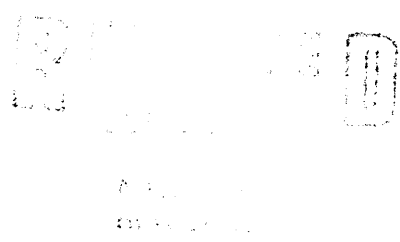


1056

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Kemna, Herman, Residence

other name/site number: MacHaffie Home; Boland Home

2. Location

street & number: 635 First Street

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Helena

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Lewis and Clark code: 049

zip code: 59601

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 X statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maude Sheff MTSHPO 7-8-92
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): _____

Signature of the Keeper Robert Jyles Date of Action 8/18/52

Entered in the National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Category of Property: Buildings	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic/single dwelling	Current Functions: Domestic/single dwelling
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7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late Victorian: Shingle style	Materials: foundation: stone walls: shingle roof: shingle
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Narrative Description

The Herman Kemna Residence is a Shingle style home of wood frame construction. The house is two stories high, and composed of distinct masses with a multi-planed roofline which combines gambrel, gable, shed and hip roofed elements to achieve a rhythmic irregularity typical of the style. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

The house is entirely sided with wooden, square butt shingles which were originally unpainted in keeping with the style. The shingling flares out at the bottom to skirt and cover the foundation. Large, distinctive verandas and balconies dominate the design on the primary and secondary elevations. Fenestration varies to include double-hung sash units of 9-over-1 and 1-over-1, as well as fixed large and stained glass units. Originally, most of the windows were covered with 4-paned storms, these were removed in recent years and replaced by single pane, aluminum-framed storms. The building rests on an uncoursed rubblestone foundation, housing a daylight basement.

Design of the house is oriented around a central main entry on the north elevation. A large, open, semi-circular veranda with steps fully spans the north side, and is supported on round columns which stand singly and in pairs on shingled bases. The bases rest on squared, ashlar granite piers at each corner. A cornice with plain entablature belts the upper veranda. The main entrance is centrally placed beneath the veranda and features a heavy, paneled oak door with two upper glass panels forming a yin-yang type figure. To either side on the first story, single sash window units are arranged 9-over-1. Further to the side, single oval stained glass windows were originally set--currently, the window unit to the west remains in place while the window unit to the east has been relocated in the west wall.

The veranda is emphasized by a gabled, second floor balcony with an elliptical opening centered above it. Tripartite windows band the lower wall within the balcony. Originally, there was no window opening in the upper balcony wall; however, in the 1960s the Bolands installed an antique window to illuminate a bedroom. This window is a fixed four paned unit, with a leaded, diamond glazed transom. Gable end returns finish the cornice line on the peak. The balcony is accessed from a doorway which opens in the shingled wall surface flanking the balcony.

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On both the northeast and northwest corners, square towers are set diagonally to the planes of the building's main block. Both are capped with pyramidal roofs, visually supported by shingled columns engaged on each corner -- each corner is trimmed with copper at the base. A single large square, fixed window with a richly hued stained glass transom is centered on the first story of each tower, accenting these elements of the design. The northeast tower houses a balcony on the second story with a circular opening; the northwest tower is slightly shorter, and has no openings.

A two-story, gambrel-roofed massing dominates the east elevation. Fenestration here includes a pair of double-hung, 1-over-1 sash windows on the first story. Similar single windows mark the sides of the gambrelled form. Centered beneath the gambrel on the second story, a eyebrow-like dormer projection covers recessed tripartite windows, each arranged 9-over-1. Near the southeast corner, a single sash window with vertical, 4-over-1 glazing appears to have been added about 1940 (presumably when an east apartment was created).

The south facade by contrast is now simply planar; an expansive wall surface capped by a gently sloping gable. However, originally, a single story porch spanned much of the west half, covering a rear entrance offset to the west. Other original first story openings include two single 1-over-1 units placed to the east and west of the original porch location; the window east of the porch features an upper panel of floral stained glass. Three openings appear to have been added at later dates. A second doorway on the east with a small adjacent sash window may well have been added during the apartment conversion, 1940-1941--no record of the original appearance of this portion of the house remains to compare. A small fixed window was added adjacent to the original doorway, during the 1970s. All but the small 1970s window feature the corniced window heads and wooden frames and sills of the original design. Above, centered under the gable on the second story, paired 1-over-1 windows are accented by flared shingling yielding a slight eyebrow effect.

On the west elevation, the tower, a shed dormer and a stone chimney project above the planes of the gable roof. On the first story, window openings originally included a single unit and pair of double-hung windows. When the kitchen was remodelled, shorter fixed window units replaced the paired sash units. A single oval stained glass unit (originally located in the north wall east of the entrance) was installed in the kitchen about 1959.

From the veranda, the home is entered through an enclosed anteroom which opens into a large central hall with high, 14-foot ceilings and large tripartite clerestory windows which illuminate the room. Richly attenuated with 5' paneled oak wainscoting complete with plate rail, lamp platforms and picture rail, sets of doors opened from this formal hall into the living spaces of the home. Formal dining and sitting rooms were placed to either side of the hall and were entered through paired sliding oak doors in the east and west walls. Two single doorways opened from the hall into the stairwell and other rear rooms. Ceiling heights in other rooms are 10'.

This original design is still well represented, although it was modified in 1940 and 1941 when the owner Edwin Thompson closed off the east portion of the main floor to create a small apartment. The east pair of oak doors in the hall were walled across from behind, and a hallway and closet were added to the original two east facing rooms. The window and doorway were presumably added on the south at this time. Interior trim in the apartment includes bull's eye corner blocks and routed moldings to match the original, as well as plain wooden trim. On the exterior door and window, trim was matched to existing exterior trim.

Garage

A single story, wood-framed, double garage stands at the rear, and constitutes the second contributing building on the property. A portion of this wooden building appears to be recorded on the 1892 Sanborn maps, however, on later maps and on the interior, it appears to have been widened during the early 20th century to convert this outbuilding to a garage. Original cladding on the garage walls is unknown; historically they were covered with rolled tin with an impressed brick pattern. About 1980, the current owners replaced the historic siding with square butt wooden shingles and roofed the

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building with wooden shingles to match the main house. Two pairs of large, hinged wooden doors access the building. A partial loft is located over the back half of the garage. Vertical 6-pane windows (ca. 1900) light the interior from the west and north; a fixed horizontal unit was added on the south about 1980.

Landscape

The Herman Kemna Residence is set well back on its lot, creating a large front lawn and a small back yard, largely occupied by the garage. A picket fence, closely designed after the original fencing was built about 1980. A number of original tree plantings and shrubbery remain, although other aspects of the landscaping reflect latter 20th century tastes. A large patio was laid at the rear using salvaged brick, and presently covers much of the back yard. Privacy fencing has replaced historic fencing along the southwest corner. Low wooden decking has been added over a portion of the southwest lawn.

Although it is beyond the scope of this nomination effort, great potential exists for study and nomination of this neighborhood as a district to the National Register. The neighborhood surrounding the house still retains its historic character, consisting predominantly of buildings dating between 1880 and 1920. The environmental element in the neighborhood is still quite strong, with open land on the hills and ridges of Mount Ascension beginning just a block above this house. Because of its prominent location and noteworthy architecture, the Herman Kemna Residence is one of the more noteworthy buildings in the area. Should a historic district be established here in the future, the Herman Kemna Residence will undoubtedly be a primary contributor.

Integrity

The Herman Kemna Residence is a well-maintained historic home, retaining a high degree of integrity. Alterations to the design have been limited. On the exterior, they mainly involve the replacement of two windows on the west, and adding additional windows, both compatible period window units, and incompatible modern units, and removal of the rear porch.

Overall, these alterations are relatively minor, and do not detract from the ability of the house to very strongly reflect accurately its original design and craftsmanship. The historic fabric has been carefully maintained throughout. Where alterations did occur, they were made with sensitivity to the original design and quality of craftsmanship. On the interior, addition of the apartment did muddy the original floor plan to some extent, however this was a historic alteration. The completion of rooms on the second floor was no doubt intended from the outset, although this was never achieved until the latter part of the 20th century.

Although the garage was resided in 1980, it was with materials compatible with the design of the residence. Other historic aspects of the design--doors, windows, massing, roofing--remain unaltered, enabling the garage to contribute to the property's significance despite the altered siding.

Location, setting and feeling all vividly evoke the historic period of significance--the house continues to strongly reflect its associations with the residential development of this east side neighborhood.

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Through the historic period to the present, the neighborhood has retained a cohesive residential nature, with little modern infilling. Within the neighborhood, most residences retain high levels of integrity, reflecting aptly their historic roots. One alteration in particular which occurred in many places in the neighborhood and reflected changes in life style and values of Helena's early 20th century residents, was the conversion of existing outbuildings and construction of garages during the early 1900s. The converted outbuilding/garage on the Kemna property is typical of this pattern, a trend which mirrored the rising importance of the automobile in regional culture. Therefore, although the garage was created toward the latter part of the property's period of significance, it does make a significant contribution to understanding the history of the property and the changing values of its residents.

Architectural Significance

Herman Kemna, an architect of local renown in Helena, Bozeman and Butte near the end of the 19th century, was the designer and original owner of this stately home. Like many early Helena residents, including some local architects whose work came to influence the look of the emerging city, Herman Kemna was a native German who immigrated to the United States early in his life.

Prior to locating in Helena, Kemna worked in Bozeman, in partnership with Byron Vreeland, one of the most influential and prolific of Montana's late Victorian-era architects. By 1888, Kemna moved up to Helena, in the employ of the Northern Pacific Railway as a draftsman. By 1889, he plied his skills as a draftsman for Wallace, Thornburgh and Appleton, a real estate development company in Helena. In 1893, he appears to have broken away from the firm, and established himself as an independent architect, listed only by his residential address here at 635 First Street.

The following year, Kemna dropped from sight in the city directory listings, and resurfaced in 1898 in Butte. During his years in Butte, he alternated a career in private practice with a series of associations with local architectural firms. These associations included the H. M. Patterson firm 1898-1902; M.D. Kern, 1903; and George Shanley, 1906-1910. He continued to practice privately through the end of his career. The last Helena city directory listing for Herman Kemna is 1923.

Known works credited to Kemna are not numerous, but do include some important Montana buildings. Most noteworthy is the Broadwater Hotel in Helena, built in 1889 by Wallace, Thornburgh and Appleton. The design was attributed to Kemna; however, it may well reflect the actual work of George Appleton, the firm's chief architect.

A number of Kemna's buildings are known from his career in Butte, reflecting both commercial and residential bodies of work. Demonstrating a facility to work in a variety of architectural styles, these include the Phoenix Building, the Cleveland Block, and the Daily Post Building.

The Herman Kemna Residence demonstrates Kemna's facility with Shingle style architecture. Masterfully handled, skillfully designed, the shingle styling on this building combines large-scale geometric elements to achieve a massive, solid feeling.

Typical of Shingle style design, the multi-planar roof, irregular massing and large verandas evoke more lavish Victorian-period architecture, while the wood shingles uniformly covering the house and lack of applied decoration signal a move away from the busyness of late-19th century style. On this house, the clarity of line and massing attest to Kemna's facility as an architect. It is one of the finest examples of Shingle style architecture in the state of Montana.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Byrd, Jacobsen & Justo, Helena: A Historic Survey, Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana, 1981.

Dean, Patricia, "The True Carlsbad of America, the Hotel Broadwater and Natatorium of Helena, Montana", pp. 79-85, Victorian Society in America, Vol 8, Nos. 1 & 2, 1982.

Helena, City of, Engineering Office, Sewer permit 1035, December 4, 1899.

Justo, Chere, Helena Historic District (Amendment), National Register Nomination, Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana, 1989.

_____, Helena South-Central Historic District, National Register Nomination, Montana Historic Preservation Office, 1985.

Polk, R.L., Helena City Directories, Helena, Montana, 1888-1907.

Sanborn Map Co., Fire Insurance Maps of Helena, Montana, 1888, 1890, 1892.

Steffens, M.J., photographer, Portrait of Herman Kemna, Chicago, ca. 1895, Photo #943-086, Montana Historical Society Photoarchives, Helena, Montana.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1900 Census rolls, K500, Herman Kemna and family.

unknown, Abstract of Title, Lots 1-4, Block 568, Easterly Addition, Helena, Montana.

unknown, Photograph, Beattie Street ca. 1895.

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
- University
- Other - Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre.

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	12	421150	5158770

Verbal Boundary Description

The Herman Kemna residence is located on lots 1-4, block 568 in the Easterly Addition in Helena, Montana. The property is located in Section 31, T10N, R3W. The property is located in the SW¼, SW¼, NE¼ of Section 31, T10N, R3W.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries encompass the property which has been associated with the residence since its construction in 1890.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Chere Justo		date: February 1992
organization: State Historic Preservation Office		telephone: 406/444-7715
street & number: 225 N. Roberts		zip code: 59620
city or town: Helena	state: MT	

Property Owner

name/title: Ralph Boland		telephone: 406/442-2126
street & number: 635 First Street		state: MT
city or town: Helena		zip code: 59601