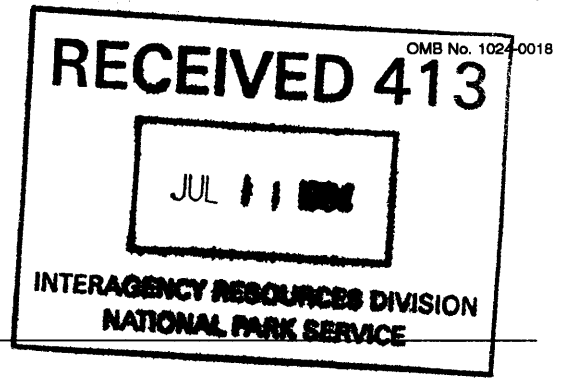


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Main Street Commercial Historic District

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 34-343 Main Street and 116-142 1st Avenue East

not for publication: n/a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.)

Maurell Chief MT SHPO 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

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>25</u>	<u>16</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>25</u>	<u>16</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
SOCIAL/meeting hall
CULTURE/theater
CULTURE/auditorium
CULTURE/music facility
HEALTH CARE/medical office
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)
AGRICULTURE/processing

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
SOCIAL/meeting hall
CULTURE/theater
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Commercial Style
Queen Anne
Renaissance Revival

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
walls: BRICK; STONE/marble; METAL/Tin; CERAMIC TILE;
CONCRETE; TERRA COTTA
other: N/A

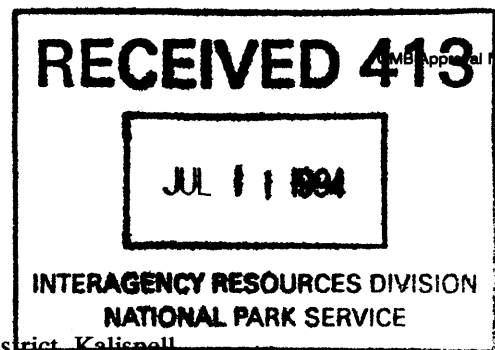
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Main Street Commercial Historic District, Kalispell



Page 1

The Main Street Commercial Historic District encompasses 2½ facing blocks of the downtown commercial area of Kalispell, Montana. The district contains 41 buildings, 60% of which make a positive contribution to the district's historic character. It is anchored by the 1896 McIntosh Block and the 1920 Liberty Theater on the north and by the 1929 Montgomery Ward building and the 1935 Gas Co-op Service Station on the south. Most of the buildings in the district are brick and were constructed between 1895 and 1910 (generally replacing earlier wood frame commercial structures); eight were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s. Most of the two-story buildings originally had storefronts on the first floor and apartments, offices, lodge halls, or hotel rooms on the floor above. Most of the apartments have since been converted to office space. The streets within the district are level and paved and are delineated in blocks approximately 300' square, with a north-south alley bisecting each block. The commercial city lots are 25' wide. Non-contributing buildings include seven buildings constructed after 1942 (some replacing older buildings destroyed by fire), plus several buildings with their historic fabric obscured by applied modern facade treatments. The district boundaries do not include the entire commercial area of Kalispell. Many businesses were located on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Streets West and East, and also on 1st and 2nd Avenues East. These blocks, however, do not possess sufficient historic architectural integrity to be included within a historic district. Many of the historic buildings in these areas have been demolished and replaced, including all physical evidence of Kalispell's once-thriving Chinatown.

The turn-of-the-century western vernacular architecture of the Kalispell Main Street Commercial Historic District has been affected by common trends in facade alteration. The overall level of physical integrity is good but not excellent, as many of the storefronts have been remodelled insensitively and most of the original second-floor windows have been replaced. The upper stories, however, generally retain much the same appearance as they had during the historic period, including fenestration patterns, cornices, and brick detailing. New signs or awnings generally conceal the original transom lighting. A number of mansard-type awnings have been constructed, and many historic first-floor facades have been sheathed with vertically placed wood, modern brick veneer, or modern pressed wood. Most of the large plate-glass display window openings have been infilled and replaced with small fixed units. Many of the alterations to the original building facades are reversible, and a number of property owners within the district have completed or have expressed interest in restoring or simply uncovering hidden architectural elements. The good overall architectural integrity of the second floor of the main facades serves to maintain the scale and rhythm essential to the character of a western main street. The architectural integrity of the district is enhanced by the high percentage of surviving historic structures built to the lot lines, which lends a distinctive sense of scale and rhythm to the district. In addition, the regularly spaced windows and ornamental elements lend a strong visual cohesion to the district overall. During the era of horse-drawn transportation, the commercial area of Kalispell had watering troughs, iron rings on the wooden sidewalks, and hitching rings on the concrete sidewalks. These were all removed long ago as they were no longer needed.

The majority of the buildings in the district incorporate locally procured or manufactured building materials, including brick (although the finish brick was often brought in by train from elsewhere), cast concrete block, milled lumber, and native rock for foundations. There is an absence of high-style architecture on Main Street, reflecting the sparse population and rural economy that the commercial district has served. Only a few of the buildings were designed by professionally trained architects. Notable among the architect-designed buildings are the Masonic Temple (1905) and the Whipps Block (1904 wing), both designed by George Shanley of Kalispell (later of Butte and Great Falls). These large commercial blocks face each other across 3rd Street East. The Liberty Theater was designed in 1920 by Kalispell architect Marion Rizzo, who also designed the three-story Kalispell Hotel in 1911. Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman designed all but one of the 1920s buildings in the district: the Halliday-Boysen Block (1928), the O'Neil Print Shop (1926), and the Montgomery Ward Building (1929). The majority of the commercial buildings, however, were erected by local builders and masons who followed the simple, formula patterns for storefront design and interior plans of the period.

Early entrepreneurs and developers chose corner locations for the most outstanding buildings. The McIntosh and Sawyer Block and the McIntosh Opera House at 34, 40 and 48 Main Street form the northwest anchor of the historic district.

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Main Street Commercial Historic District, Kalispell

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Built in 1896 and 1903, the two brick buildings form a unit that is one of the most noticeable (and largest) commercial blocks on Main Street. The high cornice of the older building on the south is pedimented, framing two sign panels with diamond-point brick frames reading "OPERA HOUSE" and "1896." The window transoms have Queen Anne-style squares of stained glass, and the window sills are stone. The corner entry is canted on the street level. The original awnings over the storefronts were fabric and retractable; today the awning is constructed of wood covered with wood shingles.

Across the street to the south of the McIntosh Opera House is the Kalispell Hotel at 102 Main Street. Built in 1911, the three-story tan brick building was designed by Kalispell architect Marion Riffo. This building is still used as a hotel, with the hotel lobby, stores and a restaurant on the street level. The primary exterior ornamentation on the building are occasional terra cotta medallions, plus first-floor piers with corbelled column caps. There is a projecting balcony on the third floor, north elevation. The interior of the hotel was completely renovated in the 1980s, including the restoration of the original lobby stairway. The neon sign extending around the parapet is not historic; for many years, however, the hotel had a large sign mounted above the roof and angled towards the railroad depot. To the south of the hotel are several buildings constructed during the historic period that have extensively remodeled storefronts but otherwise retain integrity of design and materials. The Pastime Bar, at 140 Main Street, was built in 1900 and remains an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century brick commercial building. The building features decorative corbelling and panels, and the storefront design has been reconstructed with a glass block transom and tilework at the street-level entrance.

Across the street at 115 Main Street is the Brust Block, a good example of 1920s commercial architecture in Kalispell. Constructed in 1928, the one-story building features tan brick, and it has a decorative parapet with a coping and three decorative terra cotta medallions and a signboard (now blank). The Jordan's Cafe (1901) at 127 Main Street features a well-preserved imitation-stone pressed metal facade on the second floor, the only example left in Kalispell of this type of historic facade treatment. The pressed metal has floral swags along the cornice, "stone" arches over the windows and an egg-and-dart pattern along the sides, and the pilasters on the sides of the building are surmounted by metal pineapples. Most of the first floor of the Jordan Cafe has been filled in with modern pressed wood, although the recessed entry remains intact.

Further south on the same block is the oldest commercial brick building in Kalispell, the First National Bank built in 1891 (the year Kalispell was founded) at 139 Main Street. The second story looks much as it did in 1914, when the cornice was raised. The only remaining original materials on the first floor, however, are the brick pilasters flanking the building. Painted on the rear of the building is a historic sign (pre-1905) reading FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

The 1895 Adams Block at 217 Main Street is a two-story brick business block with several distinctive decorative features. These include a triangular pediment with diamond-point brick and the date "A. D. 1895" carved in stone. Two finials hang down from either side of the pediment, and a row of small brick arches runs beneath the cornices. The upper floor has three arched windows; the center one was originally an oriel window, but this was removed and the opening bricked in between 1939 and 1954. The first floor has also been remodeled, but the recessed storefront entry and the side door providing access to the upper level remain in place.

The Knight & Twining Block at 237 Main Street was built in 1908 by two of Kalispell's well-known contractors, E. C. Knight and Walmsley R. Twining. The building is constructed of tan/orange brick. Its most noticeable feature is a pediment bearing the words "K & T" formed by bricks in a lighter-colored brick panel. Contrasting brick colors and corbeling form various decorative elements, including a distinctive wavy band running above the second-floor window lintels. The first floor has been remodeled. To the south of the Knight & Twining Block is the Masonic Temple, a large two-story Renaissance Revival-style building designed by George Shanley and built in 1905 at 241 Main Street. Distinguishing features include the groups of arched windows with keystones, separated by brick pilasters with capitals and with curving brick arches trimmed with concrete. The first floor of this building has also been remodeled.

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Across the street to the south is the Whipps Blocks, the main part of which was also designed by George Shanley in 1904 (subsequent additions built in 1909 and 1910 have continued the same design patterns established by the original part of the building). The two-story brick and sandstone building has a second floor featuring paired sets of windows with corbeled arches accentuating the shapes of the windows and separated by brick pilasters, some of which extend to street level. The historic fabric on the first floor has been mostly obscured by remodelings, but the entries are still recessed and some retain tiled floors. The northwest corner of the first floor has been canted; originally it formed a right angle with plate glass windows.

On the south end of the historic district at 343 Main Street is the Gas Co-op Service Station, built in 1935. This one-story brick building has excellent architectural integrity and is a rare survivor of its type. The entrance to the office on the southwest is canted, and the building is set back on the lot to allow for easy access by automobile. The building has two service bays on the south with original doors intact, and the two-pump gasoline island is in its original location opposite the office entry.

Two buildings on 1st Avenue East are primary elements of the historic district: the Liberty Theater at 116 1st Avenue East (1920) and the Montana Hotel/McKnight Block at 142 1st Avenue East (1910). The Liberty Theater was the last work of architect Marion Rizzo. The two-story tan brick building features terra cotta medallions and ornamental belts of concrete, with the word LIBERTY centered in a concrete plaque above the front entrance. The historic fabric below the marquee is obscured by a modern veneer of pressed brick; the two original windows are filled in and now serve as signboards for advertising posters. The Montana Hotel/McKnight Block is a two-story building originally built to house both a hotel and street-level stores. One of Kalispell's larger brick buildings, it has two stories and a full basement. The building is constructed of tan pressed brick with concrete trim. The second-floor windows have decorative keystones centered over the concrete lintels, and the building has a decorative parapet. The storefronts have been remodeled.

The Main Street Commercial Historic District contains the following property types: Architect-designed Resources, Resources Associated with Commerce, Resources Associated with Social and Cultural Development, and Resources Associated with Transportation.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE; COMMERCE;
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT; ENTERTAINMENT

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1891-1935

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Significant Dates: 1891, 1896, 1911, 1920

Architect/Builder: Shanley, George; Riffo, Marion; Brinkman, Fred

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Main Street Commercial Historic District is composed of 2½ facing blocks of the downtown commercial area of Kalispell, Montana. The district contains 41 buildings. The district qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The district's period of significance extends from the founding of Kalispell in 1891 until 1935, the year the last historic building was constructed within the district. Significant dates are 1891 (construction of the First National Bank, the first major brick building), 1896 (construction of the McIntosh Opera House), 1911 (construction of the Kalispell Hotel), and 1920 (construction of the Liberty Theater). The historic integrity is compromised somewhat by two factors: renovations of most of the street-level storefronts, and the presence of non-contributing blocks constructed to infill lots where historic buildings burned. The district retains good overall historic integrity, however, in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

For information on the general setting and on associated historic contexts, see the Multiple Property Documentation form for the Historic and Architectural Resources of Kalispell, Montana.

Like other towns along the Great Northern Railway line, Kalispell was platted in a "T-town" form. By this arrangement, 25'-wide business lots lined Main Street perpendicular to and on one side of the railroad tracks. In Kalispell, Main Street south of the tracks was developed first; the road across the tracks was not even opened to traffic until 1908 (until then, 2nd Street East was the main route heading east out of town). As was typical, a large public building (the Flathead County Courthouse) is located in the middle of the street at the southern end of Main Street. The blocks along were Main Street were developed over several decades, with some lots remaining vacant until the 1920s. The "first generation" of commercial buildings in Kalispell, during the early settlement period, were generally one-story wood frame structures with gable roofs and false fronts. Many of these original business buildings were moved to Kalispell's Main Street from the town of Demersville four miles to the south. These were replaced, some as early as the 1890s, by more permanent brick or wood frame with brick veneer buildings. The construction of a number of substantial brick buildings early in Kalispell's history and then after 1904 (when the Great Northern Railway division point was moved to Whitefish) reflects the importance of Kalispell as the trade center for the Flathead Valley and surrounding area. At least six of the early large brick buildings no longer exist because they were destroyed by fire. These include the Conrad National Bank building, the Hotel Kalispell (located north of the McIntosh Opera House), and several other hotels that were located on Main Street and on 1st Avenue East. In addition, in 1991 three large brick buildings in the 100 block of Main Street and 1st Avenue East were demolished by the City: these lots are now vacant.

Hotels, cafes and other establishments catering to travelers tended to be located as close to the railroad depot at the head of Main Street as possible. During the historic period, Main Street buildings primarily housed stores, professional offices, hotels, and apartments. First Avenue East, on the other hand, had a strong transportation element mixed from the

See continuation sheets

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Main Street Commercial Historic District, Kalispell

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beginning with miscellaneous commercial establishments. Several livery and feed stables and blacksmith shops lined the avenue in the early years of Kalispell. As automobiles began to be purchased by valley residents in the early 1900s, the use of horses for transportation gradually declined. Eventually the livery stables were replaced by automobile dealerships, service stations, and repair shops. During the transition years, blacksmith work, bicycle repair and automobile repair were often done by the same businesses. Quite a few of these transportation-related buildings no longer exist or are located outside of the district boundaries, but the Gas Co-op Service Station at 343 Main Street depicts the increased reliance of the Kalispell commercial community upon trade with the new, automobile-traveling tourists.

Kalispell's commercial architecture reflects the evolution of popular facade plans and interior design formats of commercial construction during the period of significance. Brick two-story commercial buildings constructed during the pre-World War I period typically have a first-floor storefront and residential rooms, offices, or lodge halls on the second floors. These buildings exhibit a relatively high degree of ornamentation, such as decorative corbeling, cut stone lintels, sills, coping, and quoining, elaborate sheet metal cornices, spandrel leaded transom glass, and often highly detailed pressed metal ceilings on the interior. By 1915 the streetscape consisted of solid blocks of construction; subsequent replacement construction was most often due to fire damage. The buildings of the 1910s and 1920s followed a similar pattern of facade organization but were characteristically more subdued in detailing and typically featured terra cotta ornamentation.

Several buildings within the district are significant because they are unique or representative examples of particular (commercial) architectural styles. These include the Jordan's Cafe building, the McIntosh Opera House, the Knight & Twining Block, and the Brust Block (for a brief physical description of these buildings, see Section 7 of this form).

Kalispell's growing importance as a trade center for the Flathead Valley, a very productive agricultural region, is reflected by a number of the buildings that still exist in the Main Street Commercial Historic District. These include the three-story Kalispell Hotel at 102 Main Street (1911), the McIntosh Opera House at 48 Main Street (1896), the First National Bank at 139 Main Street (1891), and the two Adams Blocks at 217 and 219 Main Street (1895 and 1901). These buildings were well-known during the historic period for their provision of services to travelers, entertainment, financial services, and a general department store, respectively. Some of the other long-lived institutions of Kalispell's commercial district either no longer exist or have been extensively remodeled. These include the Kalispell Mercantile, the Buffalo Block, and the Conrad National Bank building. Kalispell's growth encouraged further economic expansion in the commercial district, at the expense of smaller communities in the valley. Unlike the 19th-century Main Street business blocks, those of the early 20th century were generally built for rental by absentee landlords rather than for occupation by their owners.

The district is also significant for the role of some of its buildings in the area of entertainment. The McIntosh Opera House, built in 1896 and then enlarged in 1903, was one of the main centers of cultural activity and entertainment in the valley. The owner, John McIntosh, brought in stage shows and allowed a great variety of community events to be held in the upstairs auditorium, including high school graduations, fraternal organization meetings, and dances. The Liberty Theater at 116 1st Avenue East was built quite a bit later, in 1920, and served as one of a handful of movie theaters in Kalispell for many years. It is still in use today as a theater, but the upstairs of the McIntosh Opera House is currently not in use.

Little significant construction took place in the district after the period of significance. The two largest post-World War II buildings are the J. C. Penney's building (1956) and the Gambles Store (1946). Some of the historic buildings have been completely covered with various types of sheathing within the past few decades, creating large non-contributing gaps. Today only minor changes are occurring in the district, generally confined to storefronts and signs. The construction of Kalispell Center Mall one block to the north of the district, along the Great Northern Railway corridor, has not affected Main Street to a large degree. The Main Street Commercial Historic District continues to serve as the social and commercial focal point of the city.

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Main Street Commercial Historic District, Kalispell

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MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT, KALISPELL
Building List

p: primary significance c: contributing n: non-contributing

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Style</u>
34 & 40 Main Street	McIntosh & Sawyer Block	1903	c	2-st brick
48 Main Street	McIntosh Opera House	1896	p	2-st brick
101 Main Street		1963-80	n	contemp brick
102 Main Street	Kalispell Hotel	1911	p	3-st brick
106 & 116 Main Street	Halliday-Boysen Block	1928	c	1-st brick
111 Main Street	Duncan Block	1908	n	2-st brick
115 Main Street	Brust Block	1928	p	1-st brick
119 & 121 Main Street	Hansen Cleaners	1910-15	n	1-st flat wooden
120 Main Street	Brewery Saloon/The Palm	1892/1900/1901	n	2-st brick
123 Main Street	Wilson Cafe	1891-92/ 1894-99/1903	n	1-st gable-roofed wooden
124 & 128 Main Street	Edwards Block	1899	n	1-st brick
127 Main Street	Jordan Cafe	1901	p	2-story
131 Main Street	Todd's Bakery	1899	c	1-st commrcl
132 Main Street	Kalispell Meat Market	1908	n	1-st wood
135 Main Street	Eagle Shoe Co.	1903-10	c	2-st commrcl
136 Main Street	Kalispell Drug Co.	1908	n	1-st brick
139 Main Street	First National Bank	1891	p	2-st commrcl
140 Main Street	Pastime Bar aka Hello's	1900	p (NR) 1991	2-st brick
141 Main Street	Ford Block	1898	c	2-st commrcl
146 Main Street	J. C. Penney's	1956	n	2-st commrcl
211 Main Street		1984-91	n	1-story contemp brick
217 Main Street	Adams Block	1895	p	2-story brick
219 Main Street	Adams Block	1901	c	2-st brick
221 Main Street	Calbick Block	1906	c	2-st brick
227 Main Street	Fair Department Store/ Montana Meat Market	1901	c	1-st brick
231 Main Street	Karcher & Durall Block	1908	n	2-story brick
" " (garage)			n	1-st CMU
235 Main Street		ca. 1955	n	1-st brick
237 Main Street	Knight & Twining Block	1908	p	2-st brick
241 Main Street	Masonic Temple	1905	p	2-st Renaissance Revival
301-309 Main Street	Whipps Block	1904/1909/ 1910	p	2-st brick
319 Main Street	Nash Motor Co.	1923-24	c	comm brick
323 Main Street	O'Neil Print Shop	1926	c	1-st
325 Main Street	Gambles Store	1946	n	2-st
333 Main Street	Montgomery Ward Store	1929	c	2-st Gothic

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343 Main Street	Gas Co-op Service Sta.	1935	p	1-st brick
" "		1963-80	n	1-st CMU
" "	Montgomery Ward Annex	ca. 1929	c	1-st brick
116 1st Avenue East	Liberty Theater	1920	p	
128 1st Avenue East		ca. 1948	n	1-st commrc
142 1st Avenue East	Montana Hotel	1910	p	2-st commrc

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheets

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

Acreege of Property: approximately five acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A I	11	699830	5341560
B J	11	699845	5341470
C K	11	699795	5341230
D L	11	699660	5341560

Sections 7 & 18, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

Verbal Boundary Description

The northeast corner of the Main Street Commercial Historic District is located at the intersection of 1st Avenue East and 1st Street East. From that point, the boundary proceeds south to 2nd Street East; west to the alley between 1st Avenue East and Main Street; south to 4th Street East; west to Main Street; north to 2nd Street, west to the alley between Main Street and 1st Avenue West; north to the north boundary of 34 Main Street (lot 9); east to Main Street, south to 1st Street; and east to the starting point at the intersection of 1st Avenue East and 1st Street East.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Main Street Commercial Historic District were chosen to include all blocks and half-blocks within the downtown commercial area that possess sufficient historic architectural integrity to be included within a historic district. The west side of the 100 block of Main Street has been included in the district even though the historic fabric of five of the eight facades has been obscured. The half block contains two important anchor buildings, and the remaining buildings do not detract from the overall character of the district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathy McKay, Historian
organization: date: March 1993
street & number: 491 Eckelberry Dr. telephone: (406) 892-1538
city or town: Columbia Falls state: Montana zip code: 59912

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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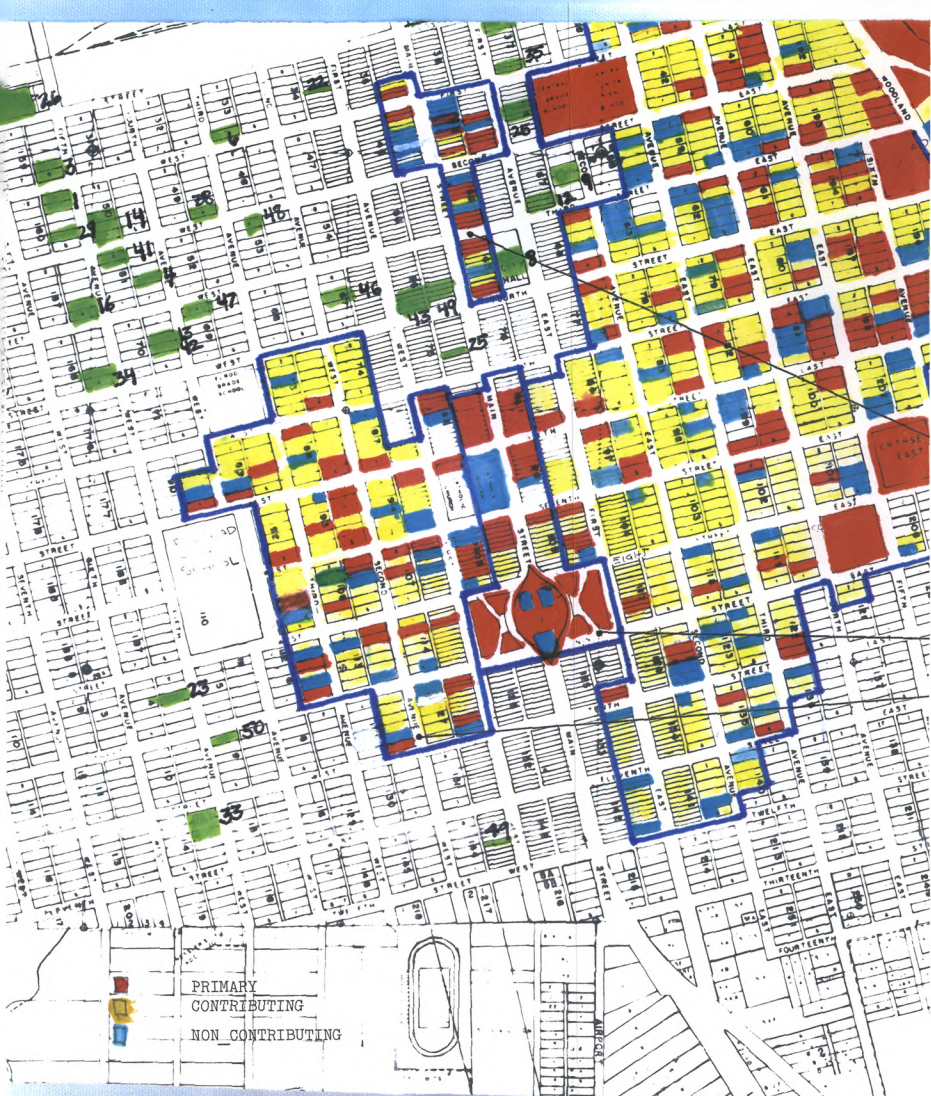
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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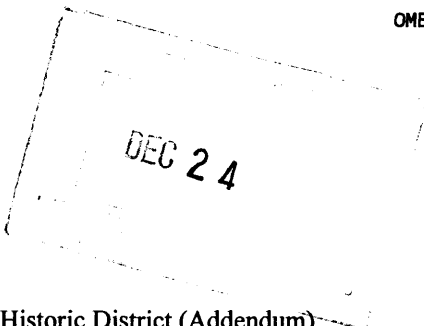


PRIMARY
 CONTRIBUTING
 NON CONTRIBUTING

MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

United States Department of the Interior
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Kalispell Main Street Commercial Historic District (Addendum)

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This addendum is written to acknowledge the restoration of the Brewery Saloon, also called the Palm building located at 120 Main Street in Kalispell. Formerly considered a non-contributing resource in the Kalispell Main Street Commercial Historic District, the non-historic exterior finishes, including a bolted-on metal grill that covered the upper story of the building, have been removed. The original storefront and second story fenestration have been rebuilt. The restoration process included the rehabilitation and reuse of historic material, and reconstruction of architectural details using historic photographs and oral interviews to ensure accuracy. The result is a beautiful building reflective of the historic period. The accuracy of the restoration warrants the building's reclassification as a contributing resource in the historic district.

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.

Mark F. Sammler / State Historic Preservation Officer 12/19/2003
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
 State or Federal agency or bureau (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (explain): <u>Additional Documentation Accepted</u>	<u>Colson H. Beall</u>	<u>2/5/04</u>

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The reclassification results in a different resource count that originally listed. In section 5, the "Number of Resources within the Property" should now read as follows:

5. Classification

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>26</u>	<u>15</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>26</u>	<u>15</u> TOTAL

7. Description

The Main Street Commercial Historic District encompasses 2½ facing blocks of the downtown commercial area of Kalispell, Montana. The district contains 41 buildings, 60% of which make a positive contribution to the district's historic character. The Brewery Saloon/Palm Building at 120 Main Street was considered a non-contributing element within the district at the time of listing in 1993. At that time, the very few of the original materials were visible from the front of the building. The entrance level had a pressed tan brick veneer, and the upper story was covered with a bolted-on metal grill. In 2000, a major rehabilitation project began to bring the building back to its appearance during the 1910s.

This two and one-half story, flat-roofed building has exterior brick walls on three sides, and wood frame construction at its façade (east elevation). Originally constructed in 1892 as a one-story building, a second story was added in 1900. The resulting two-part commercial block exhibited Late Victorian design elements, including an elaborate wooden cornice and trimwork. In 1901, the rear of the building was extended eighty feet to the alley. By 1971, the front windows on the first floor of the building were all removed, and a recessed, aluminum and glass front was installed. Also by 1971, the four large double-hung front windows on the second floor were removed, and a ribbon of six metal-framed four-light windows filled the second-story level. Metal panels filled the space between the windows and the roofline. During the late 1970s or early 1980s, the façade was further altered, and the ribbon of windows was replaced with two wide sliding windows. Presumably at that time, the front facade was covered with a ribbed metal exterior.

In 2000, the bolted-on metal exterior and other non-historic finishes were removed to reveal much of the 1900-era wood framing at the storefront and second-story levels. While the original windows and doors were no longer extant, shadow lines, sills, and headers showed the exact location and sizes of the missing fenestration. Original windows on the side and rear elevations, together with historic photographs and oral histories allowed the windows and doors to be replaced with great accuracy. The result is a wood-framed storefront, with a four-

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light window to the south, and a four-light over two-panel wood door with two-light sidelights and transoms. Off-center to the north is a smaller four-light window with a two-light transom, and a narrower four-light over two-panel door to the north side provides access to the second story. The northern door also features a two-light transom. The second story features a pair of centered, one-over-one-light wood-frame windows flanked by single windows of the same style. These windows are identical to those originally installed when the second story was constructed in 1900.

Modern, pressed metal siding gives the appearance of rusticated stone across the façade, and replicates the original siding material. Historic photos and remembrances of longtime residents indicated the presence of an elaborate cornice and decorative wood framing around the perimeter of the façade. These elements have been meticulously reconstructed. The cornice consists of six wooden “fans” separated by carved wood trim. Three wood panels, also separated by carved wood trim are located above each fan. A large wooden sign rests atop the cornice and reads, in painted black letters:



Quarter-round wooden fans ornament the sign on either side. Additional wood ornamentation on the façade includes round newel caps at each side and corner block paterae with rosette embellishments. True to the Victorian design, the decorative trim and cornice are colorfully painted to highlight the detailing.

The side elevations remain largely unchanged since their construction. There are three window openings, with slightly arched brick lintels across the west ends of the second stories of both the south and north elevations. These windows are original, though some glazing was replaced in 2000. They are two-over-two-light double-hung style. The west (rear) elevation contains a pedestrian door at the north side of the first story level. Single, boarded-over one-over-one light wood-frame double-hung windows are evenly spaced across the south two-thirds of the first story. The second story level features a single window opening to the north, and a two-panel, x-braced vertical tongue-and-groove door to the south. A metal staircase provides access to the door.

The interior of the first floor of the one hundred-forty-feet deep by twenty-five-feet wide building is undivided except for the back twenty feet, which housed restrooms and a small kitchen area. The first floor ceiling is original pressed metal for the front half; with tongue-and-grove wood on the back half, separated from the pressed metal by wood framing. During the 2000 restoration, many layers of flooring material were removed from the first floor to expose the original maple tongue-and-groove. The original floor was patched, sanded and sealed at that time. When the building was constructed in 1892, the buildings on either side were not yet built. Window openings are still extant at the first story, even though they are covered from the exterior by the neighboring buildings. These window openings are now used as lighted display areas.

The second floor is reached by a separate front entrance, which leads up a staircase on the north side of the building. All partitions in the front half of the second floor had been removed through the years, but some were reinstalled in 2000. In these walls, all door openings were built with transom windows to match the historic

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interior doors found in other parts of the building. The current owner also trimmed the modern interior doors with molding and rosettes identical to the historic trims throughout the building. The back half of the second floor remains as it was, as part of the Kalispell Men's Club. The sixteen-foot high walls in this room are covered with tongue -and-grove fir. Suspended from the ceiling is a three-foot-wide catwalk mounted nine feet overhead. Above a portion of this room is a small office, on the same level and connected to the catwalk. This third level is reached by a small stairway located in one corner of the room.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Brewery Saloon, also known as The Palm, was constructed in 1892, and is significant for its association with the commercial development of Kalispell during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The building is particularly significant for its association with the social and cultural development of the community, as a saloon, brewery, men's social club, and Kalispell's first bowling alley. The owners of the building through the early twentieth century were immigrants from Germany and Denmark, and were representative of the ethnic composition the city during that period. One of the oldest brick buildings in the Kalispell Main Street Commercial Historic District, it is reflective of the period of significance (1891-1935) for the district.

The Brewery Saloon started as a one-story, twenty-five-feet by sixty feet brick structure built in the spring of 1892. When opened, the Kalispell newspaper *Inter Lake* described it as "one of the neatest and best furnished bar rooms in the state," with new oak furniture purchased from Brunswick & Balk Collender, manufacturer of bar fixtures. The saloon opened on June 30, 1892, before the brewery was constructed. The bar itself was oak with a mahogany bar top, and the saloon featured French mirrors and brass trimmings. An 1894 advertisement for the Brewery Saloon mentioned "Choice Wines, Liquor and Cigars, Kalispell draft beer on tap at 5 cents per glass. Free lunch served at the bar." That same year the Lindlahr brothers installed two arc lights that were "more brilliant than day," and by 1895 the saloon was connected to the brewery by telephone. In 1900 the *Kalispell Bee* described the Brewery Saloon as "a clean, comfortable, quiet place in which one can enjoy a game of billiards or cards, no other place in the city can compete," and mentioned that it offered "any and all brands of liquors from 'pousse café' to 'Fernet Branca.'"¹

The proprietors of the Brewery Saloon were Charles and Henry Lindlahr; the saloon remained in their family until 1919. Charles Lindlahr was born in Germany in 1867. He came to Kalispell from Marysville, Montana in 1892. His father had been a brewer in Germany; he and his brother Henry started the Brewery Saloon and also founded the Kalispell Malting & Brewing Company. They were proprietors of the brewery, one of Kalispell's primary industries, until 1898. Charles married Mary Curran in 1898, and they had one child. He invested in the Kalispell Steam Laundry that same year, but sold it within a year. Charles Lindlahr died of typhoid fever in 1900 at the age of 34. His wife and son continued to live in the family home at 30 5th Avenue West until approximately 1911, with some time spent in San Francisco.²

Henry Lindlahr, an immigrant from Germany, came to Kalispell with his brother Charles in 1892. In 1895 Henry Lindlahr married Annie C. Matthieson of Kalispell, and that summer they built a house on the West side of Kalispell. In 1898 the Lindlahr brothers sold their interest in the brewery. Henry Lindlahr moved to El Paso, Texas, and planned to establish a brewery there, feeling that it would offer more opportunity for growth. He soon moved to the Chicago area, however, because the "big beer makers" would not allow him to compete with

¹ *Kalispell Graphic*, June 29, 1892, p. 3; "16 Years Ago," *Kalispell Journal*, April 2, 1908; *InterLake*, July 1, 1892; *Populist*, October 13, 1894, p. 1; *Flathead Herald-Journal*, January 12, 1894; *Kalispell Graphic*, April 10, 1895, p. 3; *Kalispell Bee*, August 3, 1900, p. 3.

² *Inter Lake*, July 1, 1892, June 3, 1898, March 3, 1899, October 28, 1898; *Flathead Monitor*, November 23, 1900; *Kalispell Bee*, December 16, 1904, p. 5; *Flathead Monitor*, November 24, 1899.

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them. Lindlahr established a "high toned sanitarium" in a fashionable quarter of Chicago that offered a "'Nature Cure' of all diseases flesh is heir to." He died in Chicago in 1924.³

In 1900 Charles Lindlahr added a second story to the building to house the Kalispell Club, a men's social club. The floor was divided into three apartments. The front room was a reception and lounge, with a Brussels carpet, "the very finest leather upholstered furniture and very prettily decorated with steel engravings." The second room was a reading room, with tables and chairs. The third room had billiard and pool tables and "good, comfortable chairs around the sides." The clubrooms had hot and cold water, a bathroom, and steam heat. At that time, the club had 83 members.⁴

Kalispell residents interested in civic improvement, charity, and structured social gatherings joined service clubs, veteran's organization and fraternal organizations. At the end of 1892, the *Kalispell Graphic* listed numerous such organizations, including the Kalispell Commercial Club, Knights of Pythias, Masonic Lodge, and the General Lyons Post. By 1909, the list greatly expanded, including some groups that reflected ethnic origins and the occupations of the Flathead Valley residents, including: Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Independent Order of Oddfellows, Independent Order of Foresters, Scandinavian Brotherhood of America, and the Sons of Herman. The Kalispell Club was more of a social club than a benevolent or fraternal organization, where members could relax, drink, play cards or billiards, and occasionally view boxing matches in the large back room.

In the spring of 1901 John Uehlinger, manager of the saloon, built an 80' brick addition to the building, extending it to the alley. This one-story addition contained a bowling alley. About 20feet were added to the upper story for card, bath and toilet rooms. The bowling alley opened in October of 1901.⁵ In the early 1920s women were allowed to bowl one night a week at this alley (which was called The Palm by then).⁶

In 1904 James Jorgensen purchased the building and business of the Brewery Saloon, and in 1908 Albert Dressen joined him as partner in the business, which they maintained until 1937. After renovations in 1919, the proprietors changed the name to the Palm.⁷ A 1933 description of The Palm is as follows:

Here one can find everything that is to be found in a modern and up-to-date place of this kind, as well as a stock of Sportsmen's supplies. At the Lunch Counter in The Palm, one can secure a variety of delicious sandwiches and coffee, as well as a refreshing soft drink or Ice Cold Beer, either in the bottle or by the glass. Here also their stock of cigars and cigarettes will satisfy the most discriminating smoker. The Palm is known throughout this section as one where good fellows meet and many happy hours can be spent.⁸

3 *Interlake*, July 1, 1892; *Flathead Herald-Journal*, May 23, 1895; *Kalispell Graphic*, August 21, 1895, p. 3; *Flathead Monitor*, November 24, 1899; *Flathead Herald-Journal*, March 22, 1900; *Kalispell Bee*, June 18, 1907, p. 5; *Kalispell Times*, April 3, 1924.

4 *Flathead Herald-Journal*, April 13, 1900; *Flathead Herald-Journal*, May 31, 1900; *Kalispell Bee*, 1900 (date unknown), p. 3.

5 *Kalispell Bee*, April 30, 1901, p. 3, May 7, 1901, p. 3, May 10, 1901, p. 3, and October 5, 1901, p. 3.

6 Jordan, Mrs. W. B., "I Remember Kalispell," *Kalispell News*, September 10, 1964, p. 3

7 *Kalispell Bee*, April 7, 1908, p. 10.

8 "The Palm," *Flathead Monitor*, August 31, 1933.

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According to a 1926 newspaper article (this was during Prohibition), The Palm carried fishing supplies, smoking supplies, had a novelty department and gift shop, a confectionery, fountain and lunch counter. It was noted for its malted milks. The article continued:

The Palm occupies a floor space of 3625 square feet, and is furnished in mahogany throughout. The fountain and counters are works of art. The front part of the store is given over to the lunch counter, fountain, etc., while the rear part is taken up by the bowling alleys. Throughout the whole store one is impressed by its beautiful and rustic decorations. Mounted heads of wild animals adorn the walls; while over the center of the back bar a large American eagle flaunts his powerful wings to the patrons of the Palm.⁹

Because non-Indians had so recently settled the Flathead Valley when Kalispell was founded (1891), virtually everyone in the new town had been born elsewhere. Many of the early settlers of the Flathead Valley were first- or second-generation Scandinavians who left the Midwest in search of cheap or free land out West. An 1896 census of Scandinavian inhabitants of Flathead County (which was much larger then) found 270 males over 21 and 443 women and children. In 1900, Kalispell had over 70 residents who were born in Scandinavia, and one of the 26 Danes was James Jorgensen.¹⁰

James Jorgensen was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark, in 1874 and came to Chicago when a teenager. He came to the Flathead Valley in 1891 and worked as a farmhand and freighter, then homesteaded, and finally went into business for himself. According to his obituary, he was "probably the best liked of the old timers who had participated in the growth and development of the city and county." Jorgensen moved into Kalispell from the Lake Blaine area in 1899 and was employed at the Brewery Saloon until he purchased half interest in it in 1904. James and Thyra Jorgensen had one son and two daughters. Jorgensen belonged to the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Scandinavian Fraternity, and the Sons of Herman. He died in 1939 at the age of 65. From approximately 1925 until his death he lived at 644 1st Avenue East.¹¹

In 1895, a promotional brochure stated that most of the area's residents were from Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, or Nebraska, with some Germans and Norwegians from the Dakotas and also some Canadians. The federal census records verify this impression, but many of the Germans and Scandinavians were also first-generation immigrants. By 1900, Germans constituted the second-largest ethnic group in Kalispell, outnumbered only by Canadians.¹²

Albert Dressen was born in 1880 in Wesselburen, Germany, and immigrated to Chicago with his family when he was 14. He attended night school to learn English and then worked his way across the country on farms for \$1 a day. In Cut Bank, Montana he met a man who told him of the availability of land for homesteads in the Flathead, and they came together to the Flathead around 1903. Dressen proved up on a homestead in the Wolf

⁹ Institutions and Men Forming Kalispell's Commercial Life," *Flathead Monitor*, December 16, 1926, p. 21.

¹⁰ U.S. Population Census, 1900, 1910, 1920.

¹¹ "James Jorgensen Popular Citizen Answers Last Call," *Kalispell Times*, January 19, 1939, p. 1; "Institutions and Men," *op. cit.*, p. 21.

¹² Henry Elwood, *Kalispell, Montana and the Upper Flathead Valley* (Kalispell, MT: Thomas Printing, 1989), p. 111.

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Creek area and sold soon after to a Libby lumber company for \$1200. He then moved to Kalispell and invested with James Jorgensen in the Brewery Saloon (later The Palm) on Main Street in 1908. In 1938, a year after he and Jorgensen sold The Palm to Ward McMillan. Dressen purchased the Kalispell Hotel and planned to add a fourth floor to accommodate summer travelers. This was never built, however, possibly due to construction shortages during World War II. Soon after coming to the Flathead, Dressen married Emma Seiffert, a Minnesota native who had lived in the area since 1894. They raised two children, Lillian and Amelia. Albert Dressen passed away in 1956, and Emma passed in 1962.¹³

The Brewery Saloon, later called The Palm, is an important building in the Kalispell Main Street Commercial District. Constructed in three phases between 1893 and 1901, the building is reflective of the commercial growth in Kalispell during that period. Serving as a saloon, social club, and even the first bowling alley, the building housed many of the social events of the day, and is clearly tied to the patterns of cultural development at the local level. It is also representative of the strong German and Danish influences in the city, as its succession of owners during the period of significance for the district, 1891-1935, hailed from those countries. For these reasons, the building should be reclassified as a contributing resource in the Kalispell Main Street Commercial Historic District.

¹³ Whitehaus, Lillian Dressen (daughter of Albert Dressen), interview with Kathy McKay, January 28, 1992; A.Dressen, Pioneer, Dies," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 9, 1956, p. 1; "Long-Time Resident Dies," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 11, 1962, p. 2; *Kalispell Times*, February 6, 1941; U.S. Population Census, Kalispell, 1920; as. Jorgensen, Sr. Is Taken By Death," *Daily Inter Lake*, January 17, 1939.

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Populist. October 13, 1894.
 U.S. Population Census. 1900, 1910, 1920.
 Whitehaus, Lillian Dressen (daughter of Albert Dressen). Interview with Kathy McKay. January 28, 1992.

See continuation sheet

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
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository

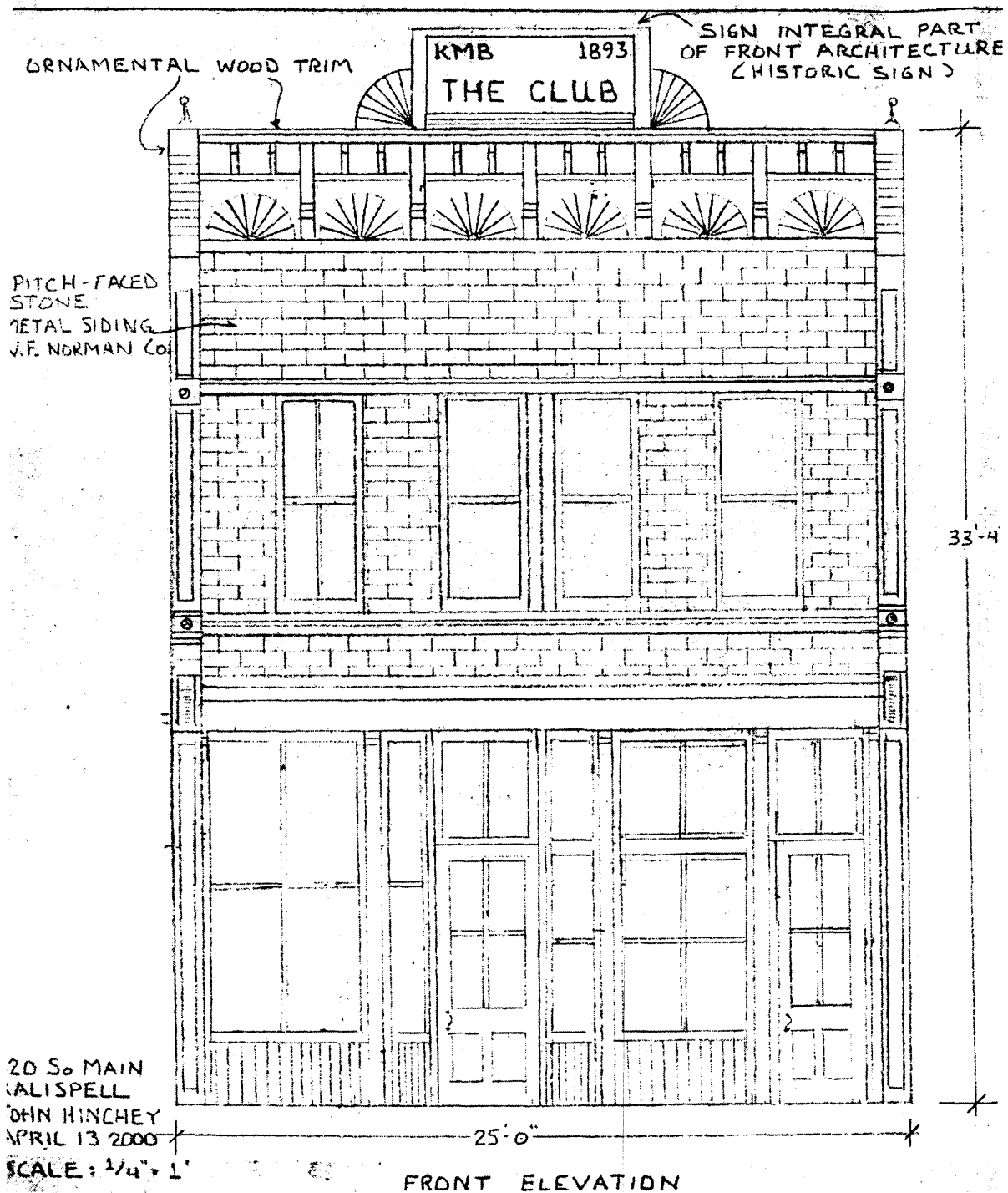
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Kalispell Brewery Saloon/The Palm
120 Main Street; Façade Restoration Plan, 2000

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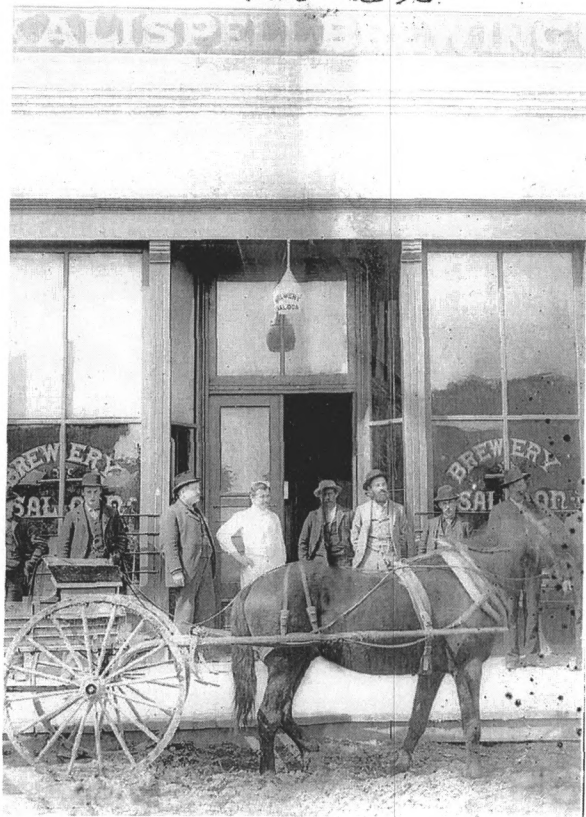
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BUILDING AS 1 STORY
PRE 1895.



Brewery Saloon prior to second story addition, c. 1893.

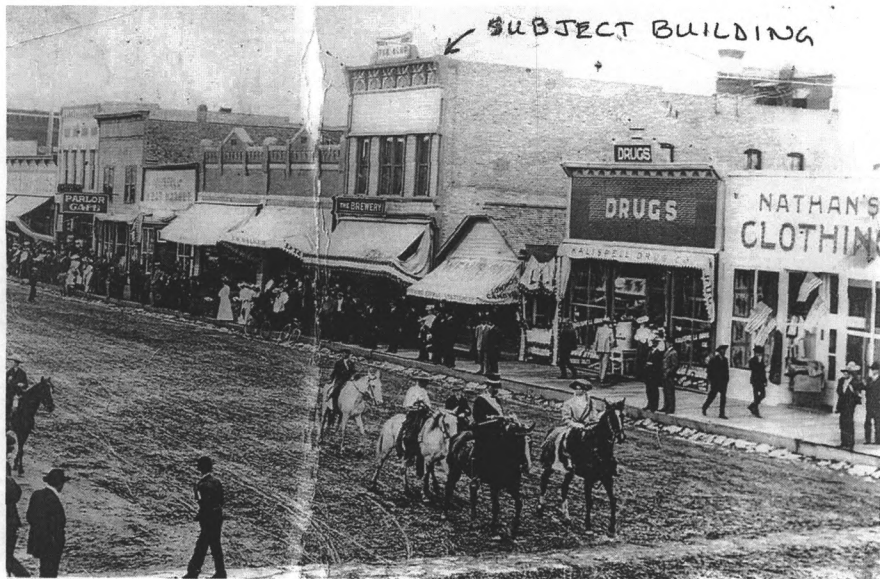
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Kalispell Main Street, undated photograph. The Brewery Saloon, 120 Main Street, is the tall building at the center of the photo.

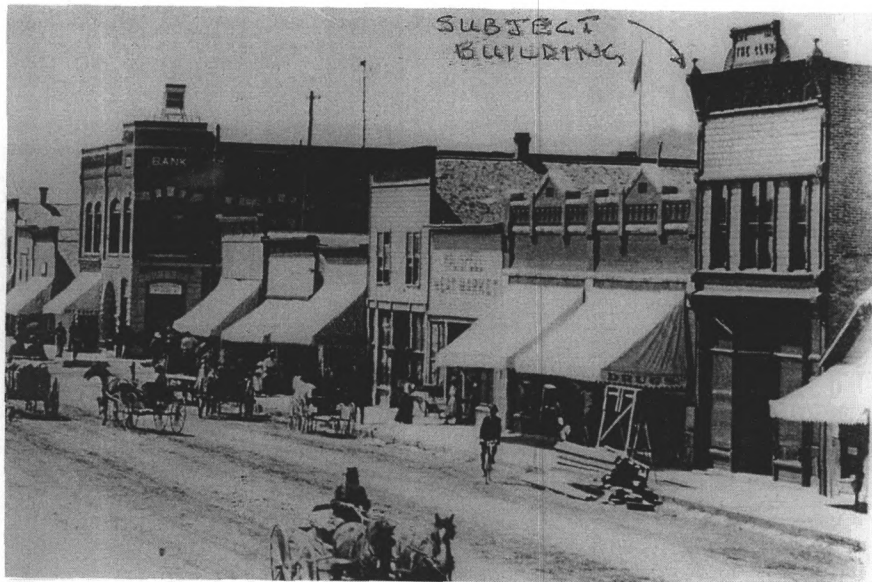
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Main Street, Kalispell, c. 1895.

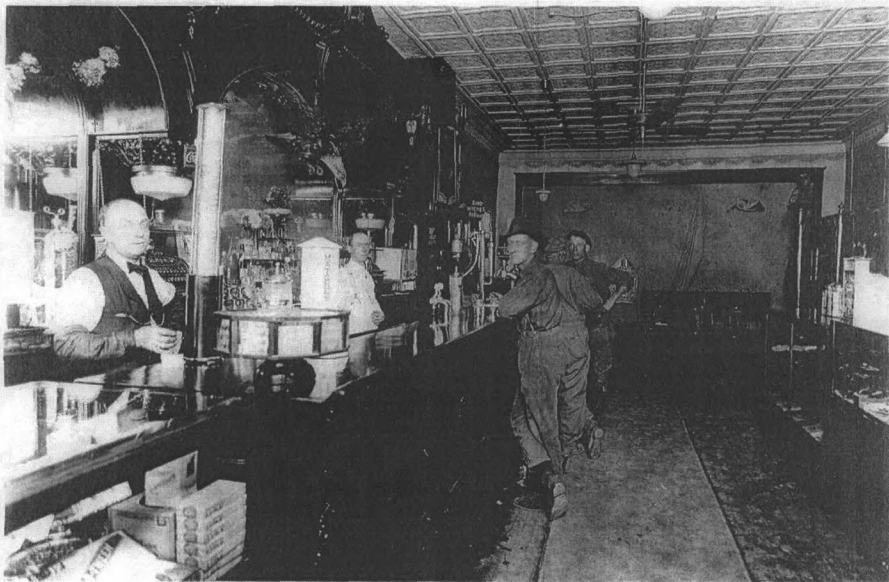
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120 E. main

Interior of The Palm, James Jorgensen on left, n.d.

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