

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201202, 1301 E. Lockey
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **731 4th Street**

Historic Address (if applicable):

City/Town: **Havre**

Site Number: **24HL1623**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Hill**

Historic Name: **Allsup Family Home**

Original Owner(s): **unknown**

Current Ownership Private Public

Current Property Name:

Owner(s): **Lisa Zumbrun**

Owner Address: **PO Box 1607
Havre, MT
59501**

Phone:

Legal Location

PM: **Montana** Township: **32 N** Range: **16 E**

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ **NE** $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section: **08**

Lot(s): **9**

Block(s): **5**

Addition: **Pepin First Addition** Year of Addition:

USGS Quad Name: **Havre** Year:

Historic Use: **Single Family Dwelling**

Current Use: **Single Family Dwelling**

Construction Date: **1920** Estimated Actual

Original Location Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference Montana Digital Atlas

NAD 27 or NAD 83(preferred)

Zone: **12** Easting: **598050** Northing: **5378281**

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: yes no

Criteria: A B C D

Date: 8/29/2016

Evaluator: Kate Hampton

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

merge pages with this form

SUBJECT	PAGE
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION	3
HISTORY OF PROPERTY	5
INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	8
INTEGRITY (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association)	9
CURRENT PHOTOS (building exterior and key interior spaces)	10
SATALITE IMAGES	12
USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPO MAP	13

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: **1929-1961**

Montana Historic Property Record Form

Property Name: Allsup Family Home

Smithsonian Number: 24HL1623

Architectural Style: **National** 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 Allsup Family Home at 731 4th Street is located on lot 9, on the southeast corner of block 5, in the Pepin First Addition of Havre. The block is bounded by 3rd Street to the north, 7th Avenue to the west, and 4th Street to the South. Block 4 is adjacent to block 5 on the East, which is occupied by school district 16. Directly across 4th Street to the south, a city park covers the entire opposite block. Aside from the residential block that the Allsup home stands on, the neighborhood is heavily developed. Southeast from the 731 4th Street stands a large apartment and office building, directly opposite 4th Street from the elementary school. The blocks to the west contain the buildings of both the Lutheran and Catholic churches, as well as their administrative and housing complex. The Allsup Family Home stands three blocks south of the Tenco of Havre Railroad, and the main street business district.

The front of the house features a square yard, raised about a foot above the city side walk, contained on the west, south, and east sides by beds of railroad ties. The north end of the yard terminates at the foundation of the house. A cement walkway extends from the sidewalk to the front entry steps. From the sidewalk, the cement walkway cuts through an opening in the railroad ties for about 5 feet, before rising to the level of the elevated lawn via two cement steps. The walkway ends at the base of the front porch. Two steps, likely cement, give access to the front door. The yard continues around the west elevation, where an open, platform deck extends from a sliding side door near the rear of the house. The East side of the house is adjacent to an irregular, L-shaped alley. The alley runs north from 4th Street, to the rear of lot 18 (Rear 731 4th), then turns west and connects with 7th Avenue. Only a small section of grass runs between the Allsup Home and the gravel driveway of 731 4th Street Rear.

Introduction

The Allsup Family Home at 731 4th Street is a one and a half story, National Style structure with a front gable roof with asphalt shingles, built on a cement foundation. The western end of south façade features a front gable extension, with a shed-roof overhang on the east side that covers the stoop. Two shed dormers extend from the apex of the roof, one on the west slope, and a larger dormer on the east slope. The house features a connected single bay garage at the rear.

South Façade

The extended front gable dominates the western side of the south façade. The extension's roof shares its western slope with the western slope of the main structure. The apex of the extension's roof occurs about halfway up the main roof slope. The extension itself covers the entire west half of the façade, with a shed roof overhang covering the stoop. The center of the extension contains a large one-by-one slider window fixture with white plastic surrounds. The eastern half of the façade features a metal two-light screen door with wood surrounds painted deep red, and two one-over-one double hung windows with white plastic surrounds, east of the entrance. The entire first story of the façade is covered with faux rock siding. The top half story of the façade features a tan synthetic, horizontal board siding. The only feature of the top half story is a small, rectangular vent in the peak of the main gable front. The south side of the chimney is visible rising from the western roof slope. Likewise, the southern elevation of the large shed dormer is visible above the eastern slope of the roof. The exterior of the dormer is currently under construction, but it is likely that it will feature the same tan siding prevalent on the top half story of the house.

Side Elevations

The exterior walls of the east elevation are covered by the same tan siding used elsewhere on the structure. The main section of the house contains three window features. Two identical one-by-one slider windows sit on the southern end

Montana Historic Property Record Form

Property Name: Allsup Family Home

Smithsonian Number: **24HL1623**

and center of elevation. The northern end of the elevation features an original one-over-one double hung window fixture with deep red wood surrounds. As the house is under construction, the areas around the two southern windows have been removed. On the northern half of the east roof slope, a large shed dormer protrudes. The dormer features three side-by-side, one-over-one double hungs at the center of its east elevation. The exterior of the dormer is covered by tan siding, which rises from just above the edge of the main roof to the wood eaves of the dormer, which are painted red. A single story attached garage extends from the north elevation. The east elevation of the garage contains a single white wood door on the far southern end, and a single bay, white garage door at the center. Both the entry door and the garage bay door feature wood surrounds, painted deep red. The shingled roof of the garage is visible, and matches the roof of the main house.

A large, exterior chimney dominates the west elevation. The chimney rises at the center of the main structure, and a gabled dormer-like feature extends from the western slope of the main roof to support the chimney. The southern end of the first story features two, one-over-one double hung windows. The northern of the two, being tucked against the South edge of the chimney, is slightly more vertically elongated than the other. On the northern end of the west elevation features a sliding glass entry door. The door sits atop a small, single step wooden deck. The Western elevation of a small shed dormer is visible extending from the roof slope. The exterior of the dormer is covered with tan siding and rises from roughly the center of the western slope. The shed roof extends down from the apex of the main roof, like the dormer featured on the eastern elevation. The dormer also features a single window fixture, although details are not visible. The western elevation of the attached garage is visible to the north. Covered in the same tan siding, the garage features only a single one-over-one double hung window near its southern end.

Rear Elevation

The rear elevation of the house contains the north elevations of the attached garage, main gable end, and dormers. The garage contains only two features. Two, three light windows, each located roughly in the eastern and western centers of the elevation, both appear to be one-by-one-by-one in style. However, the neighbor's privacy fence obstructs the view of the western window, which may be under construction. The gable end contains two window fixtures, which are currently under construction. The northern elevations of both east and west shed dormers are covered by the same tan siding.

Montana Historic Property Record Form

Property Name: Allsup Family Home

Smithsonian Number: 24HL1623

History of the Property

Thomas Allsup Sr. came to Havre, Montana in similar a fashion to thousands of other black men between the years of 1890 and 1891, under the regimental flag of the U.S. Colored Infantry and Calvary.¹ Born in 1847, Thomas likely did not taste his own freedom until the culmination of the Civil War, as boarder states like his home of Maryland did not fall under the edict of Emancipation issued by Lincoln.² Three years later, 21 year old Thomas Allsup enlisted into the Regular U.S. Army in Potomac, Maryland.³ Around that time, in 1869, the black regiments in the U.S. Army underwent a reconstruction into four new regiments, and by 1878, 31 year old Thomas Allsup is listed as a member of the soon to famous 10th Calvary. Allsup reenlisted six times, finally retiring after nearly 30 years in the Calvary. When he became a civilian again in December of 1897, Thomas Allsup was 51 years old and thousands of miles from his Maryland home, in the cold, far reaches of Montana's hi-line.⁴

Since 1892, the 1st Sergeant of D troop was stationed at Fort Assiniboine outside Havre. It was there in 1895, that he and his young wife Sadie (he was some twenty years her senior) welcomed their first son, Thomas Allsup Jr. into the world. Thomas Jr. joined his two older sisters, Ethel and Marguerite, 7 and 5 years old, respectively.⁵ And he would soon welcome a new baby sister, Ina, two years later. Together, the four Allsup children joined the very small number of black children in Havre at the turn of the century. Like their parents, most of the other African Americans living in the area also came to Northern Montana via the military. The Allsup family continued to grow, and by 1920, 68 year old Thomas Sr. and his 46 year old wife Sadie had a very full house at 622 Second Street. With the two eldest daughters married and moved out, Thomas Jr., then 25, provided for his parents, and five younger siblings. The oldest Allsup son had begun work as a clerk for the Great Northern Railroad a few years prior to 1920, a job he would keep for the rest of his life.⁶

Thomas' personal life was anything but stable. In 1917, he married the young Birdella Johnson.⁷ The two divorced not long after. Then in March of 1920, he remarried Sadie Johnson.⁸ There is nothing to suggest his second marriage was more successful, and the two divorced within a few years. His third wife, Mary Woods, whom he married sometime around 1925, became the mother to his three children.⁹ Though the outcome of his third marriage is unknown, it is possible that Mary Allsup succumbed to an illness, as it was mentioned several times in the local paper that she struggled with sickness.¹⁰ By 1938, Thomas and Mary are no longer married, and the city directory of that year listed 43 year old Ragna Routson Allsup as his wife.¹¹ Ragna is listed in the 1940 census as a white, Norwegian immigrant.¹² Interestingly, interracial marriage had been illegal in Montana since 1909. The two remained married until Ragna's death in 1958.¹³

¹ "T. H. Allsup," U.S., Buffalo Soldiers, Returns From Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1866-1916 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA. Accessed online at Ancestry.com

² U.S. Census, 1900, (*Havre, Chouteau, Montana*; Roll: 910; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 0190; FHL microfilm: 1240910). Accessed online at Ancestry.com

³ "T. H. Allsup," U.S., Buffalo Soldiers, Returns From Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1866-1916 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA. Accessed online at Ancestry.com

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ U.S. Census, 1900, (*Havre, Chouteau, Montana*; Roll: 910; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 0190; FHL microfilm: 1240910). Accessed online at Ancestry.com

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Marriage license Thomas Allsup Jr. and Birdella Johnson, (Ancestry.com. *Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014).

⁸ Marriage license Thomas Allsup Jr. and Sadie Johnson, (Ancestry.com. *Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014).

⁹ U.S. Census, 1930, (*Havre, Hill, Montana*; Roll: 1257; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 0018; Image: 249.0; FHL microfilm: 2340992). Accessed online at Ancestry.com

¹⁰ Havre Daily Herald, search for Mrs. Allsup and Mary Allsup, chroniclingamerica.gov

¹¹ R.L. Polk & Co., Polk's 1938 *Havre (Hill County, Mont.) City Directory*, 18.

¹² U.S. Census, 1940, (*Havre, Hill, Montana*; Roll: T627_2221; Page: 17A; Enumeration District: 21-19C). Accessed online at Ancestry.com

¹³ Death index for Ragna Allsup, (Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012).

Montana Historic Property Record Form

Property Name: Allsup Family Home

Smithsonian Number: **24HL1623**

Amid the apparent turmoil of his personal life, Thomas did find some stability in both his work with the Great Northern Railroad, and within his family home. The earliest city directory for Havre in 1929 lists the Allsups at 731 4th Street.¹⁴ It would remain his home until at least 1961, when records of him in Havre stop. The census of 1930 shows Thomas, his then wife Mary, and three sons Thomas (Jr. III), William, and Robert living at the 4th Street home.¹⁵ It is the first time that Thomas Sr., the retired soldier and his wife Sadie are not mentioned, as they soon moved to California after 1920, and where Thomas Sr. would pass away in March of 1922, at the age of 76.¹⁶ The building that Thomas Allsup and his young family now called home stood in central Havre, less than two blocks from St. Stephen's AME Church at the corner of 3rd Street and 6th Avenue. Both his second and third wives, Sadie and Mary, were active in the Church, appearing on occasion in the Havre Daily Herald for work with Sunday school and other church functions. Thomas also participated in varied civic and social duties of the time. In 1927, with the formation of a black Masonic lodge in Havre, the A.F. & A.M. No. 16, Thomas became the secretary, a position he would hold for many years.¹⁷

Beyond the religious and social aspects of life in Havre, the Allsups quickly became a mainstay in a community of African Americans that was increasingly migrant and quickly dwindling. Along with the Barns, a family headed by another former soldier like Thomas' father, the black community in Northern Montana came to be centered largely around the Allsups. Thomas' children attended Havre Public Schools, frequently achieving high marks, and mentions in the local paper honor rolls. When Thomas reached the age of 70, in 1965, he moved south to California.¹⁸ His fourth wife Ragna had died seven years prior, and not somewhat surprisingly, Thomas remarried a fifth time in 1965, to a woman named Connie. Thomas Allsup Jr. lived in Oxnard, California for 17 years before his death in 1982, at the age of 87.¹⁹

¹⁴ R.L. Polk & Co., Polk's 1938 *Havre (Hill County, Mont.) City Directory*, 34.

¹⁵ U.S. Census, 1930, (*Havre, Hill, Montana*; Roll: 1257; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 0018; Image: 249.0; FHL microfilm: 2340992). Accessed online at Ancestry.com

¹⁶ Death index for Thomas Allsup and pension card, (Ancestry.com. *California, Death Index, 1940-1997* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000).

¹⁷ Havre Daily News Promoter June 5, 1927. Available online at Ancestry.com

¹⁸ R.L. Polk & Co., Polk's 1968 (*Oxnard, Ventura, California.*) *City Directory*, 82.

¹⁹ Death index for Thomas Allsup and pension card, (Ancestry.com. *California, Death Index, 1940-1997* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000).

Montana Historic Property Record Form

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Information Sources/Bibliography

Ancestry.com. Searches for Thomas Allsup, Thomas Allsup Jr., Birdella Johnson, Sadie Johnson, Marry Allsup, Ragna Allsup. Results included: U.S. Census for 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940; Marriage licenses for Thomas Allsup Jr. and Birdella Johnson, Sadie Johnson, and Ragna Routson; U.S., Buffalo Soldiers, Returns From Regular Army Cavalry Regiments, 1866-1916 for T. H. Allsup; Death Indexes for Thomas Allsup, Thomas Allsup Jr., and Ragna Allsup.

Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. Access to Historic Newspapers included: *The Havre Daily Herald*.

Havre Daily News Promoter June 5, 1927. Available online at Ancestry.com

Montana Historic Property Record Form

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Statement of Significance

The Allsup Family Home garners its significance from its association with the Allsup family, and their profound impact on the African American Community of Havre in the first half of the twentieth century. As the community in Havre was very small, and the number of house remaining today which are associated with African American families is so small, the Allsup house also garners some significance as a rare property type. Although it has been altered significantly, the location of the home still retains the original feel that the Allsups would have experienced in their neighborhood some eighty years ago.

Montana Historic Property Record Form

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

The Allsup Family Home retains little to no integrity. The house has been thoroughly remodeled, changing the shape and style, while not retaining like materials, design, or workmanship. The original structure appeared to have been a single story home with two open porches on the south façade. However, it seems that more recent owners have enclosed the porches, bumped the roof to facilitate a one and a half story style, and added two large shed dormers to the top half story. A garage has also been added to the rear of the building. For these reasons, the house is not eligible.

Montana Historic Property Record Form

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Photographs

731 4th Street, South Façade, view N



731 4th Street, East Elevation, view W



Montana Historic Property Record Form

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731 4th Street, North Elevation, view S



731 4th Street, West Elevation, view E



Montana Historic Property Record Form

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Site Map/Aerial Photo



