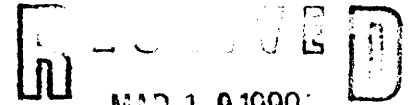


657

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



MAR 19 1990

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 Montgomery Ward
Other names/site number Missoula Bank of Montana

2. Location

Street & number 201 North Higgins Avenue n/a not for publication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	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<u> </u> 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 *Marcell Sheff* 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. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. *Andrew Byan* 4/30/90
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Department Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Bank

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Brick, steel

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Montgomery Ward building is a large, rectangular three-bay, three-story brick commercial building with flat roof, quoined corners, two large, double-hung windows on side bays, horizontal brick and concrete belt courses, two flush metal framed entryways separating three multi-pane commercial bay windows. The building is located on the northeast corner of Higgins Avenue and Main Street at the center of Missoula's central business district. It is located in a half block of historic commercial buildings which have been remodeled but which are compatible with the general historic fabric of Higgins Avenue, the main north-south arterial through the central business district.

The Renaissance Revival styling of the building makes an outstanding impression in Missoula's central business district. The cornice of the building is simply finished with concrete coping and short balustrades of cast concrete marking the side bays. A clock with cast concrete ornamentation is located at the center of the building just below the cornice. The slightly projecting bays at the sides of the front (east) facade contain two-story, vertical, wood frame wooden windows, each containing large eight-over-twelve, double-hung windows. The windows have hoods with corner brackets. Cast concrete balustrades, like those located in the cornices, are located at the base of each set of windows. The side bays of the building have quoined brick corners.

A painted concrete belt course over a corbelled brick belt course divides the upper two stories from the first story. Three recessed belt courses run between the corbelled belt course and the street level windows. Two front entryways are modern, anodized aluminum, framed, double doors with flanking, vertical, plate glass windows. Pairs of decorative, rectangular light fixtures protrude from the side of the building on each side of the entryways. The projecting metal frame multi-pane display bays are located on each side of the entryways. These display windows are not original.

The south side of the building has three historic, vertical, double-hung windows identical to the windows located on the front of the building. The street level windows on the south side of the building are multi-pane, fixed and flush with the facade and are replacement units. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Montgomery Ward building

windows on the north side of the building are smaller and nearly all square modern, metal frame, multi-pane, awning style.

The building was remodeled after it was purchased by the Missoula Bank of Montana in 1971. The interior was remodeled with the construction of the existing centered steel staircase leading to interior shops and offices constructed of metal framed plate glass windows and doors on the second and third floors. The exterior commercial display bays were remodeled with the addition of new windows. A thin styrofoam coating was added to the west side of the building and painted when the historic buildings to the west were demolished in 1980.

The building displays generally good integrity of setting, design and materials. It has experienced some street level remodeling, including the installation of the modern entryways, the addition of new brick around the entryways, and the replacement of windows in the display areas. Because of the building's scale and compatible remodeling, these changes do not greatly diminish the overall feeling of association of the building with the period in which it was constructed.

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

1935-1940 _____

Significant Dates

1935 _____

Cultural Affiliation

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

not known _____

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

The Montgomery Ward building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places due to its architectural and local historical significance. It is one of the few commercial buildings constructed in the city during the Depression and brought to Missoula a major chain store that contributed to the commercial survival of the central business district during the Depression period in the 1930s. It is a pivotal building with its massive scale and corner location at the intersection of North Higgins Avenue and Main Street. The building's Renaissance Revival styling is evidenced by features such as the large-scale, rectangular design and brick construction with raised brick quoined corners and balustrades in the roof-line cornice and at the window sills. The centered ornamental clock adds further design distinction. The building is unique for the downtown area, but shares some design characteristics with the few Renaissance Revival buildings on the University of Montana campus.

This building was constructed in 1935, when the property was owned by D. J. Donohue. It was originally the Montgomery Ward store listed as Montgomery Ward and Company with Willie B. Strang, Manager, in the 1936 Polk City Directory. It was one of the few commercial buildings constructed in Missoula during the Depression. It was remodeled by the Missoula Bank of Montana in about 1971.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

McDonald, James, and Gary Williams, Missoula Historical Resource Survey. Missoula: Porky Press, 1980.

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 271850 5195015
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

C.P. Higgins Addition, Block 21, Lots 21-22

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