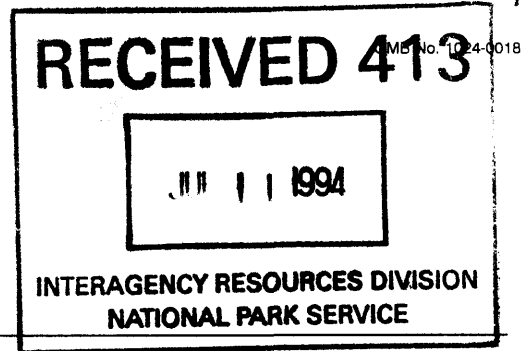


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 228 2nd Street 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not for publication: n/a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.)

Maull Shay MT SHPO 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:

- 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
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 8-24-94

Entered in the National Register

5. Classification

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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>1</u>	<u>0</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:

FUNERARY/mortuary
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/specialty store
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

other: three-bay commercial brick

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
walls: BRICK
other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The two-story brick Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home was built by Kalispell contractor Caesar Haverlandt in 1913. The commercial structure is typical of buildings of that period, with corbeled bricks below the cornice, a corbeled brick chimney, and four rows of header bricks above and below the double-hung windows. There is very little ornamentation. The building was specifically designed as a funeral parlor. The funeral parlor occupied the basement and first floors, and apartments were located in the second floor. The storefront display windows have been modified since World War II (the current owner reports that in the 1930s and 1940s the lower front of the building was covered with pink and maroon marble panels). The basement was a registered bomb shelter during World War II. On the interior, the first floor has maple floors, the second floor has pine floors. Most of the original molding still exists, some of it of an egg-and-dart pattern. The first floor has high ceilings. The second floor has been remodeled to be a one-family apartment (reportedly it was used at some point as a house of prostitution). Sliding mahogany doors upstairs have been paneled over but still exist. There are two skylights in the building, one in the original bathroom and one in the kitchen. The building has been heated by oil since the 1960s, but there is a fireplace in the upstairs living room. It may have originally been heated by steam.

In September of 1913, before the building was completed, the *Kalispell Bee* described it as follows:

The building is 37 by 50 feet, and is very substantial in construction. Provision is made for a commodious chapel, a modern embalming room and up-to-date show rooms, and a receiving vault is provided in the basement, which will be the only one in this section. Everything is modern throughout, and will have its own steam heating plant.

The funeral home replaced two dwellings and a tailor shop, all built on this location between 1899 and 1910.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: Social history

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1913-29

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1913

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Haverlandt, Caesar (builder)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home served as undertakers' parlors from 1913 until 1929. It is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as the building reflects the middle stage in the development of mortuaries in the Flathead Valley. Early undertakers' parlors were generally in small wood frame buildings and often were associated with other businesses such as second-hand goods and furniture stores. In the next stage, morticians built more substantial and permanent structures. By the late 1920s in Kalispell, competing morticians built large, architect-designed buildings in the commercial district of the city that were designed to look like residences. The owners of this building, Waggener & Campbell, went through all three stages in Kalispell. In 1929, they constructed a new mortuary at 525 Main Street and removed their business from this brick building built in 1913.

Funeral homes in the Flathead Valley shared several characteristics. They were generally family-run, with the children involved in the business. The morticians and their families lived in or very close to the business building. Undertakers usually established branch offices in other towns in the Flathead Valley. In the 1890s, undertakers sometimes supplemented their business with other occupations. For example, George McMahon in 1896 advertised himself as a "dealer in new and second-hand goods, upholstery, undertaking and embalming." (McMahon later sold his business to William P. Sherman, whose establishment was the primary competitor of Waggener & Campbell for many years.)

Most of Kalispell's early funerals were conducted out of the deceased person's home, as was the practice throughout the United States at that time. The undertaker's primary role was as a provider of funeral and mourning paraphernalia such as a casket, chairs, drapery, door badges, stationery, and flowers. After about 1900, undertakers began to take on new roles as the providers of services, not just of material goods. The newly named "funeral director" might embalm the corpse in the home, help arrange the funeral, organize pall bearers, transport the coffin and mourners from the home to the cemetery, and take care of the filling of the grave. He provided space in his undertaking parlors for increasing numbers of families to whom the home no longer was appropriate or suitable for the laying out of the dead. Gradually, undertakers around the country began to construct larger funeral parlors to meet the need for new facilities such as a large reception area, a laboratory, a casket salesroom, and a chapel. Local and state regulations began to govern undertakers and their practices, and funeral associations formed that helped undertakers maximize their profits and also adopt a professional code of ethics. As embalming procedures became more sophisticated, they were more suited to a laboratory ("preparation room") than to a private home. The provision of chapel-like facilities in funeral homes helped replace the need for a church service. American funeral directors thus evolved from the role of storekeepers simply providing merchandise and equipment to that of licensed professionals providing a variety of services to their communities. At the same time, three separate functions--the laboratory, the home, and the chapel--were consolidated in the funeral home run by a funeral director.

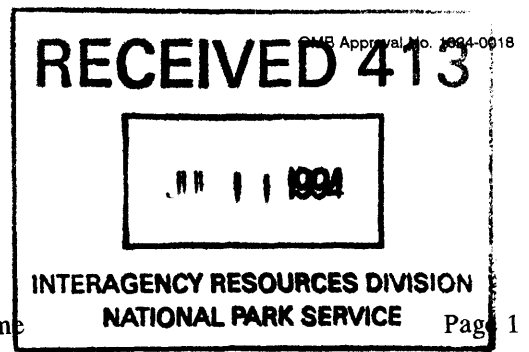
The Waggener and Campbell families followed this pattern closely. In 1905 James E. Waggener purchased the undertaking business of Nelson Willoughby, who was retiring. The business included Willoughby's interests in Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls. At that time, the rented Kalispell office on Second Street West consisted of a one-story, false-fronted 24x20' room with a stove in the center that served as a chapel, casket display room and office. In the back room were extra boxes and caskets, and a small room in one corner was used for embalming. The Waggener family took up residence in Willoughby's home one block from the business and promised to carry "a more extensive line of caskets and mortuary draperies."

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home



James E. Waggener was born in 1860 in Oregon and trained as a mortician with J. B. Findlay & Son of Portland for several years. After coming to Kalispell with his family, he served as county coroner for a few years while continuing to operate his undertaking business. In 1922 he retired and moved to Brownsville, Oregon, where he raised foxes. He passed away in 1942.

All of James and Mary Waggener's children became involved in the undertaking business. One son, Raymond, was born in 1898, served in World War I, and was a partner in the funeral home from 1922 until 1947, when he went into another line of business. Son Everett worked in the family business beginning in about 1913, until he moved to Brownsville, Oregon, with his father. The third son, Elton, was an assistant in the undertaking business, but after being ill for two years from a disease he contracted while working as an undertaker, he died in 1919 at the age of 23. The only daughter, Geneva, married Harry Campbell, the Campbell of Waggener & Campbell.

Harry H. Campbell was born in Michigan in 1893 and came to Kalispell with his parents as a small boy. He married Geneva Campbell in 1916. The next year he began working for the funeral home, and he became a partner in 1919. He was a graduate of the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago, and he served as Flathead County coroner and deputy coroner for 43 years. Campbell was active in the Boy Scouts of America and was a talented cartoonist. His wife Geneva was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Crescent Rebekah Lodge and an active member of the Methodist Church. Her health began to fail at age 31, and she passed away in 1938. Harry Campbell married his second wife, Veta Henning, in 1939. His son James W. Campbell, a grandson of James Waggener, continued the family tradition as a licensed embalmer and funeral director, being associated with Waggener & Campbell as early as 1940. He was a graduate of the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. Harry Campbell, a partner in the mortuary since 1919, died in 1963.

The Wagners gradually increased the size of their place of business as the population and the demand for their services grew. They operated out of the small frame business on West Second Street until 1913, when Kalispell contractor Caesar Haverlandt built their two-story brick business block at 228 West Second Street that was designed for undertaking work, with a full first floor and basement for the business and living quarters above. The building served the business until 1929, when the much larger funeral home was built on Main Street. The chapel in the building seated 65 people. The Wagners moved into the building in November of 1913. As the *Kalispell Times* noted, the building reflected "the faith Mr. Waggener has in Kalispell." Until 1917, all hearses used by the funeral home were horse-drawn. At that time, undertakers did not provide any transportation other than the hearse, so additional outfits would be hired from livery stables.

When the 1920 federal population census was taken, James and Mary Waggener were living in the funeral home on Second Street West with their son Raymond. Ice packer Lester Foy also lived in the building in a separate apartment with his wife and son.

When the Wagners and Campbells relocated their business to their new building at 525 Main Street, John Lewis purchased the building. He had been involved in the fur trade for 40 years and was the owner of the Northwest Fur Company, which he operated out of this building until he died in 1934. The fur company warehouse was located on the corner to the west.

John Lewis had a very significant role in the development of Flathead County, particularly of the north valley. John Lewis was born on a farm near Greeley, Iowa, in 1865. He graduated from the University of Iowa law school, where he played baseball and football for three years each. He came to Helena, Montana, as a catcher on a professional baseball team in 1889. After a few months he moved to the Flathead and worked in Ramsdell's store in Egan, which was a general mercantile and also had a fur trade extending to Fort Steele in Canada. Lewis was involved in the buying and selling of furs, and in 1892 he started his own fur business in Columbia Falls. Soon he bought the Gaylord Hotel in Columbia Falls (later destroyed by fire). Lewis also collected artifacts belonging to early settlers and to Indians. From 1902 until 1906 Lewis lived in Kalispell and served as the receiver in the United States Land Office. He then bought 160 acres from

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Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home

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George Snyder on Lake McDonald in what is now Glacier National Park. He bought the land for \$5,000, which was at the time considered the "cheapest piece of property that has been sold anywhere in Flathead county for a long time." In 1914 Lewis had a large hotel built at the head of Lake McDonald by Kalispell contractor B. B. Gilliland. (This was later sold to the Great Northern Railway, and it is now run as a concession within the Park.) According to a 1934 article, "Others tried to cater to tourists but Mr. and Mrs. Lewis only were successful." After selling the hotel on Lake McDonald the Lewises moved back to Kalispell and he continued to run the Northwest Fur Company. Lewis was an active member of the Masons, the Kiwanis Club, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, and the Modern Woodmen of America. He served as president of the Montana Fur Breeders Association, and he was a member of the Republican Party. He took annual hunting trips with western artist Charlie Russell, and Russell gave him many of his oil paintings. Lewis married Olive Sellman of Iowa in Missoula. Both John and Olive Lewis passed away in 1934.

Warren and Nettie Lewis lived in the building after John Lewis' death until approximately 1940.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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 _____. *The Train Didn't Stay Long* (Kalispell, MT: Thomas Printing, 1982), p. 50.
Flathead Monitor: January 14, 1926, p. 8; "Erection of New Funeral Home to Start at Once," April 18, 1929, p. 8; "Fur Company to Operate in Kalispell," May 30, 1929, p. 1; "John E. Lewis Passes Away," December 13, 1934, p. 1; "Friends Throng Last Rites for Mrs. Campbell," January 6, 1938.
 Habenstein, Robert W. and William M. Lamers, *The History of American Funeral Directing* (Milwaukee: Bulfin Printers, 1955), pp. 393-404, 435-439.
Inter Lake: May 11, 1906; "Fur Company to Operate in Kalispell."
Kalispell Bee: May 17, 1902, p. 5; "Nelson Willoughby Retires," September 15, 1905, p. 5; "Coroner Waggener is Putting Up Building," September 12, 1913, p. 8; August 7, 1919, p. 5.
 Kalispell City Directories, 1907-26.
Kalispell News: advertisement, Progress Edition (Industrial Section), 1949.
Kalispell Times: September 18, 1913; "J. E. Waggener Dies From Fall," December 24, 1942, p. 1.
 Mason, Beverly (current tenant), interview with Kathy McKay, May 12, 1993.
 Pine, Vanderlyn R., *Caretaker of the Dead: The American Funeral Director* (New York: Irvington Publishers, Inc., 1975), pp. 17-18.
 Stout, Tom, *Montana, Its Story and Biography* (Chicago, IL: American Historical Society, 1921), vol. 3, p. 1002.

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	699470	5341350

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 53, East 42' of lots 11 and 12, 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 Owner

name: Gene H. Mason
 street & number: 228 2nd Street West
 city or town: Kalispell state: Montana zip code: 59901