



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Thibodeau Electric Shop

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 313 2nd 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not for publication: n/a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.)

Maurel Steffy 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
Edson H. Beall

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> 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions:
COMMERCE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
other: single-bay construction

Materials:
foundation: CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
walls: BRICK
other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1911 Thibodeau Electric Shop is a well-preserved example of a modest architect-designed commercial building constructed during Kalispell's prosperous years. The building is the only known surviving example of a commercial design by Kalispell architect Joseph Gibson. Constructed of red brick, the one-story building has a recessed central entry (not original) and decorative corbeling across the cornice. A large rear bay has been filled in with T-111, as have some of the front display windows. The high ceiling is pressed metal, and the full basement is constructed of native rock with a poured concrete floor. The bathroom was moved from the basement to the main floor in approximately 1985. The original wooden floors have been carpeted or covered with sheets of particle board. There was originally a trap door from the roof to the attic.

This half block was part of Kalispell's red light district until some time between 1903 and 1910. By 1910 the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show that the rows of "female boarding" houses had been converted to or rebuilt as shops and dwellings. A large (presumably group) outhouse in the center of this lot became an automobile shop or garage by 1910. A dwelling at the rear of the lot became a storage space for electrical supplies by 1927 (that building no longer exists).

Thibodeau Electric Shop
Name of Property

Flathead County, Montana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Daily Inter Lake, March 24, 1905; "Hugh Thibodeau Burned to Death," April 14, 1944, p. 1.
Kalispell Bee: "Automobile History of Flathead," June 19, 1919, p. 3.
Kalispell City Directories, 1901-43.
Kalispell Journal: May 4, 1911.
Kalispell Times: April 13, 1911.
Lebert, Ron (current tenant), interview with Kathy McKay, May 12, 1993.
United States Population Census, Kalispell precinct, 1910, 1920.

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	699580	5341230

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 67, Lots 17 and N½ 16, Section 18, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principle Meridian.

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

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

Property Owner

name: Edna R. Begg
street & number: 220 Woodland Avenue
city or town: Kalispell state: Montana zip code: 59901