

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

For the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database

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

Property Address: **524 Hollins Ave.**

Historic Address (if applicable): **522 Hollins Ave.**

City/Town: **Helena**

Site Number: **24LC2438**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Lewis and Clark**

Historic Name: **Charles and Callie Mathews House**

Original Owner(s): **Robert L. Miller**

Current Ownership Private Public

Current Property Name:

Owner(s): **Stubbs, James W Jr.**

Owner Address: **1704 Lincoln Rd. E., Helena, MT 59602**

Phone:

Legal Location

PM: **Montana** Township: **10 N** Range: **04 W**

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ **SE** $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section: **24**

Lot(s): **26 & E 8' Lot 27**

Block(s): **33**

Addition: **Broadwater** Year of Addition: **1887**

USGS Quad Name: **Helena** Year: **1992**

Historic Use: DOMESTIC/single family

Current Use: DOMESTIC/single family

Construction Date: **c. 1889** Estimated Actual

Original Location Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov

NAD 27 or NAD 83(preferred)

Zone: **12** Easting: **420122.50** Northing: **561457.75**

Geocode: **05-1887-24-4-15-23-0000**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District:

NRHP Eligible: Yes No

Date of this document: **7/20/2016**

Form Prepared by: **Delia Hagen**

Address: **660 River Court, Missoula, MT 59801**

Daytime Phone: **(406) 360-0120**

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Eligible for NRHP: yes no

Criteria: A B C D

Date: 8/30/2016

Evaluator: Kate Hampton

Comments: Identifying Montana's African American Heritage Places Project.

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Architectural Description

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

Site Number: 24LC2438

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style: **Other:** If Other, specify:

Property Type: **Residential** Specific Property Type: **Single-family dwelling**

Architect: **unknown** Architectural Firm/City/State:

Builder/Contractor: **unknown** Company/City/State:

Source of Information:

The property historically known as 522 Hollins Avenue occupies a rectangular parcel on the north side of Hollins Avenue and is centrally located within the block. The block is bordered by Hollins Avenue to the south, Peosta Avenue to the north, Harrison Avenue to the west and Madison Avenue to the east. A gravel alley runs along the north end of the parcel. Hollins Avenue runs northwest to southeast.

The main building on the parcel is in the Eclectic style with Late Victorian elements. Between original construction of the building, sometime before 1892, and 1930, a second story was added to the structure (see Sanborn maps below). The addition of a second floor introduced late 19th and early 20th century Colonial Revival and Colonial Dutch features, which include the gambrel roof and gable end returns on the south facing façade. The building occupies the southern portion of the parcel with an unfenced yard, and planted to grass on its north, east and south sides. A city sidewalk runs along the south edge of the parcel that is connected to the front entrance by a concrete slab sidewalk. The name "MATHEWS" with the number, "522" is engraved in the sidewalk near the curb. A concrete band elevates the front yard with a single concrete step. The south façade entrance sits atop three rectangular concrete steps, while the entrance on the east elevation of the enclosed porch is at the top of three curved concrete steps. Landscaping is largely composed of shrubbery which lines the eastern boundary. A dirt driveway runs from the rear alley to the back entrance of the house, and runs along the east side of a two-car garage.

The medium sized, wood-framed two-story building has a north-south oriented rectangular footprint that sits upon a concrete foundation. Roof features include gable end returns on the corners of the south façade and four hipped window dormers. There are also two interior, slope brick chimneys near the northwestern corner of the building. The roof is clad in three-tab asphalt composition shingles. The bottom story of the exterior walls is clad in brick, and the top story is clad in imbricated wood shingles painted white. A horizontal beveled white wood board separates the two different types of cladding. All windows in the building are wood-frame unless otherwise noted.

Fenestration on the façade (south elevation) of the building includes two windows and an entry. On the first story, an enclosed porch features a historic storm door, which has 12 lights and an architrave of rectangular lights; three lights above the opening, and two vertical lights on either side. To the west of the entrance is a large fixed window, seven-over-one with detailed wood trim, and simple carved wood ornamentation on the top sill. The window is framed by a double row of soldiered bricks arranged in an arched lintel. The second story contains a large, centrally located, fixed window with three lights. The central light is fixed and approximately twice the size of the two smaller casement windows, located on either side.

One large and one small dormer extend from the roof on both the east and west elevations. They are clad in imbricated wood shingle with boxed eaves. The larger dormers, both of which are south of the smaller dormers, have a pair of one-over-one double hung vinyl windows, and the smaller dormers have one, one-over-one double hung metal frame windows. The first floor of both the east and west elevations features three original windows that are one-over-one, double hung. Each of these windows has a vertical brick arched lintel with simple carved wood ornament located on the top sill.

The eastern elevation also contains the eastern wall of the enclosed porch. A second entrance to the porch has an identical storm door as the façade with an architrave of rectangular lights; three above the opening, and one on each side. South of

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Architectural Description

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

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the door there is a large fixed sun window, three-over-three, with thick wood muntins and wood trim. Below the window, the porch is clad in horizontal beveled wood board, and sits above a basement window. A rectangular brick pilaster is situated on the southeast corner of the building, and features imbricated brick detailing.

The first story of the north elevation features a projecting component with a rear entrance. The door is surrounded with wood trim and has a boarded transom opening above. To the west of the entrance are two fixed windows, two-over-two with wood muntins, separated by a lathed wood pilaster. An electrical box is located to the right of the windows. The wall west of the entrance and windows is brick clad, while the east half is composed of concrete. Above the projecting component is a flat roof with a porch. The porch has a closed wood railing and a central entrance to the upper story. The central entrance contains a wood French-door, painted white, with 15 lights. Beneath the tip of the roof peak, is a wood rectangular vent.

The rear yard features a detached one story, wood frame two car garage with historic side hinged double openings. The garage is oriented east/west, and has a cement foundation and gable roof. The roof is covered in rolled asphalt sheeting. The north elevation, which features the double car entrance, is clad in horizontal wood board painted white. The entrances are composed of two doors with historic strap side hinges. Each door has eight square lights, four-over-four, above four vertical rectangular panels. The remainder of the building is composed of cement block and has no additional openings.

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History of Property

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

Site Number: 24LC2438

HISTORY OF PROPERTY

This property was first platted in 1887 as Lots 26 and 27 of Block 33 of the Broadwater Addition, along the northeast side of Hollins Avenue, northwest of its intersection with Madison Avenue. By 1892, when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company first mapped the area, the lot contained a wood-frame house, identified as 522 Hollins. At the time, it was owned by James T. Fitzgerald, who'd purchased Lots 25 and 26 in 1889 from Robert L. Miller. Fitzgerald owned the property until 1898, and during that time 522 Hollins stood in the midst of a rapidly developing neighborhood: many bare lots occupied surrounding blocks, but the northeast side of Hollins was lined with houses.

In 1898, Fitzgerald sold Lots 25 and 26 to the Home Building and Loan Association, which in turn sold Lot 26 to Charles Mathews, born in Georgia, in February 1905. Mathews, a 43-year-old veteran of Fort Harrison's "colored" Co. A, 24th Infantry, moved into his new home—which he likely had built, judging from the sidewalk stamped with his surname—with his wife Callie, 30, and their two daughters, 7-year-old Inez, born in Utah, and 1-year-old Florence, born in Montana. Charles and Callie both worked to support their family and home, he at Fort Harrison and she at home, as a dressmaker.

The Mathews owned 522 Hollins for over 20 years, selling it in 1927 to Charles Carlson. Three years later, a Sanborn Map indicated that the buildings at 522 Hollins were not the same buildings on the property in 1892. The house was either much modified or replaced after that date—with the new house boasting a brick first story—and a pair of small outbuildings had been replaced with a single larger building. In 1933 Carlson expanded the property buy buying the east 8 feet of the adjoining Lot 27 from his neighbors at 534 Hollins, Thomas and Maude Miller. Charles and his wife Anna owned the property for more than three decades. After Charles died, Anna sold 522 Hollins—as Lot 26 & the east 8' feet of Lot 27—to Vincent and Grace Holdgrafer. By then, the 522 Hollins property had undergone several modifications, including single story additions to the west side and the west end of the rear, and the replacement of the outbuilding with a concrete garage, all of which were completed between 1930 and 1951. It had also undergone an address change, from 522 to 524.

After fifteen years, in 1973, the Holdgrafers sold 524 Hollins to Michael James Zimmerman. It subsequently went through a series of owners before being acquired by the parents of the current owner and occupant, James W. Stubbs, Jr., in 1986. Sanborn Maps indicate no modifications to the building footprints since before 1951.

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Information Sources/Bibliography

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

Site Number: 24LC2438

INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Bureau of the Census. "9th Census of the United States, 1870: Population Schedules: Montana, Lewis and Clark County." Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1870.

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Hagen, Delia. "National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: African- American Heritage Places in Helena, MT," 2016.

Helena, City of, Town Plats

1887 Broadwater Addition

Lewis and Clark, County of. Clerk and Recorder's Office, property title records.

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Statement of Significance

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

Site Number: 24LC2438

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: **Ethnic Heritage & Social History** Period of Significance: **1905-1927**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1905 by Charles Mathews, a black veteran of a “colored” Army unit stationed at nearby Fort Harrison, and his wife Callie, the Mathews house is significant under NRHP Criterion A (local level) as a residential property associated with the history of African-American people in Helena, MT. Originally constructed by the Mathews’ during the heyday of the black community in Helena, the house remained Mathews-owned and occupied until 1927, when the local black community was in the midst of rapid decline. The Mathews house is thus associated with two significant historic contexts: it black owner-occupants lived there during the heyday of Helena’s, and Montana’s, African-American community, ca. 1875-1910, and they sold their home and left it in the midst of the community decline and endurance that followed, ca. 1910-1940. The property’s period of significance is the period during which it was owned and occupied by African-American people, ie. 1905 through 1927.

The Mathews house represents these significant historic themes in a number of specific ways. Located near the black Baptist Church (on the corner of Wilder and Harrison), it was one of multiple homes in the surrounding west-end/Broadwater Addition neighborhood that housed a cluster of African-American families, many of them containing veterans of the “colored” army units stationed at nearby Fort Harrison. And like women in many of Helena’s black families, Callie Mathews worked to help support the family. Home-based sewing businesses like Callie’s dressmaking were one of the preferable occupations open to black women in this period, providing more independence and respect than other common jobs like housekeeping for white families.

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Integrity

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

Site Number: 24LC2438

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

The house at 524 (formerly 522) Hollins retains a high degree of integrity dating from the historic period. The building, which underwent significant changes between 1892 and 1930, appears in its current configuration and massing on the 1930 Sanborn Map. Because the Mathews family lived at the address for more than twenty years, ending in 1927, it is very likely that the building's changes date to their tenure. Some changes in materials, including a few of the windows on the non-primary elevations, have been changed out with modern replacements in the same style. Otherwise, the integrity of materials and design are intact. The building stands in its original location and setting, and its integrity of feeling, workmanship, and association are apparent.

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Photographs

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

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Feature #
Facing: N

Description: South elevation

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Photographs

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

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Feature #
Facing: N

Description: South and east elevations

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Photographs

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

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Feature #
Facing: E-NE

Description: South and west elevations

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Photographs

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

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Feature #
Facing: SW

Description: Residence north elevation, garage east elevation

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Photographs

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Feature #
Facing: S

Description: 524 Hollins, Garage, view to S

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Photographs

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Feature #
Facing: N

Description: Sidewalk stamp detail, "Mathews 522"

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Site Map

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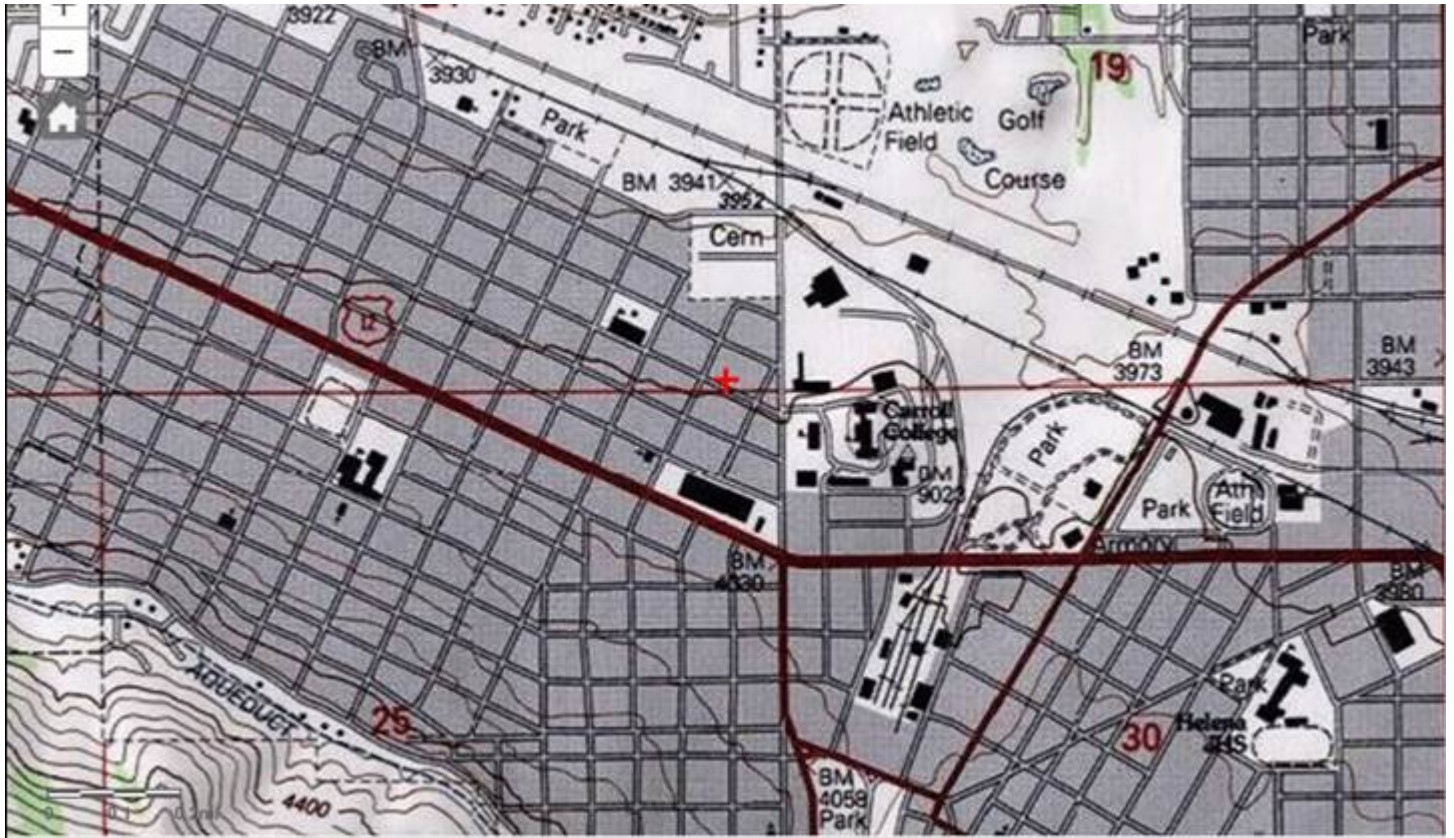


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Topographic Map

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

Site Number: 24LC2438



PROPERTY:

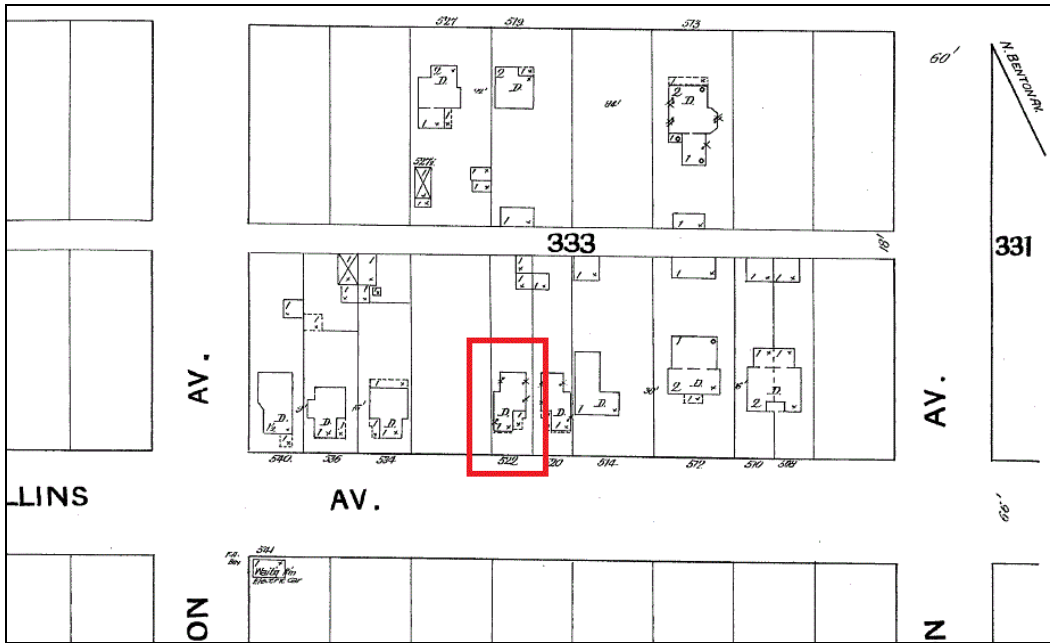
524 Hollins Ave
(fka 522 Hollins Ave)
Lewis and Clark County
Helena, Montana
GeoCode:
05-1887-24-4-15-23-0000
LAT 46.601943
LON -112.042975

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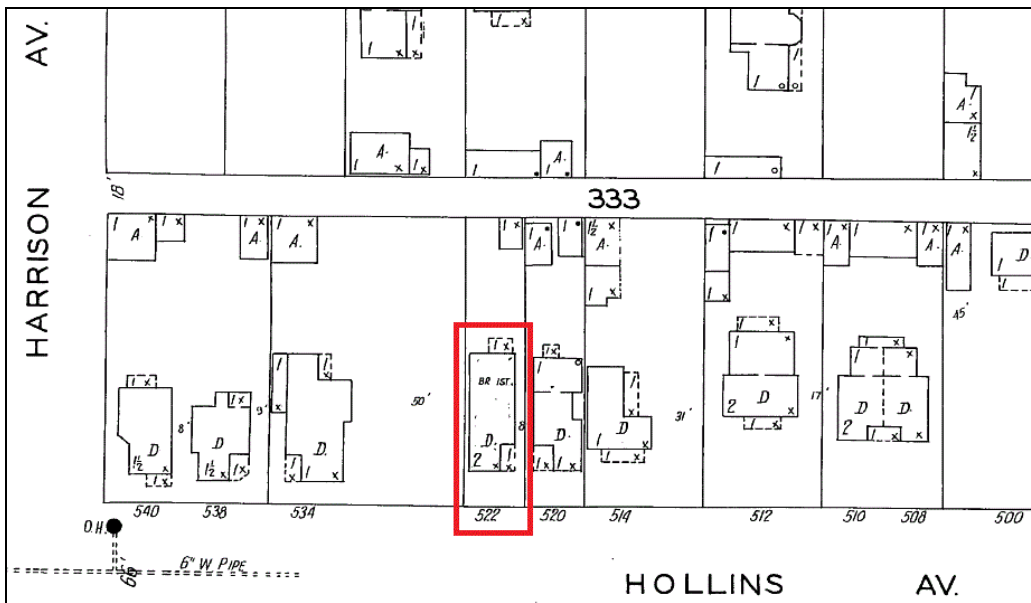
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Sanborn Maps

Property Name: Charles and Callie Mathews House

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Sanborn Map 1892



Sanborn Map 1930