

# MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site # 16

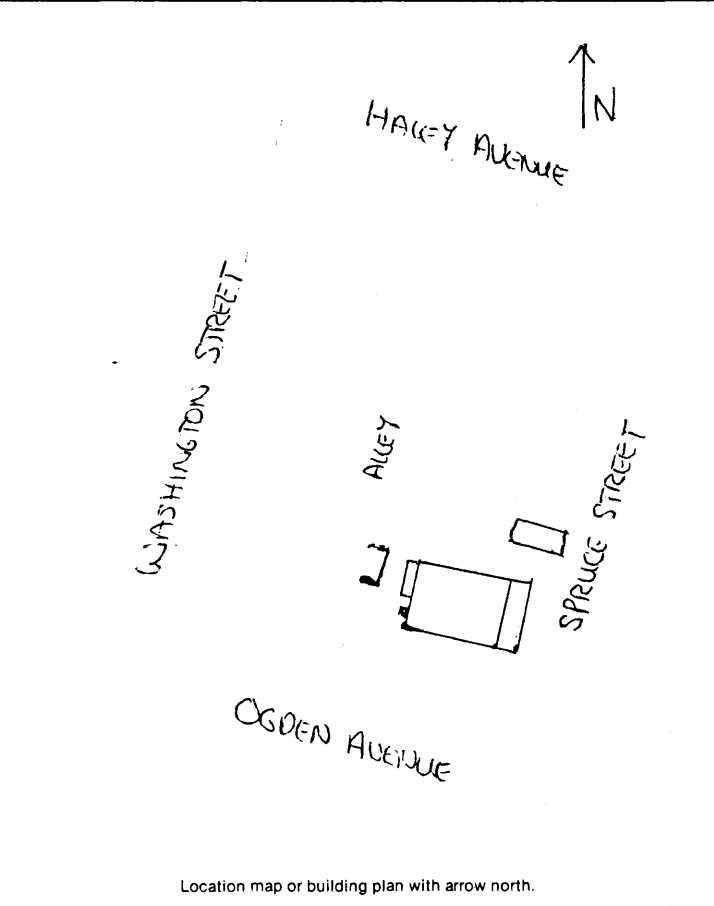


Legal Description: Block 30, lots 6(4 ft.), 7-11

Address: 207 Spruce Street, Thompson Falls, MT

Ownership: Name: Henry A. & Sharon L. Roys

private  public address: Box 953, Thompson Falls, MT 59873



Location map or building plan with arrow north.

Historic Name: Bedard House

Common Name: Roys residence

Date of Construction: 1912  estimated  documented

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Charles Wicksell & Ecton Brown

Original Owner: Theodore & Christina Bedard

Original Use: residence

Present Use: residence

**RESEARCH SOURCES:** Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Abstract of Title: Deedbook 8, p. 94; 17, p. 565

Plat Records: Thompson Falls Original Townsite

Tax Records: 1913, p. 5

Building Permits: not applicable

Sewer/Water Permits: not applicable

City Directories: 1913, p. 569

Sanborn Maps: 1914 & 1927

Newspapers: Sanders County Ledger 9/9/12

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with it's original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

The Bedard House is a good example of a Bungalow style residence built on Thompson Falls' west side during the town's most substantial period of growth which occurred from 1905-1917. The rectangular-shaped 1 1/2 story building is sheathed with narrow lap siding and rests on a concrete foundation. A shallow gable roofed porch spanning the width of the main facade has wood brackets, exposed rafter ends and a solid brick railing, and is supported by three square, brick columns that rest on cinder block piers. An off-center entrance is flanked on one side by a 1/1 double hung window and on the other side by a large, single pane fixed window. Directly above the porch is a hip roofed dormer with exposed rafter ends and paired two-light casement windows with radiating comes in the upper sash, and a large single pane fixed window on the other side. Another hip-roofed dormer with the same window configuration as the one above the entrance is located directly above the bay window. The west (rear) elevation has two paired double hung windows adjacent to the screened half porch, and an entrance to the basement. The north side of the house has two casement windows

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION:** Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

Theodore Bedard came to Thompson Falls probably in 1907 to become vice-president of the Thompson Falls Mercantile Company. By 1917, he also became vice-president of The Thompson State Bank. The house was sold in 1926 to R. J. Demers who in 1935 sold it to Henry Larson. Larson had recently come to town from Noxon, MT with his brother as new owners of the Thompson Falls Mercantile after the business closed its doors in July of that year. The Larsons reopened the store and changed the name to Larson's Cash Store. In subsequent years the name changed to Larson and Greene, reflecting the part ownership Henry gave to his adopted sons and daughter. The store remained an important fixture on Main Street till it burned down in Febuary, 1968. Larson sold the house that year. The present owners bought the residence in 1972.

**Footnote Sources:**

Sanders Copunty Ledger, 8/9/12; 7/13/32; 8/3/32.  
Polk City Register, Missoula County, 1913, p. 596; 1917-18, p. 551.  
Interview with Maria Larson by John Lazuk  
Interview with Henry Roys by John Lazuk  
Interview with Tom Eggensperger by John Lazuk

**INTEGRITY:** Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

According to the Sandborn maps for 1914 & 1927, and a photograph taken of blasting at the dam site that shows this building in the background, it appears the exterior has not been added on to except to replace the wooden porches with brick and concrete ones. They are compatible with the house, as are the two out buildings. According to Henry Roys, the interior has been remodeled as late as the 1970s. However, the high ceilings do remain which may explain why the original window sills exist in their

**HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

Built in 1912, the Bedard House is a good example of a large "pattern book" Bungalow style house which flourished throughout the United States during the first two decades of the 20th century, and was commonly built on the west side of Thompson Falls in ca. 1910. The Bungalow style was so popular after 1905 that it became the first house type to be built in quantity by the contractor and builder. The Bedard House was constructed by Charles Wicksell, who became an important contractor in Thompson Falls after Charles Doenges left the area. Wicksell's most prolific period of construction coincided directly with the building boom in the community between 1911-1915, which was related to the increased population caused by the construction of the hydroelectric dam. Based on photographic evidence, the Bedard House remains essentially unchanged except for the original wooden porches which were replaced with brick and concrete materials at an undetermined date.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

Name: John Lazuk  
Address: 350 Strand, Missoula, MT  
Date: October 5, 1984

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Acreage: Less than one acre.  
USGS Quad: Thompson Falls, MT  
UTM's: 11/624400/5272650

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: (cont.)

which replaced the original double hung windows at an undetermined date. The interior of the house has softwood floors and ten foot ceilings. A corbeled brick chimney pierces the center of the asphalt-shingled hip roof. A gable roofed, lap sided garage built in 1939 is located to the north of the house. A small shed with a pier foundation and hip roof stands west of the residence.

INTEGRITY: (cont.)

same locations. Only the north side shows exterior signs of alteration. It is possible that the lower stack of the chimney was redone in 1936. On the base is indented in a concrete circle "1936."

