

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received JUL 3 1984
date entered AUG 2 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Margaret Block

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 413-415 Central Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Great Falls n/a vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Cascade code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Earl W. and Lillian M. O'Neil

street & number 419 Central Avenue

city, town Great Falls n/a vicinity of state Montana 59401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cascade County Courthouse, Clerk-Recorder office

street & number 401 Second Avenue North

city, town Great Falls state Montana 59401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Great Falls Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town 225 North Roberts Street Helena, state Montana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> n/a </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The three story, masonry Margaret Block is located in the center of a solid block of early 20th Century commercial buildings on Central Avenue in Great Falls. The influence of the Prairie School is evident in the architect's choice of decorative features on the facade of the building that strongly emphasize horizontal lines: stone belt course, wide window openings with flat arches above and stone sills with decorative brick corbelling beneath, soldier brick courses, corbelled parapet with stone coping, and pendant-like decorative brick work with horizontal bands. The overall effect of the facade is one of balance, careful proportioning, and quiet repose.

Typical of many buildings of the 1910's period in Great Falls, the first floor of the Margaret Block was used for retail commercial space while the upper two floors served as a residential hotel. The central, sidewalk entry with oak double doors leads to the stairway to the upstairs hotel. Both the second and third floors feature double-loaded corridors with simple fir detailing, consisting of chair moldings and doors with transom lights. Each hotel room featured a Murphy bed and lavatory. Men's and women's bathing facilities were located on each floor. On the roof of the building, a small gable roofed structure provided storage room for the residents' trunks. The hotel closed in 1979; all of the original detailing is still in place.

Numerous alterations have occurred since the original construction of the Margaret Block. The two first floor store fronts were remodeled during the 1950's. The original store fronts were open spans with four cast iron pillars and steel spandrels. The upper portion of the storefronts were infilled with amethyst glass; the lower portions were divided into large display windows. Double doors, located at the center of the facade provided access to the upper level hotel rooms. The present flat, sheet metal awning that spans the front facade, although stripped of some detailing, may be original to the building.

The upper level windows were originally an unusual sash configuration of 3/2 and 4/2. These windows were replaced during the 1950's with metal 1/3 sash. The present owners plan to replace these metal windows with wooden sash units that conform to the original design.

Although the Margaret Block has experienced a number of alterations over the years, the building has retained primary historic architectural integrity of design, materials, association, and feeling.

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the ranching operation to Chouteau County, east of the Highwood Mountains. There he took up homestead, desert land, stone, and timber claims which provided the land base for the establishment of the Big Sag Land and Livestock Company. This enterprise has been an important factor in the stock industry of Montana since its inception as well as a great financial success.² Kingsbury served as the general manager and president until his death in 1924. Kingsbury was also the general manager of the Chouteau Live Stock Company that was formed in 1882 and numerous other stock raising ventures during the fifty three years of his involvement in the industry.

Kingsbury made his residence in Great Falls during the early 1890's where he financially assisted the construction of numerous civic buildings, such as the Grand Opera House, the purchase of land for the Great Falls Post Office and Federal Building, and St. Ann's Cathedral. He also served for many years as one of the directors of the First National Bank of Great Falls. In 1894, Kingsbury married Margaret Rosan Britt. The Margaret Block, one of his later investments in the city, was named for his wife. The Kingsbury residence, an imposing Queen Anne structure at 627 4th Avenue North, was judged to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a result of the recently completed Great Falls Historic Resource Survey.

²Montana, Its Story and Biography, Tom Stout, The American Historical Society, Chicago and New York, 1921, Vol. III, p. 825.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1914 **Builder/Architect** Great Falls Construction Co./H.N. Black, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Margaret Block, built in 1914 on Central Avenue, is significant as an intact example of Prairie Commercial architecture in Great Falls, Montana. Additional significance is lent to the building due to its association with Adkin Wallace Kingsbury, a man who played a prominent role in the development of the stock raising industry in Central Montana.

Designed by the local architect Hiram N. Black, the three story, masonry Margaret Block exhibits design elements common to the Prairie Commercial style. The extensive brick corbelling used on the built-out brick cornice with corbelled brick pendants and the wide window openings originally featuring 4/2 and 3/2 double hung sash work to create a strong horizontal emphasis to the front facade, typical of the Prairie Commercial style. Stone coping on the cornice and parapet, sills, and flat window arches with key stones add textural and visual interest to the facade. Although the first floor storefronts and the sash pattern of the upper story windows have been changed, the Margaret Block still possesses sufficient historic integrity of design and detailing to successfully evoke the historic period of the building's construction. During the 1910's, Great Falls emerged as the major trade center for an enormous agricultural area on the Central Montana plains, which was becoming rapidly settled and intensively cultivated by thousands of homesteaders. Extensive commercial construction was undertaken in Great Falls during this decade. As was typical of many of the commercial buildings constructed during this period of great population growth, the Margaret Block combined commercial space on the lower level with a residential hotel located above. The Margaret Block is one of the few commercial buildings located in the central business district of the city to retain primary historic architectural integrity. The present owners plan to replace the existing windows with wood frame sash that more closely resembles the original fenestration pattern.

A.W. Kingsbury came to the Montana in 1864 from Missouri, not to make a fortune in the gold fields but to develop one of the largest stock raising operations in the State. In partnership with Major William Davenport and Thomas A. Ray of Helena, Kingsbury is credited with bringing the first band of stock sheep into the State over the Continental Divide from Oregon in 1871. From this parent organization of Davenport, Ray & Co. (the 29 year old Kingsbury as the "Company"), reputedly sprang all successive sheep companies in Montana.¹ Kingsbury was in charge of all the actual herding, feeding, and caretaking of the animals and, by 1873 had added cattle raising to the business. In 1880, Kingsbury moved

¹Progressive Men of Montana, A.W. Bowen & Co., Chicago, IL, ca. 1902, pp. 122 and 375.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Helena City Directory, Herald Book and Job Printing Office, Helena, MT 1868, P. 148.
 Great Falls City Directory, Polk Publishing Co., St. Paul, MN, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916,
 1919, 1923.
 Great Falls Tribune, October 29, 1922.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Northwest of Great Falls, MT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	4	7	7	4	6	0	5	2	6	1	1	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 11, Block 315, Original Townsite of Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12; Township 20; North Range 3 East, Cascade County, Montana

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Earl W. O'Neil, Owner

organization

date March 5, 1984

street & number 419 Central Avenue

telephone 406-453-5312

city or town Great Falls

state Montana 59401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marcello Shep

title SHPO

date 6-28-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Delores Byer
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 8-2-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Kingsbury, A. Wallace, "Recollections of My Father -- A.W. Kingsbury",
Unpublished, no date.

Progressive Men of Montana, A.W. Bowen & Company, Chicago, Illinois, ca.
1902, pp.122, 256, 375, 999.

Stout, Ton (ed.), Montana, Its Story and Biography, The American Historical
Society, Chicago and New York, Vol III, 1921, p. 825.

Original plans and specifications for the Margaret Block drawn by Hiram N. Black,
1914, on file at the Sewer Department, City of Great Falls, Montana