

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**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 Independent Telephone Company Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 207 East Main Street n/a not for publication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	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>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ 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 *Manuela Shoff* 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. *Alvares Byers* 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)

Telephone company building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Neoclassical

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls glazed brick, terra cotta

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Independent Telephone Company building is a rectangular, two-story brick building with three front bays, glazed brick and terra cotta front facade, flat roof with centered terra cotta gabled pediment and band, glazed brick pilasters with Corinthian style terra cotta capitals, double-hung second story windows and fixed street level wood frame windows, centered arched doorway with terra cotta hood, and concrete foundation. The building is located in the central business district in a half block that has lost much of its historic fabric. The upper level terra cotta pediment is molded with dentilation in tympanum. The ornamental medallion at center of tympanum reads, "Independent Local and Long Distance Telephone." Band beneath the lower cornice reads "Independent Telephone" in letters that are inset in the terra cotta. Ornamental terra cotta panels with a garland design are located between the first and second floors. A flat terra cotta hood is located above the arched doorway, which is framed by ornamental tile. The doorway has a large glass fanlite above and is flanked by sidelight panels. Fixed canvas awnings are located above the centered front doorway and all facade windows. First floor window sills are terra cotta. The foundation is concrete with a front granite facing. The east side of the building is stretcher bond red brick with modern metal frame windows and maroon-colored canvas awnings. The windows have sandstone sills. The rear of the building is stretcher bond red brick with two large, metal frame, single-pane replacement windows on the first and second floors, each one with sandstone sills running the length of the windows and suggesting that old windows were approximately equal in size. A wood frame fire escape has been constructed at the rear of the building.

This building possesses good overall integrity of design, materials, workmanship and association. There has been a minor loss of integrity of design and materials with changes to the doorway and the addition of the flanking glass block panels and the addition of modern, metal frame windows on the east and south sides of the building.

See continuation sheet

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 _____

Communications _____

Period of Significance

1911-1940 _____

Significant Dates

1911 _____

Cultural Affiliation

n/a _____

Significant Person

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

George Shanley (attributed) _____

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

The Independent Telephone Company building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It was constructed during Missoula's early twentieth century building boom and is the best remaining representative example of the early communications industry in Missoula. It is also one of the best examples of commercial Neoclassical architecture in Missoula with its pedimented cornice, Corinthian capitals, and glazed brick pilasters. Like the Elks Lodge and the Masonic Lodge, it makes excellent use of terra cotta in its cornice, frieze and medallions and is only one of two downtown commercial buildings to use white enameled brick for an exterior wall. The building displays an excellent selection of materials and craftsmanship and clearly conveys the sense of commercial optimism that characterized the period in which it was constructed.

The Independent Telephone Company was the second of two early phone companies to operate in Missoula. The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company operated the first, small phone exchange in 1884 (which had only 22 phones) and the first permanent exchange in 1891. The Independent Telephone Company opened its office in 1911, when the Rocky Mountain Bell system had 1814 phones. The new company was in business for only a few years before ceasing operations. The building was constructed during Missoula's second major post-railroad economic and building boom.

This building was constructed in 1911 as the Independent Telephone Company Building, when the building was owned by the Intermountain Construction Company. It probably was designed by George Shanley because there is a building just like it in Great Falls, Montana that was designed by Shanley. The chain of title runs from Henry C. Stiff (1910), Intermountain Construction Company (1910), Montana Independent Telephone Company (1912), Western Montana Building and Loan Association (1916), and the Missoula Chamber of Commerce (1932). Occupants included

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Independent Telephone Company

the Montana Independent Telephone Company (1913, 1915), Missoula Chamber of Commerce (1917-1940), State Department of Agriculture, Division of Horticulture (1922, 1925, 1929, 1932), the American Automobile Association (1929-1940), and the Western Montana Fish and Game Association (1929-1940).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

McLeod, Paul. "Significant Architecture of Downtown Missoula, Montana," unpublished brochure, n.d.

Koebel, Lenora. Missoula: The Way It Was. Missoula: Pictorial Publishing Company, 1972.

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

1	2
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2	7	2	0	0	0
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5	1	9	4	9	0	5
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Original Townsite, Block 1, Lot 7

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