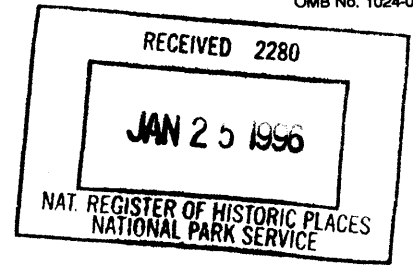


120

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bellows Residence

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 1637 South Higgins Avenue

not for publication: n/a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

city/town: Missoula

state: Montana code: MT county: Missoula code: 063 zip code: 59801

3. State/Federal Agency 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

12-18-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

 see continuation sheet

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 see continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 see continuation sheet

 removed from the National Register

 see continuation sheet

 other (explain):

for

Edson H. Beall

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

2/22/96

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property: Building	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	Current Functions:
Domestic: Single Dwelling	Health Care: Clinic

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Neo-Classical Revival	foundation: concrete walls: cast concrete block roof: weatherboard other: n/a

Narrative Description

The Bellows Residence is a Neoclassical eclectic, rectangular, 1 1/2-story, concrete block residence with intersecting gable and simple hipped roofs. The front-end gable extends over a full-width, open front porch. The front-facing gable end is finished with horizontal clapboard siding, and pedimented with a raking cornice and a plain frieze under an enclosed wood soffit. The front-gable window is centered; it is a paired casement unit with six lights and wood muntins in each wood framed window. A fanlight is set above the casement windows and gable roof dormers adorn the roofline. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building stands on a poured concrete foundation.

The pedimented gable covers a recessed, open front porch with plain wood architrave supported by Roman order Doric columns with capitals, plinths, and columnar molding. The porch floor is built of 1x4s with a latticed apron supported by formed concrete blocks. North- and south-facing gable roof dormers are pedimented with raking cornices, plain soffits and clapboard siding. They enframe wood-frame casement windows with wood muntins and six lights each. The south-facing dormer has one window; the north facing dormer has three windows.

The front of the cast concrete block (which carries the name of the Miracle Hollow Block Company) residence has a somewhat off-center entrance. The wood frame hardwood door frames a vertical elliptical window banded by rectangular shaped decorative molding. Flanking front windows are large fixed units. Upper window bands on each window are leaded with diamond-shaped lights. Corners of the residence have plain concrete block quoins.

The residence has a plain wooden frieze under the soffits. A plain concrete block belt course also runs around the residence, about two feet above the poured concrete foundation. All side and rear windows in the building (excluding those of the back porch) are wood-frame, double-hung, 2-over-2 with plain concrete sills.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Bellows Residence
Missoula County, Montana

Page 1

At the rear, an extending gable roof covers the enclosed back porch. The gable is pedimented with raking cornices, a plain frieze, and a wooden louvered vent at the center of the gable end. The porch is wood frame with clapboard siding and corner boards. Windows are wooden, double hung, 6-over-6 units with wooden surrounds. The wooden rear door has a vertical fifteen-light window with wood muntins. The porch has a latticed apron and newly poured concrete steps.

A covered basement entryway is located on the north side of the residence and is a recent addition. Side walls to the basement are concrete and brick; the stairs are concrete. A gable roof covers the stairs and is supported by 4x4s, the front two of which rest on poured concrete bases. This enclosure is sided with lattice work; the roof has press board shingles.

The interior of the residence retains much of the historic design elements, although it was altered to some degree between 1992 - 1994 for adaptive reuse as a medical clinic. To meet code requirements, the first floor was rearranged. The stairway was moved, hallway widened and bathroom rearranged. On the second floor, ceiling height was raised and the bathroom was re-configured. In addition, the basement was dug out to legal code ceiling height.

Through the course of this work, an effort was made to preserve the historic character of the building. Original windows were repaired and retained, and the extant wood trim and fir floors were refurbished. Where missing, new members were milled to match the originals.

A wood-frame, stucco, flat roof garage with concrete foundation, built sometime after 1951, is located at the rear of the property.

The residence is located in Missoula's University district and faces South Higgins Avenue, a busy arterial. Some commercial development is located along South Higgins Avenue, a portion of which is located in converted residences, such as the Bellows Residence at 1637 South Higgins. In this block, all buildings are residences, which are similar in scale and design to the Bellows Residence. Only the Bellows Residence has been converted to a commercial use. Paxson School is located across South Higgins from this block.

Integrity

The Bellows Residence possesses excellent integrity of design and materials with minor exceptions. These include the covered basement entryway located on the north side of the building, which detracts only slightly from the residence's integrity. Gable dormers were added about 1950 and were enlarged in 1994. The previous owner, Mark Estep, a building contractor, enlarged these two small dormers to accommodate an enlarged upstairs bathroom. However, these dormers exhibit the neoclassical pedimented design of the front gable and are compatible in scale and design with the rest of the residence. Estep raised the front fanlight window somewhat and retrofitted the double casement window in place of the single window below the fanlight. Estep replaced the horizontal windows on the back porch (which were not original) with the existing vertical windows and covered the stuccoed back porch with the existing clapboard siding.

There has been some loss of site integrity as the current owners converted the building from a residence to a medical clinic. Part of the rear of the lot will be converted to parking. Also, concrete ramps have been constructed to provide handicapped access to the front and rear of the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1909

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1909

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Bellows Residence is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its architectural values. It is both an unusual and well-preserved example of cast concrete residential construction in Missoula, Montana, and a representative example of Neoclassical architecture, popular during the early years of the 20th century.

Historical Background

Constructed in the Glenwood Park Addition in 1909, the Bellows Residence was built during a time when the city of Missoula was undergoing its most rapid rate of expansion since its founding in 1864. This expansion was manifested most clearly in the residential and, to some extent, the commercial development on the south side of the Clark Fork River in the early 1900s. The Bellows Residence was one of the first residences constructed this far south of the river.

The residence was built in the Glenwood Park Addition, which was originally platted in 1892 and then replatted in stages, beginning in 1906. The residence was built during a housing boom on the south side of the Clark Fork River reflecting the need to accommodate Missoula's rapidly increasing population caused by a number of factors: the homestead boom, the opening of the Flathead Indian Reservation to settlement, the establishment of the University of Montana on the south side of the Clark Fork River, the construction of the Milwaukee Railroad to Missoula, the expansion of the lumber industry, the establishment of the U. S. Forest Service Region 1 headquarters, and the expansion of Missoula's role as the mercantile and trading center of westcentral Montana.

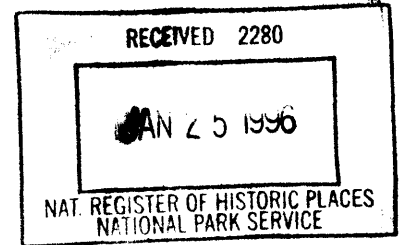
Charles J. Bellows, for whom the house was built, was secretary and treasurer of the D.J. Donohue Company, a department store in downtown Missoula. Bellows bought the property from Christian Jacky, a harness maker and farmer who apparently was active in the purchase and sale of property in Missoula during this period. Owners of the property over the years were not individuals of historical significance, but do reflect the mixed residential character of this Missoula neighborhood. These included Eliza Bellows, (1909), Charles Bellows (1912), Eliza Bellows (1915), Lorian E. Bellows, the son of Charles and Eliza Bellows (1935), Madison Roark (1935), W.S. Custer (1935), Elizabeth H. Nasset (1935), and Laura Custer (1946). Charles and Eliza Bellows and Lorian Bellows, brother of Charles Bellows, lived at the property from 1909 to 1918. After that, the property served as a rental during the 1920s, the 1930s, and the 1940s. Residents during that period included Lee W. (trucker) and Leahnor Fassett (1929), Fred J. (mechanic) and Iris L. McCreedy (1931), Iris L. McCreedy (1932), Lester E. (carpenter) and Gladys Hightower (1934), Vinton P. and Florence C. (corsetiere) Eastman (1936), vacant (1938), Howard O. (barber) and Angelina Tottingham (1940-1941), Horace A. (salesman) and Marguerite Roberts (1943).

Architectural Significance

The Bellows Residence is a good example of Neoclassical eclectic architecture. This is particularly carried through the rooflines and massing which is oriented lengthwise to accommodate the Neoclassical design on a narrow urban lot: the front-gabled roof, hip roof behind the front gable, pedimented front gable and the dormers, fanlight and paired windows in the gable end. Other important elements of Neoclassical style employed on the Bellows Residence include the one-story, full-facade front porch, Doric columns, wood-frame double-hung windows, and plain fascia and belt courses around the residence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



Section number 8

Bellows Residence
Missoula County, Montana

Page 1

The residence's cast concrete block construction is rare for the city of Missoula, although cast concrete block buildings, commercial and residential were commonly constructed in other Montana towns such as Stevensville, and Harlowton, Townsend, and Roundup during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Cast concrete block residences imitated stone, achieving a look of solidity and style which carried over to early 20th century neighborhoods. Concrete blocks were easy for contractors to manufacture and were generally made locally, in part because of the high transportation costs of shipping them. The dyes are patented by the "Miracle Hollow Block Company June 9, 1903," although it is not known where the Miracle Hollow Block Company was located. It is not listed in the Polk City Directories for Missoula.

Recent recipient of a plaque for interior and exterior renovations from the Missoula Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, this residence possesses excellent integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

