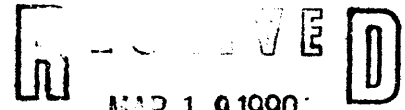


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Zip Auto

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 251 West Main Street

n/a not for publication

city, town Missoula

n/a vicinity

state Montana

code 030

county Missoula

code 063

zip code 59802

3. 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

1

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_ buildings

\_\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_\_ objects

1

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historical Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Maude Shuff

Date 3-14-90

State or Federal agency and bureau MT SHPO

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

Alvin Byers

4/30/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Automobile repair shop

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Automobile Repair Shop

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Art Moderne

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls concrete

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roof asphaltother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Zip Auto is a one-story, poured concrete, L-shaped, Art Moderne style automobile repair shop with a flat roof. It has four Main Street-side bays, large, multipane garage doors and windows, decorative, inset stripping and signs, and a concrete foundation. The building is located in the central business district near the intersection of West Main and West Front Streets and actually fronts on both streets as it sports two primary facades. It is located in a block of one-story historic buildings, almost all of which have been remodeled with a resulting loss to the historic fabric of the area.

The building has a slightly projecting sheet-metal-covered concrete cornice. The eastern-most bay on the north (Main Street) side of the building is about one and one-half feet taller than the west portion of the building. The top half of it has mounted wood or metal letters spelling "ZIP" over inset and vertically arranged letters reading "AUTO SHOP" separated by inset chevron ornamentation. The lower portion of the bay is separated from the entry door and plate glass window by a horizontal transom window band. The wooden door with its full-length window appears to be original.

The west section of the north side of the building has three bays consisting of multi-pane and paneled wood frame, overhead, multi-sectioned garage doors, each divided from the other by concrete piers with vertical inset stripping, which also runs horizontally above the garage doors. Concrete plinths are located at the base of the piers. The words "SERVICE," "LUBRICATION," and "ALINEMENT," [sic] are located above the garage doors. A black metal sign with words "Zip Auto Service" lettered in neon projects at right angles to the building.

The south side of the building has "ZIP AUTO SERVICE" over the south garage doors. The "L" part of the building is located on its south side and has a south-facing, multi-pane garage door and a west-facing metal-frame, multipane window. The corners of this ell are rounded.

The interior of the building has one concrete wall and pits used to service motor vehicles, all of which are part of the original building.

The building has excellent integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Even the doors, window, and neon sign are original. The interior of the building also retains its original integrity. The building was once unpainted concrete but has been painted white.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

n/a \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1937-1940 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1937 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

n/a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

H.E. Kirkemo \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Zip Auto building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places because it is one of the buildings in Missoula that best represents the important role played by the automobile in Missoula by the 1930s and because of its stylized functional design. The building still functions as an automobile repair shop. Zip Auto is also one of the best examples of Art Moderne architecture in the Missoula area and was designed by one of the city's most prominent architects, H. E. Kirkemo. None of the Art Moderne features, including the rounded corners and inset lettering and ornamentation, have been altered.

This building was designed by H. E. Kirkemo and constructed in 1937, when the property was owned by Tom Meisinger and George Colville, who owned the building throughout the historic period. The only other owners have been the Flodbergs, the present owners. The building has always been Zip Auto Service.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

McDonald, James, and Gary Williams, Missoula Historical Resource Survey. Missoula: Porky Press, 1980.  
Flodberg, Joseph. Personal Communication. Missoula, Montana. April 12, 1989.  
McLeod, Paul. "Significant Architecture in Downtown Missoula, Montana, unpublished brochure, n.d.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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

A 12 271650 51950810  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

McCormick Addition, Block 26, Lots 12-13

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lots upon which the historic building was erected.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William A. Babcock, Jr., Missoula Historic Preservation Officer  
 organization City of Missoula date August 1989  
 street & number 201 West Spruce St. telephone 406/721-4700 ext 250  
 city or town Missoula state Montana zip code 59802