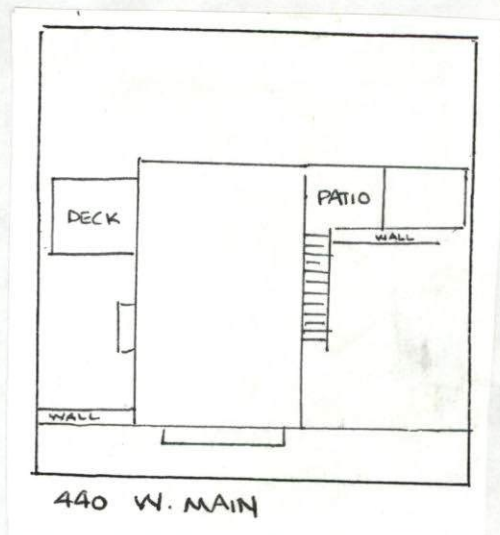


DOWNTOWN HELENA HISTORIC SURVEY
HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: HT Block 1, Lot N25' 20, 21-23
ADDRESS: 440 S. Park
OWNERSHIP NAME: George Bousliman
ADDRESS: same
HISTORIC NAME: B.K. Tatem House
COMMON NAME: same
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1865-1875
ARCHITECT:
BUILDER:
ORIGINAL OWNER: Charles Hendrie
ORIGINAL USE: home/iron foundry
PRESENT USE: home/art gallery



SKETCH MAP



ROLL/FRACTION: 28/12

HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The B.K. Tatem House, as a well-preserved mid-1870s stone residence in the Italianate style, and as the earliest iron foundry established in Helena, is independently eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

Charles Hendrie was the original owner of this property, he opened Helena's first iron foundry on this site by 1868.² Hendrie's Foundry was sold to Andrew J. Davis in 1870, and he in turn sold the property to his partner, Benjamin K. Tatem in 1875.¹ Tatem resided here until 1888 and ran the Helena Iron Works,² one of two foundries operating in Helena during the 19th century. The Helena Iron Works and the Jonathan Stedman Foundry manufactured the iron elements found on Helena buildings of the period, contributing greatly to the style and appearance of Helena's territorial and early statehood-period architecture.

It is unclear when the Tatem House was built, but it appears on the 1875 maps of Helena.⁴ The first directory after that time, 1883-84 lists the Tatem family here.² Reportedly, the early foundry was located on the home's first floor, and the family lived upstairs.³ However, by 1884, the Helena Iron Works was located across the street.⁴

During the early 20th century, a Chinese family lived here and tended large gardens to the north and south of the house.

RESEARCH SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- 1 Abstract of Title 1869-1900
- 2 Helena City Directories 1868-1900
- 3 Helena: Her Historic Homes, Baucus, vol.1
- 4 Helena Maps
- 5 Historic Architecture, Helena, MT, Jacobsen & Shope, p. 7

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This two-story house is built of coursed fieldstone. The rectangular mass sets against a steep hillside and is capped with a hipped roof. Wide eaves, tall arched windows, and the symmetrical design demonstrate Italianate influences. With the exception of some added storm windows, and a replaced window unit upstairs, the exterior fabric appears to be original.

On the east elevation (front), the lower openings are round-arched, with brick head moldings and stone sills. The openings have rounded transoms and include a double-hung, 2/2 windows and a wooden door with four panes of glass in the upper half.

On the upper level, a wooden balcony with a turned spindle baluster spans the facade. Window openings on the east, north and south sides are segmentally-arched with brick, and have stone sills. Window units are as below. A balcony and a doorway on the south are both round-arched, designed to match those on the front. French doors open onto the balcony. The doorway to the south accesses a raised, modern wooden deck supported at the front on cement walls.

On the north elevation, fenestration matches that described. A flight of wooden stairs at the side leads to a patio area. A rear door opens onto the patio. A modern shop of frame construction is set off to the north of the patio.

The property is retained by a high uncoursed stone wall. A storage shed is built against this wall and the stairs on the north side. South of the house, a frame storage building with a gable roof has been added in recent years.

INTEGRITY:

This building exhibits and excellent retention of its integrity. The architecture has been well-preserved over the years, and the historic fabric is almost wholly intact. The building has been well tended in recent years, and conveys a very accurate sense of its original appearance.

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DATE: May 1989