

HISTORIC NAME: Hamill Apartments
 ADDRESS: 427 E. Main
 LEGAL BOUNDARY: Rouse's Blk F
 West portion 16' of
 Lots 6 - 9
 OWNER'S NAME: Kenneth Slaght
 OWNER ADDRESS: 425 E. Main, Bozeman, MT
 SPECIFIC DATE: 1931
 ARCHITECT: Fred F. Willson
 BUILDER: Unknown
 ORIGINAL OWNER: H.J. Hamill
 ORIGINAL USE: apartments
 PRESENT USE: apartments
 UTM REFERENCE: 12/497600/5058200
 ACREAGE: less than one
 U.S.G.S. QUAD: Bozeman, 1953



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Applicable Criteria: C
 Number of Contributing Properties: 1

One of just four outstanding examples of the Art Deco style in Bozeman, all designed by local architect Fred F. Willson, the brick Hamill Apartment building is characterized by beige wrap-around concrete facade with a central pavilion, vertical channels marking all bays, and an intricate, chrome doorway.

The building was built for Henry J. Hamill, a contractor who built many Fred Willson-designed structures, including the Baxter Hotel. Hamill, lived in Apartment 8 of this building, along with Henry J. Hamill, Jr. and Norman J. Hamill. Henry J. Hamill died in 1940. Burt Griffin later bought the building, and had the word "Griffin" attached above the doorway where the word Hamill had probably been previously. In 1942, Griffin was a clerk at the Oaks Cigar Store.

Fred Willson had a virtually monopolistic architectural practice between 1910 and 1956, and designed almost all the significant buildings in the city built during that time, including many in the surrounding region. The other three examples of the Art Deco style of special note in Bozeman are the Gallatin County Courthouse (301 W. Main), the Willson School (404 W. Main), and the Bozeman Armory (24 West Mendenhall).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This two-and-one-half story, Art Deco style, multi-family residence has a full daylight basement, a rectangular plan with a projecting central bay two stories high marking the main entrance. Two Art Deco light fixtures are set in the concrete to either side of the main entrance. The three-bay facade is symmetrical and consists of the central bay entry with flanking side bays. Windows are six-over-six double hung units. The central metal door has a single light and a Chevron-patterned grill that is repeated in the transom. Similar iron work is used to enclose the flanking steps to the basement units. Above the door, the word "Griffin" appears in metal lettering. The poured-in-place concrete walls have a 3" form board pattern showing, as well as diagonal patterns, pilasters, and a Hamill Apartments (cont.

decorative cornice. The structure rests on a concrete foundation and has a flat built-up roof that rises to three stories at the rear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Fred Willson Job List: 1931, Job # 3162, "Apartment House - H.J. Hamill - Bozeman".
City Directories: 1933, p. 67; 1942

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