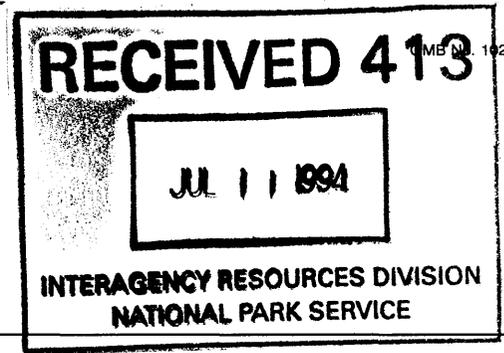


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Hotel Norden

other name/site number: Frontier Hotel, Silver Block 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 24 First Avenue West

not for publication: n/a  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 X 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 X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maudie Sheff 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  
6.24.94

Entered in the  
National Register

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**5. Classification**

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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>1</u>	<u>0</u> building(s)
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:**  
DOMESTIC/hotel  
HEALTH CARE/hospital

**Current Functions:**  
DOMESTIC/hotel

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**  
other: 3-Bay Commercial

**Materials:**  
foundation: BRICK  
roof: METAL; WOOD/shingle; ASBESTOS  
walls: BRICK  
other: N/A

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Hotel Norden's design is typical of two-story brick commercial buildings in Kalispell during the first decade of the century. The front part of the building has a flat roof, and the long rear brick wing has a gabled roof. There are small hipped dormers on the north and south of the rear wing. These have metal roofs and wood shingle siding. The rear gable end of the building has wood shingles. There are two wooden exterior stairways on the rear of the building. Between 1910 and 1927 a one-story brick addition was built on the south of the rear wing, adjoining the front wing. The front of the hotel is divided into three vertical bays, with a 3-1-3 fenestration pattern using wooden double-hung one-over-one-light windows in the upper story. Brick pilasters separate the bays. The cornice of the building is constructed of corbeled brick. A historic photograph shows the building as having two large fabric awnings. The street level has been remodeled and the original commercial glazed storefronts have been infilled with modern materials. The interior of the building has been remodeled, but the original double-load corridors upstairs and downstairs remain. The doors to the rooms have transoms, and the stairway bannister and a steam radiator appear to be original. The third floor does not extend the full length of the building. At the rear of the building is a modern wooden staircase.

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National Park Service

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Hotel Norden - Kalispell

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The sign on the north side of the building is shown on a historic photograph that was taken between 1909 and 1915. It reads "HOTEL NORDEN, FINEST ROOMS IN CITY, ALL NEWLY FURNISHED, FREDERICK BROS. props." The sign is one of Kalispell's oldest surviving painted commercial signs. The top portion has been painted over; this presumably occurred after an adjoining building (now gone) was constructed to the north in 1936. In 1910, according to a newspaper article, a new electric sign was installed at the Hotel Norden that had to be seen "for its novelty and beauty to be appreciated."

On the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the hotel dining room is shown in the southwest corner of the hotel with a small one-story kitchen added to its southwest. In that year, the hotel office and lobby were on the north end of the first floor and the saloon on the south end. Some time between 1910 and 1927, a two-story kitchen was added to the rear of the building, reaching the alley.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: Commerce  
Health/Medicine

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1903-1943

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1903, 1905

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): unknown

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hotel Norden is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, with Commerce and Health/Medicine as the areas of significance. Built in 1903 as a lodging house, it served as Kalispell's only hospital from 1905-09. From 1909 until approximately 1955 it was known as the Hotel Norden, managed for many years by the Frederick Brothers. These Norwegian brothers hired Norwegians to work in their hotel and dining room; the business catered to the working class and to county residents who came to Kalispell to do business in the county seat. The significant dates of 1903 and 1905 relate to the year of construction of the building and to the beginning of its use as a hospital, respectively.

The Hotel Norden, known as the Bjerneby Building and the Silver Block during its early years, was constructed in the summer of 1903 as a two-story lodging house by Emil Bjerneby. The Bjernebys were a prominent family in the Flathead Valley. The parents, Gunnerius and Olea (Anderson) Bjerneby, immigrated to the United States from Norway in 1851 and 1856 respectively, settling in Wisconsin where they raised their twelve children, including several who moved to the Flathead. The family then moved to Grafton, North Dakota, where son George became a rancher, Emil engaged in the hardware business, and Joseph became a jeweler. In 1893 four of the Bjerneby brothers, George, Elliot, Joseph, and Emil, traveled from Grafton looking for a milder climate. After stopping off on the Great Northern Railroad, they decided to relocate to Kalispell.

Emil Bjerneby came to Kalispell in November of 1895 (the other brothers followed later). He worked at the McIntosh Hardware Store, farmed, and also handled real estate. Beginning in 1908, he and Peter Weberg operated a grocery store for about five years. In 1910 he and his brother George started the Bjerneby Brothers Flour Mill, which they operated until 1932. The mill was a four-story building with a productive capacity of 150 barrels of flour. Located in the East North area of Kalispell, it burned down in 1937. He also ran a flour and feed store that sold flour (the Big F and the White Loaf brands) as far away as Havre, Montana, and Sand Point, Idaho. Emil Bjerneby married Margaret Bryson of Iowa in 1888, and they had five children. Bjerneby was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and the couple were active members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where Margaret Bjerneby served over 40 years as a Sunday school teacher. Bjerneby was active in civic affairs; for example, he served on the Kalispell Water Commission that in 1912 recommended that the City establish its own plant. After retiring, Emil G. Bjerneby was elected to the state legislature and served from 1933-39. Emil Bjerneby passed away in 1949, his wife in 1964 at the age of 98.

The Silver Block served from 1905 until 1909 as Kalispell's only hospital. Kalispell's first hospital had been built in 1895 and subsequent years for Ella R. Webber on 4th Avenue East. It closed, however, in approximately 1905 after the Great Northern Railway moved its division point to Whitefish, and the two hospital buildings were converted to rooming houses. When the first hospital closed, Kalispell's physicians and a dozen businessmen formed the Northwestern Hospital Association and leased the Silver Block. The board contributed \$1,200 to furnish it, and physicians took care of contract patients and took pay in stock. In July of 1909 the Northwest Hospital closed its quarters in the Silver Block and moved to a residence on the east side located at 303 4th Avenue East. This building no longer exists. That former residence served as the hospital until the Kalispell General Hospital was constructed in 1912 on 5th Avenue East and 7th Street.

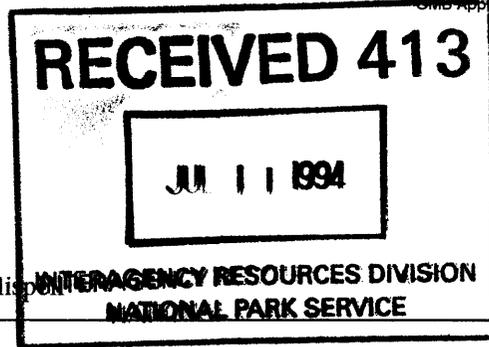
Emil G. Bjerneby sold the Silver Block in July of 1909 to real estate agents Griffin & Stannard for \$8,000, and that same month Ole G. and Oliver Frederick leased the Silver Block and refurnished it for a rooming house. It opened just in time

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Hotel Norden - Kalispell



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for the arrival of hundreds of people seeking to obtain land on the Flathead Indian Reservation when it was opened for white settlement. The Frederick Brothers ran the Hotel Norden in the building for many years. The Fredericks were originally from Norway and had immigrated to the United States with their parents in 1870. They lived in Helena before coming to Kalispell in 1909. When the 1910 federal population census was taken, the two brothers were the hotel proprietors. Ole's wife was Lottie, also from Norway. Some of their lodgers were hotel employees, including a bartender, porter, waitress, chamber maid, and cook. Almost all of these lodgers were first- or second-generation Norwegians. The 1910 census also listed Julie Finch as managing a rooming house in the south half of the building (28 1st Avenue West), and she had at least 11 boarders at that time.

In 1915, according to the Kalispell City Directory, the lodgers included a hotel clerk, waiter, bartender, porter, and cooks, plus other lodgers such as musician Ivar Kjorstad. Five years later, according to the federal census, Oliver Frederick was the hotel proprietor, and his widowed sister-in-law Lottie lived at the hotel, as did his brother George, a farmer. Five hotel employees lived at the hotel at that time, all from Norway. The boarders were farmers or general laborers. Some of Kalispell's more prominent citizens also roomed at the Hotel Norden, including Glacier National Park photographer T. J. Hileman in 1911. The Hotel Norden had its own dining room, which was popular with the working class and out-of-town families, such as farmers coming to Kalispell to take care of business. In the early days, one could get a family-style dinner at the Hotel Norden for 25 to 35 cents. Rooms were \$1 a night, as compared to \$2 a night at the same time at some of the other hotels in town.

Ole Frederick moved to the head of Swan Lake, where he had a cattle ranch, in approximately 1913, leaving his brother Oliver as the active manager of the hotel. Ole died in 1921 and his widow Lottie moved back to the hotel. In 1920 Oliver married his second wife Gertie, and by 1925 they no longer lived in the hotel. Oliver Frederick retired from the hotel business in 1926 or 1927, and the hotel was vacant in 1928. Oliver and Gertie Frederick lived at 504 7th Avenue West. Oliver died in 1934, Gertie in 1975. 1930 the Hotel Norden was again offering furnished rooms, and the manager was William L. Winters. There was a succession of managers in subsequent years. From 1912 until 1944, the building was owned by real estate agents Griffin & Stannard and then an heir of Griffin's. The hotel remained open and operated under the name of the Hotel Norden until approximately 1955. From approximately 1955 until 1976 the hotel was called the Frontier Hotel. Today it is known as the Rosebrier Inn.

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Atkinson, Gail Shea and Jim C. and Dr. Kingston Heath, *Kalispell Cornerstones: A Fascinating History of Twenty-five Kalispell Homes* (Kalispell, MT, 1981), p. 44.  
*Daily Inter Lake*: November 29, 1895, p. 3; April 22, 1898; "O. G. Fredericks Dies," November 21, 1921, p. 1; "Oliver Frederick," August 11, 1934, p. 2; "Mrs. O. Frederick," March 29, 1949; "Bishop Carroll," April 28, 1957; "Bjorneby Rites Are Saturday," December 9, 1964, p. 1.  
*Flathead Monitor*: "Bjorneby Brothers Milling Company," December 16, 1926, p. 15.  
*Kalispell Bee*: July 3, 1903, p. 3; July 13, 1909, p. 10.  
*Kalispell City Directories*, 1901-76.  
*Kalispell Journal*: June 17, 1909; July 12, 1909; January 20, 1910; March 14, 1910.  
*Kalispell News*: November 16, 1990, p. A-11.  
*Kalispell Times*: "E. G. Family Enjoys Reunion," August 9, 1948.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kalispell, Montana, 1903, 1910, 1927, 1956.  
Stout, Tom, *Montana, Its History and Biography* (Chicago, IL: American Historical Society, 1921), vol 3, p. 861.  
United States Population Census, Kalispell, Montana, 1910, 1920.

#### 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	699560	5341570

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Block 34, Lots 6 & 7, 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: William J. and Karen E. Davison	telephone:
street & number: 136 Sherry Lane	state: MT
city or town: Kalispell	zip code: 59901