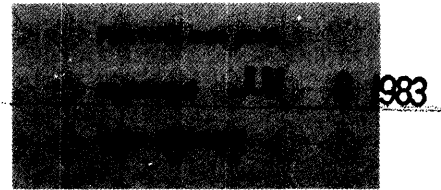


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Blackmore Apartments

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 120 South Black ⁵⁻⁴ n/a not for publication

city, town Bozeman n/a vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Montana code 01 county Gallatin code 031

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: rental-res-identail

4. Owner of Property

name Page and Suzanne Wellcome

street & number 101 Sourdough Ridge Road

city, town Bozeman n/a vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Gallatin County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Bozeman 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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> removed date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Blackmore Apartments has served Bozeman as a private apartment complex since its construction in 1913. Overall, the building retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity. A comparison of the present appearance of the building with historical photographs (ca. early 1920's) and the original facade elevations drafted by Fred Willson in 1912 indicates that few alterations have occurred in the exterior detailing beyond the enclosure of the first and second level exterior balconies with fixed, multi-paned glass, the enclosure of the exterior openings to the southern stairways with fixed, single-paned glass, the replacement of the original doors at the primary entrances on the two building wings, and the removal of the original brick retaining wall and brick light standards which once defined and enhanced the building's courtyard. It appears that the copper marquises and flower boxes with trellis window surrounds, as called for in Willson's plans, were never installed. The building is presently in very good condition and has been well maintained over the years.

The Blackmore Apartments is U-shaped, three stories in height, and features a daylight basement. The building is of concrete construction with red brick running bond veneer. Every fifth brick course at the basement level is recessed, giving the base a rusticated and more substantial appearance. This pattern terminates at the level of the first floor concrete window sills, where a soldier course encircles the building. Above this point, the brick is laid in running bond until the walls reach just above the windows of the third and uppermost level. The cornice treatment on the slightly projecting brick parapet reflects a Prairie Style design influence. The horizontal band formed by the cornice line unifies and ties the main body and the projecting wings of the building together. The parapet wall is terminated by a continuous concrete coping which serves both as a material seal and as a visual stop. The sides of the building which do not face a public street are faced with a brick of different texture, color and lesser quality. A portion of the rear of the building was never gaced with brick, but remains a bare concrete wall.

The three facades of the building which face into the courtyard are vertically divided by projecting three story wooden porches that are painted a cream color. As mentioned, the lower two levels of these porches have been enclosed with glass while the third level remains a balcony. The original balustrades have been left in place at each level. Each of the enclosed porches is separated at the center of a full wall which provides for a private, separate sun room for each apartment. Access to the sunrooms and the balconies is obtained through French doors.

The main entrances to the building are located in the center of each of the building wings and at the points where the wings and the main body of the building join. At these corner locations, the entrances are recessed with recessed balconies above. Once inside the building, access to the upper and lower levels and the rear exits is provided by cast iron stairs. Entrances to each apartment and the outdoor balconies set in the corners are located at each landing. The exterior entrances to the wing portions of the building are defined by the three level projections at the center of the wings. Multi-light windows provide daylighting for the centrally located public stairways in these projections. The window treatment of these projections features half-round windows at the top. To either side of the wing entries and stairs are located additional private, enclosed sunrooms with balconies again at the third level.

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The original house had five full baths and a $\frac{1}{2}$ bath on the main floor. The bathrooms were tiled about three-fourths of the way up the walls and the remainder, plastered. The floors of the second floor baths are covered with Italian octagon tiles. The original silver plated light fixtures on either side of the mirrors, the inset medicine cabinets, and the towel racks still remain.

The house's interior has been altered. Today there are six apartments. The major alterations other than those listed above include a bath in the hall area leading from the porté cochere. The large opening from the library and dining room into the entrance hall has been enclosed. The original kitchen on the main floor was divided into a kitchen on the northside and a bedroom on the south. The south living room has been divided to accomodate a kitchen, the sunroom and a corner bedroom. The billard room and the wine cellar, which was a small area under the front porch, is now a kitchen. The attic, with its sloped roof, is the sixth apartment. A kitchen has been added, but the bath is the same, with plaster-etched "tiles" three-fourths of the way up the wall. In all of the baths the original tubs and sinks remain. The ceilings on the two main floors are approximately 10' in height.

The property was originally one half block in size. The house is situated on the northwest end of the block. The three car garage which faces north on the east end of the property, is not included in this nomination. The remainder of the yard to the east was once a tennis court, which in the winter was used as an ice rink for the youngsters in the neighborhood.

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Almost all of the windows in the building are of 3/1, double hung construction, set in a symmetrical pattern, both singly and in pairs. Even the basement windows conform to this sash configuration. The formal ordering of the building breaks down to some degree on the side and rear facades. Here, the placement of the windows responds more directly to function and the rear exits are provided with wooden fire escapes.

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"/> 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 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 1913-14 **Builder/Architect** Fred Willson, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Newspaper headlines in 1913 announced the plans for the first apartment building to be built in Bozeman, Montana had been drafted by the local, noted architect, Fred Willson. The completion of this commodious building heralded a new era in residential construction in the community. Described in 1914 as having all the finest, most up-to-date conveniences, including kitchens equipped with electric stoves and ice boxes, a chute to take the garbage to the basement where it was burned in the heating apparatus which also heated the water for the building, and rear doors for deliveries, the Blackmore Apartments housed many of the growing number of well-to-do professional people who were, at that time, establishing themselves in Bozeman. All units of the Blackmore were designed to be spacious, with a choice among five-room, four-room, or two-room units. The Bozeman Investment Company, which constructed and owned the building for many years, consisted of prominent local citizens who were committed to the longterm growth and development of Bozeman as a stable, active, and innovative community. The members of this group were businessmen George Cox, T.B. Story, O.E. Myers, Judge W.R.C. Stewart, and Fred Willson. In conjunction with the construction of the Blackmore and the YWCA Building which was completed a few years later, streets of Bozeman were undergoing the dramatic change from dirt roads to paved streets, illustrating a commitment by residents to the permanence and prosperity of the community. This period was one of substantial growth and the Blackmore Apartments stand as a significant testimony to that period.

Fred Willson the architect of the Blackmore Apartments played a significant role in the development of Bozeman, as well as the nearby communities of Three Forks and Belgrade. A native of Bozeman, born in 1877, Willson studied at Montana State College and later transferred to Columbia University where, in 1902, he graduated with a degree in architecture. Willson continued his studies at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. After working with the New York firm of Vissher and Burley, Willson returned to Montana and worked for the firm of Link and Haire in Butte for four years before opening his own office in Bozeman. For over fifty years, Fred Willson was Bozeman's most prominent architect. Local architects often play an extraordinarily important role in the shaping of the character of small Montana cities, and the influence of Fred Willson is still very evident on most of the major streets of the city today.

The Blackmore Apartment building was named for Lord and Lady Blackmore who, while travelling to Yellowstone Park, stayed over night with General and Mrs. Lester Willson. Lady Blackmore became ill and died at the Willson home. The Blackmores had agreed that should either of them die on a trip, they would be buried at that place. In commemoration of his wife and in appreciation of the kind of reception they received in Bozeman, Lord Blackmore bought seven and one half acres east of town and donated it to the city to be used as a cemetery.

9. Major Bibliographical References

National Register Nomination: Belgrade City Hall, June 1, 1981 prepared by Kingston Heath
Plans: Blackmore Apartments Plan (copy) 1913.
Sandborn Fire Insurance Maps, September 1912, and September 1927, (Bozeman)
Newspapers: Republican Courier, 1/23/13, & 4/23/13; Weekly Courier, 1/14/14, 4/1/14, & 6/10/14

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. one-half acre

Quadrangle name Bozeman

Quadrangle scale 1,62500

UMT References

A

1	2	4	9	7	4	0	0	5	0	5	8	0	5	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

see attached sheet

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 Suzanne Wellcome, Kelly Ritter

organization

date February 22, 1983

street & number 136 East Main

telephone 406-586-4747

city or town Bozeman

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marcella Shuff

title

Deputy SHPO

date

5-24-83

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Keeper of the National Register
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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of a large and elaborately appointed residence, designed by Gibson and responsive to these two popular architectural traditions of the early Twentieth Century.

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Stout, Tom, Editorial Supervisor, History of Montana Page 349: The American Historical Society 1921

INTERVIEWS

H. O. Worden, nephew, used to drive Mr. Sterling and Anaconda and Power Company officials to duck hunting lodge at Ravalli. Various interviews 1982-1983.

Margaret Sterling Brooke, Ronan, neice. 4/10/83.

Dr. R. A. Sterling, Missoula, great nephew. 4/8/83.

Robert T. Sterling, Polson, nephew, 11/10/82.

Mrs. Barry Hogarty, Billings, Montana, daughter, 11/2/82 and 4/10/83.

Mrs. Richard Loughran, Asheville, North Carolina, daughter, 4/10/83.

Mrs. John Boyle, Missoula, granddaughter 11/2/82.

Mrs. Lillian Cyr Ferrlan, Missoula, nurse who cared for Mr. Sterling the last two years of his life, she lived in the house.

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Verbal Boundary description and justification

Following is the legal description:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7, and that portion of Lot 5 of Block B of Black's Addition to the City of Bozeman, Montana described as: Beginning at a point on the West line of said Lot 5, 12½ feet South from the Northwest corner of said Lot 5, thence extending South along the west boundary of said Lot 5, a distance of 16 feet; thence along the south boundary of Lot 5 a distance of 140 feet to the east boundary thereof, thence North along the east boundary of Lot 5 a distance of 28½ feet to the Northeast corner of said lot; thence West along the North boundary of a said Lot 5, for a distance of 20 feet; thence South 12½ feet; thence West a distance of 120 feet to the point of beginning, according to the map and plat thereof on file and on record in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Gallatin County, Montana.