

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received **AUG 27 1986**  
date entered **OCT 7 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Historic Resources of Thompson Falls, Montana

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number The town of Thompson Falls and the area immediately south along the Clark Fork River N/A not for publication

city, town Thompson Falls N/A vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Sanders code 089

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sanders County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Thompson Falls state Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See Continuation Sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state Montana

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>    N/A    </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thompson Falls Multiple Resource Area nomination consists of one historic district and a variety of individual residential and commercial buildings constructed between 1900-1916. The Hydroelectric Dam Historic District is made up of five buildings and six structures, all of which date from 1910-1915 and are in good condition. The buildings include St. Luke's Hospital, a wood frame building currently used as a residence, Dr. Everett Peek's House, the Chief Operators' Houses, a pair of small wood frame cottages, the Bungalow style Superintendent's House, and the wood frame Superintendent's Office, which presently serves as a residence. The six structures in the district consist of the Dry Channel and Main Channel Bridges (1911), the concrete Dry Channel and Main Channel Dams (1915), the masonry Powerhouse and the small, masonry Transformer House. Of the nine independently eligible residential buildings in the nomination, seven can be categorized as intact examples of the Bungalow style, most having been constructed around 1912. The other two dwellings represent examples of the vernacular Victorian and the French Southern Colonial building styles. All of the houses retain a very high degree of architectural integrity. Five independently eligible, two story, commercial brick buildings located along Main Street date from 1910-1914. Each structure has undergone a series of alterations, primarily to the facade, but are nevertheless the best manifestations of commercial architecture in the business district. Two other structures are included in the nomination -- the well-preserved and intact Sanders County Jail (1907-1908), and the wood frame Northern Pacific Railroad Warehouse, which was built in ca. 1909.

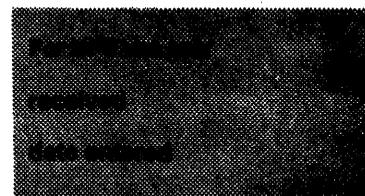
The city of Thompson Falls, Montana, with a population of approximately 1300, is located in the Clark Fork River Valley of northwestern Montana at an elevation of 2439 feet, about 100 miles northwest of Missoula, Montana. The city is situated on the north bank of the Clark Fork River and lies between the Cabinet Mountains to the east and the Bitterroot Mountain Range on the west, which forms the western boundary between Idaho and Montana. The subsurface consists of the Wallace Formation, a heterogeneous unit composed of dark gray argillite, arenaceous and argillaceous limestone, gray limy quartzite, shale and sandstone in large areas. Geological similarities to the rich Coeur d'Alene, Idaho mining fields created the Thompson Falls mining district in 1884, but local mines never produced valuable ores as originally expected.

The topography of the area is characterized by large mountains covered with dense stands of a variety of mature trees. Vegetation consists of a mixture of western red cedar and western hemlock forests to the north and grand fir and Douglas fir climax to the south. White pine and yellow pine predominate in the area immediately around Thompson Falls, which is consistent with historical accounts describing the town as being situated within a dense stand of yellow pine.

The region experiences a moderate climate due to the prevailing flow of air from the west to the southwest. Praised by early settlers who claimed that land around Thompson Falls could rival the rich Bitterroot Valley to the south, widespread irrigation failed because of gravelly soil. Yet farming, dairying and ranching have remained as integral parts of the local economy from the 1890s into the 1950s.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

6

Page

1

Representation in Existing Surveys

Lazuk, John. "Historic and Architectural Survey of Thompson Falls, Montana."  
1984 File available at Montana SHPO, Helena, MT

Bowers, Martha and Carol Hanchette. "An Evaluation of the Historic and Prehistoric  
Cultural Resources in the Thompson Falls, Ryan and Hauser Dam Areas,  
Central and Western Montana." January, 1982, for the Montana Power  
Company. Copy available at the Montana SHPO, Helena, MT

HAER/Montana State Bridge Inventory, 1980. Copy available at Montana SHPO, Helena,  
MT

The Montana Power survey resulted in the determination that the hydroelectric dam-  
related structures were eligible for National Register listing, and the HAER survey  
resulted in the finding that both bridges were eligible for inclusion in the National  
Register of Historic Places.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The layout of the city is a product of the surrounding topographical features -- it spreads out in a general east-west direction paralleling the Clark Fork River to the south, while the north side of the town is bounded by a steep mountain that gradually levels out into a wooded area several miles north of Thompson Falls.

The city of Thompson Falls is made up of a mixture of structures built during three stages of the town's history: from the early 1900s, during the first substantial period of growth from 1905-1916, and from post-World War II housing developments. The central business district is located along a segment of the south side of Railroad Avenue (Main Street) below the Northern Pacific railway. It can be characterized by a variety of scattered 20th century, two story, relatively simply-designed masonry buildings interspersed with several contemporary structures made of concrete block or similar modern materials. Historically, development did not completely infill vacant lots so that today, Main Street does not present a cohesive, unified group of historic buildings. Through the years, fire and demolition have destroyed several historic structures in Thompson Falls, thereby augmenting the lack of infill in the central business district. Of the five early commercial buildings still standing that are included in this Multiple Resource Area, all are two stories high and three are free standing. Each of these buildings has been altered on either the first or second floor; nevertheless, each clearly represents an association with small town commercial construction in Thompson Falls and illustrates the growth and stability of the community in the early 1900s.

Initial development in Thompson Falls centered around Blocks 3,4,5, and 6 of the 1893 Original Townsite on Main Street, between Ferry Street to the east and Mill Street to the west. Other early construction was located north of the railroad tracks in Blocks 18 through 24 and Blocks 30 through 34. Buildings in this area, such as Weber's Store (1900-1903) at 510 Main Street and the International Order of Odd Fellows Hall (1901) at 520 Main Street, typically served a multi-purpose function by providing retail space on the first floor and living quarters for either the merchant or a renter on the second story. Additional structures including the Northern Pacific Warehouse (ca.1909) and other similar buildings were strategically placed along the railroad right-of-way parallel with Main Street in Blocks 7 through 14. A few residences also were scattered among these commercial buildings in Blocks 11 and 12 but none remain today. By 1904 the easternmost building was in Block 16, while the farthest construction to the west was in Block 49. Haley Avenue served as the northern boundary for the town at this time.

Between 1905-1921 the majority of residential construction in Thompson Falls was concentrated to the north of Main Street in an area known as Capitol Hill paralleling Preston, Ogden and Haley Avenues. The Grandchamp House (1911) at 1012 Preston Avenue and the house at 916 Preston Avenue (1911) are very good examples of the typical type of dwelling built during this period. Both are rather modest examples of the Bungalow style, each one story high with a hip roof and full width front porch. As the community began to slowly grow and

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

expand away from the commercial center, some residences also were built to the south and west of the business district. Many of these dwellings were built on corner lots on the upper reaches of Capitol Hill along Ogden, Haley, Third and Fourth Avenues. A small number of houses also appeared at this time on the eastern edge of town on Church and Adams Streets in Blocks 15 and 90, but the area of highest population density extended from an area on the east side, from Ferry Street to Gallatin Street on the west.

The designation of Thompson Falls as Sanders County seat in 1906 likely contributed to the construction of over 50 commercial and residential buildings in the community between 1905-1911. Variations of style and use of structures can be placed into three categories for the period: large commercial and community buildings; small log houses and frame cottages; and larger brick and wood frame "pattern book" residences. Some wood frame buildings which functioned as a combined business and residence still appeared in the commercial district, but a greater number of brick structures were being constructed at this time. Notable among these are the two story Ward Hotel (1907), and the Tourist Hotel (1911), both of which are located within the Original Townsite on Main Street. The long, primary facade of the Ward Hotel occupies a prominent location at the corner of Main and Fulton Streets, and architectural details such as an elaborately corbeled cornice and segmental arches over the windows clearly indicate the building's landmark status in the community. The Tourist Hotel, located in Block 3 of the Original Townsite, features buff-colored brick applied to the facade and a three-tiered band of decorative corbeling at the cornice. The Sanders County Jail, located at the corner of Madison Street and Maiden Lane, was constructed in 1907 and is the oldest county building in the community. It is a square, two story brick structure with iron bars covering its original double hung windows. The most basic house type in Thompson Falls in the early part of the 20th century was the small, hip roofed, one story Bungalow. Modest in scale, this house type accommodated either a single person or a small family. Most were square or rectangular in shape, with three or four interior rooms, a full width front porch, and a foundation of either rubble stone or stone and mortar. The Moser House (1911) at 112 Park Street is an excellent example of this style and typifies the type of dwelling commonly owned in Thompson Falls during this period. It was purchased in 1915 by Ada Moser, the wife of William Moser, who worked as a sub-foreman for the Thompson Falls Power Company.

In addition to being named Sanders County seat, Thompson Falls became the site of a hydroelectric dam located on the Clark Fork River near the western edge of the residential district. Construction of the dam and attendant facilities, which began in 1912, was largely the result of the initiative and financial backing of several leading citizens in Thompson Falls. Missoula State Senator Edward Donlan (who owned large tracts of land), local physician Everett Peek, and Arthur Preston together organized the Thompson Falls Light and Power Company in 1910 to develop electrical power for the community. In a significant decision, the U.S. Circuit Court in Montana upheld the right of Donlan and his business, the Northwestern Development Company, to use the waters of the Clark Fork River around Thompson Falls. The court declared that the company owned the river

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

bed and both banks through all of Township 21 North, Range 29 West. This provided the opportunity for Donlan to build a flume in order to irrigate an area east of the city, and more importantly, to proceed with the construction of the hydro-electric dam.

During the period from 1910-1915 several civic and commercial improvements combined to create a sense of stability and permanency in Thompson Falls. New sidewalks were added on Lower Railroad Avenue (Main Street), while a new building was constructed on the west edge of town for the recently-formed Thompson Falls Water Company. The Harriott Store reopened in 1910 in a new brick building at 706 Main Street after a fire destroyed the first store, and the Thompson Falls public library opened with 200 books available for circulation. Of these three buildings, only Harriott's Store is extant.

Approximately 30 buildings were erected at this time, with most residential expansion continuing to the west and north of Main Street on Capitol Hill. The majority of the population in Thompson Falls centered from the west side of Jefferson Street east to the west side of Grove Street. Small wood frame cottages were common, but larger carpenter-built dwellings such as the Ainsworth House (1910), a very large Bungalow located at 911 Maiden Lane and the Thayer House (1907), an unusual French Southern Colonial residence at 109 Jefferson Street were also constructed. The Bungalow style, widely known throughout America during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, also became one of the most popular house types in Thompson Falls at this time. The west side of the community, where the majority of the Bungalow houses were built, experienced a building boom as a direct result of the most substantial period of growth from approximately 1911-1915. The Bungalow had a number of basic design features which were commonly used. Its lines were low and simple with wide projecting eaves. It was 1 1/2 or two stories high, usually with a large, full width front porch. Exposed rafter ends and dormers were also a trademark. The Bungalow became so popular after 1905 that it was the first residential style to be constructed in quantity by the builder and contractor. Charles Doenges, the most significant builder in Thompson Falls, constructed numerous four square Bungalow style houses in town, each varying slightly in design. The Norby House (1912), the house at 112 Park Street (1911) and the house at 916 Preston Avenue (1911) are nearly identical in design, and all are attributed to Doenges.

In the business district, two story brick buildings continued to be built such as the 1911 Ward Hotel Annex (later partially destroyed by fire) which abutts the Ward Hotel but is not included in this nomination. The First State Bank of Thompson Falls, the town's only banking institution even today, built a two story building on the extreme west edge of Thompson Falls at 1008 Main Street. In 1912 the U.S. Forest Service expanded operations in the town and built a large warehouse behind their offices in the First State Bank building. Neither of these two buildings are included in the nomination due to major alterations. In 1911 the town council voted to build a sidewalk on the north side of the railroad tracks from Ferry Street to Park Street. They also passed a resolution requiring property owners to construct sidewalks from the west side of Columbia

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Item number 7 Page 4

---

Street to the new High School in Block 43 north of Haley Avenue between Cedar and Columbia Streets.

Two steel bridges erected in 1911 in the vicinity of the falls on the river provided much-needed access to the town by wagon and automobile. The Main Channel Bridge is a three panel Parker deck truss, and the Dry Channel Bridge is a 377 foot-long pratt through truss. Both were constructed in anticipation of the building of the hydroelectric dam and are included as part of the historic district. The construction and location of the dam quite probably entered into the decision of Dr. Everett Peek to relocate his office in a newly remodeled and expanded residence along the river adjacent to the dam site.

The historic and architectural survey was coordinated by John Lazuk of Spokane, Washington, an independent research historian, with assistance from Patty Van Sickle, director of the Thompson Falls Community Development Block Grant Office. Methodology included a reconnaissance survey of approximately 400 of the town's earliest structures followed by an intensive survey of 120 of those that were deemed most significant. A detailed physical description was given for each structure noting the original design and any later additions, while black and white photographs were taken of all structures in conjunction with a photo log. Color slides were taken of the most notable buildings. Research in Thompson Falls included an examination of Sanborn maps, tax assessment books, Polk City Directories, plat maps, property abstract records, and early Sanders County Ledger newspapers to establish the chronology of ownership and date of each structure. Interviews with local residents and a review of historical literature at the Montana State Historical Society, the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana, and the City-County Library were used to develop a narrative historical and architectural overview of the city and the area. No archeological survey or testing was performed, in accordance with terms of the contract between the survey coordinator and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.

Each structure within the survey area was evaluated using National Register criteria and recorded on a Montana Historical and Architectural Inventory form, which included a physical description of the structure, a date of construction, identification of architect, builder and original owner, a description of historical information, an analysis of integrity, and a statement of historical and architectural significance. Structures were identified and assessed based upon criteria and guidelines established for the National Register of Historic Places.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1900-1916 Builder/Architect Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 18 structures in the Thompson Falls Multiple Resource Area nomination are significant for their association with 1) the early growth of Thompson Falls as initially a mining and later a lumber town, and 2) the development of the hydroelectric dam and its contribution to the overall expansion and stability of the community in the early 1900s. Each of the five commercial buildings, the Odd Fellows' Hall, Weber's Store, the Tourist Hotel, the Gem Saloon, and the Ward Hotel, illustrate the broad social and commercial activity in Thompson Falls in the early 1900s through the end of the period of significance in 1916. The Ward Hotel, for example, was constructed with funds provided by State Senator Edward Donlan in 1907 during the first, and only, substantial period of growth in the community. The Ward was one of the best-equipped hostelrys in northwestern Montana, and one of the most popular locations in Thompson Falls for social, recreational and commercial activity. All but one of the nine residences are significant as intact and well preserved examples of the Bungalow style, a design which was widely popular in town during the period of significance. The other house, the Thayer Residence is significant for its use of the French Southern Colonial style.

### EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOMPSON FALLS

In the spring of 1808, David Thompson, a geographer and trader with the North West Company, traveled down the Kootenai River into northwest Montana and northeast Idaho. The company hired Thompson to explore the region in order to set up trade relations with its native inhabitants. A series of trading posts near present-day Thompson Falls were operated until 1871 by the North West Company and its successor, the Hudson Bay Company. In the fall of 1883 the Spokane Falls Review reported that from 250-800 prospectors were camped in the mountains, with another estimated 5,000-12,000 arriving the following spring. The gold strike helped to create several settlements on both sides of the mountains, with the first in Montana along the Northern Pacific Railroad line called Heron Siding (present day Heron, 45 miles northwest of Thompson Falls). Attracted by an alternate route to the mountains along Prospect Creek, miners had by 1883 settled along the banks of the Clark Fork River near present day Thompson Falls. Merchants came from Missoula to establish outfitting camps, build wagon roads and eventually to build the town of Thompson Falls. A group of merchants formed the McClinch & Company to collect a toll for road and ferry fees along a route from Thompson Falls to the Idaho border. The Prospect Creek wagon road became increasingly popular resulting in a number of new businesses along the route.

In 1880 the Northern Pacific Railroad began construction of a line in western Missoula County from the city of Missoula to Lake Pend d'Oreille by following the Clark Fork River valley. By 1883 the railroad had constructed a sub-station house three miles outside of the present townsite of Woodlin Flats, which became

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet; also, portions of the text for this nomination came from "Environmental, Historical, Economic and Cultural Factors in the Development of Thompson Falls, Montana and its Architecture" by John Lazuk, March 1985, on file at the Montana SHPO

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 410

Quadrangle name Thompson Falls

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A	1 1	6 2 3 5 0 0	5 2 7 2 7 0 0	B	1 1	6 2 3 0 5 0	5 2 7 2 2 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 1	6 2 3 8 0 0	5 2 7 1 8 0 0	D	1 1	6 2 3 8 5 0	5 2 7 2 3 0 0
E	1 1	6 2 5 4 5 0	5 2 7 2 1 2 5	F	1 1	6 2 5 4 5 0	5 2 7 2 9 0 0
G	1 1	6 2 4 3 5 0	5 2 7 3 1 5 0	H	1 1	6 2 3 6 5 0	5 2 7 2 9 5 0

**Verbal boundary description and justification** See continuation sheets for historic resources and historic district maps. Unless otherwise noted, boundaries for each of the individually eligible properties correspond to their legal location.

### 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	Michael Koop, Survey Coordinator/NR Assistant		
organization	Montana SHPO	date	June 25, 1986
street & number	225 N. Roberts	telephone	406-444-7715
city or town	Helena	state	Montana 59620

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

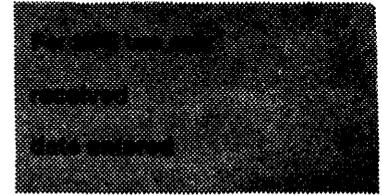
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcella Sheffy  
 title SHPO date Aug 20, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

for William B. Bushong date 10/7/86  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: See Continuation Sheet for Justing date  
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

known as Thompson Prairie. Stations were also placed in the adjoining communities of Paradise and Plains. Despite the growth and development of Thompson Falls, the railroad maintained the nearest passenger station outside of town at Thompson Prairie. Notices were posted by the railroad for its employees not to stop or even slow down when going through Thompson Falls in 1883 and early 1884. The railroad finally agreed to enter and make stops in Thompson Falls in the spring of 1884, and used a warehouse as their original station house. Other structures, including a watertower and repair shop were built at a later date but are no longer extant.

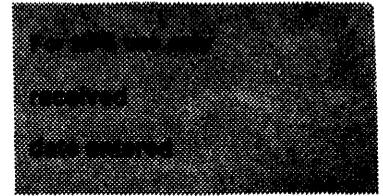
In 1884, J.M. Cralle hastily surveyed Thompson Falls in an apparently haphazard fashion resulting in very few deeds being filed from 1884-1893 using legal descriptions based on his survey. Miners in Thompson Falls worked claims in the local mining districts and the community continued to operate as an outfitting point for travel up the Prospect Creek Road. The local economy remained stable, in large part, because of a reliance on the timber and agricultural industries, which provided employment for a majority of the labor force.

## HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THOMPSON FALLS

The Original Townsite of Thompson Falls, Montana was surveyed in 1893 as a result of increased growth in the town from mining activity in the nearby Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Mountains. A number of commercial buildings were constructed from this period until the turn of the century. Of the few that remain today, the most significant have been included in this nomination. The first substantial period of expansion and development in Thompson Falls occurred during the period from 1905-1917 which saw a dramatic rise in the number of commercial, and more significantly, residential buildings on the west side of the community.

In ca. 1900 a brickyard was opened near Thompson Falls, thereby providing locally-produced masonry as a viable alternative to wood frame construction which had previously served as the major building material. The first documented use of this brick is in the 1901 Odd Fellows' Hall (520 Main Street), and Charles Weber's store (510 Main Street) was erected in 1903 using the same brick. While wood frame buildings continued to be constructed in the downtown area until 1914, the use of brick not only helped to control the ever-present threat of fire, but also provided a certain degree of permanence for the town. Both factors weighed heavily in the decision of the town council to pass Ordinance 28 in 1914, prohibiting the use of any building material other than stone, brick or other noncombustible on Lower Railroad Avenue, extending from the Odd Fellows' Hall west to the former county courthouse.

Between 1903-1905 several progressive individuals arrived in Thompson Falls who were responsible for much of the town's growth and prosperity. Most influential among these men were Charles Doenges, who was a prolific builder/contractor in the community from 1905-1913 and responsible for the construction of numerous workers' cottages and Bungalow style dwellings, 17 of which were included in

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2

the original survey. Houses located at 916 Preston Avenue (1911), 112 Park Street (1911), and 13 Pond Street (1912) were all built by Doenges. Each of these rather simple, one story, wood frame Bungalows are nearly identical in design and are characterized by an almost square shape, hip roof, full width front porch and similar fenestration. The Preston House (1909) at 205 Ferry Street is a good example of the high quality craftsmanship typical of Doenges' work in Thompson Falls. The adaptation of Victorian period motifs such as bay windows and patterned wood shingles in the gabled ends clearly shows Doenges' stylistic influences.

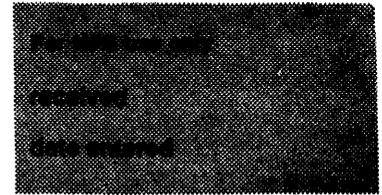
Dr. Everett Peek was one of the original investors in the Thompson Falls Light and Power Company, and also served as County Commissioner in 1908. Peek opened several drugstores in Thompson Falls and the surrounding area and, realizing the potential of the hydroelectric dam project, organized the first community hospital in 1910 at 1014 Maiden Lane adjacent to the eventual power plant site. Missoula State Senator Edward Donlan intended to develop the area surrounding Thompson Falls into the lumbering capital of the Northwest. He accumulated extensive property within and around the town, some of which he eventually donated or sold for development purposes. He also owned the original water rights to the Clark Fork River in the vicinity of the hydroelectric project. Donlan led the initiative to name Thompson Falls as the Sanders County seat, which helped provide for the greatest period of economic and architectural growth in 1905-1916.

Two key events spurred the expansion and development of the town: the designation of Thompson Falls as the county seat, and the construction of the hydroelectric dam project by the Thompson Falls Light and Power Company between 1912-1917. Anticipation of the hydroelectric facilities played a significant role in the development of Thompson Falls from 1910-1912. Financed largely by outside investors, the dam project created hundreds of new jobs, which resulted in an increased population and expanded economy for the community. The dam was one of two hydroelectric sites acquired by John D. Ryan, who was representing the Milwaukee Road railroad, with the objective of electrifying a major segment of the railroad line in Montana. The proximity of the Thompson Falls site to Idaho permitted a modest extension of the Thompson Falls Light and Power Company's business beyond the state line, as it provided power for a time to the Coeur d'Alene mines and smelters.

Aside from Charles Doenges, a few individuals appear to have had a significant impact on the built environment in Thompson Falls. Charles Wicksell, who arrived in 1909, built 11 structures and was the major contractor in the community after Doenges left. Wicksell's peak period of construction coincided with the building boom in the town between 1912-1915, however, none of his buildings are included in the nomination because of incompatible alterations. Nelson Grandchamp was a carpenter who built three Bungalow style houses between 1910-1912. The Grandchamp House (1911) at 1012 Preston Avenue is strikingly similar to other Bungalow houses in Thompson Falls designed by Doenges, and may have been based on the same house pattern. Many other residential and commercial structures apparently

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

3

were built by either an owner or a contractor (several contractors came from Missoula) who was responsible for the construction of just a single building in the community. Albert Thayer built his own house in 1907 at 109 Jefferson Street using stone from his quarry on the Thompson River. By contrast, James Lyons, a Missoula contractor, was hired by Edward Donlan in 1907 to build the Ward Hotel located at 919 Main Street.

After the completion of the hydroelectric project, the economy and population of Thompson Falls declined slightly and then remained steady into the 1920s. A reliance upon the forest products industry in the 1920s and 1930s aided the local economy, but growth in the community was minimal. Due to an expansion in the forest products business, the economy accelerated slightly in the 1930s and 1940s. A number of new businesses, including a movie theatre, tourist camp and general mercantile store opened during this period. Residences were also built on the west side of town along the Clark Fork River in Blocks 1 through 8 of Donlan's First and Second Additions. None of these structures are included in the nomination due to age.

The town has experienced a slow, but steady growth in population that continues today. In the early 1950s a significant decline in the agricultural work force of the area was compensated for by an enlarged forest products industry. By 1950 the population was 851, and in 1960 it increased to 1,274.

The only known preservation/restoration activities within the Multiple Resource Area are the ongoing rehabilitation projects under the Community Development Block Grant program. This work involves low-cost housing rehabilitation which is being done in accordance with the Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

NEWSPAPERS

Weekly Missoulian (Missoula, Montana) January 5, 1883–December 31, 1886.  
Missoula Gazette April 29, 1888–August 7, 1889; February 10, 1890–January 31, 1907.  
Missoula and Coeur d'Alene Special Edition of the Gazette January 1, 1892.  
The Sanders County Ledger February 24, 1905–October 24, 1957.  
The Sanders County Signal January 1, 1906–January 7, 1925.

COUNTY RECORDS

Missoula County

Assessment Books: 1883–1900, 1902 A–L, 1903 A–L, 1905 (20 volumes)  
Supplementary Assessment Books: 1891, 1892 (2 volumes)  
Delinquent Assessment Book: 1899 (1 volume)  
Deedbooks  
Grantee/Grantor Books, 1883–1905 (10 volumes)  
Applications, Statements and Proofs, Thompson Falls Townsite Book: August 6, 1893–February 3, 1894 (1 volume)

Sanders County

Assessment Books: 1906–1919 (12 volumes)  
County Plat Book #1  
Plat Books: Thompson Falls Townsite (2 volumes)  
County Commissioners' Journal: March 1906–January 1914 (1 volume)  
Superintendent of Schools Records (5 volumes)  
Birth and Death Register (1 volume)  
Deedbooks  
Grantee/Grantor Books (10 volumes)

WORKS CITED

Allen, Louise Edith. American Housing as Affected by Social and Economic Conditions. Peoria: The Manuel Arts Press, 1930.  
Alwin, John A. "Patterns of Montana's Towns 1860–1920." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1972.  
Bond, Rowland. The Original Northwest: David Thompson and the Native Tribes of North America. Nine Mile, WA: Spokane House, 1971.  
Bowers, Martha and Carol Hanchette. An Evaluation of the Historic and Prehistoric Cultural Resources in the Thompson Falls, Ryan, and Hauser Dam Areas, Central and Western Montana. Butte, MT, 1979.  
Blumenson, John J.G. Identifying American Architecture. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981.  
Calkins, F.C. "A Geographical Reconnaissance of Northern Idaho and Northwest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

- Montana." U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 384. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1906.
- Clapp, C.H. "Geology of a Portion of the Rocky Mountains of Northwestern Montana." Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Memoirs 4. Butte, MT: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1932.
- Clinch, Thomas A. "The Northern Pacific Railroad and Montana's Mineral Laws." Pacific Historical Review. Vol. 34, (August 1965) 323-335.
- Crowley, F.A. "Mines and Mineral Deposits, Sanders County, Montana." Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 34. (August, 1965) Butte: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1963.
- Diocese of Helena. The Register: Souvenir Centennial Edition. Vol. 17, No. 35, August 8, 1941.
- Dufresne, Lorraine. A Heritage Remembered: Early and Later Days in the History of Western Sanders County. Thompson Falls, MT: Sanders County Ledger, 1976.
- Federal Writer's Project. Montana: A State Guide Book. New York: Viking Press, 1939.
- Ferris, Warren A. Life in the Rocky Mountains. Edited by Paul C. Phillips. Denver: The Old West Press, 1940.
- Foley, Mary Mix. The American House. New York: Harper and Row, Inc., 1981.
- Handlin, David P. The American Home: Architecture and Society, 1815-1915. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1979.
- Helterline, Maurice. Horse Plains, Montana Territory. Plains, MT: The Printery, 1984.
- Hunton, Dorothy H., comp. Compilation of Histories of Western Montana Including Places, People, and Institutions. Mimeograph copy. Thompson Falls, 1966.
- Isch, Flora May Bellefleur. "The Importance of Railroads in the Development of Northwest Montana." Pacific Northwest Quarterly 61. (January, 1950), pp. 19-29.
- Johnson, Robert R. "Population Dynamics in Related Economic Trends in Montana Counties: 1930-1960." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1970.
- Leeson, M.A., Ed. History of Montana 1739-1885. 2 vols. Chicago: Warner, Beers and Co., 1885.
- Malouf, Carling. "Indians of Montana." Montana's Past: Selected Essays. Edited by Michael B. Malone and Richard B. Roeder. Missoula, MT: University of Montana Publications in History, 1973, pp. 1-19.
- Miller, Joaquin, Ed. Illustrated History of the State of Montana. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1894.
- Mills, Randall V. Stern-Wheelers Up Colombia: A Century of Steamboating in the Oregon Country. Palo Alto, CA: Pacific Books, 1947.
- Montana Bureau of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry. First Annual Report of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor and Industry of Montana. Helena, MT: State Publishing Co., 1893.
- Seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry. Helena, MT: Independent Publishing Co., 1900.
- Montana Fish and Game Commission. Montana Historic Preservation Plan. Helena, MT: Department of Fish and Game, 1975.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page 3

- Montana Power Company. Applications for Amendment of License for Major Existing Dam Project, August, 1982. Thompson Falls Project No. 1869. 2 vols. Butte, MT: The Montana Power Co., 1982.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Story of Montana Power. Butte, MT: Montana Power Co., 1941.
- McDonald, D.F. "Economic Features of Northern Idaho and Northwestern Montana." U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin #285. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1903.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Notes on the Economic Geology of Northwestern Idaho and Northwestern Montana." U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin #384. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1906.
- McQuillan, Alan Graham. "The Dilemmas and Contradictions Facing Forestry and Economic Development in Western Montana." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1972.
- Munson, Gene. Literature Search for Montana Power Company Thompson Falls Reservoir. Butte, MT: Mineral Research Center, 1980.
- Northern Pacific Railroad Commission. Montana: The Treasure State. St. Paul, MN: Northern Pacific Railroad, 1963.
- O'Keefe, Cornelius, Col. (Thomas Francis Meagher). "Rides Through Montana." Harpers New Monthly Magazine, 35 (October, 1867), pp. 568-583.
- Oviatt, Alan Byron. "The Movement for a Northern Trail: The Mullan Road 1859-1869. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of California at Berkeley, 1947.
- Radford, William A., Ed. Radford's Combined House and Barn Planbook. Chicago: IL: The Radford Architectural Co., 1908.
- Ross, Clyde, A., D.A. Andrews, and I.J. Witikind. Geological Map of Montana. Butte, MT: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1955.
- Ross, Robert L. and H.E. Hunter. Climax Vegetation of Montana: Based on Soils and Climate. Bozeman, MT: U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, 1976.
- Rowe, J.P. "Geography and Natural Resources of Montana." Revised Manuscript Copy, University of Montana, Missoula, 1941.
- Sanders, Helena Fitzgerald. A History of Montana. 3 vols. Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1913.
- Thompson, David. Travels in Western North America 1784-1812. Edited by Victor G. Hopwood, Toronto: McMillan of Canada, 1971.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census Reports. Religious Bodies 1906. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1910.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Religious Bodies 1916. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1919.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Religious Bodies 1926. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1929-1930.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Religious Bodies 1936. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1941.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Population: Thirteenth Census, 1910. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1913.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Population: Fourteenth Census, 1920. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1921.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Population: Fifteenth Census, 1930. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

4

Printing Office, 1932.

\_\_\_\_\_. Population: Sixteenth Census, 1940. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1942.

Waldron, Ellis. Montana Legislators 1861-1979: Profiles and Bibliographical Directory. Missoula, MT: Bureau of Governmental Research, 1980.

White, M. Catherine, ed. David Thompson's Journals Relating to Montana and Adjacent Regions 1808-1812. Missoula, MT: Montana State University Press, 1950.

Winser, Henry J. The Great Northwest: A Guide Book and Itinerary. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1883.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Great Northwest: A Guide Book and Itinerary. Revised Ed. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1889.

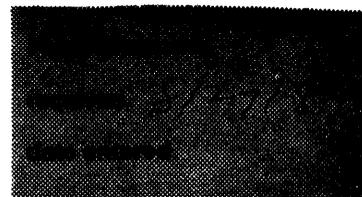
Woody, F.H. "A Sketch of the Early History of Western Montana." Contributions of the Historical Society of Montana. Vol. 2. Helena, MT: The Montana Historical Society, 1896.

Woole, Murriel Sibelle. Montana Pay Dirt: A Guide to the Mining Camps of the Treasure State. Athens, OH: The Swallow/Sage Press, 1963.

Wright & Woodward Co. Wright & Woodward's Directory, 1890. Missoula, MT: Wright & Woodward Co., 1890.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Thompson Falls MRA  
State Sanders County, MONTANA

Cover William B. Bushong  
10/7/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Ainsworth House

Substantive Inventory for Keeper

William B. Bushong 10/7/86

Attest

2. Bedard House

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

3. Gem Saloon

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

4. Grandchamp House

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

5. Griffen House

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

6. House at 112 Park Street

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

William B. Bushong 10/7/86

Attest

7. House at 916 Preston Avenue

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

8. Hoyt House

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

9. IOOF Lodge

Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

10. Norby House

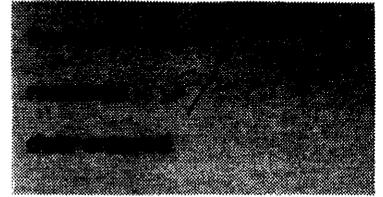
Entered in the National Register for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 10/7/86

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Thompson Falls MRA  
State Sanders County, MONTANA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Northern Pacific Warehouse

~~Substantive Review~~

*for* Keeper  
Attest

William B. Bushay  
10/7/86

12. Preston House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 10/7/86

13. Rinard House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 10/7/86

14. Sanders County Jail

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 10/7/86

15. Thayer House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 12/22/86

16. Thompson Falls Hydroelectric  
Dam Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~

*for* Keeper  
Attest

William B. Bushay  
10/7/86

17. Tourist Hotel

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 10/7/86

18. Ward Hotel

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 12/22/86

19. Weber's Store

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper  
Attest

Delores Byers 10/7/86

20.

Keeper

Attest