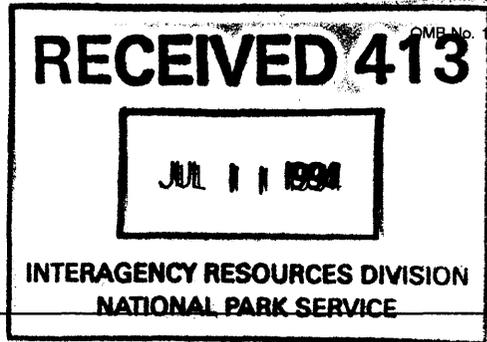


873



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Houtz House

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 822 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not for publication: n/a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 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maude Shuf 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
8-24-94 Date of Action

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:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian:
Italianate

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
walls: WOOD: weatherboard
other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Houtz House is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century Italianate-style residence. Built in 1899 on the edge of town for newspaper editor George Houtz, the house reflects his prosperity and hopes for the future of Kalispell. The house has a roof covered with composition shingles, and the exterior walls are sheathed in clapboard with wood shingles in the gable ends. The gabled front dormer has an arched window and decorative wood shinglework. The entry porch, which is original, has brick supports for the Tuscan columns. The house has wide, bracket-supported eaves, and the basement is concrete and native rock. There are dentils under the entry cornice. The windows are one-over-one-light wooden double-hung and fixed single light units. There is a bay window on the south elevation. The kitchen and bathrooms have been remodeled. Much of the interior woodwork is original, and some has been painted. The wood floors are original. The house may have been added to at the rear; the bathroom may have originally been a porch, and the kitchen may be an addition. The rear wing has an attached one-car garage in the northwest corner that has a shed roof (the garage is shown on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map). The house stands out in a neighborhood of generally smaller houses.

Spring Creek ran through the rear of the lots until it was diverted by the City in the 1930s. On the 1927 and 1956 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps a chicken coop was located in the northwest corner of the lot (across Spring Creek) and a small outbuilding was located just behind the house. Neither of these exist today.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1899

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1899

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Houtz House is a two-story Italianate-style residence built in 1899. It has excellent physical historical architectural integrity and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture.

Stonemason Mike Greig laid the native rock foundation for this house in August of 1899, and the *Flathead Herald-Journal* (of which Houtz was the junior editor at the time) called it "a splendid piece of work."

George Houtz was born in Urbana, Ohio, in 1862. He learned the printing trade in Illinois and established a newspaper in Gettysburg, South Dakota, in 1884. In 1887 he married Irene Merriman in South Dakota, and the couple had four children. Houtz and his partner Thomas Busey founded the *Flathead Herald-Journal* in Demersville when he moved to the Flathead Valley in 1891. Houtz later edited the *Kalispell Journal* in partnership with Colonel J. W. K. Moore. Newspaperman Houtz was active in civic affairs. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the Lamb's Club of Helena, the Kalispell Club, and the Democratic party. In 1913 he left his duties as editor of the *Kalispell Journal* when Governor Stewart appointed him state tax commissioner. The Houtz family moved to Helena and lived there for two years, returning to their Kalispell residence in April of 1915, where Houtz resumed his duties at the *Journal*. In 1918 he was appointed by the governor to head the Bureau of Agriculture and Industry for over a year; he then again returned to Kalispell. When the 1920 federal population census was taken, Houtz's occupation was listed as appraiser of county lands. Houtz also owned a ranch in the Smith Valley area, west of Kalispell, where he lived part of the time. Irene Houtz died in 1930.

Some of the Houtz children also entered the printing business. Cora Houtz attended the Kalispell Business College and was the society editor for the *Kalispell Journal* in 1915 (by 1917, she had moved to Havre, and in 1920 she was working as a stenographer at a printing office). Ned Houtz was associate editor of the paper for a time. Edward L. Houtz worked as a printer at the *Kalispell Journal* and then was proprietor of the newspaper. In 1922 he was listed in the Kalispell City Directory as having moved to Great Falls, but in 1925 he was a printer for the *Daily Inter Lake*.

In approximately 1922 Houtz sold the *Kalispell Journal*, and it eventually became known as the *Flathead Monitor*. In 1933 Houtz was again living in Helena; he had been appointed printing clerk of the house of representatives. He became ill that year, and the following year he and his son George, Jr., moved to Seattle. Houtz died in 1942 at the age of 80, at which time he was called "the oldest newspaperman in the state."

The Houtz family moved out of this house in approximately 1920, although they owned it until 1925. Subsequent occupants included James L. Bergmann, the chief clerk for the Great Northern Railway. Bergmann owned the property from 1926 until 1931. In 1934 Richard and Minnie Struble lived here. Struble had a trucking business.

By 1936 the residence, like many of Kalispell's larger dwellings, had been divided into apartments. In that year Seymour and Annie Cornelison, carpenter Woodrow Miller and his wife Anne, and Jack and Helen Tingley lived in the house. In subsequent pre-world War II years, Cornelison continued living here and had various tenants; he and his wife owned the property from 1935 until 1945. By 1943 James C. Wood was the occupant and no one else was listed.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Butte Newswriters' Association, *A Newspaper Reference Work: Men of Affairs and Representative Institutions of the State of Montana, 1914* (Butte, MT).
Flathead Herald-Journal: August 17, 1899; December 21, 1899.
Flathead Monitor: "G. M. Houtz Is Taken Ill," January 12, 1933; April 12, 1934; "George M. Houtz Old Resident, Dies Suddenly," July 23, 1942.
Kalispell Bee: August 2, 1917.
Kalispell City Directories, 1901-43.
Kalispell Journal: "Old Timers Celebrate Twentieth Anniversary," January 4, 1912, p. 1.
Kalispell Times: April 29, 1915.
Lindsay, Mary Lou (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, June 2, 1993.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kalispell, Montana, 1927, 1963.
United States Population Census, Kalispell, Montana, 1900, 1910, 1920.

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	699370	5340600

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 4, Lots 10 and North 1/2 9, 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: Walle W. and Mary Lou Lindsay	telephone:
street & number: 822 5th Avenue West	zip code: 59901
city or town: Kalispell state: MT	