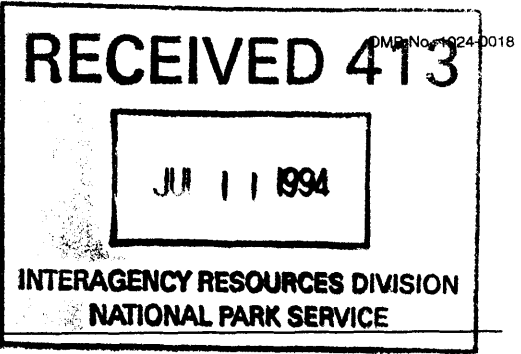


918



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Thierwechter House

other name/site number: Kramer House 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 305 Fourth 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not for publication: n/a  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.)

Maurell Sheff 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson R. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 6-24-94

Entered in the National Register

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**5. Classification**


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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

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**6. Function or Use**


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**Historic Functions:**  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions:**  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**


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**Architectural Classification:**  
Queen Anne

**Materials:**  
foundation: stone  
roof: metal  
walls: wood/weatherboard  
other: n/a

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Thierwechter House is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The 1 1/2-story residence possesses very good integrity except for the glazing in of the front porch, which was completed during the historic period. It is located on a prominent corner on Kalispell's west side. Architectural features of note include the cross-gabled plan, the Palladian window and the recessed semi-circular arch in the front gable end, the decorative wood shinglework in the gable ends, the corbeled central brick chimney, and the coursed argillite basement (with a poured concrete floor). The windows are four-over-one-light double-hung units on the north elevation, and the eaves are returned. There is a recessed porch on the northeast corner of the house and a lower rear wing. A low rear door provides the entrance to the basement. The interior basement entrance was originally through the kitchen; now it is through the first-floor bedroom. The kitchen has been remodeled; it originally had a china closet. A wall in the living room was removed, enlarging the room. The upstairs of the house, which has two bedrooms and one bathroom, has not been remodeled since 1925; the upstairs bathroom has a porcelain tub and washbowl identical to those in the 1895 Conrad Mansion.

There was a fire in the front of the house in approximately 1934. At that time the front porch was enclosed.

Behind the house is a contemporary shallow-gabled one-car garage with a composition shingle-covered roof and T-111 siding. This garage does not contribute to the Thierwechter House. Between 1903 and 1910, a two-story carriage house was built in the southeast corner of the lot and a one-story garage in the northeast corner. On the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, these outbuildings are separated from the residence and the area is labelled "corral"; the Kramers kept horses in the barn. Neither outbuilding is extant. The barn was demolished in the 1970s and the existing garage was built at that time. Lena Kramer enjoyed gardening, and there were flowers in the back yard.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: C	Areas of Significance: Architecture
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1901
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1901
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder(s): Kirk, George (attributed)

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thierwechter House was built in 1901 at a cost of \$3,000 for locomotive engineer William Thierwechter and his new wife Nellie. The house might have been built by Nellie's carpenter father George Kirk, who lived across the street. The house is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. It possesses very good integrity except for the glazing in of the front porch. Architectural features of note include the cross-gabled plan, the Palladian window and the recessed semi-circular arch in the front gable end, the decorative wood shinglework in the gable ends, the corbeled central brick chimney, and the coursed argillite basement. The house is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture.

William L. Thierwechter was born in 1860 in Ohio. At age 15 he worked in the locomotive shops in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He later worked as a locomotive engineer for both the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific Railroads in towns including Chicago, Omaha, Sioux City, Kalispell, Whitefish, Troy, and Missoula. In 1906 Thierwechter was seriously injured in a railroad collision near Columbia Falls. He ran several business ventures in Kalispell, including a saloon on 1st Avenue West, the City Cash Grocery, and an early automobile stage run between Kalispell and Somers in 1906. Thierwechter married Nellie Kirk, originally from Scotland, in 1900 in Kalispell; her father was carpenter George Kirk of Kalispell, and he also had three children by an earlier marriage. Until building their house at 305 4th Avenue West, the newlyweds lived with George Kirk across the street at 331 3rd Street West. The Thierwechters lived in Missoula from 1918-1922. From approximately 1928 until 1934, Nellie Thierwechter ran a laundry service out of their residence at 347 3rd Street West. William Thierwechter died in 1936, soon after moving back to Missoula.

When the 1910 federal population census was taken, William and Nellie Thierwechter were living in the Thierwechter House with three boarders, including two Austrian immigrants. Nellie's father George lived with them from 1901 until his death at the age of 72 in 1908 (he died in the Thierwechter House while playing with a bird in a cage). He had been one of Kalispell's first settlers, building a house for himself and his children on 4th Avenue West and 3rd Street (north of 305 4th Avenue West).

In 1917, Elliot Brothers clerk Christian Hansen had rooms in the home. The Thierwechters owned the home until 1926, renting it out most of the time after 1918 while they lived in other towns. From approximately 1917 until 1922, for example, commercial salesman Wilfred Moranda rented the home. He lived in the residence with his wife Donalda and their two children, all French Canadian. Moranda died in 1920 at the age of 49, and his widow and children continued living in the residence for a few more years. When the Thierwechters returned to Kalispell in 1922, they lived in this house for a time and then moved to 347 3rd Street West.

From 1925 until their deaths, Walter H. and Lena Kramer occupied the home, and they owned it until 1950. Today the house is owned by their son Donald and their daughter Ruth. Ruth Guinard has lived in the house since 1925.

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

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*Daily Inter Lake*: November 19, 1906; November 26, 1906; "George Kirk Died Suddenly," October 30, 1908, p. 8; "Pioneer Girl and 'Kootenai Kid' Early Kalispell Settlers," November 20, 1949, p. 3.  
Guinard, Ruth (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, May 12, 1993.  
*Kalispell Bee*: December 18, 1901, p. 12; January 10, 1908, p. 8; May 23, 1918, p. 8.  
Kalispell City Directories, 1901-43.  
*Kalispell Times*: September 21, 1911; August 10, 1922.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kalispell, Montana, 1903, 1910, 1927, 1956.  
United States Population Census, City of Kalispell, 1900.

#### 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

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property:** less than one acre

**UTM References:**

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	699350	5341190

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#### Verbal Boundary Description

Block 69, lot 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.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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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

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### Property Owner

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name: Ruth Guinard and Michael David Kramer  
street & number: 305 4th Avenue West  
city or town: Kalispell state: MT zip code: 59901