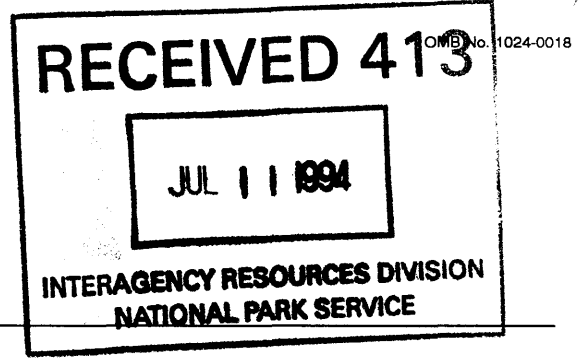


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Continental Oil Company Warehouse and Garage

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 51 First Avenue West North

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Kalispell

state: Montana code: MT county: Flathead code: 029 zip code: 59901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maurelle Day MTSHPD 6-28-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____

for
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 8-24-94

Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private ___ public-local ___ public-State ___ public-Federal

Category of Property: building(s) ___ district ___ site ___ structure ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> building(s)
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>6</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Properties of Kalispell, Montana

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
INDUSTRY/industrial storage
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions:
TRANSPORTATION/road-related
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
other: Commercial Style

Materials:
foundation: STONE
roof: ASPHALT; METAL
walls: BRICK
other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Continental Oil Company complex consists of a large brick garage, a brick warehouse, and modern oil tanks. The west end of the one-story brick oil warehouse was built in 1903. The east end was constructed some time between 1910 and 1927, and the loading platform was added on the north during that period. The roof is flat, and the cornice is parapeted and has a metal coping. The warehouse sits on a concrete basement. The shed roof over the loading platform is metal. The west wing has a gabled metal roof, arched windows, and a random rubble foundation. The arched basement windows have been bricked in. There is a multi-paned window on the north. There may have been a loading platform on the south side of the west wing (facing the railroad tracks), as the bricks on the bottom rows are different than those used for the rest of the building. On the west wing, every seventh row is a header row. On the east wing, the rows are all stretchers, indicating brick veneer. The east end of the building contains offices and has been remodeled within the past few decades. The central portion (still within the more recent part of the building) is a large open space with the original wood floor and exposed wood posts and beams. The oldest part of the building is also a large open space.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Continental Oil Company Warehouse and Garage

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According to a 1903 newspaper article, the Continental Oil Company built a "large warehouse" in the summer of 1903 "in the vicinity of the old [Great Northern Railway] ice house." It was constructed of "iron and stone" and was completed in August of 1903. It was built to store oil and to be the supply depot for the county. Six large oil tanks located to the north of the oil warehouse do not appear to be the original ones located on the property by 1910.

To the northeast of the oil warehouse is a large garage, labelled "Auto Rep'g" on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. This garage has four bays facing west. The two middle garage doors are wooden-panelled overhead doors, the north double doors are original and feature diagonal boards, and the south door is an overhead metal replacement of very recent design. The building has a shed roof that steps down to the east. The pilasters are brick infilled with a pebbly stucco, and there are stuccoed recessed panels over each of the entrances. The wooden door on the north appears to be original. The roof has metal coping. The building has a pebbly concrete foundation. There is a modern wood and metal canopy on the bay to the north. The windows on the sides of the building have concrete sills. The building is constructed of wood frame with a brick veneer. The windows are fixed wooden units with eight lights each. There is a brick chimney in the rear of the building, towards the north.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A	Areas of Significance: Transportation
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1903-1943
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1903
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder(s): unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Continental Oil Company warehouse is significant as the first wholesale oil distribution depot in Flathead County. The oil warehouse, constructed in 1903, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, under the category of Transportation. The associated garage, constructed between 1910 and 1927, contributes to the property's significance. The significant date is 1903, when the oil warehouse was constructed, and the period of significance extends from 1903 until 1943 (50 years ago, although the Continental Oil Company owned the property until 1978).

The Continental Oil Company had an office in Kalispell by 1901, when the company was listed in the first Kalispell City Directory at 345 1st Avenue East, with David Marks as the agent. In 1903 Guy Jarrett and Hector Noble were the agents. Jarrett & Noble advertised their business as express, dray and transfer and agents for the Continental Oil Company. By 1905, Guy Jarrett was the sole agent for the Continental Oil Company (Noble had apparently left town). In 1907 the company was listed at 35 East 2nd Street, and Jarrett was still the manager. Jarrett moved to the southwest in 1908, however, because he desired a "change of climate."

In 1909 the agents for the Continental Oil Company were Arthur Smith and Ernest Falkner, the proprietors of the City Transfer & Coal Company (they advertised as dray and transfer, pianos and safes moved, dealers in coal). Ernest Falkner came to Kalispell in 1908 to work with the City Transfer company, and he remained with the company until he retired in 1943. Their office was located at 1 Main Street. Smith and Falkner remained the agents/proprietors of Continental Oil until approximately 1920.

In 1922 the Continental Oil Company manager was Adolph E. Anderson, and in that year company filling stations at 501 Main Street and 45 1st Avenue East were also listed for the first time. Anderson was the manager until at least 1926. In the 1928-29 Kalispell City Directory, Howard E. Rose was the agent and Arthur H. Griffin the district superintendent. In 1930, Rose was listed as managing the gasoline and oils. By 1934 Griffin alone is listed as the district superintendent. In 1936 the company had added a commercial representative, Oscar Adolphson. In 1938, Chester Christiansen was the district superintendent, Arthur Griffin the commercial representative, and the company was listed as selling wholesale gasoline and oil. Arthur H. Griffin was the superintendent and branch manager of the bulk plant since 1929, after working for the company as a salesman beginning in 1922. He came to Montana in 1906, living in Kalispell and the Big Hole Basin areas. Griffin retired in 1940 and moved to Browning, where he ranched. He died in 1942 at the age of 52.

In 1930 the Continental Oil Company ceased its retail operations in Montana. Instead, the company leased its service stations to private operators. In 1939, the company had two service trucks that made regularly scheduled stops at farm and ranch homes throughout the county, bringing to their customers a variety of products, including fuel and tractor oils, diesel oil, household specialties (such as floor wax and polish), and all types of industrial oils.

The Continental Oil Company had a number of competitors in Kalispell and elsewhere in the state. The Shell Oil Company built a bulk storage plant in Kalispell in 1929, using it as their main office in northwestern Montana. Shell had just recently entered Montana; in 1929 the company built 67 wholesale plants in Idaho, Washington, and Montana. Another early competitor was the Montana Oil Company, which delivered fuel to local garages by a horse-drawn wagon. A leading oil entrepreneur in Montana, H. Earl Clack, began his career in the oil business with the Continental Oil Company. He worked for Continental Oil from 1900 until 1918, and then he became an independent oil dealer who had investments in Montana and Wyoming (Smith and Falkner, who had been agents for Continental Oil, later were the agents for the H. Earl Clack Company wholesale oil business in Kalispell).

The company was called the Continental Oil Company until approximately 1957, when it became known as the City Service Company of Kalispell. The Continental Oil Company owned the property until 1978. The warehouse is currently vacant.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Daily Inter Lake: July 10, 1903; "Arthur H. Griffin," July 13, 1942, p. 5; "Last Rites," February 26, 1950, p. 2; ". Earl Clack Dies," September 4, 1955, p. 5.

Flathead Monitor: "Shell Buys Andersons' Oil Station," January 2, 1930, p. 1; "Spring Revives Building in City," April 20, 1939, p. 1.

Kalispell Bee: April 14, 1903, p. 8; August 7, 1903, p. 8; January 17, 1908, p. 8.

Kalispell City Directories, 1901-1978.

Kalispell News: "I Remember Kalispell..." July 23, 1964.

Kalispell Times: advertisement, August 31, 1939.

Kalispell Water Department, "16th Annual Water Department Report," (1929), p. 57.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government (City of Kalispell)

University

Other -- Specify Repository: Flathead County Library, Kalispell

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	699540	5341800

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 13-18, Block 26, Kalispell, Montana. Section 7, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

Boundary Justification

The legally recorded boundary of this property encompasses the significant resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathy McKay, Historian

date: May 1993

street & number: 491 Eckelberry Dr.

telephone: (406) 892-1538

city or town: Columbia Falls

state: Montana zip code: 59912

Property Owner

name/title: Herron Land Development

street & number: PO Box 339

telephone:

city or town: Kalispell

state: MT

zip code: 59903