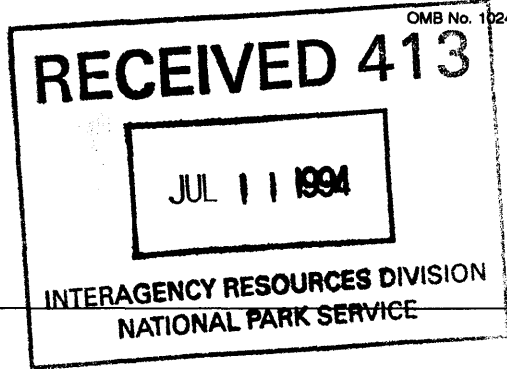


876

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: City Water Department

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 336 First Avenue East

not for publication: n/a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.)

Marcella J. Jeff 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
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 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:
GOVERNMENT/government office

Current Functions:
GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Colonial Revival

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The one-story brick City Water Department building is one of Kalispell's most architecturally significant buildings. Built in 1927, it was designed in the Georgian Revival style by Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman, with advice from water department superintendent William Lawrence. The red brick and concrete building has excellent integrity; even some of the original furnishings, purchased from the Bank of Commerce, remain on the interior. The only changes on the exterior are the removal of two lamp posts flanking the front door, the loss of the leaded glass panes (some circular) in the front door, and the construction of a new door on the south. Georgian Revival features include the round-arched windows with fanlights and sidelights, the arched balustrade over the projecting entry, the pilasters with Corinthian capitals flanking the doorway, the bracketed cornice, and the ribbon of arched windows on the north.

The City Water Department building measures 31½' X 85'. The concrete cornice has brackets and is surmounted by a concrete name plate bearing the words CITY WATER DEPARTMENT and the date. The basement below the first-floor windows is also white concrete, contrasting with the red brick of the rest of the structure. The front of the building is constructed of finish brick; the rear wing is constructed of local pink/orange brick.

See continuation sheet

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According to a 1927 newspaper article describing the building:

The building covers an area of 2377 feet...the front portion is given over to an entrance vestibule, a public foyer, general office and private office. In connection with the general office is a fireproof vault and storage room provided with wardrobes. A passageway connects the general office with the meter testing department, tool room, garage and storage room for meters, pipe fittings and parts.

A full basement provides for a large storage room, fireproof vault, fireproof storage rooms for various city departments, heating plant and fuel room.

Altogether the plan represents a logical and straight forward solution of the requirements, efficiency, and ease of operation and maintenance are the dominant features. Ample light is provided by means of a court adjoining the City Hall and ventilation is furnished by large roof ventilators. The heating system is of the vacuum steam type.

...The interior of the building is charming and colorful. The walls are finished in a variegated color, blending with woodwork and fixtures in golden oak. White enamel tile wainscoat in contrast with black and white marbled linoleum is used in the public foyer and vestibule. The whole interior is artistically illuminated by specially designed bronze fixtures finished in polychrome.

Judging by historic photographs, the interior of the building originally had a pressed metal ceiling, wood floors, and a checkered linoleum floor in the foyer. The two vaults shown on the plans are still in use for storage. The first-floor plan has been modified; the public area is smaller, and there is now a door on the south (next to the vault) connecting the building to the new City Hall adjoining it on the south. See attached plans of the original layout.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1927-1942

Significant Person(s): Lawrence, William H.

Significant Dates: 1927

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Brinkman, Fred

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1927 Georgian Revival-style City Water Department building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture, Criterion A, Community Planning and Development, and Criterion B, for its association with City Water Department superintendent William H. Lawrence. Distinctive architectural features include the round-arched windows with fanlights and sidelights, the arched balustrade over the projecting entry, the pilasters with Corinthian capitals flanking the doorway, the bracketed cornice, and the ribbon of arched windows on the north. The building was considered a showcase for Kalispell when it was constructed; the Water Department was proud of its new building and claimed that it filled "a long felt want." The architect-designed building reflects the pride Kalispell residents - and City Water Department superintendent William H. Lawrence - took in their public structures. The building still houses the City Water Department.

Kalispell businessman Ernest O'Neil purchased this lot in 1924 and planned to build a new structure for his print shop here. Since the City desired that location for its new Water Department building, O'Neil sold the lot to the City and purchased and built at 323 Main Street instead. Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman prepared the plans for the Water Department building, calling it a "Romanesque" design that was meant to be best suited to the architecture of the City Hall. The one-story building was designed to support a second story if needed in the future. The Water Department explained in 1926 that they needed their own building because when the City Hall was built in 1904 the waterworks was not owned by the City, so no provisions were made for the department. The City of Kalispell took over the water system in December of 1913 and built a new plant in Lawrence Park in 1914. In 1926 the existing facilities were considered "entirely inadequate for our requirements and the environments in many respects not what they should be." When the Water Department building was constructed, the City was maintaining 21 and one-half miles of water mains.

The person most responsible for the new quarters of the Kalispell Water Department was William H. Lawrence. As a "lover of beauty," he paid special attention to its architecture. William H. Lawrence was born in Castine, Maine. He worked for the Metropolitan Water Company of Boston and then was employed in Minot, North Dakota. Lawrence came to the Flathead in 1911 and became superintendent of the Kalispell Water Department, owned at that time by Mountain States Power. When the City of Kalispell purchased the waterworks, he remained as superintendent. He was in charge of the construction of the pumping plant and reservoir and many of the water mains in Kalispell. After he died in 1931 at the age of 74, the City named Lawrence Park on the north end of town in his memory. The *Flathead Monitor* commented that "It was through his efforts that the water department of Kalispell has become one of the outstanding departments of the city, both from a financial and utility point of view." Attorney Sidney Logan of Kalispell commented on his "jealous loyalty to the community," mentioning his devotion to the park at the pumping station and his attention to the architecture of the Water Department office. Lawrence also conceived of the tradition of annual water department reports that included photographs and descriptions of residences, businesses and the countryside in and around Kalispell. The Lawrences lived for many years just a few blocks from the Water Department at 720 1st Avenue East.

The City Water Department building was constructed with local labor. Fred Brinkman drew the plans. Kirkpatrick Brothers did the foundation, excavation and fireproof vaults. Henry Hansman was the general contractor, and Kalispell Plumbing and Heating had the plumbing and heating contract and Miller Electric the electrical contract. The concrete was

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manufactured by G. Frank Grey, who also laid the brick for the structure. A. L. Manning did the plastering, Flathead Tin shop the roofing and sheet metal work, Jack Dissmore the painting and interior decorating, and the Kalispell Cabinet Factory supplied the millwork and remodeled the office fixtures. The furnishings were purchased from the Bank of Commerce. The Water Department was opened for business on October 24, 1927. It had cost \$22,000 to construct.

The setting of the Kalispell Water Department building has changed substantially since it was built. Until 1981, the Kalispell City Hall adjoined the Water Department on its north. The large, two-story brick building that faced onto 1st Avenue East was built in 1903 and 1904, was designed by architect George Shanley, and dominated the streetscape in that part of town for many years. Its cornice and its second-floor round-arched windows were similar to those on the Whipps Block, designed by Shanley in 1904 and located across the alley to the west. The building housed City employees (totalling five in 1903) and the fire department. This building was demolished in 1981, after the construction of the new City Hall on the same block but to the south of the Water Department. The bell tower and cupola (which had housed the city fire alarm bell and siren and was a drying tower for fire hose) was moved to a hill behind Woodland Park in 1981, but it was destroyed by fire in 1988. An addition built onto the City Hall in 1950 to house fire department equipment has been remodeled and now houses the City Public Works Department.

The city's two-story jail, wood frame with a false front, was built in 1891 and was located just to the south of the Water Department. This structure later became a lodging house (a 1908 ad advertised rooms by day, week, or month at 322 1st Avenue East). This house was sold in 1908 for \$2,000. The building was called the Central Hotel in 1918, and in that year Mr. and Mrs. Lew Somers were accused in a civil action of running a "bawdy house" at that address.

In 1901 the Kalispell Creamery was built at 312 1st Avenue East, lot 5. The proprietor was J. Henry Heckler. This may have been the same creamery that was incorporated in 1896 by Harry White, W. H. Reed and John A. Davis. By 1903 the creamery had moved to 402 1st Avenue West. By 1909, Hecker had left Kalispell.

The Ennis & Poorman feed stable was constructed at 334 1st Avenue East in 1901 for \$2,100. Poorman and his family moved to Kalispell in 1901. John Ennis was a partner in the business until approximately 1905. By 1909 he had moved to Eureka, and by 1912 he had a homestead near Dixon, Montana. In 1917 he was again listed in the Kalispell City Directory, this time as a horse trainer. By 1915, the business was called the Sinclair Feed Barn. In 1900, when the federal population census was taken, James Sinclair was living at the feed barn with his wife, their four children, and one cousin. The Sinclairs were originally from Canada. From approximately 1905 until 1915 Dr. Charles F. Leslie served as the veterinary surgeon for the stable. The livery was operated until about 1915, when the increasing popularity of automobiles caused it to go out of business. The building was later used as a garage, after remodeling. In 1930 the livery barn and sheds at 330-348 1st Avenue East were condemned by the City and torn down. The feed and sale stable is shown as occupying most of lot 12 on the 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, with a dwelling on the lot to its north. By 1903 the stable covered five lots, forming a large "U" facing 1st Avenue East, with a large buggy shed and a dwelling and office building. Most of the stable buildings were 1½ or 2 stories, and in 1910 the complex covered six lots. The livery buildings on the corner are shown on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map as a vulcanizing and tire service station. The corner was later used for a used auto sales lot. An automobile repair station was located on lot 7 in later years.

By 1925 the Reddick Service station stood on the south corner of the half block. In later years the building to the north was used as an auto repair shop and as a used car sales area. In 1940 the Water Department built an armory just south of their building, which replaced the old city jail and the livery stable.

None of the original buildings to the south of the City Water Department exist. They have all been replaced by the large, incompatible City Hall built in 1979. The City Water Department is connected via a new doorway on the south to the new City Hall building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

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	699880	5341320

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 3 and 4, block 65, 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: City of Kalispell	telephone: (406) 752-6600
street & number: P. O. Box 1997	state: MT zip code: 59903
city or town: Kalispell	

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City Water Department

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The Call: "The Creamery," April 9, 1896, p. 4.

Daily Inter Lake: "Bell tower burns down," November 15, 1988.

Elwood, Henry, *Kalispell, Montana and the Upper Flathead Valley* (Kalispell, MT: Thomas Printing, 1980), p. 76.

Flathead Monitor: "Kalispell Has the Most Complete Water System in Montana," November 24, 1927, p. 2; "Tumble-down Shacks Doomed in Kalispell," May 1, 1930, p. 1; "The O'Neil Print Shop," December 16, 1936; "Operation Is Fatal to W. H. Lawrence," June 18, 1931, p. 1; "Armory To Take Place of Two City Landmarks," December 26, 1940, p. 1.

Kalispell Bee: April 5, 1901, p. 3; May 10, 1901, p. 4; December 18, 1901, p. 12; January 3, 1908, p. 4; December 10, 1908.

Kalispell city court records, collection of David Miller, Kalispell, Montana.

"Kalispell City Hall," Flathead High School calendar (1950s), available at Montana Historical Society Library, Helena, Montana.

Kalispell Journal, April 11, 1912.

Kalispell Times, "Automobile Industry a Thrifty Business," July 14, 1921, p. 1; March 21, 1940.

Kalispell Water Department, "13th Annual Water Department Report," (1926), pp. 18, 51.

Logan, Sidney M., "William H. Lawrence," in Kalispell Water Department, "18th Annual Water Department Report" (1931), pp. 13-14.