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 ail entries-complete applicable sections

Name 1.

Sterling, Fred T., House historic

Montana

Worden Apartment House or Kintner Apartment House and/or common

code

030

2. Location

1310 Gerald Avenue street & number

Missoula

city, town

state

Classification 3.

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	<u> </u>	agriculture	museum
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	yes: restricted	government	scientific
	$\frac{1}{n/a}$ being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	n/a	no	military	<u>x</u> other: apartments

county

Missoula

 $\frac{n/a}{a}$ vicinity of

4. Owner of Property

name	H. O. and Tor	H. O. and Tomme M. Worden					
street & number	208 Pattee Ca	208 Pattee Canyon Drive					
city, town	Missoula	$\underline{n/a}$ vicinity of	state	Montana	59803		
5. Loca	ation of Leg	gal Description					
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Missoula County Courthouse					
street & number		West Broadway					
city, town		Missoula	state	Montana			
6. Repr	resentation	n in Existing Survey	/\$				
title	None	has this property been determined eligible? yes no					
date		feder	al sta	te cou	nty local		
depository for su	irvey records						
city, town			state				

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 12/31/84



n/a not for publication

code

063

7. Description

Condition	
<u>x</u> excellent	deteriorated
good	ruins
fair	unexposed

Check one _____ original site ____ moved date .

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Check one

The Fred T. Sterling home, situated on land purchased in 1910 from the South Missoula Land Company, is located near the Unversity of Montana in Missoula. The two story bungalow style home has a rocked faced ashlar masonry foundation, with large ground level muntined windows on all four sides of the basement. The exterior of the main story is faced with amber-rose brick veneer. The second floor and attic areas are half timbered with beige stucco. The front of the house (west facade) has three pane plate glass windows, the center one has the top fourth leaded and the side sash windows are leaded in the top half. These windows are located on both sides of the large covered porch. The entrance door is oak with corresponding stepped partial walls flanking the wooden steps leading to the front entrance.

The house has a hip roof with four gabled dormers with exposed rafter ends. Originally shingled, today the roof is covered with red-toned asphalt shingles. A half drive on the north of the house is covered by a porte cochere. The side porch, which entered into a small entry hall, has been closed in for a room and there is now no direct access from the interior of the porte cochere. There were two leaded glass doors at the east end of the dining room that opened onto a square patio with steps leading down into the yard. This area is closed-in and is used currently as a music room. In the center and on the southeast side exist the original entrances to the kitchen and the basement. Another exit on the south-east was bricked in and this, too, was part of the original kitchen which ran across the east end of the house.

There are two exterior stepped chimneys with corbelled tops. The one on the south side of the house is three flue, serving the billard room fireplace (basement level), the original living room and the master bedroom on the second floor. The billard room fireplace is faced with large lava rock and is impressive in size and decor, trimmed in brass. The main floor fireplaces are pebbled tiles and the master bedroom imported tiles. All fireplace fronts have been painted.

The second floor is reached by a wide stairway that rises to a large landing. To the right is the stairway to the servants' quarters in the attic and to the left are two steps which lead to the bedroom area. On the south is the master bedroom and dressing room, with bath, and on the west is the guest bedroom and on the north are two bedrooms, with a bath between them. These two rooms also had access to a sleeping porch, which now is glassed in. All of the doors entering the bedrooms, except the one to the master bedroom have been changed. The guest room was divided into two rooms when the house became an apartment house in 1938.

The landing is graced by a spectacular, three paneled window with leaded glass on the lower portion and a stained glass leaf design at the top. The side windows open. The windows on the main floor and second floor are leaded on the top portion and, with the exception of the large, fixed middle panels, all the windows are operable. The lifts for the windows are silver plated to match the exterior door knobs, which are heavy and silver plated with an ornate design. On the interior doors, the knobs are crystal, with lock coverings.

The floors are maple, except the attic floors which are fir. Mahogany is the primary wood used for doors and bannisters. The original built-in china closet, which remains in the building, is mahogany with floor to ceiling paneled doors of leaded and stained glass. The east end of the dining room also has a large stained glass window flanked by two doors to the outside patio area.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fred T. Sterling House, built in 1912, is significant because it was designed by the prominent Missoula architect A. J. Gibson and due to its association with Fred T. Sterling, one of the more influential businessmen in Missoula during the first decades of the Twentieth Century. This fine example of Arts and Crafts bungalow style architecture has been well maintained and, although converted from a single family dwelling to an apartment house in 1938, the building retains a very high degree of historic architectural integrity.

Fred T. Sterling was a native of New Brunswick, Canada and came to Montana in 1883 to join the Eddy Hammond Company (forerunner to the Missoula Mercantile Company). Sterling started as a clerk and moved steadily up through the ranks of management until he was appointed a vice-president of the firm in 1906. He left Missoula Mercantile in 1918 and became president and part-owner of the Western Montana National Bank. His other commercial interests in Western Montana included a partnership in the A. M. Sterling Store in Ronan and a store in Quigley. Little documentation has been found on F. T. Sterling's exploits, but he is remembered by local people as the president of the Western Montana National Bank.

A. J. Gibson, the architect of the Fred T. Sterling House, had a long and productive career in Montana. "When Mr. Gibson first settled in Missoula, he saw the possibilities of the town, and as soon as he was able to do so, he began purchasing business lots. He put up the handsome brick block, the Gibson block. . . [T]oday the Gibson Block is the heart of the town of Missoula's busiest corner. To drive over Missoula is to see on every hand, evidence of his skill and ability. He built the High School, the Hawthorne School, the Sacred Heart Academy, the Harnois Theatre, all of the University of Montana buildings, and innumerable others." In 1886, Missoula was little more than a village; by the time Gibson retired in 1909, with his help Missoula was transformed into a stable and prosperous city. Moreover, Gibson's impact reached far beyond Missoula; his influence can be seen throughout the State of Montana in his many impressive private and civic buildings.

In A. J. Gibson's earliest work, one can see the influence of his mentor, H.M. Patterson of Butte who was well known for his fine examples of Richardsonian Romanesque design. Gibson's University Hall (1898) at the University of Montana incorporates the general massing and stylistic features of the Richardsonian style. By the turn-of-the-century, classical design aspects may first be noted and soon emerge dominanat in Gibson's work, as evidenced by the progression from the minor classical detailing of the Ravalli County Courthouse (1901), to the Hamilton Town Hall (1906-07), the Bass Mansion (1908) and the George May House (1909) in Stevensville, and culminating in the fully developed Beaux Arts classicism of the Missoula County Courthouse (1908-10). Shortly after the completion of the Courthouse project, A.J. Gibson retired from his professional offices due to increasing deafness. Finding the time to turn to domestic design, Gibson set to work on his own house and studio in Missoula, refashioning the building from a 19th Century Queen Anne cottage into a Prairie style bungalow. Gibson's heter residential designs reflect his major shift from classicism to the more popular styles of the early Twentieth Century which were influenced by the Arts and Crafts and Prairie School movements. The Fred T. Sterling House is one of Gibson's finest, most well maintained and preserved examples

1. Sanders, Helen Fitzgerald, A History of Montana, Lewis Publishing Co., 1913, Vol. III p.13

9. Major Bibliographical References

Koelbel, Leonara. <u>Missoula the Way It Was</u>, Gateway Printing & Litho, Missoula, MT 1972 Kvale, Velma R. <u>Where the Buffalo Roamed</u>, Mission Valley News, Ronan, MT 1976 PACIFIC NORTHWEST QUARTERLY, Vol. 40 No. 3 July 1949, "Frank L. Worden, Pioneer Merchant", by Albert J. Partoll

10. Geographical Data

creage of nominated property <u>less than one</u>	
Coutboost Missouls	1+24,000
adrangle name <u>Southeast Miss</u> oula	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>
AT References	
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 7 & 1 & 7 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 7 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 $	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	╒└╌┑┍┰ ╷┍┙╹ ┍╵┰┰╷┍╌╖
└╌╌┚└└┴╶┼└╍╌┷┛└╌┼╌╌└╍╌┙┙	[₩] └⊥┘ └ <u>└╷╷╷</u> ┙ └╷ <u>╎╷</u> ┟╻╻┓
rbal boundary description and justification	
nominated property occupies the west 139 for ition #3 of the City of Missoula. T13N;R190	W Section 27
at all states and counties for properties overlapping	
te n/a code cou	nty code
te code cou	ntv code
anization n/a	date 11/20/82
eet & number 208 Pattee Canyon	telephone 406-549-7676
ortown Missoula	state Montana
2. State Historic Preserva	tion Officer Certification
e evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	
national state loca	al
the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Na 5), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the Nation cording to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Nation ate Historic Preservation Officer signature	nal Register and certify that it has been evaluated
Ð T.	SHPU date 5.24-83
e Depulsy	date 5.24.83
For NPS, use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the Nation	
STATING I COMPANY SALES	date /////68/
Keeper of the National Register	

date

Chief of Registration