

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 30 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cornelius Hedges Elementary School  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 827 4th Avenue East N/A not for publication  
city, town Kalispell N/A vicinity  
state Montana code 030 county Flathead code 029 zip code 59901

3. 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>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Maureen Sheffy* Date May 25, 1989  
State or Federal agency and bureau Montana SHPC

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Arlene Byers* Entered in the National Register 6/29/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

School

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

School

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Colonial Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Brick

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roof Asphaltother Terra cotta

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Cornelius Hedges Elementary School is situated on a full city block on the lower east side of Kalispell, a community with a population of 10,648 located in northwestern Montana. This one-story, brick, Colonial Revival style school building was designed at a domestic scale that fits well into the predominantly single-family residential neighborhood. The overall building shape is a large "E," with a projecting, side-gable, central pavilion, which is flanked by recessed halls that terminate at protruding, gable-ended wings. The most notable features of the exterior are the veranda-like porch supported by chamfered columns that spans the central 5-bay pavilion; the double-door entry with a semi-circular fanlight above; the decorative corner quoining in buff-colored brick; the numerous interior, double chimneys that project through the roof at the interior partition and end walls; and the multi-light, wooden, double hung windows set in a regularly spaced pattern. The color of the exterior brick ranges from a light rose to a deep purple. A simple wooden frieze outlines the close-cropped eaves and crosses the gable ends, which are finished with blind lunettes. The foundation is concrete, built only two steps above ground level, and the roof is covered with green asphalt shingles.

The main entrance to the building is located within a recessed arch on the west elevation of the central pavilion. The double, wooden, 12-light entry doors are topped with a multi-light, semi-circular fanlight. Side entries found at the gable ends of each projecting wing are 16-light wooden doors with 5-light transoms above. Fire door exits are provided to the inner courtyard.

The windows on the main block are 9-over-9 double hung sash, while 6-over-6, 8-over-12, 10-over-10, and 12-over-20 double hung configurations are used on other parts of the building. While some windows that looked out to the courtyard have been infilled for heat conservation, all windows viewed from the street remain in their original condition. Sills are carved stone and the flat lintels are of end brick.

Significant interior features that remain in place today include the alcove with miniature inglenook seats in the kindergarten and fireplaces with classical mantles in both the kindergarten and the library. Also dating to the period of construction are the built-in cabinets, display areas, bookcases and wardrobes, the light fixtures in main corridors and classrooms, and original plumbing fixtures and drinking fountains. The auditorium/gymnasium has a seating capacity

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Continuation Sheet**

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for 400 and features a vaulted ceiling of acoustical tile and glazed terra cotta wainscotting surrounding the room to an 8-foot level.

At the time of its construction in 1928, the school consisted of six classrooms, kindergarten, library, clinic, office, auditorium, gymnasium, stage, book storage rooms, shower and locker rooms. It was planned for a capacity of 300 students. However, the original plan by architect Fred A. Brinkman allowed for easy expansion. In 1932, the north and south wings were lengthened to provide an additional seven classrooms and two bathrooms. In 1958, a cross wing was added to rear of the north wing to provide five more classrooms. In 1986, one of the original classrooms was expanded to provide a larger library. The same red-tone brick was used in the construction of these additions and window treatments and architectural detailing were chosen to match the original portion of the building.

Cornelius Hedges Elementary School was built with such quality and pride of workmanship that it stands today as a pleasing focal point in the neighborhood and fine tribute to its designer, Fred A. Brinkman.

In the later 1930s, a small wood frame cottage was built adjacent to the rear of the school property to serve as additional classroom space. This hipped roof building is sheathed in clapboard siding and features 2-over-2 double hung windows with horizontal sash. A number of the windows were infilled during recent years for energy conservation. The cottage is now used for storage and is a noncontributing component of the historic property.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1928-1935  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1928  
1932

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fred A. Brinkman, Architect (1928)  
B.B. Gillard, Contractor (1928)  
Gehren D. Weed, Architect for 1932 addition

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built in 1928, the Cornelius Hedges Elementary School is architecturally significant because it is one of the finest examples of local architect Fred A. Brinkman's work. The school was built at the end of a prolonged period of explosive growth in Kalispell. Many of the fine homes in the city's lower east side neighborhood were built during the 1910s and 1920s, and bonds were issued for a new school building in 1927. Brinkman broke away from the solid tradition of the two-story school building in his design of the Hedges School in a successful effort to make the school a more compatible element of the residential neighborhood within which it was to be located. The choice of Colonial Revival styling with Georgian detailing, which Brinkman said was inspired by "some of the old colonial mansions and homesteads of Maryland and Virginia," helped to achieve a more domestic scale for the building. The school relates very well with its surroundings and possesses a quality of workmanship and materials that is not often equalled in today's construction. Shortly after its completion, the school was named after Judge Cornelius Hedges, a man who assumed a prominent role in the early development of public education in Montana as the Territorial Superintendent of Schools. The building remains an elementary school today, continuing to serve the neighborhood children.

Fred A. Brinkman, along with other local architect Marion B. Rizzo, had an enormous impact on the look of the city of Kalispell during the first half of the 20th century. Brinkman was born in Spokane, Washington and came to Kalispell with his parents in 1892 at age 6 months. His father was a well known cabinetmaker and carpenter, and local tradition credits him with the construction of the first house in Kalispell. After attending Kalispell schools and receiving a diploma from Flathead County High School, Fred Brinkman went on to graduate from the University of Michigan School of Architecture, winning the American Institute of Architecture Medal for General Excellence. After working during World War I at the Panama Canal for the Civil Service, Brinkman went to Billings and was employed for two years before returning to Kalispell to establish his practice in 1922. He formed a partnership with Percy H. Lenon in 1946 and died in Kalispell on October 8, 1961. Some of his designs that can still be seen in Kalispell include the Linderman School, Flathead County High School, Bethlehem

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Progressive Men of Montana, A.W. Bowen & Co., Chicago, 1902.  
Kalispell, Montana and the Upper Flathead Valley, Henry Elwood, Thomas Printing, Inc., 1980.  
The Train Didn't Stay Long, Henry Elwood, Thomas Printing Inc., 1982.  
Cornelius Hedges: Uncommon Hero of the Common Life, Thomas White, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana, 1965.  
Kalispell City Water Department Report, 1927.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A 

1	1
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7	0	0	4	5	0
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5	3	4	0	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 120, lots 1-12, Original Townsite of Kalispell, Montana. The nominated property is defined by the rights-of-way of Fourth Ave. East, Ninth St. East, Fifth Ave. East, and Eighth St. East.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The entire city block upon which the Cornelius Hedges School is situated is included within the boundary for the historic property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Colleen Campbell  
organization Parent Teacher Organization date February 1989  
street & number 828 4th Avenue East telephone 406-755-6829  
city or town Kalispell state Montana zip code 59901

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Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, his own Tudor style home, Cornelius Hedges School, and numerous residences.

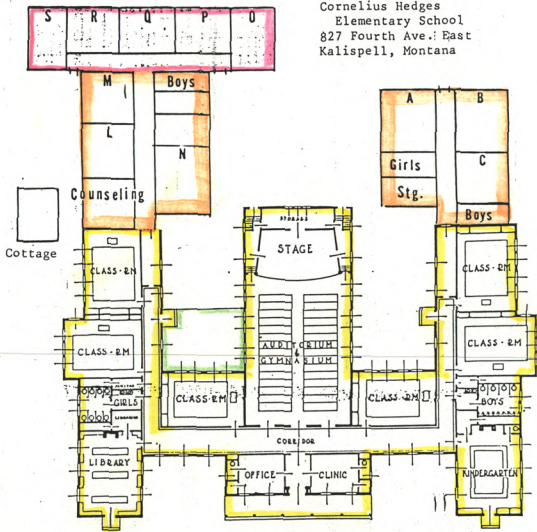
Brinkman designed the Cornelius Hedges Elementary School so that it could be easily expanded to meet future demands for classroom space. The building has received two major additions. Architect Gehren D. Weed designed the 1932 extensions to both the north and south wings and used the same red-tone brick with buff-colored quoining and multi-light double hung windows. The 1956 addition to the north wing was designed by the local architectural firm of Taylor, Thon, Schwartz and Kirkpatrick and built using a brick quite similar to that on the original portion of the building. In 1986, a small addition was built onto the library within the courtyard. Although the school has almost doubled in floor space over the years, the architects' careful attention to detail has resulted in final composition that exhibits a considerably higher degree of compatibility of design and materials than achieved on most enlarged school building in the State.

Fifth Ave. East

Cornelius Hedges  
Elementary School  
827 Fourth Ave. East  
Kalispell, Montana

Eighth St. East

Ninth St. East



- Original portion
- 1932 Addition
- 1958 Addition
- 1986 Addition



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Fourth Ave. East