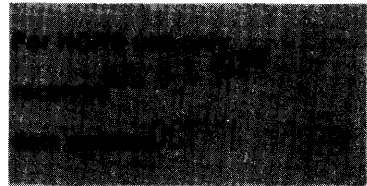


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Christian Yegen Home ^{House}

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 208 South 35th St. not for publication

city, town Billings vicinity of _____ congressional district #2 Eastern

state Montana code 30 county Yellowstone code 111

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. James L. Haider

street & number 208 South 35th

city, town Billings vicinity of _____ state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yellowstone County Court House

street & number _____

city, town Billings 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 _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the south side of Billings, the Christian Yegen house is a two and a half story red brick Queen Anne styled building. Approximately 35 feet wide by 50 feet deep, it has seven rooms on the first floor, six rooms on the second floor and a full basement. The house originally contained six fire places, two in the basement, one in the study, one in the formal dining room, one in the parlor and one in the master bedroom. A seventh fire place was added when the Paul McCormick mansion was dismantled in the mid-fifties. This was put in the rear addition that was added at that time.

The exterior is a soft red brick with sandstone key stones and sandstone lintals and sills. The foundation is also sandstone. The roof was originally wood shingle with a variety of gables projecting from it. The porch roof is supported by cast stone pairs of Ionic columns. At a later date the porch was enclosed with fixed beveled glass panels.

The interior of the house is unaltered in most areas. The small entrance foyer is wainscoted with an ornate wall paper covering the lower portion and a tooled leather on the upper portion. The original light fixture is intact and is made of parchment. The floors and woodwork on both the first and second floor is oak. In many of the rooms the wallpaper is the original paper.

Entering from the foyer is the reception hall with the stair case to the bedrooms and bath on the second floor. Located off the reception hall is the sitting room, parlor, study and dining room. Back from the dining room is the pantry with a pass through to the dining room. Adjacent to the pantry is the kitchen.

Bedrooms were added to the rear of the structure in the mid-fifties but the addition does not affect the integrity of the structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates September 2, 1904 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Christian Yegen house, built ca. 1904, is significant for its historic associations with the development of Billings and early commerce and government in the state that can be associated with the owner of the house. The home is the largest brick home in Billings.

Chris Yegen was one of the first settlers in Billings. Born in Switzerland in November 19, 1857, the son of Conradin and Emerita Yegen, he came to Bismark, North Dakota in 1879. His younger brother, Peter joined him there in 1880. In 1882, the same year Billings was founded, they came to the city and opened a Bakers shop. In 1892, they opened a mercantile and in 1893, they opened a grocery store. In 1900, their operations were again expanded to include banking first in Billings and later in Gardner, Anaconda, and Butte.

Becoming one of Billings' early mayors, he was instrumental in developing the city sewer system. He also induced the Northern Pacific Railway to build a large wool warehouse in the city making Billings one of the leading wool trading centers in the world.

Mr. Yegen initiated the first park board and was instrumental in building the first swimming pool in the city. He also donated the land as enticement for building the city's sugar beet factory. When the city could not afford to build the south bridge, he donated the money for its construction.

Known as "the optimist", Chris was a city alderman and mayor in 1896, a member of the House and two term state senator in 1902 and 1904. He also served on numerous boards and directed several outside businesses. In Billings' early years Chris Yegen was involved in almost every facet of the city's growth and development.

The Yegen family owned the house until 1936 when it was sold to R.C. Tarrant. At that time the land included in the site a whole city block. At the time of the first sale a portion of the land was sold to Henry Miller. Then in 1950, George A. Russell bought the house for taxes and sold it in 1951 to Mrs. Roy Cornelius who used it as a nursing home until the present owners purchased the home in 1972. The remaining land was sold off as house lots in 1950.

Architecturally the house represents one of Billings' finest homes in its fledgling years. It is noted as where Teddy Roosevelt stayed when he visited Billings in 1912.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Billings Gazette
Interview with Peter Yegen Jr.
Billings and Yellowstone County Illustrated, 1894
Twentieth Anniversary Edition of Billings Gazette, 1905 and the owners abstract

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .42 acres

Quadrangle name Billings West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	6	9	3	6	5	5	5	0	7	1	7	6	2
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 9 and 10 Highland Addition

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Montana code 30 county Yellowstone code 111

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

under the supervision of the State Historic Pres. Office

name/title John M. Devitt A.I.A.

organization Montana State Preservation Office date 7/24/79

street & number Box 30234 telephone 406-248-3554

city or town Billings 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/25/79 WRL

For HCRRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
[Signature] date 10-1-79
Keeper of the National Register
[Signature] date 9/25/79
Chief of Registration