

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 15 1987

date entered JUL 16 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Keith, Harry C., House

and or common Loutherbak Home

2. Location

street & number 538 5th Ave. E.

N/A not for publication

city, town Kalispell

N/A vicinity of

state Montana

030 code

county Flathead

code 029

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <u>N/A</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Craig and Colleen Campbell

street & number 538 5th Ave. E.

city, town Kalispell

N/A vicinity of

state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Flathead County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Kalispell

state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kalispell Historical-Architectural Inventory
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1980 15J-538
 federal state county local

depository for survey records Community Development Dept.

city, town Kalispell

state Montana

7. Description

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harry C. Keith House is situated on four city lots at the corner of 6th St. and 5th Ave. East within the East Side Residential Historic District of Kalispell (officially determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register on February 10, 1983). The large, well-preserved Colonial Revival house is a major component of this historic district and qualifies for independent listing in the Register due to its architectural significance and historical associations.

The two-and-one-half story house is of frame construction with brick veneer on the first two stories and coursed shingle work on the gambrel roof ends. The house sets on a cut stone foundation of native rock taken from a local quarry near Lone Pine State Park. The roof is a cross gambrel with wide, returning eaves. The overhanging roof is finished with enclosed soffits and a dentilated frieze that encircles the building at the eave line. There are three interior, brick chimneys, one large decoratively corbeled chimney and two smaller ones. The house is basically rectangular in shape with a rounded corner bay at the southeast corner and projecting, half-hexagonal, two-story bays on both the north and south elevations. An oriel window with syma-curve base and roof protrudes from the east gambrel end above the half-hexagonal bay window/balcony entrance on the second story and main entrance on the first floor.

The interior is approximately 10,000 square feet, with 1148 square feet of exterior porches and balconies. Doric columns support the large porch with balcony above that stretches across the entire of the east (front) facade, wraps around the northeast corner, and extends to form a porte-cochere on the north elevation. The spindled porch balustrade is repeated on the entire balcony above. Windows are one-over-one double-hung units, with twelve-over-one double hung units and twelve-light fixed units in the gambrel ends. The windows of the rounded bay are of curved glass. Bevelled and stained glass is present in the sidelights of the main entry and the transoms of the cottage windows on the east and north facades.

The interior woodwork is largely quarter-sawn oak and maple. Massive oak pocket doors close off the living room, music room, and dining room. A Chicago craftsman was brought in to construct the Craftsman style main staircase. The other rooms comprising the main floor are: library, cook's quarters, kitchen, butler's pantry, baking pantry, and half-bath. The second floor is complete with main bath, three bedrooms, large cedar closet, nanny's quarters, nursery with viewing windows, and a master suite with bath and dressing room. The third floor is largely comprised of a ballroom. It also has two sun rooms and a bath.

A total of forty-seven original solid brass light fixtures remain in place. Many of them contain "Kokomo Cat's Paw" stained glass which hasn't been made since 1912. There are three fireplaces in the house, which are located in the living room, library, and master suite. The last fireplace mentioned has a floor made of jade, which is reputedly the largest collection of jade in the northwest. Many of the original plumbing fixtures are still in use. The original boiler is the chief heat source, although it has been converted from coal to natural gas.

The Keith House was built with high quality materials and a pride of workmanship that it is as impressive today as it must have been the day it was completed. In

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National Park Service**

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recent years, the house had been used as a group home. In 1986, work began to restore the house to its original condition. Among other things, the maple hardwood floors were once again exposed, the partitions that divided the ballroom were removed, and cracked plaster was repaired. There are presently no additions or partitions present which did not originally exist. The house retains nearly complete architectural integrity and is truly a fine tribute to its time.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1912

Builder/Architect Marion B. Riffo, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harry C. Keith House, built in 1911 by one of Kalispell's earliest businessmen, is significant as a distinctive example of Colonial Revival architecture and for its association with Kalispell's preeminent merchant. The house, serves as a monumental element of the east-side, residential neighborhood, and is surpassed in grandeur only by the Charles E. Conrad House, located three blocks to the north (listed in the National Register on February 20, 1975). The Keith House can be seen as a transitional design that incorporates some features traditionally associated with the Queen Anne style, such as the rounded corner bay, wraparound porch, and stained glass transoms, as part of an overall expression of Colonial Revival form and massing. An expansive ballroom on the third floor is made possible by the use of the massive, overhanging Dutch gambrel roof form. The Harry Keith family figured prominently in the social life of Kalispell.

At the age of 25, Harry C. Keith was an employee in good standing with the Missoula Mercantile Co. of Missoula, Montana. He was sent to Demersville in 1888 to manage a branch office there until it became clear that Demersville was unlikely to remain a prosperous settlement. In 1892, Keith moved the store to the new townsite of Kalispell, located along the newly constructed Great Northern Railroad line. Today, all that is left of Demersville is a cemetery. Even the river has changed its course to bypass the once thriving town. In Kalispell, the Mercantile built warehouses and a grain elevator along the railroad right-of-way on Railroad Avenue and, by 1897, the employed 20 men, claiming a trading area from Havre, Montana to Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, a distance of over 370 miles east to west. In March, 1911, a new subsidiary corporation was formed, the Kalispell Mercantile Company, with C.H. McLeod of Missoula as its president and H.C. Keith of Kalispell as vice president and general manager.

By 1911, with the Mercantile's success in Kalispell assured, Keith began planning for the construction of his large, new residence with the help of architect Marion B. Riffo. Riffo graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1901 and worked with a number of prominent architects in the East before establishing his own office in Kalispell. Along with the Keith House and many of Kalispell's finer homes, Mr. Riffo designed the Sisters of Mercy Hospital, the Elks Building, and a number of schools. During the first half of the 20th century, Riffo and another architect, Harry Brinkman, designed most of Kalispell's major public and private buildings.

The Keith family lived in the house from 1912 to 1936. Through subsequent uses as a boarding house and, later, as a group home, the Keith House was quite well maintained. Today, restored to use as a single family residence, the Harry C. Keith House retains a high level of historic architectural integrity and exhibits a superior quality of workmanship and materials.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atkinson, Jim C. & Shay, Gail, Kalispell Cornerstones, A Fascinating History of Twenty-five Kalispell Homes, Atkinson, Kalispell, MT, 1981.
Elwood, Henry, The Train Didn't Stay Long, Thomas Printing, Kalispell, MT, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Kalispell

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3-6, Block 81 of Kalispell 1 Original Townsite, City of Kalispell
T28N, R21W NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 17

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Colleen F. Campbell

organization _____

date March 1987

street & number 538 5th Ave. E.

telephone (406) 755-6829

city or town Kalispell

state Montana 59901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marcello Sheffy

title

SHPO

date 6-9-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/16/87

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date