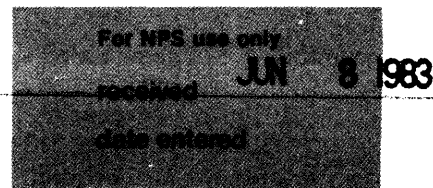


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Keith, John M., House

and/or common Sigma Chi House

2. Location

street & number 1110 Gerald Ave. n/a not for publication

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

state Montana code 030 county Missoula code 063

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:fraternity

4. Owner of Property

name Sigma Chi Building Foundation

street & number P.O. Box 5334

city, town Missoula n/a vicinity of state Montana 59806

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Missoula County Clerk & Recorder Courthouse

street & number 201 West Spruce

city, town Missoula 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

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The J. M. Keith House is a two and one-half story masonry residence of heavy appearance and planar character. The plan shape at the first floor is rectangular with a rear kitchen wing, a large sun porch with no roof, a detailed entry porch on the main (west) facade with a sun deck above, and a porte cochere on the north facade. It has low sloped hip roofs with terra cotta tile roofing and wide overhangs. Chimneys are capped with terra cotta tile hip roofs with wide overhangs. The major exterior material is a high-fired brick with high iron content giving a brown-rust color in a full range. The brick was chosen for color at the corners giving a quoined appearance without surface articulation, and is sound, requiring little restoration. Detailing of the roof and sills has helped the exterior to weather without significant damage.

Most of the foundation is of a granite base of ashlar masonry with a granite cap and the front portion has a brick base with a granite cap. Windows are fixed, casement and awning types in transoms. There are some leaded stained glass panels. Window sills are granite. There is a granite string course at the sill of the second floor windows. Eaves are bracketed in wood. Columns are square, used in combination, and are heavy and squat with granite capitals in an ogee profile.

The interiors on the main floor, with the exception of the kitchen, are mostly integral and unaltered. The entry hall is square in plan and features a large brick fireplace with copper cover and detailing, pocket sliding doors, wood paneling, and plaster walls with wood mouldings.

The interior woodwork is exceptional, with different types of wood in the various rooms of the main floor. The music room has bird's eye maple paneling. The main living room, den, and side parlor are oak; and the dining room has cherry wood paneling and decorative details. The doors between the rooms have a split face with the appropriate woods on each face of the door.

The kitchen, basement, and second floors have been remodeled and show wear. The basement meeting room, however, does retain much of its Arts and Crafts detailing, with the original wall panels and one craftsman style light fixture remaining.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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** ca 1910 **Builder/Architect** Link and Haire, architects

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John M. Keith House is historically significant because of Keith's association with the development of Missoula and due to the building's architectural integrity of design and materials. Designed by the very prominent Montana architectural firm of Link and Haire, the Keith House served as a private residence until the 1930's when the building was purchased by the Sigma Chi fraternity. A number of the commodious residences, built during the first two decades of the twentieth century in this section of Missoula, were converted into sorority or fraternity houses during the depression years of the 1930's.

John M. Keith was the son of a farmer in New Brunswick, and it was there that he got his start in the mercantile business before coming to Missoula in 1881. Keith became a clerk and later office manager for Eddy, Hammond, and Co., forerunner of the Missoula Mercantile and The Bon. In 1888, Keith took a job as cashier at Missoula National Bank, and he was the bank's vice president when it was reorganized as the First National Bank. In 1910, Keith became president of Missoula Trust and Savings Bank, and he also served as president of the First National Bank of Plains, Montana. He held business interests in Spokane and was involved in Hammond Lumber Company of San Francisco. Keith served three terms as mayor of Missoula: from 1881-92, 1895-97, and 1907-09.

Stylistically, the John M. Keith House exhibits the general massing and the overhanging low-pitched roofline of early Prairie School design while the rectangular floorplan and the interior wood detailing also indicate a very strong influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. J.G. Link and C.S. Haire headed one of Montana's largest architectural firms during the first half of this century. Examples of this firm's work are found throughout the State; public buildings, schools, county courthouses, city halls, and hospitals were the firm's forte. The domestic architecture of Link and Haire appears to primarily represent the inclinations of their clients; a wide variety of architectural styles were employed in these designs, as was the typical practice of many architectural firms during this period. Link and Haire also designed the remodeling of the Western Bank building in downtown Missoula for J.M. Keith in 1917. This building, known as the Keith-Ross building, was destroyed by fire in the 1960's.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Koebel, Lenora, Missoula The Way It Was: Missoula, MT: Gateway Printing, 1972.  
 Missoula City Directories; 1896-1940's  
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1884-1940's

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 42,900 square feet 1 acre ±

Quadrangle name Southeast Missoula

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1,2	2,7,1	7,6,0	5,1	9,3	8,4,0
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

Lots 1 to 11, inclusive, in Block 14 of Hammond Arcade Addition in City of Missoula in County of Missoula in State of Montana

### 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 Walter John Kero Assistant secretary James R. McDonald Architect

organization Sigma Chi Building Foundation date April 1983

street & number P.O. Box 5235 telephone 406-543-7336

city or town Missoula 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 Marvella Sheffer

title Deputy SHPO date 5-24-83

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Allous Byers Entered in the National Register date 7/7/83  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration