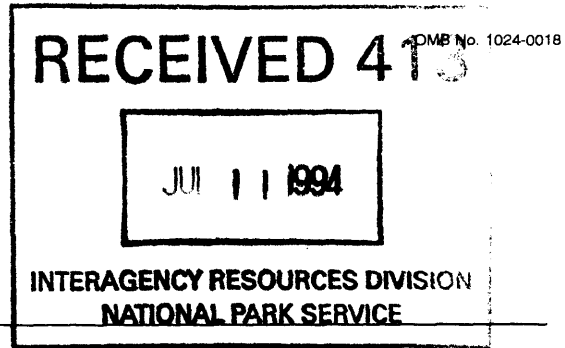


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Kalispell Monumental Company

other name/site number: Main Street Motors, Glory Day Emporium 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 7 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not for publication: n/a  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.)

Mauro Shay MT SHPO 6-25-94  
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  
8-24-94 Date of Action  
Entered in the  
National Register

**5. Classification**Ownership of Property:  private  public-local  public-State  public-FederalCategory 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:**

COMMERCE/specialty store

**Current Functions:**

COMMERCE/specialty store

**7. Description****Architectural Classification:**

other: commercial

**Materials:**

foundation: CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

walls: BRICK

other: N/A

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Kalispell Monumental Company building is a large brick business block. Its location on a railroad spur line was critical when it was constructed in 1911. When the building opened in 1911, the *Kalispell Times* described it as follows:

...it is indeed one of the most progressive, up-to-date and creditable establishments of the town. Their new large brick building, covering two lots, was constructed especially with a view of the economical landing, and the best display of their products. The fronts on both streets are entirely of glass, making it one of the lightest rooms in town. The work room and show room, comprising much the greater part of the space, is all in one room, and is floored throughout with concrete. Through the center from end to end is constructed a trackway for an immense and heavy traveling crane, which is used to transfer the granite from the car to the building, and to any part of the immense room. A sidetrack from the railroad spots the cars bringing the rock from the east right at the back end of the building, from where the goods are carried by the traveling crane to the spot desired.

In the front of the building are arranged the office rooms, and another room which is designed for the accommodation of customers and their friends. These rooms are tastefully finished and the walls delicately tinted.

The one-story brick building has finish brick on the west elevation. On the sides facing the sidewalks, up to the tops of the large display windows, every 5th course of brick is recessed. There is decorative corbeling just below the cornice. The windows on the south are slightly arched and have a 3-course arch in brick and brick sills. The parapet has concrete coping and battlements with brick pilasters below them. The original storefront and the commercial glazing along the north and west elevations have been infilled with modern materials, although the original openings remain intact. The entry is recessed. The one large window on the north has been mostly filled in with board-and-batten. A large bay at the rear of the building has been filled in with board-and-batten, with a small door. There are two slightly arched windows in the rear of the building. The interior is currently divided into rooms for small businesses, with a wide central hallway.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: Commerce

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1911-1943

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1911

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Gibson, Joseph

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kalispell Monumental Company is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Commerce. Built in 1911, it is one of the few remaining structures built on a spur line of the Great Northern Railway. It serves to emphasize the dependence of many of Kalispell's businesses on the railroad. In this case, because of the nature of the original business in the building - a tombstone and monument retail company - location next to the railroad was critical. Later businesses in the building, however, did not need direct access to the railroad line (including the automobile dealerships, as the automobiles were delivered by railroad to the freight depot and then driven from there to the dealerships).

The Kalispell Monumental Company was established in Kalispell in approximately 1910 as a branch of the Sammis Monumental Company of Spokane. In late 1910 the company bought the two lots on 1st Avenue East near the railroad right-of-way and hired Kalispell architect Joseph Gibson to draw up the plans for the \$12,000 building. Construction was slowed in late December when the pressed brick for the east and north facades was late in arriving and could not be obtained locally. When the building was near completion, Fred H. Sammis, the president of the company and the owner of the property, visited the site from his offices in Spokane. Local manager C. M. Secor showed him the steam-heated facilities. Plans called for the installation of cutting and polishing machinery for manufacturing monuments from rough stone. Six carloads of supplies arrived in January of 1911 to get the business going. By February of 1911 the company had provided the marble bases and trimmings for the Buffalo Block on Main Street (a large brick business block that no longer exists). The business moved into its new building, the Kalispell Monumental Company building, in March of 1911.

When the Kalispell Monumental Company building was being constructed, the *Kalispell Journal* commented that the building "will tend to preserve the balance of business block construction and hold the town from all rushing in one direction." In fact, in 1913 the Kalispell Mercantile bought the four lots just south of the monument works, planning to extend the railroad spur line to a four-story warehouse housing all their goods (this was never built).

According to a 1911 advertisement for the Kalispell Monumental Company, their stock included monuments made of Barre (Vermont), Scottish, Swedish, Quincy (Massachusetts) and Montello granites and also Vermont, Georgia, Italian, Colorado Yale and "the famous" New York marbles. A July 1911 advertisement urged customers to "Patronize a home industry" that could save money and deliver the product "in a very small portion of the time that it is possible for a foreign house to do." The company claimed to be "the second largest institution of its kind in the United States."

The monument company did not do as well as had been hoped, however. In 1914 the company went into receivership, and it was out of the building by 1915. Colonel A. A. White, long associated with the Great Northern Railway Company, leased the building for three years, intending to make it the headquarters for his Glacier National Park to Yellowstone National Park automobile service. A local newspaper commented that this plan would benefit Kalispell by attracting the attention of thousands of easterners to "the fertility and scenic advantages of the Flathead Valley." It is not known whether a transportation service like this was ever operated out of the building.

In February of 1917 the American Laundry Company leased the "splendid brick and stone building, with lots of plate glass." Proprietor Frederick French at that time enlarged the office and established a compartment in the rear for the "motors and delivery rigs." The laundry had been located since 1901 one block to the west, on Main Street.

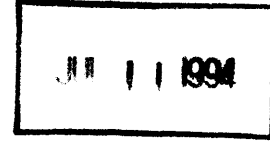
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Kalispell Monumental Company

RECEIVED 41



INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Page 1

In 1927 the building was occupied by the Main Street Motor Sales Company. The office was in the southwest corner, a gas and oil section in the northwest corner, and the battery charging and repair area in the rear, with storage space at the far east end. The center was occupied by a 25-car garage.

According to the Kalispell City Directories, Kickbusch Motors occupied the building in 1930. In 1934 it was vacant. In 1938 the Waybright Produce Company was in the building, and beginning in 1940 the Kalispell Grocery Company used it as their warehouse. Their main building was located across the street to the north, and their garage was the building to the south of this one.

One other monumental company is known to have existed in Kalispell during the pre-World War II years. In 1931 the Kalispell Stone Works constructed a building one block to the east of this one to handle the new business. This company, also known as the Kalispell Monument Works, stayed in business at 11 2nd Avenue East until at least 1940.

The building has been remodeled within the past 20 years and is now used as a mini-mall, with several different businesses located in rooms off the central hallway.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

*Kalispell Bee*: November 8, 1910, p. 8; "Building Is Leased by Colonel White," August 20, 1915.

*Kalispell Journal*: "Will Erect Big Business Block," November 3, 1910, p. 1; November 7, 1910; December 3, 1910; December 29, 1910; advertisement, July 20, 1911; advertisement, August 31, 1911; "Another Building for First Avenue East," March 6, 1913, p. 1.

*Kalispell Times*: February 25, 1911; March 11, 1911; "Monumental Company Moves Into Building," March 30, 1911, p. 1; "French Laundry Will Change Location," February 1, 1917, p. 1; "Hazeltons Building Monumental Works," November 5, 1931, p. 1.

**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

<b>UTM References:</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
A	11	699815	5341670

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Block 37, lots 17-18, Section 7, 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: David and Kathy Oehling, DKO Investments

street & number: 240 NE Scenic Drive

telephone:

city or town: Grants Pass

state: OR

zip code: 97526