Street address. However, the 1903 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a small shotgun style structure already standing at that location. Since the Anaconda Polk City Directories from 1902 to 1905 are missing, it is difficult to confirm that Frank Walker was the original owner of the property, though it is the most likely scenario. The Walker family is listed at 516 Spruce through the 1920 census, after which Frank Walker and his family no longer appear in any further documentation.³

Frank and Sarah Q. Walker

During their early years living in Anaconda, Frank and his wife Sarah enjoyed a certain amount of social regard. Anaconda was home to just over a hundred African Americans between 1900 and 1910, and seldom did the social affairs of the Smelter City's black residents appear in the different publications of the time.⁴ However, as evident in a number of different local pieces featuring the Walkers, it would seem that Frank, and especially his wife Sarah, was very well regarded by the people of Anaconda, black or white. An account of their 11th wedding anniversary appeared in the November 4th, 1900 issue of the *Anaconda Standard*. Residents of Anaconda were treated to two separate parties at the Walker home at 507 Cedar, the earlier event for the residents of Anaconda, and a second that same evening for the many citizens of Butte who made the trip to celebrate with the couple. The paper recounted events of the night, and provided readers a list of attendees and the gifts that each brought.⁵ Papers from around the state also indicated the high level of social and religious prominence Mrs. Walker had within the greater Montana African American community. Her name frequented the black paper of Helena, the *Montana Plaindealer*, with accounts of her role in many different religious and social functions in the capital city.⁶ When Sarah died suddenly from an unnamed illness in 1912 at the young age of 49, her obituary praised her as a kind and loving woman and that many of Anaconda's finest and most respected residents would be deeply saddened to learn of her death. Her obituary also contained a great deal of intrigue regarding her upbringing and lineage. Written in the *Anaconda Standard* on June 13th, 1912, it stated that Mrs. Sarah Q. Walker was born on the Plantation of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and later worked in the household of his daughter Margaret Davis-Hayes, who had married the Judge Joel Hayes Jr.⁷ While the historicity of these accounts cannot be confirmed, given her age and the fact that those around her knew the name of Jefferson Davis' daughter and son-in-law, which was likely not common knowledge in western Montana, the story is somewhat plausible.

Frank Walker remarried Ms. Anna Furman in October of 1914. Frank, then 54 years old and his 50 year old bride continued to live at 516 Spruce Street.⁸ Frank worked at the Reduction Works, located at the main Anaconda Smelter site at least until 1920, when he and Anna are listed in the Federal Census of that year.⁹ Like his first wife Sarah, Frank also likely enjoyed a certain amount of respect from his fellow Smeltermen. Jobs with the Anaconda Company during the early years of twentieth century were stable and carried a decent, living wage. Several black men found work with the Company during this time, but few continued to work for the company past the depression era and into the middle of the century. After WWII, only a handful of black families stayed in Anaconda, and only a small number of them found employment on "The Hill." Due to the lack of sources, it is difficult to determine if the 60 year old Frank Walker left Anaconda after losing his job, retiring, or possibly succumbing to death. While records indicate that Walker was born in December of 1859 in Buffalo, New York, no such local records exist regarding his death, indicating that he likely moved away from Anaconda sometime in the early 1920's.¹⁰

¹ R.L. Polk & Co, Polk's 1896 *Anaconda (Deer Lodge County, Mont.) City Directory*.

² R.L. Polk & Co, Polk's 1905 *Anaconda (Deer Lodge County, Mont.) City Directory*.

³ US Census, 1920 (*Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Montana: Roll: T625_969; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 23; Image: 722*). Accessed online at Ancestry.com.

⁴ 1910 Montana Census Numbers (available online at <http://svcalt.mt.gov/research/AfricanAmerican/AfricanAmericanInMT.asp>).

⁵ "Mr. and Mrs. Frank Q. Walker Celebrate Anniversary", *Anaconda Standard*, November 4th, 1900. Accessed online at [ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

⁶ *The Montana Plaindealer*, Helena, Montana, (searches for Sarah Walker) accessed online at chroniclingamerica.com.

⁷ "Sarah Q. Walker Called by Death", *Anaconda Standard*, June 13th, 1912. Accessed online at [ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

⁸ "Marriage Certificate for Frank Walker and Anna Furman". October 12, 1914. Accessed online at [ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

⁹ US Census, 1920 (*Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Montana: Roll: T625_969; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 23; Image: 722*). Accessed online at Ancestry.com.

¹⁰ Birth location indicated in 1914 Marriage Certificate. "Marriage Certificate for Frank Walker and Anna Furman". October 12, 1914. Accessed online at [ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

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The immediate neighborhood around the Walker Residence at 516 Spruce Street contained several other black families during the years that the Walkers lived there. Starting in 1910, Frank's son (from an earlier marriage), Frank Walker Jr., often referred to as Frank H. Walker, began living in the adjacent home at 518 Spruce.¹¹ City directories indicate that he and his wife Julie moved away from Spruce Street by 1912. In 1920, a second son, James Walker and his wife were listed as living with Frank Walker Sr. at 516 Spruce. Also in 1920, the large African American family of Andrew and Minnie Brown were listed as owning 518 Spruce.¹² Though Frank and Sarah Walker and their family seemingly lived simple and ordinary lives in Anaconda during the early twentieth century, their impact on the community was substantial. Together with the many other black families that called Anaconda and Southwestern Montana home, the Walkers helped shape the Smelter City into a socially dynamic and ethnically diverse community.

¹¹ US Census, 1910 (Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Montana: Roll: T624_831; Page: 14A; Enumeration District: 0012; FHL microfilm: 1374844). Accessed online at Ancestry.com.

¹² US Census, 1920 (Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Montana: Roll: T625_969; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 23; Image: 722). Accessed online at Ancestry.com.

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Information Sources/Bibliography

Ancestry.com searches for Frank and Sarah Walker included: "Sarah Q. Walker Obituary", *Anaconda Standard*, June 13th, 1912; "Marriage Certificate for Frank Walker and Anna Furman". October 12, 1914. U.S. Census, 1900, 1910, and 1920. Accessed online at Ancestry.com

Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. Access to Historic Newspapers included: *The Anaconda Standard*, *The Montana Plaindealer*.

R.L. Polk & Co. *Polk's Anaconda (Deer Lodge, Mont.) City Directory*, Salt Lake City, UT: R.L. Polk & Co. 1896-1922.

Newspapers

"Mr. and Mrs. Frank Q. Walker Celebrate Anniversary", *Anaconda Standard*, November 4th, 1900.

"Sarah Q. Walker, Called by Death", *Anaconda Standard*, June 13th, 1912.

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Statement of Significance

The Walker residence at 516 Spruce Street garners its significance from its close ties with both the early smelter history of Anaconda, and more prominently, from its association with the city's early African American community. The structure exhibits the characteristics of the turn of the century style "shotgun" house, commonly constructed in Anaconda for the city's thousands of Smeltermen and their families. Moreover, its association with Frank and Sarah Walker and their family during the early decades of the twentieth century makes 516 Spruce one of the few remaining homes with ties to the city's African American history. In addition to local factors, due to Sarah Walker's widespread activity in the state's black community, both civically and through church functions, her home also garners significance from association with the greater history of African Americans in Montana.

The building should be reclassified as contributing within the Butte-Anaconda NHL.

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Integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association)

Despite its designation as non-contributing to the Butte-Anaconda NHL, the Walker residence at 516 Spruce Street retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical and architectural significance. Its location, feel and setting are still very much intact, as are its original design, materials, and workmanship. The most prominent change to the original 1903-1905 structure is the addition of the rear kitchen extension. The date of construction is not known, although, the addition is shown in the 1950 Sanborn maps of Anaconda. Though the period of significance only extends from 1903 to 1920, and it is likely that the addition was built after 1920, the style of the home does not allow the rear of the house to be seen. As such the kitchen addition is not an adverse impact on the overall integrity of the structure.

The building should be reclassified as contributing within the Butte-Anaconda NHL.

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Photographs



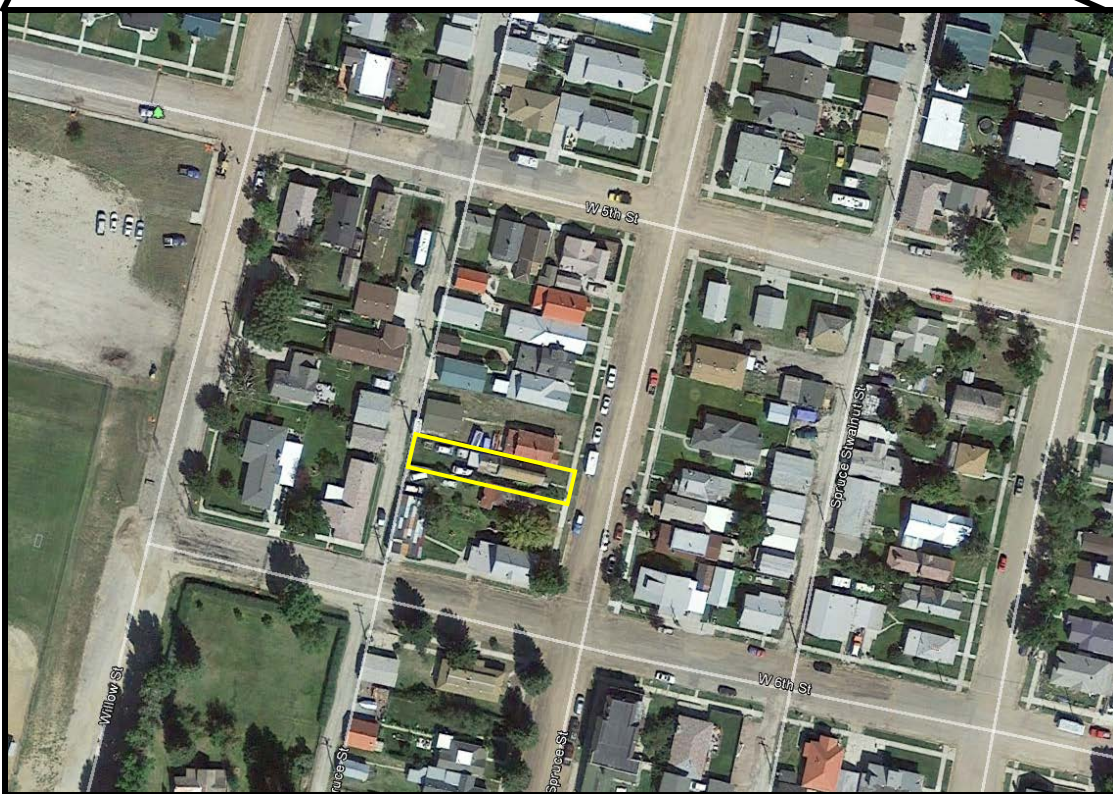
Frank and Sarah Q. Walker Residence
516 Spruce Street
Anaconda, MT
East Façade, view West
Photograph from Google Earth

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Site Map/Aerial Photo



Frank & Sarah Q. Walker Residence

516 Spruce St, Anaconda, MT

Zone: 12 Easting: 348235 Northing: 5110082

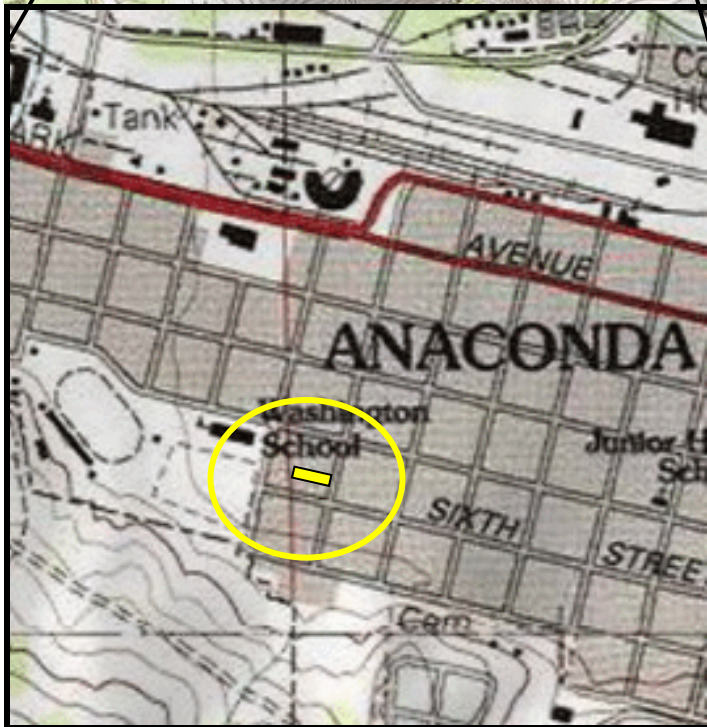
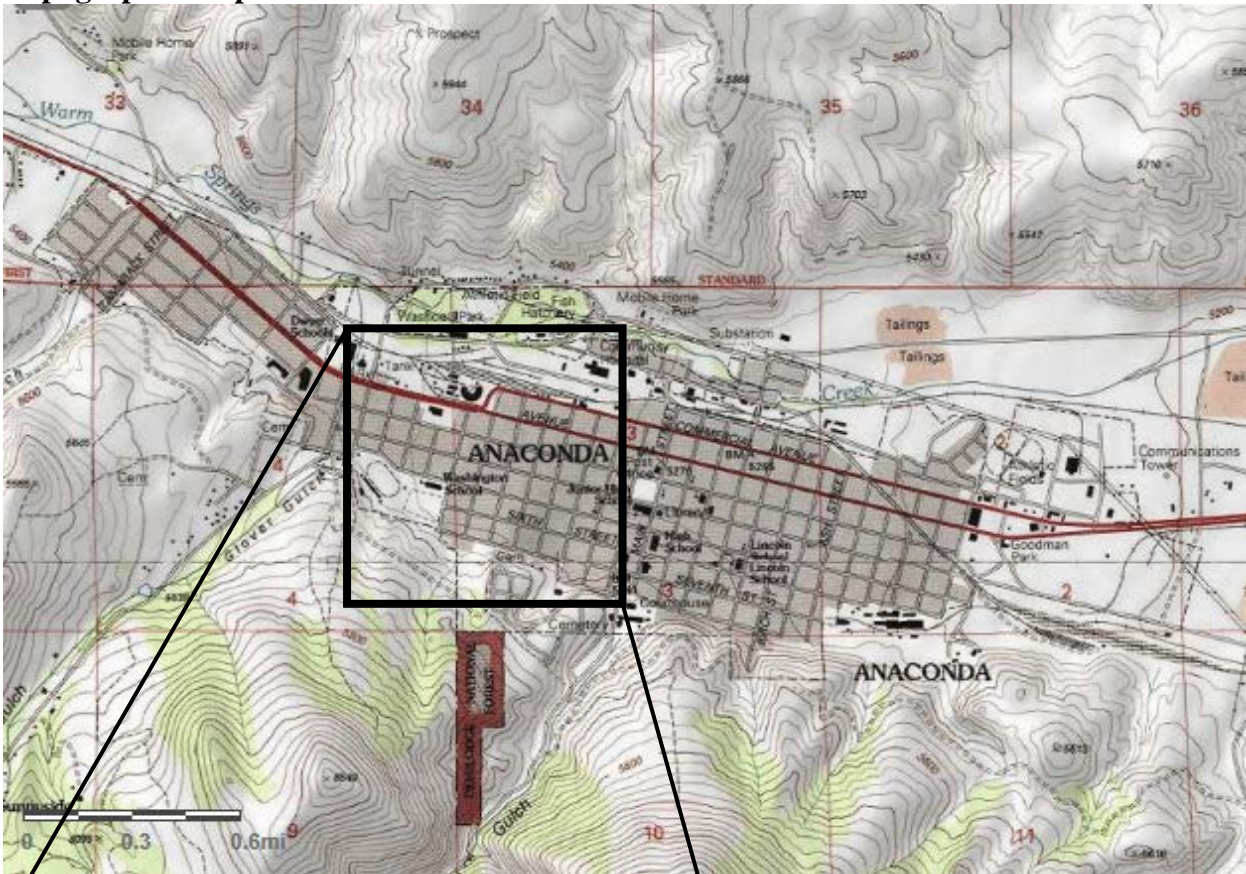
Geocode: 30-1285-03-3-15-03-0000

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Topographic Map



Frank & Sarah Q. Walker Residence

516 Spruce St, Anaconda, MT

Zone: 12 Easting: 348235 Northing: 5110082

Geocode: 30-1285-03-3-15-03-0000