

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hodgson House

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 314 9th 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not for publication: n/a  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.)

Maudie Day 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 Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 6-24-94

Entered in the  
National Register

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### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: X private \_\_\_ public-local \_\_\_ public-State \_\_\_ public-Federal

Category of Property: X building(s) \_\_\_ district \_\_\_ site \_\_\_ structure \_\_\_ object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</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>1</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

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### 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions:  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions:  
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:  
Colonial Revival

Materials:  
foundation: STONE  
roof: ASPHALT  
walls: WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle  
other: N/A

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#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

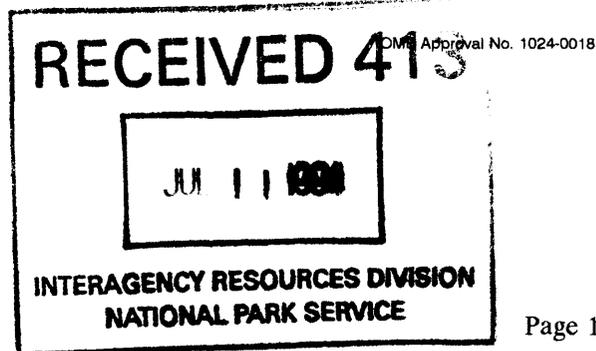
The Hodgson House is a fine example of turn-of-the-century pattern-book design. The 1½-story transitional Colonial Revival residence features a full-width engaged front porch, a cross-gabled form, a random native rock foundation (blue-gray argillite from a quarry southwest of Kalispell), and a symmetrical front facade. In addition, decorative elements reflect late Queen Anne styling, including the turreted off-center rear dormer, the clapboard siding with decorative shingle work and stick work in the gable ends, the bay windows on the north and south, and the decorative floral stained glass window (no longer present). The windows are wood one-over-one-light double-hung units, single and paired. The roof, originally covered with wood shingles, is now composition shingle. The front porch, which has changed little since it was constructed, has Tuscan porch supports and a turned-spindle rail (the rail flanking the front steps is gone, however). There was a swing on the front porch until at least the 1940s. The railing on either side of the wide front steps, shown in a 1918 photograph, is no longer present. A modern casement window in the hip roof of the full front porch was installed since 1980, and two casement windows and a dormer have been added to the rear, west-facing roof. Between 1910 and 1918, a small porch centered on the rear of the house was removed and a smaller entry with a hipped roof was built on the north end of the west elevation. A two-story turret has been added at the rear of the house to provide a separate entrance to the upstairs apartment. Originally, there was a dormer with a turret roof at this location, with a large window extending down through the eave, and a door to the basement directly below it.

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The residence was located on the outskirts of Kalispell at the time it was built, c. 1907, and for several decades it was the only residence on the block. Jennie Voorhees, daughter of the original owner, recalls that the house was built on the edge of town, "and it was a muddy edge." In the spring and fall there was a great deal of mud between the house and 8th Avenue West one block towards town, and in the summer the mud was replaced by dust. The residence retains excellent historic integrity, although the turreted dormer at the rear has been converted to a stairway to the second floor, and the original farm-related buildings are all gone. The house is now divided into two apartments, and the basement is being remodeled for a third apartment.

The first floor originally had two bedrooms, a parlor and a dining room, a kitchen, and a bathroom (with a tin bathtub with legs in the 1940s). The openings between the parlor and the dining room, the parlor and the front bedroom, and the dining room and the rear bedroom all had large sliding doors. The kitchen had a pantry, which was replaced in the 1940s with a breakfast nook. The house originally had a hall between the kitchen and the bathroom at the rear of the house that had a stairway to the basement and a stairway to the second floor. The interior stairs to the upstairs have been closed off; now the upstairs is only accessible from the rear, exterior entrance.

The upstairs originally had two bedrooms and two closets. The front closet extended to the roofline and was lighted by a decorative window (judging by an old photograph, this window had leaded glass in an elaborate floral pattern). This window was removed (possibly stolen) and replaced with a plain window by later owners. There was a fire in the upstairs c. 1990, and the apartment was remodeled at that time. Until at least the 1940s, the basement had a dirt floor and was used only to house the large wood furnace and the stacks of 4' cordwood that it burned. The house was without insulation until the 1940s.

The 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows several outbuildings. At the rear of lot 4 was a one-story chicken coop with a shingle roof. The northwest corner of lot 1 contained a large two-story barn with hayloft. Attached to this barn, on its south, was a narrow one-story structure. The *Kalispell Bee* in 1909 mentioned that Hodgson built "a commodious building for cold storage" that was three stories high and had walls stuffed with sawdust and an elevator. Hodgson's daughter says this was located south of the barn and across the alley, that it stored potatoes on the bottom level, and she thinks it did not have electricity. To the east of the barn was a one-story "buggy shed" fronting on 3rd Street West. Jennie Voorhees remembers that the family also had an extensive root cellar across the alley from the house. It was dug into the side of a hill, and had a "good, solid, well-constructed building" on the top that was used to store apples. (This root cellar was moved to the Hodgson property north of town and is now a residence on Meridian Road in Kalispell.) By 1927, the narrow building south of the cold storage structure was no longer extant and the buggy shed had been converted to a garage, with a partition running north-south. The coop and storage buildings on lots to the south were still there in 1927. The large barn was torn down in the 1940s.

The original landscaping included a long row of tall Spencer sweet peas stretching from the rear of the house to the alley and also along a fence in front of the house. These yielded tall-stemmed cut flowers. There was also a rose bush by the front porch, and a bleeding heart plant. A notched picket fence ran in front of the house. The Bains had a garden in lot 1 where 304 9th Avenue West is now located. Jennie Voorhees remembers mowing the lawn and comments on the landscaping, "that was a work-out, that whole place was."

After the Bains sold the house in the late 1940s, it was divided into several apartments. At one time there were five apartments in this house. Currently, the main floor and the upstairs each have one apartment, and the basement is being remodeled to accommodate another apartment.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1907-1942

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1907

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Stephen Kent (builder)

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hodgson House, an historically and architecturally significant cross-gabled transitional Colonial Revival-style "pattern-book" house with a full-width engaged front porch, was built on the "muddy edge" of town in 1907. Of particular interest is the fact that the block upon which this house was built had been platted as an addition to the City of Kalispell in 1901 but remained in agricultural use until 1936. Until then, the Hodgson family used most of the block for their farm and dairy operation. Although the Hodgson barn, root cellar, buggy shed and chicken coop are no longer extant, the house remains an excellent example of popular architectural design of the first decade of the century and a reminder of the typical development patterns on the west side of town.

The Hodgson House was not the first dwelling on this location. According to the daughter of the original owner, there was a small house on this property when Arthur Hodgson purchased it in 1907. That house probably belonged to William A. Barr, a farmer who in 1900 also built a \$700 frame barn at his residence on the west side of 9th Avenue West between 3rd and 4th Streets. Barr is listed in the 1903-04 Kalispell City Directory as having moved to Colfax, Washington. William and Mathilda Barr sold the property (lots 1-4) to William and Arabella Johnston in 1903. Johnston, a mason, is listed in the 1904 Kalispell City Directory at this address, but he is not listed in Kalispell in the 1905-06 Directory, nor is George Briant, who bought this property in 1906. The Hodgsons moved the original house on this block off the property and built the house that is now there.

Arthur and Myrtle Hodgson were married in Illinois in 1892 and moved to Kalispell with their only child, Jennie, in March of 1904. Originally they had planned to move to Washington state, but when Arthur Hodgson took the train west in 1903 to find property to buy he heard about the Kalispell area on the train and looked the Flathead Valley over. He purchased 104 acres on Buffalo Hill half-mile north of what is now the county fairgrounds and moved his family west the following year. The family left Illinois because of Myrtle Hodgson's sick headaches, and according to her daughter her mother's health improved greatly soon after the move to the Flathead.

Arthur and Myrtle Hodgson farmed their land north of Kalispell, living in their residence on Meridian Road, but they built this house so their daughter could live and go to school in town. (Myrtle Hodgson would drive her daughter Jennie in a car or a buggy to Idaho and 5th Street West, where the city sidewalks began. Later Jennie would ride a horse or a bicycle from the house to school.) The Hodgsons bought this property (the small house that they moved off plus three city lots) in August of 1907. They hired Myrtle Hodgson's brother Stephen Kent (later a chiropractor) to build the house from plans selected from a pattern book, and the family was living here soon after. They soon also purchased lots 4-6 and 9-10 on the same block. The family occupied both their houses simultaneously for many years, renting out their farm house on Meridian Road only once. Jennie Voorhees remembers that often whatever they needed for the task at hand would be at the other house, wherever they were. At their farm, they raised cows, pigs and horses and various crops. Arthur Hodgson was a well-known breeder of Percheron draft horses, according to his grandson.

The Hodgsons kept about six milk cows at this house for a number of years. They produced about 50 pounds of butter a week, which the Hodgsons packaged in 1-pound packages and sold to a store in town. Recalling the dairying operation and the milk separator, Voorhees commented, "you could work in that house like the dickens." Voorhees does not believe

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there were any fruit trees planted at this house; her parents had an apple orchard at their farm, however, and one year they shipped out a railroad carload of apples.

When the 1920 federal census was taken, Arthur Hodgson was 60 years old and had retired from farming. He was born in 1859 in Forrest, Illinois. His wife Myrtle was 52 and had been born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Their 25-year-old daughter Jennie was living with them in 1920 and working as a stenographer at the high school. Also living with them according to the census (across the street, according to the family) was 47-year-old Byron Kent, one of Myrtle's brothers. He was single, born in Illinois, and listed his occupation as an engineer.

Myrtle Hodgson also owned at least one other house on the west side, 236 8th Avenue West. Her father, Thomas Kent, and her brothers Stephen (a railroad worker) and Lamoyne (a grocer) also lived on the west side of Kalispell.

Jennie Hodgson married Frank Voorhees, a farmer. They lived in this house for six months as newlyweds while she worked as a stenographer for the high school. Voorhees, who is now 98 years old, recalls this period as "some of the happiest times of my life." The couple then moved out onto 80 acres in the Three Mile Drive area given to them by Arthur Hodgson. In later years the Voorheeses again lived in this house.

Arthur Hodgson died in 1931 (he had a heart attack while working in one of his fields). His wife continued living in this house until she passed away in the house in 1941. The house and the three lots were sold by their daughter Jennie Voorhees to Arthur and Dorothy Bain in 1943.

Other dwellings began to be built on this block in the 1930s, and by 1956 the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for this block appears more like other residential blocks in Kalispell, with 10 residences, several garages, and no large farm-related buildings. This is typical of the development pattern of blocks on the western outskirts of Kalispell where many blocks had only a few residences located on them until the 1930s.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Bain, Dorothy (owner 1943-49), interview with Kathy McKay, May 29, 1992.  
City of Kalispell Water Department 1926 bill (in vault at the City Water Department).  
*Daily Inter Lake*: "Services Held for Arthur M. Hodgson," August 28, 1931, p. 9; "Mrs. Myrtle K. Hodgson," September 29, 1941, p. 4.  
Harpine, Mike (current tenant), interview with Kathy McKay, May 18, 1992.  
*Kalispell Bee*, December 20, 1900, p. 11; May 18, 1909, p. 3.  
*Kalispell City Directories*, 1901-43.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kalispell, Montana (1894, 1899, 1903, 1910, 1927, 1963).  
United States Population Census, Kalispell, Montana (1900, 1910 and 1920).  
Voorhees, Jennie (daughter of Arthur and Myrtle Hodgson), interview with Kathy McKay, May 29, 1992.  
Voorhees, Paul (grandson of Arthur and Myrtle Hodgson), interview with Kathy McKay, June 1, 1992.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Personal photograph collection.

### 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	698790	5341200

### Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 2 and 3, block 7, Western Addition, Section 18, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

### Boundary Justification

Although this property originally consisted of eight lots on block 7 and associated farm buildings, the farm buildings are gone and six of those lots have since been sold and developed into residences. The boundary includes the house and the two lots that were historically part of the Hodgson property and that maintain historic integrity.

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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: Ted and Debra Ann Obole		
street & number: PO Box 731		
city or town: Columbia Falls	state: MT	zip code: 59912