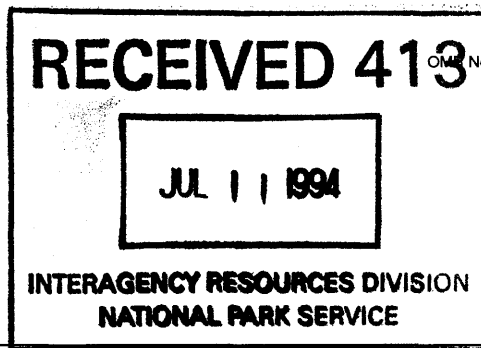


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

886



OMB No. 1024-0018

1. Name of Property

historic name: Gay, Edward, House

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 236 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not for publication: n/a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.)

Marcell Step 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> 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> 1 </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:
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:
foundation: concrete
roof: asphalt
walls: wood/weatherboard, shingle
other: n/a

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Gay House is a classic example of an early Craftsman-style residence. Significant architectural features include the wide eaves, the exposed rafter tails with decorative notches, the leaded-glass windows, the recessed front porch, the bay window on the south, the hipped dormers, and the varied sheathing materials. The cast-iron fence along the sidewalk is one of the few remaining in Kalispell, and the high concrete full basement was one of the earliest concrete basements in town. A deck with lattice work has been added on the north and the west. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the siding is clapboard on the first floor and wood shingles above the first floor. The recessed porch has large fluted square supports; the north end of the porch has been enclosed with compatible siding. The landscaping includes mature weeping birch, poplars, horse chestnut, maples, peony bushes, and a flagstone walkway.

The Gay House was built in the fall of 1907, reportedly using lumber provided by the local O'Neil Lumber Company. The *Kalispell Bee* commented at that time on its concrete basement, saying that the concrete walls rose 6' above the surface of the lot, thus providing a "splendid dry basement." Later that year the *Kalispell Journal* called the house "probably the prettiest residence that has been nearly enough completed to tell what it will really look like," and continued with a comment that the "bungalow in Kalispell is something new" but probably more would be built next year.

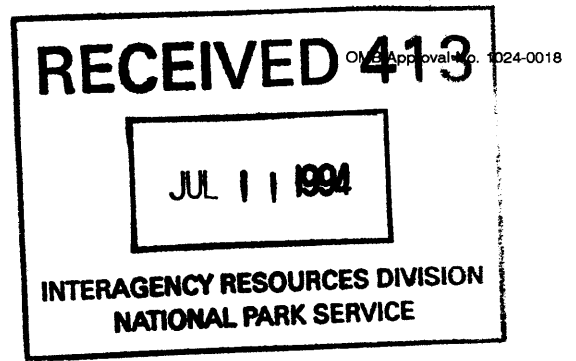
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Gay, Edward, House

Page 1



The house has two large upstairs bedrooms and one downstairs bedroom. Interior features of note include the hardwood floors, a plate rail in the dining room, double mahogany strips of trim along the bay windows, exposed ceiling beams, dirt-floored vegetable storage room in the basement, heating registers under the windows, a wood and brick fireplace, and bookshelves and a china cabinet with leaded glass. The kitchen has been remodeled. The current owner has been told that the house had a hidden space, probably for the storage of alcohol during Prohibition; this may have been the current cold cellar. A dolly that was in the maid's quarters has been enclosed. The house originally had an augured sawdust and wood burner for steam heat. The owner was also told that the Gays had bear traps poured into the foundation under the basement windows to keep out intruders.

The house was divided into three apartments during the post-World War II years. The downstairs has a full kitchen, and the upstairs was rented to a student. The house is now once again a single-family residence. An exterior fire escape has been added.

To the northwest of the house, on the alley, is a contemporary flat-roofed three-car garage with stucco siding. This garage does not contribute to the Gay House because it was built within the past 30 years. The original garage associated with the house no longer exists. The cast-iron fence surrounding part of the property is an important element of the setting.¹

¹According to Gay Moddrell, a former resident of the house recalls having to paint the fence when a teenager as punishment for being out late at night.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C	Areas of Significance: Architecture
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1907
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1907
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder(s): unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gay House, constructed in 1907, is a well-preserved early example of the Craftsman style of architecture in Kalispell. The house qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture. Significant architectural features include the wide eaves, the exposed rafter tails, the leaded-glass windows, the recessed front porch, the bay window on the south, the hipped dormers, and the varied sheathing materials. The cast-iron fence along the sidewalk is significant because so few such fences remain in Kalispell, and the high concrete basement is significant because it was one of the earliest concrete basements in town.

The Gay House was constructed for Edward R. Gay, and he and his wife lived there for almost 30 years until they moved out of Kalispell. Edward R. Gay moved to Kalispell in 1902 after buying Gust Gamer's interest in the Kalispell Malting & Brewing Company. Gay, originally from Kentucky, had previously been associated with W. A. Clark's bank at Butte. His wife Mary was originally from Wisconsin. Gay was the secretary and treasurer and then president of the brewery for many years. He and his wife first lived in the company house at 22 5th Avenue West until they had this home built in 1907. Gay also owned a house at 35 5th Avenue West near the brewery and a ranch near Stryker (north of Whitefish). Gay was associated with the brewery until he sold his interest in 1935, retiring because of ill health. Mr. and Mrs. Gay moved to Seattle in 1935, first dedicating a room at the Kalispell General Hospital in memory of their time in Kalispell.

A Kalispell resident who worked with Edward Gay at the brewery recalls that the Gays did much traveling overseas; items stored in a curio cabinet in their house reflected their trips. The Gays owned a Model T, and they were one of the first families in Kalispell to have a radio. They had a large garden and they grew potatoes on their property, which they donated to the hospital and elsewhere. She remembers that Gay was a "dapper man" who wore a high collar, and his wife generally wore a high lace collar.

The Gays owned this property from 1907 until 1938. The residence sat on five city lots (lots 2-6) for many years. After the Gays moved to Seattle in 1935, they rented the house out for a few years. The next owners were members of the Kirkpatrick family, who owned the house until 1944. Ross Kirkpatrick, who lived here with his wife Rose, was a proprietor of the Kirkpatrick Brothers contracting firm, one of the major contracting companies of the Flathead Valley.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Daily Inter Lake: September 19, 1902; "Kalispell Brewing and Malting Company," November 14, 1910, p. 10.
Flathead Monitor: "New Control for Brewery," October 10, 1935, p. 1; "Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Gay Donate Hospital Room," October 13, 1935, p. 1.
Jernberg, Helen (bookkeeper at Kalispell Malting & Brewing, 1920s-1955), interview with Rosalie Heinecke and Kathy McKay, July 7, 1992.
Kalispell Bee: September 10, 1907, p. 3; September 10, 1907, p. 3.
Kalispell Journal: December 11, 1911; "New Buildings Erected in Kalispell," December 7, 1907, p. 1.
Moddrell, Gay (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, August 1, 1992.

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	699190	5341200

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 4-6, Block 167, 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 Owner

name/title: Charles and Gaylene Moddrell	telephone:
street & number: 236 5th Avenue West	zip code: 59901
city or town: Kalispell state: MT	