

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000217

Date Listed: 3/4/91

<u>Thomas Quaw House</u>	<u>Gallatin</u>	<u>MT</u>
Property Name	County	State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Antoinette Lee
Signature of the Keeper

3/4/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Function or Use: Under current function, "vacant/not in use" should be inserted.

This information was confirmed with Chere Jiusto of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Quaw, Thomas, House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 5 Central Avenue

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Belgrade

state: Montana code: MT county: Gallatin code: 031 zip code: 59714

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Marcella DeF... Signature of certifying official 1-24-91 Date

MT SHPO State or Federal agency and bureau

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 Christine Glee 3/4/91
___ 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):

for Signature of Keeper Date

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic/single dwelling

Current: Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials: foundation: sandstone
 walls: weatherboard, shingle
 roof: shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Quaw House is a 2½-story, late Victorian house originally built in Queen Anne style with Eastlake detailing. The house is a wooden frame building with irregular massing finished in lap and wood shingle siding. The mass is capped by a steeply-pitched, complex roof which combines a central pyramidal area, with gables that project on each side. The peak of the pyramidal roof massing is capped with a scrolling metal cap, other ridgelines are trimmed with metal balls above the gable peaks. Originally, scalloped metalwork accented the ridgelines and several chimneys reportedly balanced above the roof structure. Two now remain in disrepair, and the more intact one has corbelling at the cap and impressed side panels.

The design of the house is complex from every view. The first floor is clad with narrow beveled lap siding, the second floor is clad with wooden shingles which skirt out slightly above the first level accenting the irregularity of the structure. Other detailing ties these rhythms together, including a decorative banding of beadboard across the top and bottom of the first story, and window heads which tie into both this banding and a paneled cornice outlining the second and third stories.

Fenestration is characterized by numerous double-hung, wooden sash windows, the upper panels are edged with tiny, stained glass lights. This pattern carries throughout, although the windows vary in dimension. The smallest such units are paired under the gable peaks, visually balancing them with windows on the lower levels. Window openings in the gables are also trimmed with continuous window heads or sills, and on the south gable, are accented with curved board trim, and a broad ornamental pediment. Currently, several windows are boarded over, however much of the original glazing remains underneath.

On the northeast elevation, the design is dominated by a two story, gabled pavilion which frames the main floor porch entrance, and a second floor balcony. Originally, these porches were embellished with Eastlake detailing--turned posts, balustrades with turned spindles, and arched spindlework across the frieze. The porch was open to stairs on either side. The porches were rebuilt, apparently around 1930, and now have square posts, beveled siding, and stairs only on the northeast porch's south end. Doorways onto these porches are offset under the gable. They include wooden, paneled doors with upper glazing, the first floor doors are finished with transoms.

At the northeast corner of the central mass, the cornice line on the first story is rounded and flared beneath the projecting second floor corner; this detail is echoed by a decorative knee bracket supporting the projecting corner of the roof.

The formal entrance is on the southeast elevation, placed on the corner and tucked under a single story, shed-roofed ell. Wooden stairs access a small porch deck; the paneled wooden door has an upper window. The exterior walls step back over and behind the porch, adding interest to the entrance.

The interior of the house is laid out off-center, with a full-length hallway upstairs, and a partial hallway on the main floor. The formal entrance opens into a front entry hall and stairwell with a turning staircase. The staircase features heavy newel posts with round knobs and turned spindles. Woodwork throughout the house is of dark, rich fir, with paneled doors and routed moldings. Some substitution with plainer materials has been

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made. Doorways to the parlor and the dining room open from the main hall, an east living room opens onto the balcony porch, and the kitchen projects off the rear. On the second story, there are four bedrooms. One of these reportedly was a ball room in early years.

Some alteration occurred upstairs to accommodate apartments and modern improvements. A small room has been added by walling off the south end of the hallway. Originally, it appears that a rear stairwell led up from the present kitchen pantry to the upstairs hall, and a short hallway led to a third floor stairway to the maid's room. (The remainder of the large attic is unfinished.) A bathroom was added in this area, and the stairway was routed through a hall closet. On the north end, a steep rear stairwell to the outside has been added.

On the southwest elevation, the main gable is centrally placed. Alongside, the stairwell off the formal hall projects, forming a square bay covered by a long shed extension from the upper roof. The bay is supported by scrolling brackets with a carved floral motif, and trimmed with a short apron.

On the northwest elevation, the rear of the building projects under a large gable. A deteriorating open porch spans the rear, and accesses the kitchen entrance. The original door has been replaced with a paneled wooden door with an upper window. A second entrance has been cut in on the northwest corner. This doorway opens into the steep stairwell accessing the rear upper hallway, no doubt added during years when the house was used for apartments.

The building sets on a cut sandstone foundation with a daylight basement. A full basement is located beneath the house, windows illuminating it are set 2 by 2.

The original grounds have been retained around the house, mature trees, lilacs and other shrubbery shade the expansive lawn. Lots at the rear, where the carriage house and smaller outbuildings were originally located, were sold and developed for later housing.

Currently, the house retains a high level of historic integrity, although it is in need of much repair. Replacement of the rich Eastlake detailing is most unfortunate, however, little else has changed on the exterior. Conversion to apartments and minor improvements have modified the interior, however these have made minimal impact on the interior plan.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Areas of Significance:

Architecture
Exploration/Settlement

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1892-1899

Significant Person(s): Quaw, Thomas B.

Significant Dates: c. 1892

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

The Thomas Quaw House is a most significant historical home. Located in Belgrade, Montana, it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its important associations with Thomas Quaw, who was fondly known in his day as the "Father of Belgrade," and the settlement of Belgrade. The house gains significance as a well-preserved, late example of Queen Anne style architecture in southwestern Montana.

The history of Belgrade began in 1883, the year Henry Villard built the Northern Pacific Railroad across Montana. Belgrade was located at a central point between Bozeman and a narrow pass at Logan, and was named by Henry Villard after the capital of Serbia--a complement to several European investors helping to fund the railroad's construction.

F.L. Benepe and W.H. Tracy, Bozeman-based businessmen, erected the first building along the Belgrade siding--a warehouse to store grain harvested in the surrounding Gallatin Valley. Thomas Quaw purchased Benepe's interest in the warehouse shortly before its completion, in the summer of 1883. Quaw and Tracy opened a profitable general grain business, and the following year, Quaw bought out Tracy's interest in the warehouse.

In 1884, Northern Pacific surveyed the Belgrade townsite and offered two blocks of lots for sale. However, little confidence in Belgrade's future was expressed when no bids were made. To bolster the town's flagging appeal, Thomas Quaw purchased the half section of land where the Belgrade townsite was located. He enticed business investment by granting exclusive privileges to select businessmen for hotel, saloon, livery, blacksmithing, hospital and physician opportunities. Quaw himself opened a large mercantile business, in association with T.C. Power, one of Montana's most powerful capitalists. Nelson Story, a resourceful Bozeman entrepreneur, erected a large grain elevator.

Quaw lured initial settlers by giving away lots for churches, schools and private residences, and the town took form. Belgrade soon earned the distinction of handling more grain than any other town between Fargo, North Dakota and Ritzville, Washington. A large flour mill was completed, soon followed by a creamery and finally, a bank. As the turn of the century approached, the future of Belgrade looked bright.

During the 1880s and 1890s, as Belgrade grew, Thomas Quaw continued to be Belgrade's main booster. In 1887, the local paper noted that "Thomas Quaw has named his son, the first child born at Belgrade, Thomas Belgrade Quaw, in honor of the coming city of the West." That same year, he threw the first of many bashes in Belgrade, which earned him a large reputation for hospitality and drew revelers from miles around, while promoting Belgrade's community spirit.

In May of 1891, after a title dispute with the railroad, Quaw acquired the deed to the property on which this house stands. The Sanborn maps reveal that the Thomas Quaw House was built between 1891 and 1896. It was probably about 1892 that Quaw physically expressed his optimism in Belgrade's future prospects by erecting this large Queen Anne style residence. The house is the largest dwelling in the town, and dominates the residential landscape in the small Belgrade townsite. The home provided an anchor to residential development in Belgrade, although none matched the Quaw House in scale or exuberance. The surrounding historic neighborhood is composed of late Queen Anne cottages and sturdy Bungalows.

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The Quaws occupied the house until 1896, when Thomas Quaw relocated to Bozeman, where he first operated a retail grocery business, and later wholesale hay, grain and produce.

Belgrade continued to grow through Montana's homesteading boom of the early 1900s. In 1900, there were 368,706 acres in farmland in the Gallatin Valley, by 1910, the total was 531,902. News from the promising Gallatin Valley lured many prospective homesteaders to the area; photographs of rosy-cheeked farmgirls embracing sheaves of golden Gallatin Valley wheat were distributed widely. However, after bumper crops during the early 1910s gave way to hard years of drought by 1918, farmers quickly realized that the land of milk and honey was not to be found in Montana. Harsh climate and hard economic times drove many from the land, and hopes for Belgrade's bright future faded. The dramatic decline in Gallatin Valley farmland from 1920 when acreage stood at 783,189 to 1925 and only 443,145 acres, mirrors this agricultural exodus.

In 1899, the Quaws sold this house to Ella Ruscoe, she in turn sold the property the following year to Columbus E. McCoy. McCoy and James M. Graybeal were both physicians, and maintained a practice on the second floor until about 1920. In later years, the house changed hands several times, was converted into apartments, and finally has stood abandoned much of the past decade.

The Thomas Quaw House is an excellent example of Queen Anne style architecture, and it embodies many of the characteristics which defined the style. An impressive structure, the house features the characteristic irregularity of massing, ornate detailing, rich variation in texture and interplay of complex form. The loss of the Eastlake detailing removes one layer of the original embellishment, however, the original design is otherwise clearly apparent.

Set against the historical backdrop of Belgrade, and the expansive Gallatin Valley, the Thomas Quaw House symbolizes the optimism of Belgrade's founding father, and the hopes he held for Belgrade to assume a reigning influence in a promising agricultural valley. Although those dreams went largely unfulfilled, the Quaw house has remained for almost a century--commemorating the pioneering spirit and entrepreneurial vision that first put Belgrade on the map.

9. References

- Avant Courier, "The Ball at Belgrade," July 12, 1888; "Belgrade," August 15, 1891.
Belgrade Centennial Committee, "Belgrade Centennial," Taylor Publishing Co., 1986.
Bozeman Courier Obituary, Thomas Quaw, July 4, 1923.
High Country Independent Press, "Quaw Mansion Represents Belgrade," September 18, 1985.
Iverson, Ron, The Princess of the Prairie - A History of Belgrade, Montana, McGill Museum Publication, December 1965.
Quaw, Thomas B., "Town Named for Serbian Capital by N.P. Railway," Belgrade Journal, December 3, 1914.
Series of Deeds for Thomas B. Quaw House property, Lots 9, 10, 11, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ 12, of Crescent Addition, Town of Belgrade, Montana. Gallatin County
Simonaitis, Laura S. The Quaw Mansion: A Study for Historic Preservation. Unpublished manuscript, c. 1988.
Sanborn-Perris Map Company Fire Insurance Maps for Belgrade, Montana. Nov. 1891, Sept. 1896, Jan. 1902.
United States Census Bureau, Agricultural Statistics for 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1925, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

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 # _____

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: Zone Easting Northing
 12 486450 5069020

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Thomas Quaw House is located on Lots 9, 10, 11, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 in the Crescent Addition of Belgrade, Montana. The property is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 1, T1S, R4E.

Boundary Justification:

This is the property presented associated with the Thomas Quaw House. Lots to the west, once associated with the property are now under separate ownership and have later houses upon them.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Chere Jiusto

Organization: State Historic Preservation Office

Date: October 1990

Street & Number: 225 N. Roberts

Telephone: 406/444-7715

City or Town: Helena

State: Montana

Zip: 59620