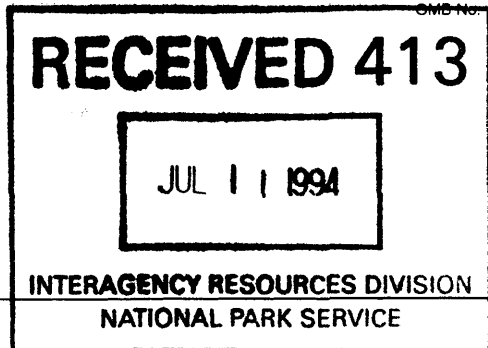


867

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Alexander and Busey Houses

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 106 and 112 Fifth Avenue West

not for publication: n/a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

city/town: Kalispell

state: Montana code: MT county: Flathead code: 029 zip code: 59901

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.)

Marcella Shep MTSHPD 6-28-94
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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <u> </u> see continuation sheet	<u>for</u> Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register	<u>Edson H. Beall</u>	<u>8-24-94</u>
<u> </u> see continuation sheet	_____ Signature of Keeper	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u> </u> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: X private ___ public-local ___ public-State ___ public-Federal

Category of Property: X building(s) ___ district ___ site ___ structure ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> building(s)
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Properties of Kalispell, Montana

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Queen Anne

Materials:
foundation: stone, concrete
roof: asphalt
walls: wood/weatherboard, shingle; synthetics/vinyl
other: n/a

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The design of the Alexander and Busey Houses probably comes from a pattern book. The Alexander House has a hipped roof covered with composition shingles. There are gabled wall dormers on the north and south, a front-gabled wing, and a wrap-around porch with a pedimented entry. The front porch originally extended almost to the north end of the front; it has been reduced in size since 1956. The house has a partial basement with a dirt floor and a concrete foundation that was added three years ago, clapboard siding with decorative wood shingles in the dormers, exposed rafter tails, and turned porch supports with scrollwork. The windows are one-over-one-light wood double-hung units, with a multi-paned casement window on the south and a new picture window in the front gabled wing (all of the windows have been replaced). There is a projecting bay window on the south. The second floor flares out slightly. The front wing has canted sides. The interior has been remodeled, including the removal of a wall in the living room that created an entry hall. An upstairs closet has been made part of a walk-in closet in a bedroom.

The house possesses excellent integrity except for the reduction in size of the front porch, the removal of the porch railing, the enclosure of the porch on the rear wing, and the replacement of two original window openings with modern picture windows. According to Kalispell Fire Department records, a fire at 112 5th Avenue West in 1955 caused over \$2,000 damage to the building.

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The Busey House at 106 5th Avenue West has a concrete foundation (the concrete is covering the original native rock foundation), wide vinyl lap siding, and a roof covered with composition shingles. The wrap-around porch has turned rails and supports with scrollwork and extends the full width of the house, unlike the porch on the Alexander House. The windows are one-over-one-light double-hung units, with a multi-paned casement window and a hip-roofed bay window on the north. The front gabled wing has canted sides. At the rear of the lot is a metal two-car garage with a shallow side-gabled roof. This replaced the original garage located in the northwest corner of the lot.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1905

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: ca. 1905

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Bader, Elmer

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen Anne-style Alexander House, built between 1903 and 1910, is a well-preserved example of turn-of-the-century pattern-book design. It qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture. The Busey House on the lot to its north, built during the same time period, is a mirror image of the Alexander House. Both were probably built by lumber dealer and carpenter Elmer Bader, who lived across the street at 46 5th Avenue West until he moved to Eureka in 1905. Significant architectural features of the Alexander and Busey Houses include the hipped roof with gabled wall dormers on the north and south, the shed dormer on the west elevation, the slightly flared second floor, a front-gabled wing, a projecting bay window, clapboard siding with decorative wood shingles in the dormers (the siding has been changed on the Busey House, however), exposed rafter tails, turned porch supports with scrollwork, and a wrap-around porch with a pedimented entry (the porch has been reduced in size on the Alexander House). There are only a few surviving examples of identical or mirror-image houses built adjacent to each other as investment properties in Kalispell during the historic period.

Elmer Bader was born in 1868 in Wisconsin (his father was a Wisconsin pioneer). He came to Kalispell in 1891 and worked as a carpenter. He married his Canadian wife Frances in 1897, and in 1900 they had one daughter, Phebe. In 1899 Bader entered the lumber business, selling windows, doors, moldings, building papers, lath, shingles and lumber. His office and lumber yard were originally located at the corner of 5th Avenue West and 1st Street. Bader built quite a few buildings for Kalispell residents, including many dwellings. Two years later he sold a half interest in the business to M. W. Dupuis of Illinois and promised to carry a full line of building materials. By 1903 his lumber yard had moved to 2nd Avenue East between 1st and Railroad Streets. Soon Bader had branch lumber yards in Havre and Whitefish, and a local newspaper mentioned that he employed only union help. In 1905 Bader sold his lumber to the O'Neil Lumber and Kalispell Lumber Companies and moved with his family to Eureka. There, he built a mill to manufacture lumber and sell wholesale. The Bader Lumber Company merged into the Eureka Lumber Company in 1906. Bader also invested in real estate around the Pacific Northwest.

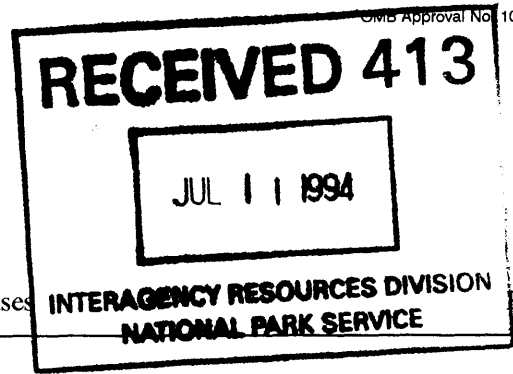
The first known occupant of the Alexander House was Benjamin F. Knapp, who was renting the house when the 1910 federal census was taken (the owner of the property from 1908 until 1911 was Mordena Busey; the Busey family lived next door during this period). At that time, Knapp was a real estate dealer. He lived here with his wife Annabel and their daughter Edna, along with her husband Gus Thompson and their young daughter. Benjamin Knapp was an early resident of Kalispell, arriving in the early 1890s. Before coming to the Flathead Valley Knapp had farmed and raised cattle in Nebraska. In 1893, looking for a better climate, he traveled to Oklahoma and then the Flathead, where he settled. At first he was in charge of macadamizing the streets of Kalispell. Then he ran Great Northern stores near Kalispell, and later he freighted between Kalispell and Fort Steele, Canada. In 1898 he founded the Knapp Transfer company, which he started with a horse and rig that he drove himself. The company became the largest draying outfit in the city, and in 1909 it advertised as "Dray, Transfer and Fuel, Commercial Work, Meet All Trains." Knapp Transfer remained in business for decades in Kalispell, switching from horse power to automotive power in the process. Knapp's civic activities included being a member of the public school board. In 1909 Knapp sold his dray line, became a real estate agent, and soon managed a fruit orchard on his ranch near Dayton, where he was one of the first to grow peaches on the shore of Flathead Lake. Knapp left the Flathead in 1918 to move back to Waterloo, Iowa, his original home. He died in Iowa in 1941 at the age of 83.

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John Gus Thompson, Benjamin Knapp's son-in-law and resident of the Alexander House in 1910, was nationally known to baseball fans as the pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first World Series in 1903. Thompson attended the University of Iowa from 1897 to 1901 to study law, and while there he pitched for the school team. He met Edna Knapp in Iowa, and when she moved to Kalispell he followed and they were married. In 1902 he began the practice of law in Helena, but later gave it up "on the advice of [U. S. Senator] Carter." In 1902 and 1903 he pitched for the Helena team in the Northwestern League and drew the largest salary in the league. In 1903 the Pittsburgh Pirates purchased Thompson. After the 1903 World Series, Thompson and his wife homesteaded in the Flathead Valley. In 1904 he again returned to baseball, pitching for the Pirates, the St. Louis Cardinals, and other teams. His last year with professional baseball was 1909. Thompson was a long-time supporter of local baseball clubs. For many years he ran a cigar store and then a billiards hall in Kalispell. During the Depression, he organized a woodcutters' camp near Tally Lake that employed approximately 50 men. The Thompsons had two children, B. F. and Iola. Gus Thompson died in 1958 at the age of 80; he was thought to be the last survivor of the first World Series.

John C. Alexander lived in the house from 1911 until his death in 1934. John Alexander was born July 4, 1860, in Momence, Illinois, and he attended Valparaiso University. He married Melinda Ann Fosket, who had been born in Forest City, Illinois, in 1881. Alexander was an auctioneer, and he also at various times was involved in real estate and loans, operated a livery feed and sale stable, and ran a taxi livery. The Alexanders had nine children. Before coming to the Flathead, they lived in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. They moved to the Flathead in 1901, hoping it would "prove to be the ideal place for home-building described in our farm paper," to use Mrs. Alexander's words. When Mrs. Alexander died in 1918, the *Kalispell Bee* called her a "writer of more than usual force and a speaker of exceptional ability." It continued, "Her literary life was devoted to the championing the cause of the weak, and she always stood for the right, no matter what the sacrifice." The Alexanders lived across the street at 46 5th Avenue West in 1909 when they first moved to Kalispell. John Alexander died in 1934; his second wife Elizabeth continued living here after his death until approximately 1943, when she moved to 625 1st Avenue East.

The Alexanders rented out the residence for a few years; in 1920 Carl Turns, a clerk with the Flathead Produce Company, lived here with his wife Ella and their young son. Turns was originally from Texas, his wife from Oklahoma.

The Busey House at 106 5th Avenue West, a mirror image of 112 5th Avenue West next door, was built between 1903 and 1905, when the Busey family is listed at this address in the Kalispell City Directory. The owner during that period was Elmer Bader, the carpenter and lumber dealer who lived across the street in 46 5th Avenue West.

Isaac M. Busey, a pumper for the Great Northern Railway, lived in the house for a few years until his death in 1907. His daughter Nellie had married Dr. Adelbert Howe in 1906, and they moved into the house and lived with Mattie Busey, Isaac's widow, from 1910 until the Howes left Kalispell in approximately 1927. Mattie Busey died in Kalispell in 1937 at the age of 78, after living in Kalispell since 1902.

Dr. Howe was born in Iowa in 1876, attended Oskaloosa College, and graduated from the American College of Ophthalmology in Chicago in 1899. He came to Kalispell in 1902 and had a practice for many years as an ophthalmologist. In 1906 Dr. Howe married Nellie Busey of Missouri. His civic activities included helping to get the YMCA, Kalispell General Hospital and the Central Christian Church built. He also owned the *Daily Inter Lake* for a number of years and was president of the Kalispell Drug Company (in which his wife was also involved). He was active in Republican party politics and was a member of the Kalispell Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Howe left Kalispell in approximately 1927 and was located in Plentywood, Montana, for about five years. He died in 1946.

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After the Howes moved out, 106 5th Avenue West was occupied by a number of different people, including Ross and Mae Robison ca. 1934-37 (he was a cream weicher at Equity Supply) and then Thomas and Cara Pulliam (she was a cook at the Wilson Cafe). The Pulliams owned the property from 1936 until 1945.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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 (City of Kalispell)
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Flathead County Library, Kalispell

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	699030	5341320

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 and 2, block 160, Kalispell Original Townsite. Section 18, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

Boundary Justification

The legally recorded boundary of this property encompasses the significant resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathy McKay, Historian	date: May 1993
street & number: 491 Eckelberry Dr.	telephone: (406) 892-1538
city or town: Columbia Falls	state: Montana zip code: 59912

Property Owners

(112 5th Avenue West)

name/title: Virginia L. Eaker	telephone:
street & number: 112 5th Avenue West	zip code: 59901
city or town: Kalispell state: MT	

(106 5th Avenue West)

name/title: Richard and Carol Seddon	telephone:
street & number: 106 5th Avenue West	zip code: 59901
city or town: Kalispell state: MT	

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Eaker, Virginia (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, June 3, 1993.
Flathead Herald-Journal: October 3, 1901.
Flathead Monitor: September 14, 1900.
Kalispell Bee: May 24, 1904, p. 5; December 12, 1905, p. 8; March 1, 1907, p. 8; "Mrs. J. C. Alexander Passes," May 2, 1918.
Kalispell City Directories, 1901-43.
Kalispell Journal: February 22, 1909; July 6, 1911.
Kalispell News: "Moving to Montana...a gifted writer shares her story," October 15, 1986, p. 12.
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United States Population Census, Kalispell, Montana, 1920.