

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
INVENTORY

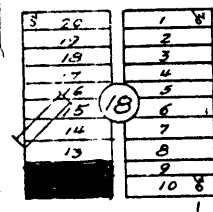
Site#

Legal Description: OTH, Block 18, Lots 11-12

Address: 200 North 5th Street

Ownership: Name: Henry and Joanne Nielson

private address: same



Location map or building plan with arrow north.

Roll# 12 Frame#25

Historic Name: Other C. Wamsley house

Common Name: none

Date of Construction: 1909

X documented

Architect: O.C.Wamsley

Builder: O.C.Wamsley

Original Owner: O.C.Wamsley

Original Use: residence

Present Use: residence

RESEARCH SOURCES:

Title Search: yes

Tax Records: yes

Bldg. Permit: no

Census Records: no

Sewer/Water: no

Sanborn Maps: 1909

Directories: yes

Newspapers: yes

TITLE SEARCH

James Hamilton

Bitter Root Development Co - 1890

Marcus Daly - 1894

Anaconda Mining Co - 1894

Anaconda Copper Mining Co - 1895

Valley Mercantile Co. 1909

O.C. Wamsley - 1910  
Viona A. Lowrey - 1921  
James H. Hilderbrand - 1925  
Grant H. Shellhamer - 1925  
Ravalli Co. Bank - 1940  
Grant Shellhamer and Betty Godfrey - 1945

BIBLIOGRAPHY:  
WESTERN NEWS  
RAVALLI REPUBLICAN

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The O.C.Wamsley house is a large, two story, wood frame building resting on a rubble stone foundation. The building is octagonal in plan. Features include: a wraparound front porch which is a hip roof affair supported by concrete cut stone blocks that appear to be a granite composition. They have a bead mortared joint. The porch has wood decking. Doric columns rest on top of the stone pillars. The front door is oval glass lite with ornamental motifs in a wood door with a storm door. Siding on the house is asbestos with a wavy bottom, ten inch exposure. Windows are combinations of pairs of double hung windows with 6/1 lites or pairs in triples. Window trim is wide with cornice moldings. Porch soffit is done in a bead board. The soffit on the second story roof is horizontal boxed with a molded fascia board, also done with a bead board. There is a small shed dormer projecting in vertical axis above the door from the attic. The handrail between the stone column supports is square spindle. There is a one story portion that may have been an open porch to the back. This has now been infilled. It has a shorter proportion, pair of double hung windows and a four riser, concrete stoop with a metal pipe rail. There is a wood shed to the very back and a small garage with gable roof and wood shingles, plus some rolled roofing. There is a lean-to shed coming off the north portion of the garage.

#### INTEGRITY

The building appears to have fairly good integrity with the exception of the alteration of the siding from the original to asbestos and asphalt shingles are visibly over wood shingles.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This residence is one of the most interesting structures in Hamilton. Other C. Wamsley lived here from 1908 to 1918 during which period he was a contractor and carpenter, building many homes in Hamilton and vicinity. The unusual architecture discloses the inquiring mind possessed by Mr. Wamsley who was also unafraid to attempt the unusual. Mr. Wamsley had served in the armed forces. He initiated the first civic Hallowe'en celebration here and the Community Sing during World War I.

G.H.Shellhamer made his home here in the 1920's. He had been a farmer west of Hamilton.

Sources: Western News, July 9, 1953; Ravalli Republican, October 16, 1925.

#### HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of significance: architecture

Specific dates: 1909

Contributing buildings: 1

This two-story, octagonal house, designed and built by local contractor Other C. Wamsley in 1909, qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C. The octagonal form, popularized by Orson S. Fowler in his 1849 publication entitled: The Octagon House, A Home for All, gained limited popularity during the mid-19th Century. Examples dating from the early 20th Century, such as the Wamsley House, are quite rare nationally. The Wamsley House is the only example of the use of the two-story, octagon form in Hamilton, and is one of only three in the State. The house incorporates an unusual mix of details, including a wrap-around, classically-ornamented porch; a second-story, "pop-out" window, and a triangular, two-window bay that projects at a 90-degree angle from the second story wall surface directly above the main entry. This 90-degree bay is a feature more commonly employed on Prairie style residences of the period. Other Wamsley's courage to chose an unconventional building format shows his personal initiative and reflects the speculative, willing-to-take-risks atmosphere that characterized Hamilton during the early years of the apple boom from 1908-1912. Wamsley, himself, came to the Bitterroot Valley as one of the many fortune seekers drawn to the new opportunities that were so heavily advertised and promoted by the developers of the Big Ditch irrigation project.

Form prepared by: Kirk Michels and Ada Powell  
205 Bedford, Hamilton, Montana  
September, 1987

Acreage: less than one

UTM Reference: 11/718900/5125340