

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

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

Property Address: 617 Montana Ave
Historic Address (if applicable):

City/Town: Havre, MT

Site Number: 24HL1624
(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: Hill County

Historic Name: Barnes Residence

Original Owner(s):

Current Ownership Private Public

Current Property Name:

Owner(s): Laden Scott
Owner Address: 617 Montana Ave
Havre, MT 59501-3945

Phone:

Legal Location

PM: MT Township: 32N Range: 16E

SE ¼ of the **NW** ¼ of Section: 08

Lot(s): 004(S2 of Lt4) & 005
Block(s): 013

Addition: Ken-Wright Second Addition
Year of Addition:

USGS Quad Name: Havre Year: 1992

Historic Use: Domestic

Current Use: Domestic

Construction Date: Estimated Actual

Original Location Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov

NAD 27 or NAD 83(**preferred**)

Zone: 12 Easting: 597129.48 Northing: 5378058.12

Geocode: **12-4441-08-2-01-41-0000**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District:
NRHP Eligible: Yes No

Date of this document: **6-24-2016**

Form Prepared by: Diana Nettleton

Address: 1301 E Lockey St, Helena MT 59620-1202

Daytime Phone: **406-444-7715**

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Eligible for NRHP: yes no

Criteria: 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."

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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:

Period of Significance:

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Architectural Style: Other If Other, specify: **National Folk – craftsman elements**
Property Type: Domestic Specific Property Type: Single Family Residence

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

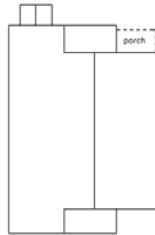
Architectural Description:

Setting & Location

617 Montana Avenue in Havre Montana sits in the Ken Wrights Hills suburban residential addition of the town. An alley cuts from the curve between 7th and Pike Streets along a north-south axis and connects to 6th Street. The block is an irregular shape with 7th Street curving south into Pike Street on the south perimeter which then circles clockwise into a switchback, Montana Avenue borders the west of the block, 6th Street binds the north, and the alley marks the eastern boundary of the block. This block of the Ken Wright Hills Addition leads into another neighborhood addition on the west called the Sunset Hill Addition. The lot on which the house rests lies on the south edge of the northernmost third of the block. A football field is located a mere block to the west of the residence. Only this football field and the house across the street obstruct the northwestern view of green space from the Barnes' residence. The Havre "H" lies to the southwest of the residence and just beyond that, the Highland Cemetery. Several tall trees line the streets of the neighborhood. A large tree grows in the south section of the front lawn of the residence. A sidewalk employs a slight curve northward to lead from the street sidewalk to the concrete front steps up to the door. A five foot bush/tree sits in the northern bend of the curve in the front walk and a second five foot bush/tree sits parallel to the first on the southern side of the front walk. Two red, square brick pads lie under both windows of the front façade, beginning at the concrete steps and endings where the house ends. The brick pad under the northernmost window is 3x7 tiles and the pad under the southernmost window is 2x6 tiles. A wooden fence marks the northern boundary from the next lot and a concrete brick wall marks the southern boundary. The green lawn grows in the entire front section. On the northern side of the house, the lawn grows up to a point in line with the beginning of the house, and then turns to dirt. On the southern side of the house, the lawn grows from the street sidewalk all the way to the easternmost end of the house. After the grass ends dirt fills the lot for parking space.

Introduction

617 Montana Avenue in Havre Montana is a one-story, gable-front, National folk style home with craftsman elements. The home displays wood-frame construction and rests on a concrete foundation. It consists of a moderately pitched asphalt shingle roof in a regular pattern with white painted eaves, and beige-sage colored vinyl-clapboard strip cladding. The house went up during the 1920s and has since undergone a remodel in the 1960s in which the historic front and rear northern porches were enclosed to be included in the permanent footprint, it is likely that this same remodel saw the construction of a basement floor as well. The modern enclosures maintained the slope of the roof line reaching their apex slightly below and to the north of the original roofline, and create an extension of the northernmost bays toward the north and south elevations. The eastern elevation of the house also includes a covered entry porch with its own roof line and lies within and slightly to the north of the center of the eastern extension. A wooden porch lies on the southern half of the eastern elevation, extending one foot shy of the same distance as the footprint of the northeastern bay.



West Façade

The west façade consists of two bays, two rooflines, two windows and the front door. The northern end of the façade contains a white false beam with a triangular knee brace just below the gable and attaching to the frame of a large 3x3 foot single-light fixed window, the frame of which mimics the white color of the beam and brace. A second white beam and triangular knee brace lies just under the apex of the gable roof of the northern extension on the western face. The front door resides in the face of the extension on this western side of the house on the southernmost edge of the bay. The door consists of a white wood frame enclosing a white glaze-

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paneled wood front door with an oval one-light window in the top half. A third white beam and knee brace adorn the southernmost edge of the western extension's roof. The original western bay is set back from the extension and it contains a fourth white beam and knee brace at the apex of the roofline under the gable and a fifth on the southernmost edge of the roofline under the gable. The original bay also contains a wide, white framed double-hung, one-over-one window. There are no basement windows visible in this western façade.

South Elevation

The south elevation consists of three bays, four rooflines, four confirmed windows and a view of the wood deck. The western extension is visible on the westernmost side of the west bay for approximately three feet, and then the original bays are more prominent in this elevation. A double-hung, one-over-one, white framed window resides in the westernmost bay and just beneath it, on the basement level, a one-by-one sliding glass window lays inset from the concrete wall foundation just under the ending of the clapboard siding. The foundation has been painted white and the frame in which the window resides is also white. A concrete sidewalk continues and steps down from the one residing on the western lawn, lining the ground on this side of the house as well. A small metal protrusion is visible on this southern slope of the roof slightly to the east of the center. A second, slightly taller, double-hung, one-over-one, white framed window above in the eastern bay, and a second one-by-one, white metal framed window lays inset from the concrete foundation just under the ending of the clapboard siding. Along the easternmost edge of the original bay is a rain gutter drain that mimics the beige-sage coloring of the house. The roofline of the eastern extension is visible and next to it resides the wood deck approximately three feet in height, painted in the same color as the cladding of the house. A continuation of the beige-sage colored cladding covers the provided stability and height for the deck, and this too resides at approximately three feet in height. The photograph supplied does not provide a view of any potential windows on the southern elevation of the eastern extension of the house. The fourth roofline visible belongs to the porch entry, set back from and within the eastern extension of the house.

East Elevation

The East Elevation consists of two bays, two rooflines, one window, two doors, and a wood deck. A white beam and knee brace resides at the apex of the original bay's roofline just under the gable. The southernmost end of the gabled roof contains another white beam and knee brace. Immediately to the north of that brace resides the modern, white metal, one-by-one sliding glass door. This door leads out from the house onto the deck that consists of wood painted to mimic the same beige-sage color of the cladding throughout the house. The railing for the deck consists of a simple post design and sits at approximately three feet in height. The same clapboard siding seen on the rest of the house covers the foundation of the deck and it too resides at approximately three feet in height. Both the deck and its foundation end when the eastern extension of the house begins. A metal protrusion is visible on the southern slope of the eastern extension's roofline that connects the house to the larger city wide electric infrastructure. A rain gutter drain sits on the southernmost edge of the eastern extension, and right above it, just under the gable resides another white beam and knee brace. A beige-sage colored metal covered wire leads from this metal protrusion down to an electrical box that consists of the same coloring as the rest of the house. A fourth white beam and knee brace resides at the apex of the eastern extension's roofline just under the gable and the fifth on the northernmost end of the eastern extension's roofline just under the gable. The concrete wall foundation continues under the eastern extension and within, on the southern side of the covered porch entry resides another inset white, one-by-one, metal frame sliding glass window. The covered porch entry's roof consists of the same slope and material as the rest of the house, except does not reside on the same roofline. Another rain gutter drain, painted the same beige-sage color, sits on the southernmost edge of the covered porch entry. The cladding of the covered porch entry consists of the same clapboard material the rest of the house employs and taking up the majority of the façade of this covered porch entry is the door. The door consists of a one-over-one, white metal-framed, aluminum protective storm door.

North Elevation

The north elevation consists of four confirmed windows, a ventilation system for rooms within, and some other home appliance permanent connections. A double-hung, one-over-one, white wide-framed, approximately 2x1 foot window sits just under the roofline on the easternmost side of the elevation. A one-by-one, white wide-framed, approximately 3x1 foot, sliding glass window sits to the west and approximately in the center of the elevation. Under this window, a one-by-one white metal-framed sliding glass window resides inset of the concrete foundation just under the ending of the clapboard siding. To the west of this basement window sits an air conditioner that attaches to the house with white tubes. To the west of the air conditioning tubing for a washer and dryer system reside before reaching a water spigot attached to the house. All of these appliance connectors sit just above the ending of the clapboard siding. A dark brown vent is visible on the northern slope of the roof near to the apex. The westernmost side of the north elevation consists of a single light, fixed, white wide-framed, approximately 3x1 foot, vertical window. This window lines up perfectly with the single light window that resides on the West Façade.

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History of the Property

Early Havre

In the early 1890s, Augustus Decelles, a French Canadian, made his homestead in what is now the west side of Havre. He began his career in Montana running a supply wagon from the Midwest into Northern Montana before the Northern Pacific Railroad was constructed. As the railroad began discussions for construction in the area, Gus Decelles and four other early settlers in the area had the opportunity to name the new little town. Gus's contribution of Havre, after his parents' hometown Le Havre in France, won the debate.¹ With the railroad through Havre completed, Gus needed to develop new means of making money, and he delved into Real Estate and Horses.^{2,3} The town of Havre continued to grow in population and eventually needed to expand the city limits. Gus petitioned the city council to expand the city limits so that they included more of his land to the west of the city, including the pasture in which he housed his racehorses⁴, and he began to sell or donate pieces.⁵ The land to the west of town became the site of a new public school⁶, which became the Devlin School⁷, and several plots for home construction, including the land that would eventually house 617 Montana Avenue.

Jennie M. Alexander

Mrs. Jennie M. Alexander came to Montana as a widow sometime between 1900 and 1914. She began her life as Jennie McGuinn around 1880 and her parents, John and Fannie McGuinn, raised her in Virginia. Her first marriage in Washington DC ended dramatically and this likely caused her to seek respite. She married William Alexander October 29, 1896.⁸ Their marriage lasted only four years, because in 1900, William was placed in St Elizabeth's Asylum for the Insane⁹ where he died of internal injuries after a horrible fall down a set of stairs.^{10,11} Three years later, Jennie returned to her hometown to attend her mother's funeral.¹² After these unfortunate incidents, Jennie seems to disappear. Even her hometown newspapers list a string of her unclaimed letters.¹³ It isn't until 1914 after she marries William H. Barnes that she resurfaces, and the news was sent from Montana to Washington DC of their marriage.¹⁴

William H. Barnes

William H. Barnes was born in 1869, and grew up in Ellicott City, Maryland with his mother, Julia Barnes.¹⁵ His father, William (Mac) R. Barnes is listed on marriage licenses¹⁶, but never seemed to be present for the Census. In 1891, William enlisted in the army in Philadelphia Pennsylvania and served in the 24th Infantry¹⁷ with the 'Buffalo Soldiers' in the Indian Wars and in the Spanish War. He eventually ended up at Fort Assiniboine¹⁸ in 1900. He was honorably discharged March 7th, 1902 as a private in the Army Hospital Corps.¹⁹ After leaving the Fort, he immediately married his first wife Lucy E. Brown on March 13th. William and Lucy remained in Chouteau, Montana for a number of years and he worked as a janitor at the local public school.²⁰ Lucy unfortunately died young in November of 1913²¹. Barely less than a year later, in October of 1914, widower William H. Barnes marries widowed Jennie M. Alexander.²²

¹ "Grit, Guts and Gusto". p154.

² Fed Census. 1910.

³ "Jack Griffen...". *The Havre Herald*. p5.

⁴ "Positively no shooting...". *The Havre Herald*. p5.

⁵ "Gus Decelles Petitions...". *The Havre Herald*. p1.

⁶ "A deed filed...". *The River Press*. p5.

⁷ "Grit, Guts and Gusto". P451.

⁸ "Marriage Certificate: William Alexander & Jennie McGuinn".

⁹ Federal Census. 1900.

¹⁰ "Well Known Citizen Passes Away". *The Colored American*. p9.

¹¹ "Fatal Accident: Insane Patient Dies from Effects of a Fall". *The Evening Star*. p16.

¹² "Death of Miss Fannie McGuinn". *The Colored American*. p13.

¹³ "List of Unclaimed Letters". *Alexandria Gazette*. p3.

¹⁴ "Barnes-Alexander". *The Evening Star*. p8.

¹⁵ Federal Census. 1870.

¹⁶ "Marriage Certificate: William Barnes & Lucy Brown".

¹⁷ "Military Veteran Headstone Application".

¹⁸ Federal Census. 1900.

¹⁹ "Military Veteran Headstone Application".

²⁰ Federal Census. 1910.

²¹ "Headstone for Lucy Barnes".

²² "Marriage Certificate: William Barnes & Jennie Alexander".

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Mr. and Mrs. Barnes

William and Jennie married in October of 1914, and according to Havre newspapers, a large number of friends attended, attesting to the popularity that William had earned living and working in Havre.²³ The ceremony took place at the home of a man who served as a Buffalo Soldier along with him, sergeant Pascal Conley, on 1st Avenue in Havre. "Guests present included the old time friends of the groom, and a representation of the full-force of the Havre National and Farmers State banks, the Land Office, and County Officers and their ladies."²⁴ William and Jennie bought and moved into 617 Montana Avenue between 1917 and 1929 and lived out their rest of their lives in the home that they owned.^{25,26} William H. Barnes died December 11, 1951, after checking into the Fort Harrison VA Hospital in September.²⁷ Jennie went to great lengths to ensure that he received a military veteran's headstone for his service in both the Indian Wars and the Spanish American War, and she was still living in their home on Montana Avenue when the application was approved.²⁸ Jennie A. Barnes died a few years later in October of 1955.²⁹

²³ "Wm. Barnes ... ". *Havre Plaindealer*. p4.

²⁴ "Barnes – Alexander". *Havre Promoter*. p4.

²⁵ Federal Census. 1930-1940.

²⁶ Havre City Directory. 1931-1954.

²⁷ "William H. Barnes, 82, ... ". *The Independent Record*. p8.

²⁸ "Military Veteran Headstone Application".

²⁹ Montana Death Index.

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Information Sources/Bibliography

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Federal Census Year: 1900; Census Place: *Fort Assiniboine, Chouteau, Montana*; Roll: *910*; Enumeration District: *0220*; FHL microfilm: *1240910* – accessed June, 2016.

Federal Census Year: 1910; Census Place: *Havre Ward 2, Chouteau, Montana*; Roll: *T624_830*; Page: *7B*; Enumeration District: *0068*; FHL microfilm: *1374843* – accessed June, 2016.

Federal Census Year: 1920; Census Place: *Havre Ward 1, Hill, Montana*; Roll: *T625_971*; Page: *5A*; Enumeration District: *134*; Image: *951* – accessed June, 2016.

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Statement of Significance

The Barnes' residence at 617 Montana Avenue exhibits historic significance in its connection to the African American community in Havre Montana in the early 1900s, as well as being one of the few remaining houses that were owned specifically by African American families. The significance is further viewed in the Barnes' connection to wider national events, namely those of the Indian and Spanish American wars.

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

617 Montana Avenue, the Barnes' Residence, retains historic integrity in the retention of the overall structural design of the house, as well as in the location, feel, and setting. The neighborhood has maintained its residential nature, and the building that once housed a public school down the street from the home, continues to house an educational facility in the form of a Boys and Girls Club. The integrity lacks in the materials used on the exterior of the house, and in the addition of craftsman elements to an otherwise National Folk style and the enclosing of the porches to be included in the overall footprint of the house.

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Photographs



Photo supplied by: Becki Miller, 2016. West (front) elevation, view to the east.



Photo Supplied by: Becki Miller, 2016. West and south elevations, view to the northeast.

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Photo Supplied by: Becki Miller, 2016. East (rear) elevation, view to west.



Photo Supplied by: Becki Miller, 2016. West and north elevations, view to southeast.

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Site Map/Aerial Photo

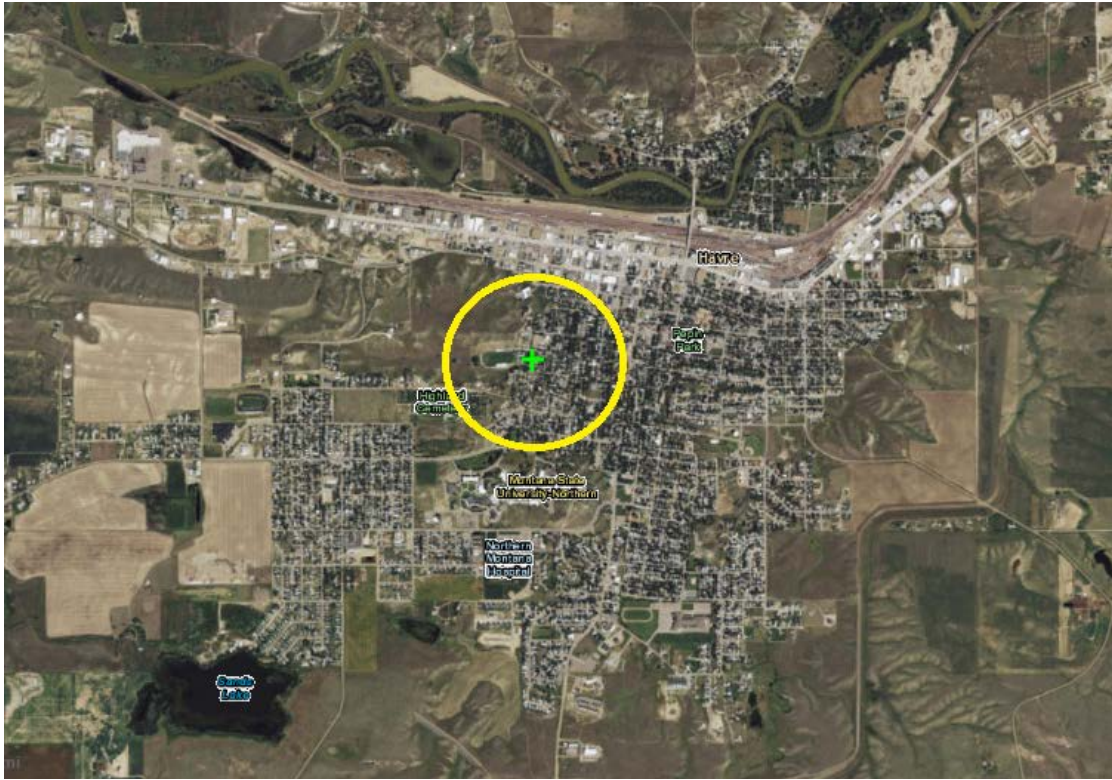


Photo Supplied by mt.gov –accessed June, 2016.



Photo Supplied by mt.gov – accessed June, 2016.

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Barnes Residence

617 Montana Avenue, Havre, MT
GeoCode: 12-4441-08-2-01-41-0000
UTM Zone 12 / 597129.48 E / 5378058.12 N
Lat: 48.548.089 / Long: -109.683916

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Topographic Map

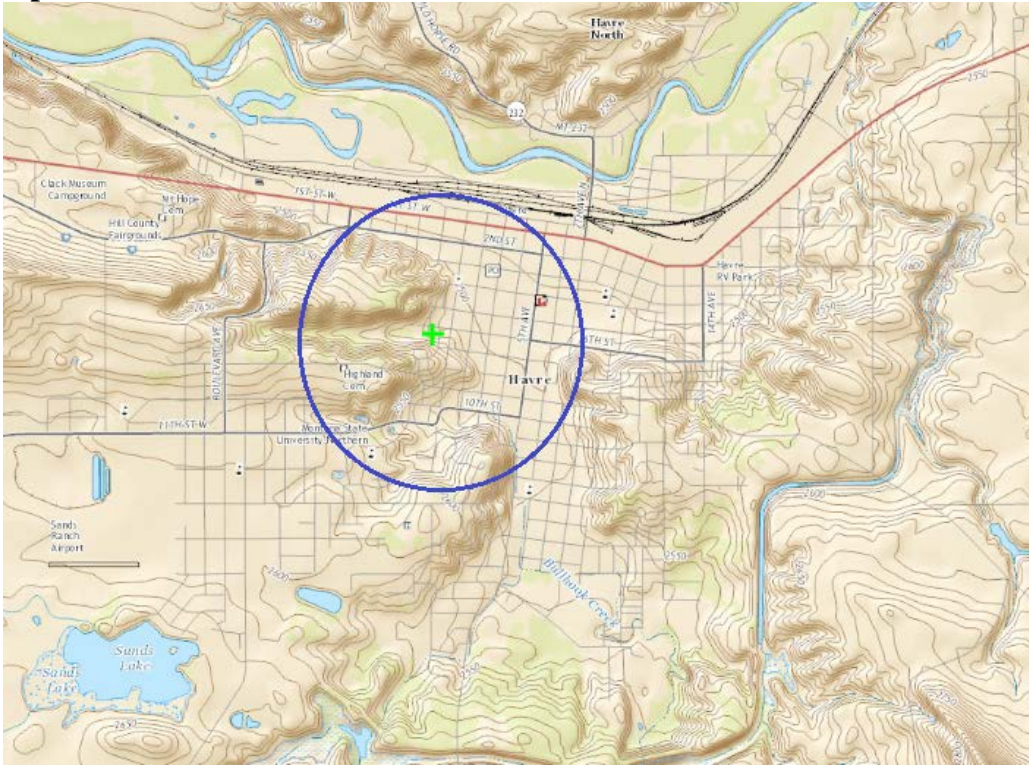


Photo Supplied by mt.gov – accessed June, 2016.

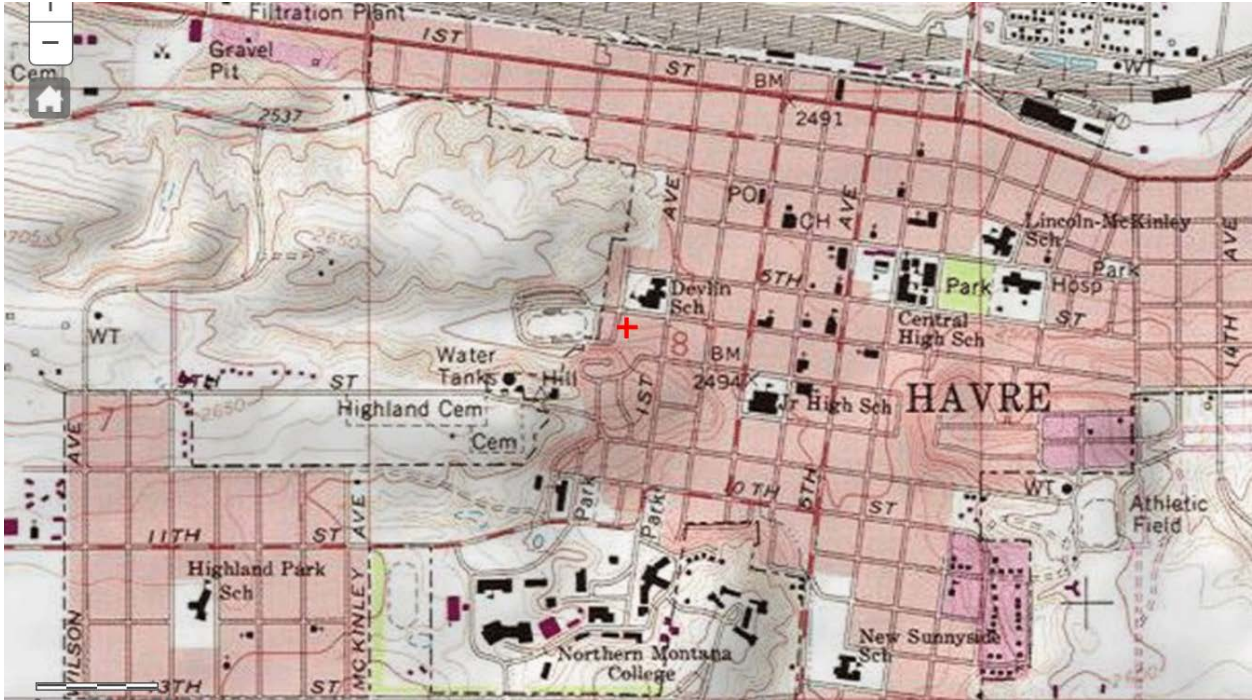


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Barnes Residence

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