



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Smith House

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 476 Fourth Avenue East North

not for publication: n/a  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.)

Maurell Sheff 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 Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8-24-94

**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: Transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival

Materials:  
foundation: stone  
roof: asphalt  
walls: wood/clapboard  
other: n/a

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The 1½-story Smith House is a representative example of a gambrel-roofed transitional Colonial Revival-style residence. Built in 1907, it is also one of the earliest and largest houses in the East North part of town. Distinctive architectural features include the wrap-around front porch, the gambrel roof, the gambrel-roofed front wing and the gabled rear wing, the leaded glass window in the front, and the bay window on the south. It originally occupied two city lots instead of the one it occupies today.

The house has clapboard siding and a roof covered with composition shingles, and there is decorative wood shinglework above the first floor. The porch supports are square columns, and the house sits on a partial native rock basement. The windows are one-over-one-light wooden double-hung units. The small rear porch (now enclosed) is shown on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The current owners are extending the kitchen to the rear (west). The house has built-in cabinets in the dining room with leaded glass windows, and the original wood floors and woodwork are still intact.

At the rear of the lot is a side-gabled two-car garage with a clapboard siding, exposed rafter tails, and a roof covered with composition shingles. The garage has two sets of folding wooden and glass doors on the north. There is an old apple tree in the rear yard.

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

---

Applicable National Register Criteria: C	Areas of Significance: Architecture
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1907
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: ca. 1907
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder(s): unknown

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smith House is a representative example of a gambrel-roofed transitional Colonial Revival-style residence in Kalispell. Built in 1907, it is also one of the earliest and largest dwellings in the East North part of town. Distinctive architectural features include the wrap-around front porch, the gambrel roof, the gambrel-roofed front wing and the gabled rear wing, the leaded glass window in the front, and the bay window on the south. The house is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, architecture.

The house was probably built in 1907 by Henry Durst, a house carpenter who lived nearby and owned the property. He had been in the Demersville and Kalispell area since 1890, and in 1910 he was living at 452 4th Avenue East North with his wife Jennie and his brother George, also a house carpenter. In 1908, real estate agent George Proctor placed an advertisement for a "Nice, new five-room house, last house on west side" of 4th Avenue East North. In June of 1908 Ethel Wotring purchased the property, and the Wotring's are listed at this address in the 1909-10 Kalispell City Directory. When the 1910 federal population census was taken, the occupants of the house were William Wotring, who was a bookkeeper for the Northwestern Lumber Company, his wife Ethel, their two infant children, and an 18-year-old maid from Minnesota. The Wotring's daughter Eloise died in 1913 at the age of three. At that time they were living a few blocks to the south and Wotring was managing the O'Neil Lumber Company sawmill department.

In 1910, the year of his marriage, John J. Lebert purchased the Smith House, and he owned and occupied it until 1914, when he moved for a few years to California. Lebert was an important figure in the neighborhood, for he had an ice business that operated out of the backwater of the Stillwater River just a short distance to the north of this house. John J. Lebert was born in Sleepyeye, Minnesota, in 1869 or 1871, the seventh of 11 children of French immigrants Joseph and Anna LeBert. His daughter Lonelva Cyr believed he came to the Flathead around 1891, after working his way west on foot, taking odd jobs such as driving horses for the crew laying the final telegraph line to Helena or Havre. Lonelva described him as "a wiry little Frenchman about 5'6" who always gave a full days work never back [sic] away from a job (or a fight) and was always true to his word." John followed his older brother Frank to the Flathead, who had arrived in the valley in 1887. John J. Lebert's house at 461 East California Street is eligible for listing in the National Register.

John J. Lebert sold the Smith House in 1914 to Isaac Flinchbaugh, and he owned it until 1919. The occupants during these years, however, were Arthur N. and Theda Smith. When the 1920 federal census was taken, the Smiths were living in the dwelling with their four children. Both the parents were originally from Michigan. Smith and his partner Ernest Falkner were the proprietors of the City Transfer & Coal Company until at least 1940. They were also the agents for the Continental Oil Company and then the H. Earl Clack company. Arthur Smith obtained title to the house and owned and occupied it until 1955.

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Cyr, Lonelva, personal papers (quoted description written in the 1980s).  
*Daily Inter Lake*: April 24, 1891, p. 3; May 15, 1891; May 13, 1898; October 22, 1905; "J. J. Lebert, Early Day Resident, Dies," June 25, 1947; "Zelpha Lebert, 83," May 11, 1980.  
Ebert, Kathi Jo (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, June 3, 1993.  
*Flathead Herald-Journal*: January 20, 1898; March 3, 1898.  
*Flathead Monitor*: December 22, 1899.  
*Kalispell Bee*: October 20, 1903, p. 5; January 7, 1908, p. 4; June 5, 1914, p. 3.  
Kalispell City Directories, 1907-44.  
*Kalispell Graphic*, December 28, 1892, pp. 1-2.  
*Kalispell Journal*: "Old Timers Celebrate," January 4, 1912, p. 1.  
*Kalispell Times*, June 3, 1915; October 14, 1915.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kalispell, Montana, 1927, 1956.  
United States Population Census, Kalispell Precinct, 1910, 1920.

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 (City of Kalispell)  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository: Flathead County Library, Kalispell

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	699920	5342440

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Tract 7HA, Section 7, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

#### Boundary Justification

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

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

### Property Owner

name: Earl D. and Kathi Jo Ebert		
street & number: 156 Charlotte Avenue		
city or town: Kalispell	state: MT	zip code: 59901