

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED JUL 13 1990

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 Taylor, Ray E., House other names/site number "The Castle"

2. Location

street & number 900 So. Baker Ave. city, town Whitefish state Montana code 030 county Flathead code 029 zip code 59937

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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 (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: June 27, 1990. State or Federal agency and bureau: MT SHPC

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) 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. (checked) 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):

Entered in the National Register

[Signature of Keeper]

8/10/90

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
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Historic: residence
Current: hotel
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7. Description
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Architectural Classification: **Tudor Revival**
Materials: foundation: **concrete** roof: **wood shingle**
walls: **brick , stucco, stone** other: n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance. (See continuation sheet.)
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The Ray E. Taylor House, affectionately known locally as "The Castle," is an imposing, 2-1/2 story building with a 3-story chimney located in the small, northwestern Montana community of Whitefish (1980 population 3,703). The building is of brick bearing wall construction that has been covered with stucco and a decorative stone veneer at the base of the exterior walls. The most striking, castle-like features of the house include its irregular shape, the crenelated parapets, the rounded flat-roofed corner turret, and the battered 2-1/2 story chimney tower that rises above the complex roof on the east elevation. "The Castle" was built over a 2-3 year period by its original owner Ray E. Taylor, who started the project in 1929 and completed work mid-1931.

The Ray E. Taylor House predominately exhibits elements of Tudor Revival styling. The roof is steeply pitched with cross gables, large end wall parapets and crenelated dormers. The front (east elevation) of the house features an arched wing wall and a 7-foot high arched door with a leaded glass, multi-light window, and a massive 3-story chimney tower. The windows were originally vertically-divided, Prairie style, wooden sash casement windows, set singly or in pairs. Many of the original windows are still in place on the rounded corner turret and on the east and north elevations. The majority of the historic windows on the south elevation have been replaced with single-light casements or fixed units, which fit the original window openings in most cases.

The basic building materials of the Ray E. Taylor House are representative of those available at the time including the locally manufactured brick, rough-cut 2" x 12" dimension floor joists overlaid with tongue and groove subfloors and oak and fir finish floors. One quite unique feature incorporated by Taylor in the Castle construction is a pair of railroad tracks running over 19 feet east to west under the 3-story chimney tower to support the extensive stone work of the main and upper floor fireplaces. The fireplaces are made of locally gathered creek rocks, as is the stone skirting surrounding the exterior of the house. The stone work was done by a local stone mason named C. C. McArthur, who was a master at his trade.

The interior exhibits fine examples of oak and fir flooring and unusual rock work for the fireplaces. There are numerous masonry, non-load bearing arches integrated into the floor plan of the two main levels.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7

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Decorative cross beams are used on the ceilings of the living and dining rooms. Although a few modifications have been made by subsequent owners, "The Castle" has retained its basic historic appearance on both the exterior and interior.

An attached two car garage was added to the west end of the house ca. 1940, which necessitated the replacement of the original west side entry. The garage has a sloping roof behind a parapet. It is a two-bay structure with an exterior stucco covering, which blends with the design and materials of the house. Other modifications to "The Castle" include the installation of a gas-fired hot water baseboard heating system in 1959 and modernization of the kitchen in 1974. New Craftsman style "French" doors - fashioned to match the existing doors - were added between the kitchen and dining room, with an elliptical fanlight above that conforms to the shape of the existing arches above. The unfinished basement was modernized with the addition of a bathroom, a bedroom, panelling, carpeting and sauna. In 1987, a modern bathroom was added to the second floor for the use of the owners who operate a bed and breakfast inn in the house. The original hardwood floors were stripped, sanded and restored on the main and upper floors.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: **locally**

Applicable National Register Criteria: **C**

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): **n/a**

Areas of Significance: **Architecture**

Period of Significance: **1929-1931**

Significant Dates: **1929, 1931**

Significant Person(s): **n/a**

Cultural Affiliation: **n/a**

Architect/Builder: **Ray E. Taylor**

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

(Also see continuation sheet.)

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The Ray E. Taylor House, a landmark in Whitefish, Montana that came to be know as "The Castle" during its construction in 1929-1931, is significant under criterion C as the artistic expression of a vernacular craftsman. The irregular massing, applied stone veneer, crenelated parapets, steeply pitched intersecting gable roof, rounded flat-roofed corner turret, arched wing wall, arched front door and window, and three-story battered tower are the most outstanding character-defining features of the building. The decorative cross beams, non-load bearing arches, oak and fir finish floors, and decorative stone work around the fireplaces and turret are the most outstanding interior features of vernacular craftsmanship. "The Castle" well illustrates the imagination and building skills of its creator.

Prominently located on a hill overlooking the Whitefish River, "The Castle" stands as a symbol for local citizens of what can be achieved through individual initiative. The builder and designer, Ray E. Taylor, did most of the construction himself. People were impressed by the project, which many considered to be especially ambitious given the fact that the Great Depression was just getting into full swing. When complete in 1931, Taylor lived on the first floor and rented the second. After about six years he sold the property.

Ray E. Taylor was a chauffeur for the Conrad family of Kalispell prior to moving to Whitefish in the 1920s. He operated a bus service between Kalispell and Whitefish for many years. In addition to his construction of "The Castle," Taylor also designed and built a number of Whitefish buildings, including the current Moose Lodge (730 W. 10th St.). He built a cottage (840 Baker Ave.) about 100 yards to the northeast of the Castle where he lived during construction of the Castle. Other examples of Taylor's distinctive building and design abilities are located at 422 Central Ave. and 564 Kalispell Ave. "The Castle," however, remains his most impressive achievement.

The city of Whitefish was given its major impetus by the Great Northern Railroad which pierced the mountains east and west of the Flathead valley in 1892. The town site was platted and cleared in 1902-03 and was named after the teeming fish in the lake by the same name. Residential neighborhoods are composed almost entirely of Craftsman bungalow style cottages that date to the early decades of the 20th century. The comparatively large size and Tudor Revival styling of "The Castle" make it an especially impressive architectural statement in the context of Whitefish, Montana.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Stump Town to Ski Town: The Story of Whitefish, Montana, Schafer and Engelter, 1973.

Whitefish Pilot Newspapers 1929-1960

Alta Mae Taylor, interview on 5/1/88, Kalispell, Montana.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Muldown, interview on 3/14/89, Whitefish, Montana.

Everett Kelch, interview on 8/21/89, Whitefish, Montana.

Harold Draeger, interview on 7/11/89, Whitefish, Montana.

Helen Tate Hetrick, interview on 7/12/88, Whitefish, Montana.

See continuation sheet

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 _____ approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A 1 1 6 9 7 0 0 0 5 3 6 4 2 6 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of lots 6A, 6AA, 7AA and 7C of the Riverview Addition to the Town of Whitefish, Montana.

T31N; R22W NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 36

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the lots upon which the historic building is situated.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Egan
 organization n/a date January 1990
 street & number 900 S. Baker telephone 406-862-1257
 city or town Whitefish state Montana zip code 59937