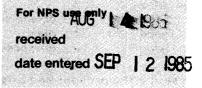
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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	ROBERTS BUILD	ING	·	
and/or common	ELMORE HOTEL			
2. Locat	ion			
street & number	520-526 Centr	al Avenue		$\underline{N/A}$ not for publication
city, town	Great Falls	$\underline{N/A}$ vicinity of		
state	Montana code	030 county	Cascade	code 011
3. Classi	ification			
district _X building(s) _X structure site Py	wnership public &_ private both ublic Acquisition A_ in process being considered	Status <u>X</u> occupied <u>unoccupied</u> work in progress Accessible yes: restricted <u>X</u> yes: unrestricted <u>no</u>	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owne	r of Proper	ty		
name		, INC. Jacob Starts as		
street & number	1981 East 480			
city, town	Salt Lake Cit	y $\underline{N/A}$ vicinity of	state	Utah
5. Locat	ion of Lega	I Description	on	
courthouse, registry	of deeds, etc. Ca	scade County Court	house	
street & number	41	5 Second Avenue No	orth	
city, town	Great Falls		state	Montana
6. Repre	sentation i	n Existing	Surveys	
	ls Historical and cural Survey	has this pro	operty been determined e	ligible? yes _X_ no
date September	1984		federal sta	ate county _X local
depository for surve	y records State	Historic Preserva	ation Office	
city, town Hele	ena		state	Montana

.

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date _	N/A
--	-------------------------------------	--	-----

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The four story Roberts Building, also known as the Elmore Hotel, occupies a prominent corner location within the early 20th century commercial district along Central Avenue in Great Falls. Elements of the Neo-Classical architectural style are evident in the simple, yet broad expanses of plain wall surface and linteled windows and doorways. Typical of many buildings constructed in Great Falls during the 1910-1920 period of tremendous growth resulting from increased homesteading in central Montana, the first floor of the building was used for retail commercial space while the upper three floors served as a residential hotel.

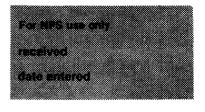
Built of strecher bond brick with cut stone detailing, the fenestrated walls have a random combination of 3/1, 2/1, 3/2, and 1/2 double hung windows with stone sills. Original building plans show one-over-one configurations on the primary facade and two-over-two on the secondary facades. An elaborate cornice area has a brick battlemented parapet with stone coping and recessed panels. The projecting stone cornice wraps fully along the east and north walls of the structure. It is supported by paired, carved consoles with carved metopes and decorative frieze along the stone belt course at the base of these consoles. There is a diagonal belt course of header bricks placed beneath this frieze. Centered in both the north and east parapet of the roof is a raised sign that reads "19 ROBERTS 17."

Constructed over a full basement, the building occupies two city lots with 100 feet of frontage on Central Avenue and 150 feet on Sixth Street. The structure was erected at a cost of 175,000-200,000 on stone walls ten feet high standing on concrete footings 16-inches thick and five feet square. The first story was divided into six retail stores which were separated from each other by 12-inch brick walls. The three upper floors originally contained 33 double apartments, 30 single apartments, and 26 individual sleeping rooms. Each of the 63 apartments was equipped with a private bath and kitchenette, with porter and maid service and private telephone hookups also available. The double apartments were divided into two rooms -- an $11' \times 20'$ living area and a $6' \times 7'$ kitchenette -- plus a bathroom and two closets. The single apartments had one main room, a kitchenette, bathroom and one large closet. Included in fifty of the apartments were built-in sideboards with space underneath for a Holmes disappearing bed, while the other thirteen apartments were provided with Murphy closet beds. All of the original woodworking, fixtures, and built-in furnishings remain in place.

According to a 1918 newspaper description of the construction, "no general contract was let but most of the work was done under separate contracts the carrying out of which was supervised by Mr. Roberts who has devoted most of the past year to the work. Various features of the work were handled under contracts as follows: John Restelli, excavation and stonework; Mourer & Young, brick work; Mr. Roberts supervising the carpenter work under day labor; C.F. Clark company, roofing, cornice and general metal work; Boyd Bros., plumbing and heating; National Electric company, electrical wiring; J.S. Jackman, plastering; J.A. Dennison, painting, and the Pope-Atchison Hardware company, hardware."1 Continuation sheet

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87



Page 2

Numerous exterior alterations have occurred since the original construction of the Roberts Building. Storefronts facing north to Central Avenue were extensively remodeled in the 1960's. Original multipane leaded-transom glass across the facade has been covered with corrugated metal and plastic signs, while the lower portions were divided into large display windows. The original entrance on Sixth Street to the Elmore Hotel portion of the building, featured a glass and metal marquee covering two sets of double doors leading into a 12' x 43' vestibule floored with Italian marble. This entrance was moved several feet to the south and considerably modified. The present entrance consists of a flat metal and plastic sign suspended over a set of modern, glass double doors. As a result of the entrance being relocated, the interior hallway and staircase to the second floor lobby have been altered. Three former retail stores which were located immediately south of the entrance have been infilled with modern materials. The original light court at the rear of the building, which was accessible from the alley by an iron staircase, has been enclosed at the first floor level with a flat roof with one skylight and presently serves as a rear hotel entrance.

Item number

7

1. Great Falls Tribune, 17 March 1918, Sec. 11, p. 1.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art X commerce communications		Iandscape architecture Iaw Iterature	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1917	Builder/Architect Wil	lliam Roberts/H.N. Bl	ack

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Roberts Building, built in 1917, is significant due to its association with William Roberts, a man who played a prominent role in the development of downtown Great Falls from 1886-1926. Roberts is associated with the construction of a number of important commercial buildings in the city. The Roberts Building, also known as the Elmore Hotel (named after Roberts' eldest son), is the one building that best represents Roberts' career in Great Falls due to its architectural prominence and the documented personal involvement of Roberts in the building's design and construction. The Roberts Building is also significant as it clearly represents the economic growth in Great Falls between 1910 and 1920. During the 1910's Great Falls emerged as a major industrial city as well as a trade and service center for the agriculturally-oriented central Montana plains area. When the region's population boomed as a result of tens of thousands of incoming homestead settlers during the 1910's, extensive commercial construction ensued in downtown Great Falls. Many of the city's most substantial, existing buildings were constructed during this period, typically of brick and stone, often replacing earlier wooden structures. The Roberts Building, in its material, mass, detailing, and function, retains a direct association with this historic period of intense commercial development experienced in Great Falls.

Roberts arrived in Great Falls in 1886, only five years after the city was founded. A carpenter and contractor by trade, Roberts previously worked in Butte since 1881 and in California prior that time. In Great Falls, Roberts quickly became established as one of the city's leading contractors, overseeing construction of the Great Falls Opera House*, and several other downtown commercial buildings, including the Dunn Block* (205-207 Central Avenue), Bach-Cory Building* (101 Central Avenue), Kingsbury Block* (311 Central), Phelps Block, Tod Block, and the Cory Block. According to a 1918 newspaper article, Roberts traveled to California where he made an extensive study of apartment buildings. Roberts also was responsible for the construction of two other retail/residential buildings in Great Falls prior to the construction of the Roberts/Elmore Hotel: the Oxford Hotel* (512 Central Ave.) in 1910 and the Northern Hotel* (412 Central Ave.) in 1913. The same newspaper account describes Roberts as having "...been identified with the industrial life of Great Falls since its early days and... is one of the heaviest owners of business property in the city."1 In addition to Roberts' extensive business endeavors, his civic involvement is demonstrated by his election to the city coucil (representing the Fourth Ward) in 1893 and re-election in 1897.

At the time of its construction, the Roberts Building represented one of the city's most modern and elegant commercial and residential facilities, prompting a local newspaper to suggest that it "ranks as one of the largest and most modern of Montana's apartment and mercantile structures."² It provided its guests with gas and electricity, steam heating, porter and maid service, and private telephone hookups. Most of the

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NP	S use on	Y .	
receiv	ed		
date e	nereo		
	-		

Continuation sheet Item number 8 Page 2

interior features in the hotel remain intact, including the original floor plan, room arrangement, plumbing and some lighting fixtures.

The Roberts Building exhibits design elements common to the Neo-Classical Commercial style. The symmetrically arranged facade, which according to the architectural plans originally featured 1/1 double hung sash windows, is restrained with the exception of the elaborate cornice area. Although the first floor storefronts and the sash pattern of the upper story windows have been changed, the Roberts Building possesses sufficient integrity of design, materials and detailing to successfully evoke the historic period of the building's construction.

* extant

1. Great Falls Tribune, 17 March 1918, Sec. 11, p. 1.

2. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Great Falls Tribune, March 17, 1918, Sec. II, p. 1. Great Falls Tribune, December 30, 1917, Sec. I, p. 14. <u>Historical and Architectural Survey of a Selected Area within the Great Falls</u> <u>Revitalization District, Historical Research Associates, September 21, 1984.</u>

10. Geographical Data

	· · · Ioga t	han one der			
Acreage of nominate Quadrangle name $\frac{N}{2}$	d property <u>Less</u>	nan one act	<u>e</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>	
UT M References	orthwest Great	ratts			
UT M Helerences					
A 1 2 4 7 7 Zone Easting	61415 512611 Northing	1110	B Zon	e Easting Northing	
			·∟⊥ ⊬∟⊥		
Verbal boundary d	escription and jus	tification			
Lots 6 and 7, B	lock 363 of Ori	ginal Towns	ite, Great	Falls, Montana	
List all states and	counties for prop	erties overlap	ping state o	r county boundaries	
state N/A	<u></u>	code	county	code	
state		code	county	code	
11. Form	Prepare	d By 🔤	aatta staarst	منطقية ومرد كممان إن من الرائي (1. 1994) - 4 المنطقية ومرد كممان إن من الرائي (1. 1994)	रुको
name/title	Janes R. McDona	1d			
organization Jame	s R. McDonald A	rchitects,	P.C.	date 4 March 1985	
street & number	P.O. Box 8163			telephone (406) 721-5643	
city or town	Missoula			state Montana	
12. State	e Historic	Prese	rvatior	n Officer Certification	1
The evaluated signifi	cance of this propert	y within the sta	te js:		
n	ationals	tate	local		
	ite this property for i	nclusion in the	National Regis	listoric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89 ster and certify that it has been evaluated Service.	_

State Historic	Preservation Officer signature	marcelo	- thoug	
title	shpo		// () date	7 - 2.85
For NPS u thereby	se only certify that this property is included Heloregyee	in the National Register Entered 1n t) Netional Reg		9/12/85-
Keeper of	the National Register	e waal is waa 1		with the course of when
Attest:			date	
Chief of Re	egistration			