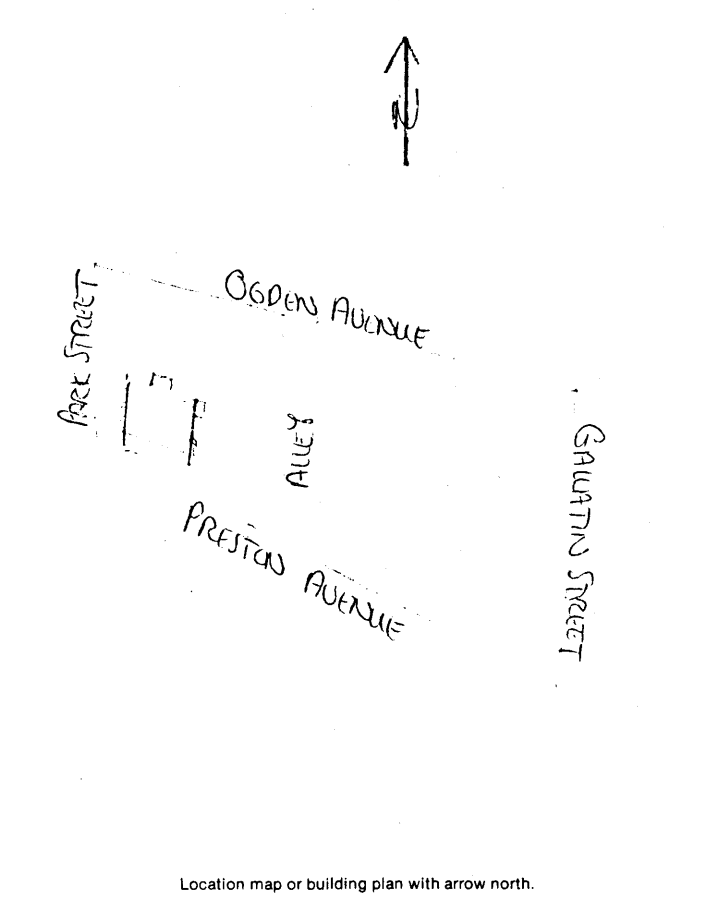


# MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site # 10



Legal Description: Block 51, lots 9-12  
 Address: 916 Preston Avenue  
 Ownership: Name: James N. Smith c/o Paul and Nancy Haynes  
 private address: Box 1386, Thompson Falls, MT 59873  
 public



Historic Name: N/A  
 Common Name: Smith House  
 Date of Construction: 1911  estimated  documented  
 Architect: N/A  
 Builder: C. H. Doenges  
 Original Owner: C. H. Doenges  
 Original Use: rental residence  
 Present Use: residence  
**RESEARCH SOURCES:** Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.  
 Abstract of Title: Deedbook 17, p. 39.  
 Plat Records: Thompson Falls Original Townsite  
 Tax Records: 1911 Assessment Book  
 Building Permits: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sewer/Water Permits: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City Directories: Polk, Missoula County 1905, p. 321.  
 Sanborn Maps: not shown  
 Newspapers: Sanders County Ledger: 4/7/11.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with it's original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

This single siding on sheathing exterior house has an asbestos shingle covered hipped roof, flaired eaves, a front porch protected by the roof, west and south side roof dormers containing 3-paned fixed windows, and a concrete foundation. The front (S) side features the porch, up wood stairs, with lattice work between the pier foundation it rests on. That side also includes a window box that extends to the roof line and contains two 7-pane doublehung windows split by a larger doublehung with an upper pane of colored glass in an inverted motif of two candles, 3 bells, and a ribbon. There is also a 17-pane fixed window on that side beside the entrance door. The west side has 3 more window boxes: the first of four 10-paned fixed windows, the second of four 17-paned fixed windows, and a third of four 10-pane fixed windows. All boxes extend to the roof line. The north side has a slant roofed entryway to the rear door, a casement window, and a 17-pane fixed window. The east side includes a window seat of four 13-pane doublehung windows, a casement window, a doublehung window, and a small window to the basement. A concrete covered brick stack is on the N side. There are four rooms and bath on the first floor and one room on the one-and-one half story. A hipped roof of metal, double sided garage is NW of the house.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION:** Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

Charles H. Doenges came to Thompson Falls in either 1903 or 1904 and prospered. (See Inventory #s 27 and 74.) Among the posts he held was that of County Commissioner between 1907 and 1912. He constructed this dwelling for rental purposes. Probably its initial occupier was Irving E. Keith. Keith came to Thompson Falls during the same period Doenges did to work as a bookkeeper for the Thompson Falls Mercantile Company. Keith purchased this house in 1913 and kept it a decade. In 1922 he sold it to E. L. Stackpole, the County Treasurer for Thompson Falls in the late teens and early twenties. The current occupiers have only recent moved in.

**Footnote Sources:** Deedbooks: 17, p. 39; 22, p. 165; 26, p. 429  
Polk Registers, Missoula County: 1905, pp. 321-322; 1915-16, p. 557.  
Sanders County Ledger: 4/14/11; 9/29/11.  
Interview with Nancy Haynes by John Lazuk

**INTEGRITY:** Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

This house retains its original integrity except for a portion of the north side.

**HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

The house at 916 Preston Avenue is significant under Criterion C as an intact representation of a Bungalow style house.

This house is nearly identical in design, massing and fenestration to two other dwellings located in the community at 112 Park Street and 13 Pond Street; each of these have been attributed to Doenges and were built in 1911. The house at 916 Preston Avenue exhibits several typical Bungalow style characteristics including a full width front porch with battered columns and a solid railing, narrow lap siding and exposed rafter ends. Charles Doenges was responsible for the design of at least 17 houses in Thompson Falls, of which five are Bungalows that are very nearly the same in construction. 916 Preston Avenue was originally owned by Doenges and was probably used as a rental property in order to alleviate the lack of housing during the population boom when the hydroelectric dam was being constructed.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

Name: John Lazuk

Address: 350 Strand Avenue, Missoula, MT

Date: October 25, 1984

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Thompson Falls, MT

UTM's: 11/623900/5272600