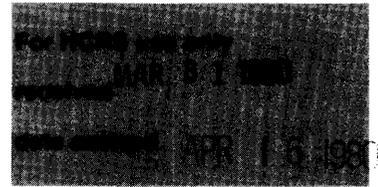


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

**1. Name**

historic Peter Yegen House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 209 S. 35th \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Billings \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Eastern

state Montana code 30 county Yellowstone code 111

**3. Classification**

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

name Catholic Church Eastern Diocese

street & number

city, town Great Falls \_\_\_ vicinity of state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yellowstone County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Billings state Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Located directly across from the Christian Yegen House that was built in 1904 is the Peter Yegen Home that was completed in 1911. The 35 x 50 foot colonial revival house is of the same general massing as the Christian Yegen House and is structurally perfect as well as in excellent original condition.

The house is a two and a half story buff colored brick structure with two bays. The exterior is original with no changes. The walls are brick with brick expressed as quoins at the corners. The double hung windows are set in asymmetrical patterns that are repeated on the first floor, second floor and basement. A cast stone band separates the basement from the first floor. The front porch repeats the massing and scale of the porch on the Christian Yegen Home across the street but it is much more simple in design using Doric columns rather than Ionic columns as found across the street. The roof is the original wood shingle with modillions supporting the roof.

The interior is completely original with the exception of the wall coverings and painting. Seven different kinds of woods were used on the interior. Lemon wood from South Carolina was used for the dining room. The staircase in the reception hall is mahogany. Some of the other wood used includes walnut, oak and maple. The beveled leaded glass transom over the front entrance was imported from Yugoslavia. All of the fixtures are original and a very unusual brass design.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1911 **Builder/Architect** Mr. Eames

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Peter Yegen House, built ca. 1911, is significant both for its architectural qualities and the historic associations with the development of Billings and the commerce of the area.

Peter Yegen and his brother Christian were very prominent businessmen who settled in Billings the year that Billings was founded. The two brothers were involved in nearly every facet of the city's early development. In addition to constructing numerous downtown commercial buildings to house their mercantile and banking enterprises, the Yegen brothers built two of Billings finest residences for themselves directing across the street from one another on South 35th. The Peter Yegen House is a large colonial revival house, unusually stately in its proportions for the city of Billings at the time.

Peter Yegen was born in Klosters, Switzerland on August 7, 1860. He joined his brother Christian in Bismark, North Dakota in 1880. When Billings was founded in 1882, the enterprising Yegen brothers came to the city with their sister Dorothy and opened a bakery. Dorothy baked the bread in the mornings and the brothers peddled it in the afternoons. By 1892, the Yegens had accumulated enough capital to open a mercantile business; by 1893, they added a grocery store to their establishment. Prosperous in each of their ventures, the Yegen brothers expanded into banking in 1900, founding the first institute of savings in Billings. By 1903, they had opened similiar banking operations in Gardner, Anaconda, and Butte.

The Peter Yegen House is structurally perfect and in excellant original condition. Still intact in the kitchen are several unique features that were considered modern for the period: a dumb waiter, rear loading ice box, and the original fold down telephone seat. The Christian Yegen House (Nat'l Reg. listing Oct. 1, 1979) and the Peter Yegen house stand prominent in the neighborhood, as the brothers stood prominent in the early history of Billings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Billings Gazette & A History of Montana, Vol. III, Family & Personal History  
 Interview with Peter Yegen Jr. and with present residences  
 Billings and Yellowstone County Illustrated, 1894  
 Twentieth Anniversary Edition of the Billings Gazette, 1905

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property .42 acres

Quadrangle name Billings West

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

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5	0	7	1	7	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

South 10 feet of Lot 16, Lot 17, 18, 19, 20 Block 8 of Yegen's Second  
 Addition to the City of Billings. T.1S., R.26E. Sec. 3  
 Billings, Montana

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

state None code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John M. Devitt, A.I.A.

organization

date 6/30/79

street & number Box 30234

telephone 406-248-3554

city or town Billings

state Montana

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*[Handwritten Signature]*

title Acting SHPO

date 3/25/80

For HCRS use only

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

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 4/16/80

Attest: *[Handwritten Signature]*

date 4/15/80