

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received JUL 3 1984
date entered AUG 2 1984

1. Name

historic John S. Johnston House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 412 W. Alder St. n/a not for publication

city, town Missoula n/a vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Missoula code 063

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mark and Sandra Blair

street & number P.O. Box 4572

city, town Missoula n/a vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Missoula County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Missoula state Montana 59801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missoula Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980-81 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town 225 North Roberts Street, Helena state Montana 59620

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
<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 John S. Johnston House at 412 West Alder is one of the most intact examples of modest Queen Anne residential styling in Missoula, Montana. The building is located in an area of the city that is rapidly changing from predominately residential to commercial use, as nearby Orange Street is widened for through, cross-town traffic and St. Patrick's Hospital expands its facilities. The block within which the Johnston House sits is still solidly residential and the house itself stands out as an extraordinarily well preserved example of period architecture.

The original portion of the Johnston House is the one story, gable roofed extension to the rear of the building. This small, rectangular, wood frame structure sits on a rubble stone foundation and features wide, ship lap siding, enclosed soffits, gable returns, corner boards, and 1/1 double hung windows. Between 1902 and 1912, the two story, wood frame, Queen Anne addition was constructed to the front of the original Johnston House. The original portion now serves as the kitchen.

The irregular plan of the two story Johnston House addition includes a two story corner turret with conical roof and decorative finial, triple intersecting two story, gabled masses under the hipped roof, and two, first floor bay windows. A wide balustraded porch with roof balcony wraps around the southeast corner of the building surrounding the corner turret. The porch features Doric support columns and lattice work below the deck. All windows in the building are 1/1 double hung wooden sash. The turret windows are curved; three windows are set on the first floor of the turret, with a pair of windows above. Each bay features a three part window with a diamond shaped sash transom light above the large central fixed glass. Above each of these tri-part windows is set a single double hung window. An interior chimney protrudes from the center of the roof. The entire roof is covered with cedar shingles. Two rows of small, decorative bracketing beneath the conical roof add textural interest to the corner turret. The entire front portion of the Johnston House is sided with narrow clapboard.

Although the original design of the Johnston House has undergone major alteration by the addition of the two story, Queen Anne style south portion of the house, this addition was built during an important period of historical growth and development in Missoula and, due to age and styling, this alteration has gained significance on its on architectural merit.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1900, ca. 1904 **Builder/Architect** John S. Johnston, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John S. Johnston House at 412 West Alder in Missoula, Montana is significant as a well preserved example of a late Queen Anne style house, built by a local builder who likely used a "pattern book" plan. The initial dwelling on this site predates 1902 and was a simple, rectangular, gable-roofed building with shiplap siding and 1/1 double hung windows. The property was purchased by John S. Johnston, a builder and carpenter, in 1890's. Between 1902 and 1912, a one and one-half story turreted addition was built onto the front of the original dwelling. Johnston was listed as the owner of the house in the 1900 census and is likely responsible for the enlargement of the house. The construction of the stylish front portion of 412 West Alder corresponds with a period of growth and prosperity in Missoula, occasioned by the expansion of railroad transportation facilities and the establishment of the city as a trade, manufacturing, and lumbering center for Western Montana. Located only blocks from the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot built in 1899, the house at 412 West Alder became part of a fashionable, upper middle class neighborhood that developed around the turn-of-the-century. Little is known of John S. Johnston's career as a contractor. After 1902-3 he is not listed in the Missoula city directory. The residence at 412 West Alder retains excellent historic architectural integrity and serves as a reminder of the skilled workmanship of this rather obscure builder. The building is currently being restored by the present owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Missoula, MT: 1893, 1902, 1912, 1921.

Polk City Directory, Missoula, MT: 1903-5, 1907, 1910.

United States Census Population Schedules for Missoula County, MT: 1900, 1910

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Missoula, NE, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	2
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2	7	1	6	8	1	0
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5	1	1	9	1	5	6	1	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 4 of Higgins addition to the Townsite of Missoula, Lots 21 and 22.

T13N; R19W, section 22

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Blair

organization

date April 1984

street & number P.O. Box 4572

telephone

city or town Missoula

state Montana

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

Marcella Steffy

title SHPO

date 6-28-84

For NPS use only

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

for Deborah Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 8-2-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration