

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Scott/Forhan House

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 326 Fourth 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not for publication: n/a  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.)

Marshall Shoup 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  
5-24-94

**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>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  2  </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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:  
Other: Prairie Four-Square

Materials:  
foundation: brick  
roof: metal  
walls: brick, wood/weatherboard  
other: n/a

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Scott/Forhan House is representative of a small number of residences in Kalispell, those that were originally one-story structures and then had a second story added to them. In this case, the first floor was also given a brick veneer when the second floor was added, some time between 1923 and 1927. The house originally had a full-width front porch extending around the projecting entry; the porch is gone, but the entry remains. The original residence was very likely identical in plan to the house next door, the Ferguson House. They are shown as identical in layout on the early Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

The Scott/Forhan House has a metal roof, clapboard siding on the second floor, and brick veneer on the first. The two-story residence is a wood frame structure that was originally one-story with a hipped roof. There is a small hipped dormer on the front elevation. A flagstone walk extends from the curved concrete entry steps, and there is a modern deck at the rear of the house. The windows are one-over-one-light wooden double-hung units. The hipped roof is covered with metal. The house has two brick chimneys. In 1923, when the Forhans moved into the house, it had four rooms (including a bedroom, bathroom, and storage space upstairs) and a dug-out basement with enough space for the furnace. By 1927 the Forhans had greatly enlarged the house and had also hired a contractor to put a full basement under the house, adding a bathroom and two (possibly three) bedrooms upstairs. Forhan also enlarged the kitchen at the rear of the house. While

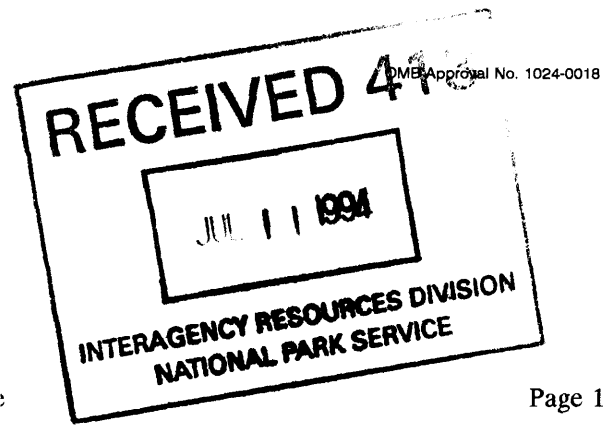
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Scott/Forhan House

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the Forhans lived in the house it had a glazed-in rear porch. French doors going from the kitchen to the outside were added at the rear of the house (removing some of the brick wall) after 1964. The kitchen had a wood stove in it (the opening for the stovepipe is still there). The house is heated by a gas-fired hot water system, using the original steam radiators.

At the rear of the lot is a front-gabled garage with a wood shingle-covered roof and shiplap siding, with sliding exterior doors. This was built between 1910 and 1927, replacing an earlier carriage house and a cabin located on the site. The garage was originally a three-story barn that William Forhan reduced in height in the 1920s. The Forhans kept chickens in the barn. Other outbuildings shown on early Sanborn maps no longer exist, including a one-car garage built by William Forhan. In 1923, there were about 27 trees on the property, including crabapple. William Forhan removed most of the trees, both to give space for the remodeling project and to allow more room for his large family of children to play outside. For years the house was covered with English ivy, but William Forhan finally removed it because it would grow up to the second floor and get under the clapboard siding. There was also an arbor in the yard when the Forhans lived there, and a flower garden. The large Chinese elm started as a tiny sapling that Margaret Smith's husband mowed around and allowed to grow. The Smiths planted the Macintosh apple tree that is still in the yard, and a cherry tree that used to be there no longer exists. There are also lilac bushes, junipers, and a bush cherry tree in the yard.

According to Kalispell Fire Department records, a 1968 fire caused approximately \$2,000 in damages in the basement of the house.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1891-97, 1923-27

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1891-97, 1923-27

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): unknown

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scott/Forhan House was built between 1891 and 1897. It is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, because it is a representative example of a working class, four-square house that had a second story added a number of years after its original construction. Although many houses in Kalispell were constructed in stages, not very many had second floors added as a second phase of construction. The significant dates, 1891-97 and 1923-27, reflect the years of construction and of the remodeling, respectively.

The original owner of the house was Thomas Lacher, a locomotive engineer with the Great Northern Railway. He and his English wife Martha and their young daughter were occupying the house in 1900 when the federal population census was taken. In 1901, Lacher and Bill Adair were running a saloon together, and by 1904 Lacher had moved out of the house. Lacher and Adair later owned and operated the Polebridge Mercantile along the North Fork of the Flathead River. Lacher died in 1925. He had lived in the Flathead Valley since approximately 1891.

In 1903, bartender James J. Coleman lived in the house, and he owned it for most of that year. From approximately 1907 until 1917, Stacy and Carrie Scott lived here. He was a windmill agent and traveling salesman, and he died between 1915 and 1917. His widow continued living in the residence for a short period, owning it until 1923. When the 1920 federal population census was taken, Mrs. Sadie Bailey was renting the dwelling. She lived in the house with her four children, one of whom was a laborer in a lumber camp.

From 1923 until his death in 1952, William S. Forhan owned the house and lived in it with his wife Hermine. The second story of the house may have been added by the Forhans. Forhan was born in Tipperary County, Ireland, in 1871, and he came to the United States in 1875. He moved to the Flathead Valley in 1904, and he worked as a conductor on the Great Northern Railway for 44 years on the line between Havre and Spokane and also on the Galloping Goose that served Kalispell. Hermine Forhan was originally from Bohemia. She was educated in Europe and came to the United States in 1904, marrying William Forhan in Kalispell in 1910. The Forhans raised nine children in the house (and according to one of their daughters, it was a "house full of love"). From approximately 1943 until 1947 Nelle's Beauty Shop was operated out of the downstairs bedroom by one of the Forhan daughters. The residence remained in the Forhan family until 1964. One of the Forhan's daughters, Margaret, bought the house from her parents, and she and her husband raised six children in the house.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Bourne, Janet (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, June 4, 1993.  
*Daily Inter Lake*: "Forhan Rites," March 6, 1952, p. 2; "Hermine Forhan Dies Thursday," March 30, 1972.  
Kalispell City Directories.  
*Kalispell Times*: February 3, 1925.  
Koch, Augustus, "Bird's Eye View of the City of Kalispell, Flathead County, Montana, 1897."  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1899, 1903, 1910, 1927, 1956.  
Smith, Margaret Forhan (daughter of Hermine and William Forhan), interview with Kathy McKay, June 3, 1993.  
United States Population Census, Kalispell, Montana, 1900, 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

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property:** less than one acre

**UTM References:**

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	699340	5341140

### Verbal Boundary Description

Block 70, lot 4, Section 18, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

### Boundary Justification

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

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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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

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## Property Owner

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name/title: Janet K. Bourne	telephone:
street & number: 326 4th Avenue West	
city or town: Kalispell	state: MT zip code: 59901