

Colonel W. F. Sanders' House
Idaho Street
Virginia City, Madison County
Montana

HABS No. MON-1

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
1000 Geary Street
San Francisco, California

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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COLONEL W. F. SANDERS' HOUSE

Virginia City, Madison County, Montana

LOCATION: Idaho Street, one block from and parallel to the
main street (Wallace)

OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. James Vanderbeck

OCCUPANT: Mr. and Mrs. James Vanderbeck

USE: Residence

BRIEF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The story-and-a-half frame building is now almost one hundred years old and has been well maintained over the years. Although not the oldest house in town, it is probably the best preserved. The original owner, Colonel W. F. Sanders, and his activities in the formation of early day Montana Government lends importance to the building.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and Subsequent Owners: Built for Colonel W. F. Sanders and his family. The property in turn was owned by A. W. Hall (owner at the time the 1899 photograph was made), Jones, Duncan and Vanderbeck. The Vanderbecks bought the property in 1940. It is believed that only once or twice in the almost one hundred years had the house been rented.

2. Date of Erection: Summer, 1867. First occupied on July 14, 1867, according to Mrs. W. F. Sanders' diary.

3. Architect: Unknown, if any.
4. Builder: Unknown.
5. Original Plans: None known.
6. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Early remodeling unknown. The porch on the southeast side of the building was enclosed for a family room. The present kitchen has had several renovations. Small rear entry was probably a later addition.
7. Important Old Views: One exterior photograph taken in 1899. The building was then occupied by the A. W. Hall family. Photograph included in the Photo-Data Book, courtesy of the Historical Society of Montana.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

1. Built in 1867 to house Colonel Wilbur Fisk Sanders, nephew of Governor Edgerton (Governor of the Territory of Montana).
2. Colonel Sanders was a lawyer, vigilante, legislator, businessman and politician who achieved national prominence. Colonel Sanders served as prosecuting attorney at the trial of George Ives, road agent. The hanging of Ives on December 21, 1863, gave birth to the Vigilante movement in Bannack and Virginia City's "Alder Gulch" diggings.
3. Building rented for use as a court room, temporarily, shortly after construction until other quarters could be found.

C. References:

1. Miller, Joaquin, An Illustrated History of the State of Montana, Chicago - Lewis Publishing Company, 1894.
2. Stout, Tom, Montana, Its Story and Biography, Chicago and New York - American Historic Society, 1921, Vols. I, II & III.
3. Sanders, Helen F., A History of Montana, Chicago - Lewis Publishing Company, 1913, Vol. I.

4. Pace, Dick, Golden Gulch, Butte - McKee Printing Company, 1962
5. Johnson, Dorothy M., "Slow Boat to Benton", Montana, the Magazine of History, - Vol. XI, No. 1, 1961.
6. Johnson, Dorothy M., "To the Centennial with Papa", Montana, the Magazine of History, Vol. XI, No. 2, 1961.
7. Johnson, Dorothy M., "Life with the Sanders Family in the 1870's", Montana, the Magazine of History, Vol. XII, No. 1, 1962.
8. Conferred with Dick Pace, author and historian, Helena, Montana.

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A simple, well-composed front facade having a porch across the front, its wood columns delicately handled with decorative wood knee braces supporting the porch roof. Probably a carpenter's interpretation of the neo-classic style.

2. Condition of Structure: Excellent

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: 51'-10" x 29'-5", exclusive of the porches.

2. Foundation: Native stone, rubble construction.

3. Wall Construction: 2 x 4 balloon frame construction with lapped siding, 6-3/4" exposure having 1 x 4 corner boards.

4. Chimneys: Brick.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: Simple wood frame. Front doors are two-paneled with two lights. Transom of two lights above the door. Side door is similar. Rear door of the small addition is not original.

b. Windows and Shutters: 4/4 double hung wood sash. Simple squared exterior wood trim. The bay window has carved wood knee braces supporting its roof. There are louvered wood shutters on front and side windows.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering: Steep gable roof. The roof line extended on the southeast corner covering an addition of a family room (where rear porch was originally). The present roof covering is asphalt shingles on the east-west gable and wood shingles on the north-south (central) and rear portion of the house. Built-up roof covering over the side porch.

b. Framing: Main portion (east-west gable) of the second floor area has rafters of 2 x 4's, 24" o.c.

c. Cornice, Eaves: Boxed-in eaves.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: There is a simple arrangement of rooms on the first floor. A central core consists of the entry (the front door is centered on the exterior elevation) backed by a walk-in closet, then the staircase to the second floor. To the left (east) of the core are the bedrooms, while on the right (west) are the parlor with a bay window on the west wall, and the living or sitting room has a door leading to the side porch (west side). The opening between the parlor and the sitting room is framed by columns on either side, one at the foot of the stairs on the east side of the room and the other on the west side of the room, which support a finished beam of soft wood grained to resemble quarter-sawed oak.

2. Stairway: An open stairway with turned balusters leads from the sitting room through the parlor along the interior (east) wall of that room. Soft wood is artificially grained and stained to resemble quarter-sawed oak.
3. Flooring: Maple flooring in the entry, parlor, sitting room and dining room. Vertical grain fir elsewhere.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Plaster. Sheetrock in the remodeled kitchen area. Some paneling in the family room addition.
5. Doorways and Doors: Four-paneled interior doors. Door from the entry to the parlor has 6 lights and is not original.
6. Trim: Wood trim with mouldings. Finished to resemble oak trim in the parlor, sitting room and dining room; painted elsewhere.
7. Hardware: Original pieces are cast iron (see drawings).
8. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
9. Heating: Steam radiators.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation: Located on a large city lot one block from the main street (Wallace Street). The site is on a hillside overlooking the gulch and the structure is oriented to the north.
2. Enclosures: Stone retaining wall has a pipe fence (not original) across the front (north) elevation.
3. Outbuildings: A shed (not original) and a storm shelter.
4. Walks: Concrete.
5. Landscaping: Simple (not original).

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National Park Service

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Addendum to:
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BLACK AND WHITE
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
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