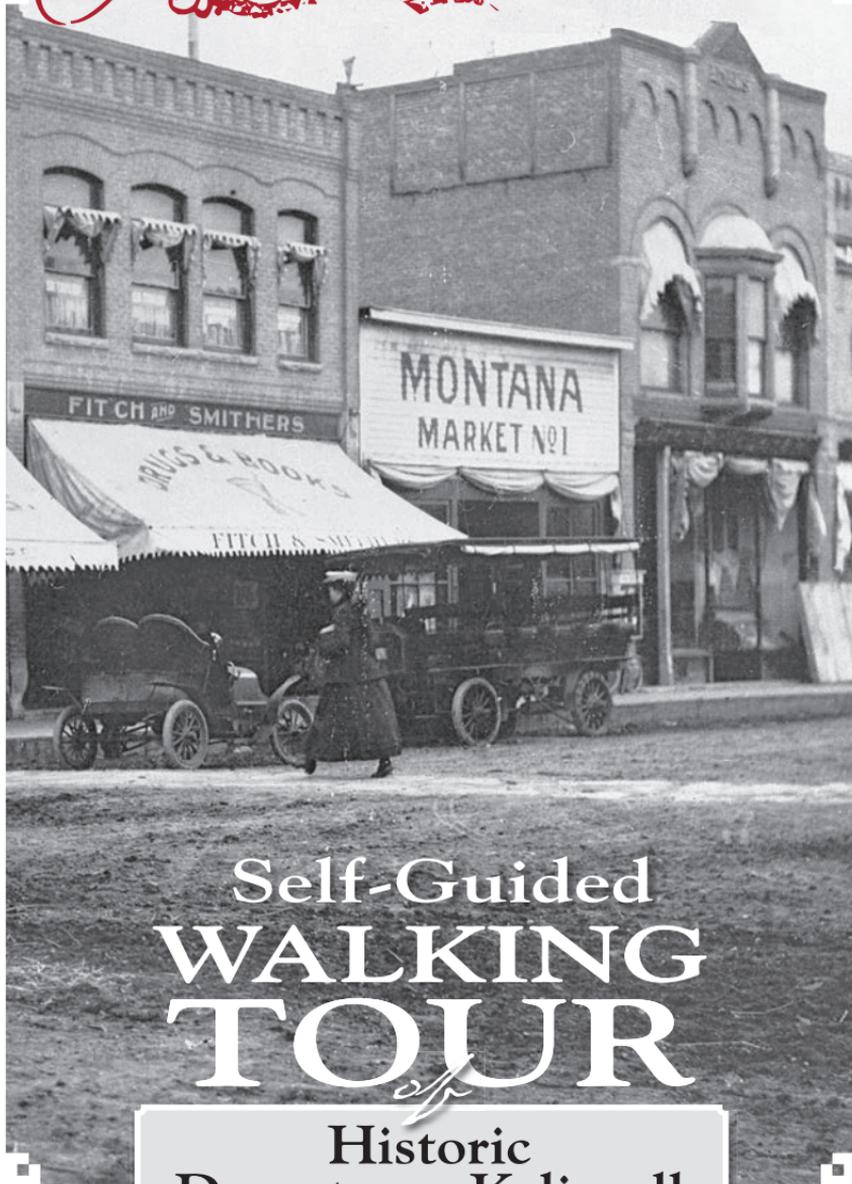


KALISPELL MONTANA



Self-Guided WALKING TOUR

Historic
Downtown Kalispell

MAIN STREET AND FIRST AVENUE EAST
HISTORIC DISTRICT 1

HISTORIC & CULTURAL MUSEUMS NEAR DOWNTOWN KALISPELL



HOCKADAY MUSEUM OF ART | 302 SECOND AVENUE EAST
OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 10-5 | 406-755-5268



CONRAD MANSION MUSEUM | WOODLAND AVE. BETWEEN 3RD ST. & 4TH ST. EAST
OPEN TUES.-SATURDAY, MAY 15-OCT. 15, 10-5 | 406-755-2166



THE MUSEUM AT CENTRAL SCHOOL | 124 SECOND AVENUE EAST
OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10-5 | 406-756-8381



WELCOME TO HISTORIC DOWNTOWN KALISPELL

This self-guided Walking Tour brochure covers the Downtown Historic District of central Kalispell, Montana. The District includes Main Street and First Avenue East from Depot Park on Center Street south to the 400 block. The order of the descriptions for both streets starts at Depot Park and goes in a loop, down the west side of the street and returning up along the east side. We hope you enjoy your walk through history!

KALISPELL'S BEGINNING

Kalispell, Montana, began as a railroad town and this fact shaped its history for many years. The word "Kalispell" is from the Salish Indian language and means "flat land (or prairie) above the lake." The townsite was platted in the Spring of 1891 by founder Charles Conrad for James J. Hill, owner of the Great Northern Railway, to serve as a division point for a rail route being constructed from St. Paul, MN to Seattle, WA.

Soon after "...the iron horse snorted in the Garden of Eden..." the earlier town of Demersville (located just four miles to the southeast of the new town of Kalispell) became a ghost town. Many of its buildings were moved on log rollers across the open prairie to Kalispell. Although established as a railroad town, the period of rail glory did not last long. In 1904 the Great Northern Railway relocated the main line to the north, with Whitefish as its new division point. However, Kalispell did not fade away. By that time, Kalispell had established itself as the trade and financial center of the Flathead Valley and, in fact, of all northwest Montana.

The young town was chosen to be the county seat in 1893. A great variety of services were concentrated in Kalispell, including city, county and federal government agencies, schools, numerous churches, a hospital (first directed by Ella Webber, a 32-year old nurse), banks, hotels, an opera house, lodge halls, a free county library, a variety of

retail stores and dozens of manufacturers, a brewery, brick maker and several flour mills. Various regional events also helped the town prosper, such as the 1910 opening to white settlement of the Flathead Indian Reservation to the south. Kalispell, as one of the towns that registered homesteaders, experienced a short boom in this period. The 1930 opening of the highway at Marias Pass over the Continental Divide again provided more business activity. In addition, Kalispell remained the center for the lumber industry in Northwest Montana, and its surrounding farmlands were considered relatively fertile.

Kalispell's prosperity was also due to the efforts of local boosters who called Kalispell the national "Gateway to Glacier Park" after the Park was created in 1910. Many of the town's early settlers had come to the area on the recommendation of family or friends who were already living in the Flathead Valley. As a whole, they created a close-knit community despite their varying places of origin, diverse cultures and different languages. Many of the settlers came from the American Midwest, Scandinavia, Germany or Britain. In its early years the town had a substantial Chinese community, mostly single men who ran laundries, restaurants and Oriental goods stores. The railroad employed Japanese crews who lived in separate boarding houses in Kalispell.

In the 1890's, residences were typically one-story wood frame buildings, and business blocks were one or two-storey wood frame structures with false fronts. As the town grew, many of the original wood business buildings were replaced with more substantial brick or stone buildings. Many of Kalispell's largest residences were constructed during the prosperous years of the early 1900's and 1910's, with quite a few of them designed by local architects. Kalispell has become renowned for its extraordinarily diverse examples of residential architectural styles, and it is a point of pride that the city has four designated historic districts within its city limits.



CHARLES CONRAD (1852-1904), FOUNDER OF THE CITY OF KALISPELL. CIVIL WAR VETERAN, BUSINESSMAN AND BANKER, HE WAS MARRIED TO ALICIA STANFORD CONRAD AND HAD THREE CHILDREN, CHARLES JR., CATHERINE (KATE), AND ALICIA. IN 1974, YOUNGEST DAUGHTER ALICIA CONRAD McCUTCHEON CAMPBELL DONATED THE HOME AND ITS CONTENTS TO THE CITY OF KALISPELL IN HONOR OF HER PARENTS.



Early photo of the Conrad Mansion (built in 1894). Famous for its original interior contents and beautiful gardens, it is now a public museum and open for tours from May through October.



MAIN STREET



1. Historically: Great Northern Railway Depot, built 1899; remodeled 1928

Currently: Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, Depot Park, Main Street. The Great Northern Railway Depot served trans-continental passengers from 1892 until 1904 when the main line of the railroad was relocated to go through Whitefish instead of Kalispell. Kalispell was then served by a branch line until the passenger train known as the “Gallop’in’ Goose” made its last run from Columbia Falls to Kalispell in 1950. The Great Northern Railway erected a number of buildings and structures along the railroad tracks in Kalispell. These included a brick round house, water tank, repair shop, coal chute, turntable, section house, tool house, express room, boarding house for Japanese workers, ice house, and an office building. These buildings no longer exist. As part of a 1928 remodeling project, the Depot’s brick walls were covered with stucco and the overhanging eaves were shortened by about four feet. The improvements made the Depot grounds “a show place rather than an eye-sore,” according to a local newspaper. The exterior appearance of the Depot today is much the same as it looked in 1928.



2. & 3. 34-48 Main Street **Historically: McIntosh & Sawyer Block and MacIntosh Opera House, built 1896. Currently: Western Outdoor (48) and Norm's News (34).** John McIntosh built the McIntosh Opera House in 1896; he and a partner added the building to the north in 1903. The upper floor served Flathead Valley residents as an opera house (seating capacity 1,000), lodge meeting hall, ballroom, theater, roller skating rink, high school graduation auditorium, etc. One of the first shows was "Little Lord Fauntleroy." The showing of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had one of the largest audiences, drawing over 1,100 people. Admission usually ranged from 50 cents to \$1. Eugene Debs, labor leader and Socialist candidate for president, spoke at the Opera House in 1902. Inside the corner entrance of the building is a large, ornate back bar that was reportedly moved to a bar in Kalispell from Demersville in 1894. Today, the first floor of both buildings are connected and continue to be used for retail space. The second floor of the McIntosh & Sawyer building was completely restored and is used as rental apartments; the Opera House second floor is closed.



4. 100 Main Street **Historically: Kalispell Hotel, built 1911. Currently: Kalispell Grand Hotel.** The Kalispell Hotel was designed by Kalispell architect Marion Rizzo and built by local contractor B. Brice Gilliland. In 1912 the hotel management installed a large flashing electric sign reading KALISPELL HOTEL on the roof of the hotel, angled to face the railroad depot. According to the Kalispell Journal, "It represents a beautiful arrangement

of lights and will no doubt draw more night trade to the hotel than would a dozen spielers at the trains." Rooms in the Kalispell Hotel were originally \$2 per night. Nationally known Montana author, Frank Bird Linderman, leased and managed the hotel from 1924 until 1926 and was able to continue writing because of the profits from the sale of the hotel lease and furniture. Artist Charlie Russell was his frequent guest.

5. & 6. 110-116 Main Street Historically: **Halliday-Boysen Block, built 1928.** Currently: **Unoccupied and Scottibelli's Italian Restaurant.** The Halliday-Boysen Block (designed by Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman)



was constructed in 1928 to serve as a modern building for two stores, and to serve as the base for future expansion of the Kalispell Hotel to its north. Plans to add another story to this building, however, were never realized. Pharmacist W. F. Halliday moved to Kalispell in 1910 from Carrington, North Dakota. He was born in Ontario in 1873, received a degree in pharmacy in North Dakota, and came to Kalispell eight years later. He owned and operated the Red Cross Pharmacy until his death in 1931. Halliday and his wife, Clara, had four children. James Boysen came to Kalispell in 1908 and originally established a blacksmith shop on 1st Avenue West. During the pre-World War II years, the Halliday-Boysen Block housed the Red Cross Pharmacy, Fay Moses (taxi service), Montana Auto Sales, Dr. Clarence Hamel's office, the Elite Shining Parlor, the Log Cabin (saloon), the Blue Moon Tea Room, Investors Syndicate of Minneapolis, Liberty Finance Company, Frank Pufahl office (insurance), and Main Street Radio Service.



7. 118-120 Main Street Historically: **Brewery Saloon/The Palm, built 1892, 1901.** Currently: **Sassafras.** The Brewery Saloon/The Palm was constructed by Charles Lindlahr as a saloon associated with the Kalispell Malting & Brewing Company and later additions created room for the Kalispell Club (a men's social club) and Kalispell's first bowling alley. The Brewery Saloon started as a one-story, 25' x 60' brick structure built the spring of 1892. When opened, the Inter Lake described it as "one of the neatest and best furnished bar rooms in the state," with new oak furniture purchased from Brunswick & Balk Collender, manufacturer of bar fixtures. The saloon opened on June 30, 1892, before the brewery was constructed.

The bar itself was oak with a mahogany bar top, and the saloon featured French mirrors and brass trimmings. An 1894 advertisement for the Brewery Saloon mentioned "Choice Wines, Liquor and Cigars, Kalispell draft beer on tap at 5 cents per glass. Free lunch served at the bar." That same year the Lindlahr brothers installed two lights that were "more brilliant than day," and by 1895 the saloon was connected to the brewery by telephone.



8., 9., & 10. 124-132 Main Street Historically: Edwards Block and Kalispell Meat Market, built 1899, 1908. Currently: Imagination Station (132), Flowers by Hansen (128), unoccupied (124). Born in New Hampshire in 1866, Mr. Edwards came to Kalispell in 1891 and served as a member of the first volunteer fire department, the assistant secretary of the Kalispell Townsite Co., and as a member of the first city council. Edwards married Mary Dixen in Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1893. Two years later she was reportedly the first white woman to visit Avalanche Lake in what later became Glacier National Park. In July of 1899 Edwards announced that he would build a divided brick building (124-128) in Kalispell. By December tenants were moving into the two storefronts, even though the previous month the plate glass for the Edwards Block had been smashed at the Kalispell freight depot. Mrs. Edwards was prominent in Kalispell society, and Mr. Edwards, according to the Kalispell Bee in 1905, was “the most prominent public benefactor Kalispell has had.”



11. 136 Main Street Historically: Kalispell Drug Co., built 1908. Currently: Shorty's Barber Shop. M.F. McClung began excavation for this building in June of 1908, after the wood frame Parlor Café building was moved off Main Street. After the Kalispell Drug Company had moved into the new building, the Kalispell Bee described it as “all plate glass and mahogany and artistic turns.” A 1910 article described the business: “The interior fittings are all in curly birch, beautifully finished with a mahogany effect. A wealth of plate glass beveled mirrors, handsome show cases

with marble bases, and wall cases all in the same handsome design are features of the furnishings....As pharmaceutical chemists and scientific prescription druggists, the company pays special attention to the accurate compounding of physicians' prescriptions and a feature of the business is the handsome, new, sanitary soda fountain, where the purest of fruit juices are used for flavoring and courteous attendants are in charge.”



12. 140 Main Street Historically: Heller Building, aka Pastime Bar, built 1898. Currently: Think Local. Kalispell already boasted several saloons when August Heller opened his establishment in 1900. Heller traveled to Chicago for interior fittings, added a hot water boiler in 1902, Kalispell's first cement sidewalk in 1904, and a Stubber's gas lighting system in 1907. Imported liquors, back room poker games, and rumors of loose women upstairs kept a rough-and-tumble clientele entertained. So famous was Heller's Saloon that temperance crusading bar-smasher Carrie Nation delivered her gospel

message in front of the building in 1910, exchanging heated words with proprietor Heller. During Prohibition, John Gus Thompson—Pittsburgh Pirates' pitcher in the first World Series in 1903—moved his pool hall here. Later, the Pastime Bar offered fishing tackle, beer, tobacco, and hot meals. When Thompson died in 1958, he was thought to be the last survivor of the first World Series. The Pastime closed in 1988. In 2005, a fire in an adjacent building prompted a complete restoration of the Heller building, which now accommodates retail and office space.



13. 214-218 Main Street Historically: Woolworth Co., built c.1955. Currently: Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana. This streamline building is a wide, one-story masonry commercial structure with a majority of the front-facing façade made up of metal-framed plate glass windows. This was historically the site of three two-story brick business buildings that were constructed by Charles E. Conrad and John H. O'Connell and built by contractor Mike Greig in 1901. They originally housed O'Connell's Saloon and the Golden Eagle, with offices on the second story. According to an earlier survey, the O'Connell Block was removed sometime after World War II and the current building was constructed sometime between 1943 and 1963 (McKay, 1992). Based on the change of address between 1951 and 1955, which increased the business space from 214 to 214-220, the building is believed to have been constructed around 1955 (Polk). The Woolworth variety store occupied the existing building until the late 1980's. Woolworth's grew to be one of the largest retail chains in the world, but went out of business in 1997.

14. 222 Main Street Historically: Anderson's Style Shop, built 1941. Currently: unoccupied. The Anderson Style Shop is unique for its Art Nouveau-style façade, paneling and lighting. The building was designed by Fred Brinkman. With one exception since its construction in 1941, the building has been occupied by a ladies' apparel store. It is one of the very few buildings constructed from the 1930's through the World War II years. The interior entry window display cases are original. In 1933, the Flathead Monitor described Carl Anderson's first women's-wear shop (in an earlier building on this site) as "...the headquarters for style and correctness in Kalispell" with garments that represented "...the latest whim of fashion." Carl and Marius Anderson also built the Liberty Theatre on First Ave. East in 1920.



15. 226-228 Main Street Historically Knight & Twining Block, built 1901. Currently: J. Thomas Salon/Montana Spa. This commercial structure was constructed in 1901 by contractors and partners Knight & Twining with a high second floor that was used for many years as a lodge hall. The contract for the stone and brick work was done by Kalispell mason John Stahl. The brick corbelling along the cornice is typical of John Stahl's brickwork and of Knight & Twining buildings. The 1910-constructed Buffalo Block adjacent to this building to the south was destroyed by fire in 1976.

16. 318-320 Main Street Historically: Griffin Block, built 1891-1894. Currently: Ceres Bakery. This commercial business block was constructed between 1891 and 1894 and was owned by Walter H. Griffin until 1926. Griffin and his partner George Stannard had a real estate and insurance business on the first floor and Griffin lived in an upstairs apartment all the time he owned the building. Griffin was a friend of Alexander Bell and Griffin's ideas reportedly helped Bell develop the telephone. This two-story block is of wood frame construction and has a gabled roof behind the classic false front.





17. & 18. 322-328 Main Street Historically: Cyr Building, built 1936. Currently: Mimi's Bridal and Wild Eye Artistry Gallery. Kalispell businessman Charles

Cyr constructed this building in 1936 at an estimated cost of \$20,000. From 1936 until at least 1943 the W.G. Woodward store occupied the building. This one-story commercial building has a brick front façade and cantilevered canopy. At the rear of the building the windows are six-over-six-light double-hung and the sills and lintels are concrete.



19. 332 Main St. Historically: Kalispell Times Block, built 1891-1894. Currently: Nail Toepia Nail Salon. In 1894 this building was being used as a funeral parlor, most likely for George McMahon, a member of the first Volunteer Fire Dept. of Kalispell and one of the town's first coroners and undertakers. He moved his business and dwelling to 340 Main Street in 1901, supplementing his income by selling new and second-hand goods and upholstery. George married Elizabeth Gilmore in

1897. In 1903, this building was listed as a dwelling and harness shop. From about 1911 until at least 1943, it was the office and print shop of the Kalispell Times, a weekly newspaper. From 1955 until 1975, the Walt Woods Insurance Agency occupied the building.

20. & 21. 338-340 Main Street Historically: Sauser-Mercord Building, built 1901 (south)-1925 (north). Currently: 338 is Camas Creek Cottage; 340 is unoccupied. The Sauser-Mercord Building is actually two separate buildings constructed in 1901 (north half) and 1925 (south half). George McMa-



hon constructed the north building in 1901 to house his undertaking and second-hand furniture business. He sold his business to William P. Sherman, who was an undertaker from Butte, MT. Sherman, and later his widow Nora (reportedly the first woman in Montana to become a licensed undertaker), and her children operated an undertaking business, sold pianos, and lived on the second floor of the building until they moved in 1929.



22. 412-418 Main Street Historically: Hendricksen Motors, built 1915 and c.1955.

Currently: Kalispell Brewing Co. The garage adjacent to the 418 Main St. building (c. 1955) was constructed in 1915, but most of the original façade has been obscured with modern brick. It was built in 1915 by blacksmith Chris Kolle, who acquired the Dodge agency and was seeking other work to supplement his declining horseshoeing, tire and spoke work business. Kolle was born in Indiana and came to Kalispell in 1891, where he opened a blacksmith shop (one of five at the time) and served on Kalispell's first volunteer fire department. A 1917 ad for the garage described it as a blacksmith and machine shop that specialized in springs and offered day and night service. By 1918, however, because of failing health, Kolle leased his garage shop to Al Filson of Sandpoint, Idaho. In 1921, the Saling Motor Company leased the garage from Al Filson and sold Dodge cars from the location. Bert Saling's business was succeeded by Harry Hendricksen (born in 1873 in Norway), who opened at this location in approximately 1923. He was a dealer for Dodge automobiles and Graham trucks. Hendricksen Motors closed its doors in 1935 and the business was sold to Phillips-Bowman Motors. Hendricksen was a member of the Masons, Eastern Star, the Kiwanis Club, and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He was chairman of the high school board during the construction of a new building for the school.

23. 424 Main Street Historically: O'Neil Lumber Co. Office, built 1909. Currently:

Colter Coffee. In 1900, Charles I. O'Neil started to develop what would become a sizeable lumber yard and business, with offices housed in this two-story brick building built by Frank Grey. In 1904, the company was reported as employing only union help. The family-run business, where you could buy "...everything needed to build your home..." continued until 1985. The O'Neil's were one of the most prominent families in Kalispell during the early historic period. Charles' father was DeWitt Clinton O'Neil, a Civil War veteran, and his mother was Belle Frear. Charles, his parents



and five siblings (Earnest, Greeley, Clinton, John and Mary), all eventually moved to Kalispell before 1900, seeking better opportunities. Charles married Kathryn Fingado, a school teacher who homesteaded on Flathead Lake, in 1904. Their two sons, Larry and Charles, founded the Forest Products Co. in Kalispell in 1936, with their father's timberlands northwest of Kalispell as a resource base. Later in his life, Larry O'Neil would hold world records in his age class for race-walking.

24. 333 Main Street Historically: Montgomery Wards Store, built 1929. Currently: Alpine Lighting.

This building, designed by Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman (1892-1961) and built by Henry



Good (logging contractor, farmer and real estate owner), marked the expansion of the business district south along Main St. after its initial development farther north during the previous decades. The Montgomery Ward store opened here in 1929. It employed approximately 80 people and carried toys, auto accessories, hardware, sporting goods, stoves, radios, paint, furnishings, dry goods, and general merchandise. The automobile service station on the corner (currently **Sweet Peaks Ice Cream Shop**) was built in 1935.



25. 325-327 Main Street Historically: Gambles Store, built 1946. Currently: The Toggery.

This building was constructed in 1946, and was one of several new post-war period buildings in Kalispell (Kalispell Times, 1946:1). It housed a modern department store with a basement, first mezzanine and a second floor. Gambles Department Store occupied the building from the time it was constructed to as late as 1975 (Polk). This building

is a good example of Modernistic commercial architecture following World War II. These buildings are unique in Kalispell for their use of modern, often bold materials and stylistic features. Newly renovated, the current owners continued that tradition in the design of the entire front façade.

26. 323 Main Street Historically: O'Neil Print Shop, built 1926. Currently: unoccupied.

The building was designed by Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman to house the printing business of Ernest O'Neil (member of Kalispell's prominent O'Neil family). Ernest was born in Pennsylvania in 1867. He married Frieda E. Gerth and in 1898 they came to Kalispell.



Ernest's three brothers were already in Kalispell and had founded the O'Neil Lumber Company. Ernest had been an apprentice printer in Missouri and worked as a pressman at Kalispell's Daily Inter Lake when he arrived. He opened his own printing shop in 1908, operating it until his death in 1944.



27. 317-319 Main Street Historically: Kalispell Nash Motor Co., built 1923-1924. Currently: Thai Palace Restaurant. This building is a single-story commercial

structure with masonry construction. It is constructed of tan brick with dark ornamental brickwork in the two pilasters that flank the building. The original building façade above the windows is obscured by vertical wood siding, which is also used in the entry. From about 1924 until 1944 the Kalispell Nash Motor Company occupied this building. Proprietor Charles O'Connell sold Nash and Durant-Star automobiles, and auto supplies, tires and repair services. O'Connell was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, and he moved to Helena as a child. In 1926 the Kalispell Nash Garage contained show rooms, a storage room, and a shop, which offered parts and service for Nash automobiles. In 1930 Allen French and E. H. Ahues, former employees of Henricksen Motor Company, bought the Nash Garage business from O'Connell. They established 24-hour service and carried DeSoto as well as Nash vehicles.



28. 301-309 Main Street Historically: Whipps Block, built 1904 and 1909. Currently: Big Sky Martial Arts, Flathead Building Assoc., and various professional offices. The Whipps Block, designed by architect George Shanley (later of Great Falls) reflects the optimism of Kalispell's leading citizens in the very year that the Great Northern Railway moved the railroad division point from Kalispell to Whitefish. William Carvoso Whipps organized the first bank in the area, Northwestern Bank. In 1904 he erected the Whipps Block to house his business, the Kalispell Liquor & Tobacco Company and others. He owned and sold residential and orchard real estate on Flathead Lake. Whipps became the first elected mayor of Kalispell in 1893. Called the "Czar," he accomplished much for Kalispell's development during his four terms as mayor (including the paving of streets, installing a sewer system, planting trees and advocating for shutting down the west-side houses of prostitution), but often met with opposition. Whipps owned a summer home on Lake MacDonald and was also an active advocate of the creation of Glacier National Park.

29. 241-245 Main Street Historically: Masonic Temple, built 1905. Currently: Chuck Olson Real Estate and Farmers Insurance.

The landmark Masonic Temple, like the Whipps Block to its south, was



designed in the Renaissance style by architect George Shanley of Kalispell, but he did not supervise the construction of either one. Shanley was born in Burlington, VT in 1875 and educated at the University of Vermont. He originally came to Montana to help his father construct a barn near Glacier Park. The general contract for the Masonic Temple was let to Hastie & Dougan of Spokane, Washington, who also had built the Kalispell courthouse and jail the previous year. The Carter Mercantile moved into the first floor of this building in 1906 and reportedly could handle 200 shoppers at one time. The original business office and cashier's desk were about nine feet high, so the manager could sit at his desk and see every department. During World War I, the local Red Cross had work rooms in the basement of the building. In November 1917 a reporter described the area as filled with 115 "liberty-loving, home-loving women, all so busy with needle and thread doing the things that will 'make democracy safe'."



30. 237 Main Street Historically: K&T Building, aka Knight & Twining Block, built 1908. Currently: Coins & Carats.

The Knight & Twining Block was built in 1908 by two building contractors who were also brothers-in-law, and they owned the building until 1923 (notice the "K&T" in the brickwork near the roof line). Wamsley Twining's son, Walmsley Jr., was a member of Kalispell's Carnegie Library Building Board, city council, the Republican party and the Odd Fellows. Photographer T.J. Hileman's studio was located in this building from 1916-38. Hileman was well-known for his photographs of Glacier National Park scenes; in 1925 he was

appointed official photographer for the Great Northern Railway. In 1913 Hileman married his assistant Alice Georgsen; they were the first couple to be married in Glacier Park. In 1936 Hileman installed "trimmings" of polished Vermont granite on the front of the building. In more recent years, an automobile damaged the granite, some of which was then made into a counter top that is still in use in the store.

31. 233-235 Main Street Historically: Frohlicher Building, built 1955. Currently: Salon Jazlin and unoccupied.

This is a single-story brick structure with a flat roof. The front entry door is centered and recessed, and is marked by brick pilasters. An “L” shaped addition is located at the back of the building and is constructed of concrete masonry units. The original building on this lot was a two-story, wood-frame structure with a false front that was built in 1891. The building served as Kalispell’s first fire hall, with council rooms on the second floor. Two small buildings on the back half of the lot housed the hose tower and the city jail. When the new City Hall was built at 1st Avenue East in 1904, the building became a commercial establishment, housing a meat market as early as 1910. The former jail was used as a sausage factory. John Frohlicher, a Kalispell barber purchased the building in 1908 and had his barber shop there for many years. The property remained in the Frohlicher family until 1980.



32. 231 Main Street Historically: Karcher-Duvall Building, built 1908. Currently: The Re-Finery.

This two-story brick building has a post-1954 remodeled second-story façade constructed of stucco that houses a band of glass blocks flanked by two small windows with awnings. Portions of the main level have a modern brick veneer. The first building on this lot was a small, three-room structure built by Marcus Baldwin in 1891 to house his law office. The structure was soon removed, however, and the lot remained vacant until excavation for the Karcher & Durall block began in early 1908 and was



completed in May by Kalispell builder George Simmonds. Julius Karcher and Daniel Durall moved their City Shoe Store into this building as soon as it was completed. The store was located in this block until they sold it in 1926 to C. C. Fergusson (formerly vice president of Eagle Shoe Company) because of Durall’s poor health. An original occupant of the upper floor of the building was Frank E. Marsh, a newly arrived surveyor and civil engineer who later became the City Engineer. Although the original exterior design has experienced several changes, it is a good example of how building styles evolved and specifically, how streamline features associated with the Modernistic and International styles were applied to older buildings in the 1940s and 1950s. The building gains further significance in that it has remained an integral part of the downtown commercial fabric for more than 100 years.



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN



KALISPELL MONTANA



MAIN STREET
(looping south from site #1., Depot Park)

West side of street:

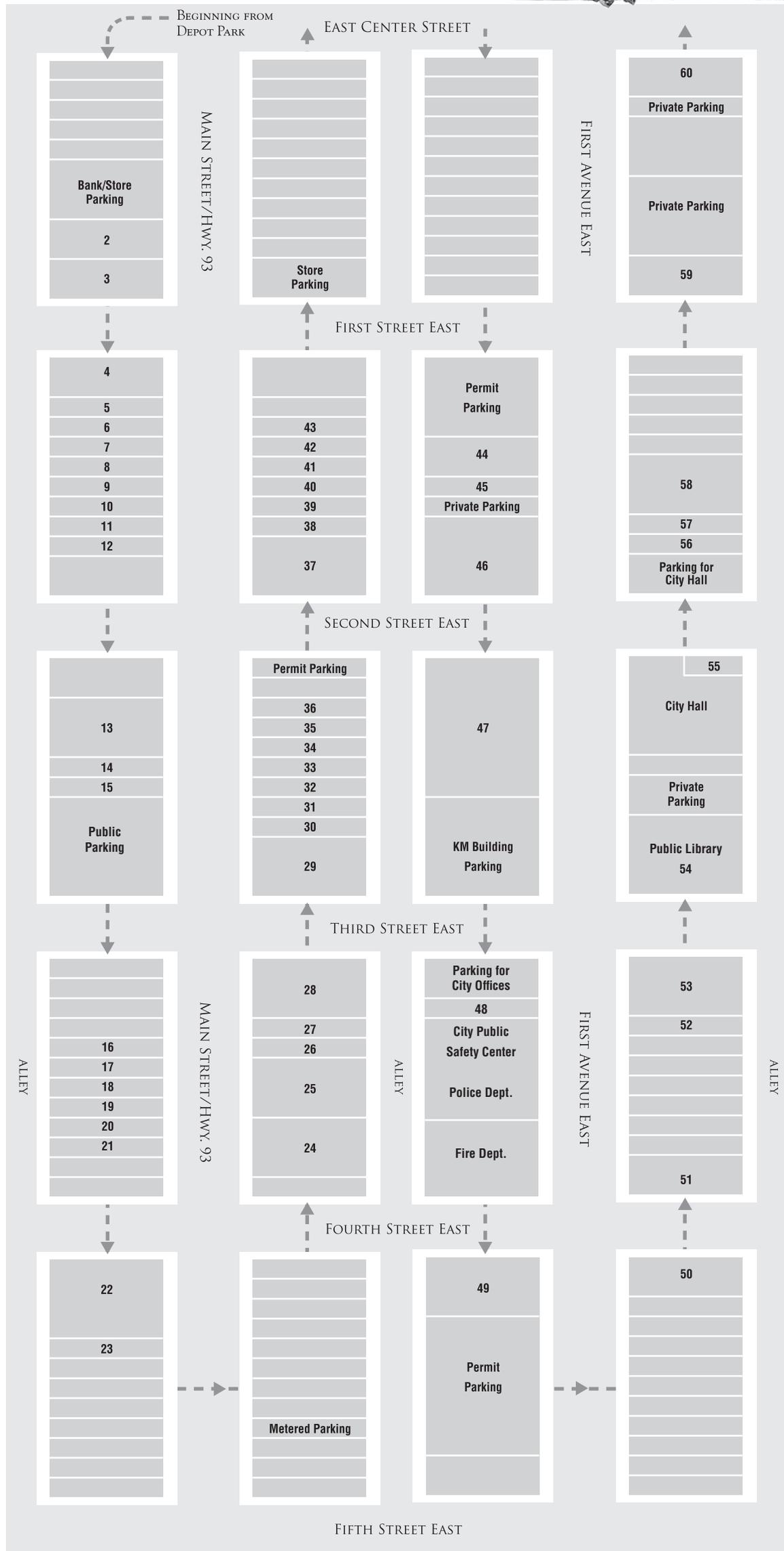
- 2. 34 Main P. 4
- 3. 48 Main P. 4
- 4. 100 Main P. 4
- 5. 110 Main P. 5
- 6. 116 Main P. 5
- 7. 118-120 Main P. 5
- 8., 9. & 10.**
- 124-132 Main P. 6
- 11. 136 Main P. 6
- 12. 140 Main P. 7
- 13. 214-218 Main P. 7
- 14. 222 Main P. 8
- 15. 226-228 Main P. 8
- 16. 318-320 Main P. 8
- 17. & 18.**
- 322-324 Main P. 9
- 19. 332 Main P. 9
- 20. & 21.**
- 338-340 Main P. 9
- 22. 412-418 Main P. 10
- 23. 424 Main P. 10

East side of street:

- 24. 333 Main P. 11
- 25. 325-327 Main P. 11
- 26. 323 Main P. 11
- 27. 317-319 Main P. 12
- 28. 301-309 Main P. 12
- 29. 241-245 Main P. 13
- 30. 237 Main P. 13
- 31. 233-235 Main P. 14
- 32. 231 Main P. 14
- 33. 227 Main P. 15
- 34. 221 Main P. 15
- 35. & 36.**
- 217-219 Main P. 15
- 37. 141-149 Main P. 16
- 38. 139 Main P. 16
- 39. 135 Main P. 17
- 40. 131 Main P. 17
- 41. 127 Main P. 18
- 42. 123 Main P. 18
- 43. 117 Main P. 19



1
DEPOT PARK SQUARE
(CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)



FIRST AVENUE EAST
(looping south from site #1., Depot Park)

West side of street:

- 44. 120 1st Ave. E. P. 20
- 45. 128 1st Ave. E. P. 20
- 46. 136-141 1st Ave. P. 21
- 47. 200-224 1st Ave. P. 21
- 48. 312 1st Ave. E. P. 22
- 49. 400 1st Ave. E. P. 22

East side of street:

- 50. 401 1st Ave. E. P. 23
- 51. 345-347 1st Ave. P. 23
- 52. 315 1st Ave. E. P. 24
- 53. 301-307 1st Ave. P. 24
- 54. 233-247 1st Ave. P. 25
- 55. 120 2nd St. E. P. 25
- 56. 133-137 1st Ave. P. 26
- 57. 131 1st Ave. E. P. 26
- 58. 121 1st Ave. E. P. 27
- 59. 35 1st Ave. E. P. 27
- 60. 7 1st Ave. E. P. 28

The earliest township survey resulting in the Kalispell Township plat was filed in April of 1891. Kalispell is located in the upper Flathead Valley of Flathead County, and has served as the county seat since 1893.

Kalispell lies at an elevation of 2,955 feet along the valley floor, with the Cabinet Mountain Range to the west, the Continental Divide to the east, and Flathead Lake (the largest fresh-water lake west of the Mississippi) nine miles to the south. The word "Kalispell" has its origins in the Native American Pend d'Oreille language, meaning "prairie above the lake."



www.downtownkalispell.com | www.kalispellchamber.com

PHOTO ON LEFT AND RIGHT: A SPLIT IMAGE OF THE CONRAD HOUSE SALOON, WHICH FEATURED KALISPELL BREWERY LAGER BEER
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED ON WALKING TOUR BROCHURE AND MAP | KALISPELL BID AND KALISPELL DOWNTOWN ASSOC.



33. 227 Main Street Historically: Fair Dept. Store, built 1901. Currently: unoccupied. This building was considered “one of the most modern and up to date store buildings in the state” when it was completed in 1901 for the Fair Department Store. The Fair was a member of the Montana, Washington and Oregon Cash Buyers’ Union, a group of 50 merchants that purchased in bulk directly from manufacturers. The two owners of the Kalispell store, James Harbert and C. W. Norquist,

sold for cash, not credit, and offered lower prices because of their bulk purchasing.

34. 221 Main Street Historically: Calbrick Block, built 1906. Currently: New Life Church. The Calbrick Block was built in 1906 for real estate agent William Calbrick and his son Frank Calbrick who had a jewelry store in this location for many decades; the building remained in the family until 1956. William Calbrick kept up with the times. In 1907, as Powers & Eckholm’s first paving job, the wood sidewalk in front of the store was replaced with a “perfect” concrete sidewalk. In 1908 William Calbrick had a brown stone tile placed on the front of the building to designate it as the Calbrick Block. The next year, Frank Calbrick installed a “mammoth burglar proof safe” in the store for his jewels and gold.



35. & 36. 217-219 Main Street Historically: Adams Block, built 1895 and 1901. Currently: Bestow (217) and Fawn Boutique (219). The Adams Block is a two-story brick business block with several distinctive decorative features. These include a triangular pediment with diamond-point brick and the date “A.D. 1895” in stone beneath it. Two finials hang

down from either side of the pediment and a row of small brick arches runs beneath the cornice. Windows in both buildings are surmounted by brick arches. The business block was constructed in 1895 for Gurdon H. Adams’ department store and grocery, and from 1901 on it was connected with the store to the south, 219 Main St. (built by Adams in that year). The upper floor was utilized for lodging and office space, and was remodeled at an early date to house the studio of famed photographer T.J. Hileman.

37. 141-149 Main Street Historically: Ford Block Building, built 1898. Currently: unoccupied, Vicki Hileman, CPA, and professional offices. In February of 1895 the Flathead Herald-Journal reported that James A. Ford and his partner, Shelton, were planning to build a business block on the corner of



Main and 2nd Streets. Ground was not broken, however, until June 1898. The Ford Block replaced the 37-room Hicks Hotel (also known as the Grand Central Block) that was built in 1892 with a brick veneer for Ed Hicks. Hicks was originally from England and he had operated a hotel in Demersville. He reportedly built the Grand Central Hotel to give “an impression of solidity” through photographs so he could get a loan in England. In February 1894 his building was destroyed by fire, and the lots were vacant and a “loafing place” until the Ford Block was constructed. The Ford Block generally had two storefronts on Main Street and three on 2nd Street East, with a hallway and entry to the upper floor centered on 2nd Street East. James Ford was one of 13 children, a Civil War veteran from Ohio and a prominent early settler of Kalispell. He served on Kalispell’s first city council and was a director of Conrad National Bank for many years. He never married, passing away at age 89 in 1934.



38. 139 Main Street Historically: First National Bank, built 1891. Currently: Wheeler Jewelry. The important First National Bank building is the oldest brick commercial building in Kalispell and may have been the first brick building in town. The bank was founded in Demersville by W.C. Whipps, who moved it to Kalispell in 1891. Whipps bought the building lot for \$1,800 from a friend. In his memoirs, Whipps stated that his main banking competitor, Charles Conrad, had marked every corner lot in the business district as “sold” when the lots went on

the market. First National survived the financial panic of 1893 and remained in this building until 1905. A pre-1905 sign reading FIRST NATIONAL BANK, painted on the rear of the building above the second-floor windows, is still visible from the alley. After 1905, Dallas Stocking opened a jewelry store in this building for a short time. In 1911 the building was purchased by James Hollensteiner and Tom Bogart. The first floor was used as a shoe store and then rented to an employee of Stockings, Harry Gayhart, for his jewelry store, which later became Wheeler’s Jewelry.

39. 135 Main Street Historically: Eagle Shoe Co., built 1908. Currently: Rocky Mountain Outfitter.

Constructed between 1903 and 1910, Tom Bogart and Arthur Hollensteiner traded their one-story brick building next door (north) for this one in about 1911 because they needed more space for their shoe store. The Inter Lake in 1893 commented about Bogart and Hollensteiner, "These boys are always courteous and obliging and have by dint of enterprise and fair dealing built up a considerable trade." They engaged in some interesting marketing techniques; for example, in December of 1896, every 20th time the door bell rang at the store a pair of shoes was given away. In 1904, the Kalispell Bee listed the Eagle Shoe Co. as one of the Kalispell stores that employed only union members. According to Kalispell logger Glen Montgomery, the Eagle Shoe Co. had to replace their wood floors every other year because loggers' caulked boots chewed them up so badly. In 1936, artist Clarence Rundell painted 10 landscape murals in 10 days, directly on the interior plaster walls, for \$25 each. These beautiful signed paintings featuring Glacier Park are still enjoyed by customers and staff today.



40. 131 Main Street Historically: Todd's Bakery, built 1899. Currently: Insty Prints.

This single-story building was constructed in 1899 for Tom Bogart and Arthur Hollensteiner, proprietors of the Eagle Shoe Company. The storefront originally had large plate glass display windows with four ornate stained glass sections at the top of the windows. When Harry Todd purchased the building in 1936, he spent \$5,000 remodeling it

under the direction of architect Fred Brinkman. Bogart and Hollensteiner began the Eagle Shoe Company on October 1, 1892, and they remained partners for many decades, taking in another partner, Thomas S. Perry, in 1912. Thomas Bogart was born in Chatham, Ontario. He and his wife, Winifred, built a residence at 413 6th Avenue East in 1896 and moved into "their cozy residence" in July of that year. Thomas Bogart died in 1947. Arthur W. Hollensteiner was born in 1866 in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. He was a member of Kalispell's volunteer fire department for 20 years, the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. He married Jennie Stahl, the daughter of the Kalispell brickworker James W. Stahl, in 1900. Besides their home at 116 5th Avenue East, the Hollensteiner's also had a summer home on Flathead Lake. This building is one of the district's earliest constructed commercial buildings. It gains additional significance due to its association with Bogart, Hollensteiner, and Stahl, prominent businessmen during Kalispell's early developing years.



41. 127 Main Street Historically: Jordan's Café, built 1901. Currently: Marshall Noice Studio & Gallery. The Hamm Brewing Company of St. Paul, Minnesota, had this building constructed in 1901. In 1907 Walter Jordan purchased the business and operated a saloon until 1919, when the Volstead Act establishing Prohibition was passed. In 1927, Minnie Jordan operated Jordan's Café in the building for several decades. The Jordan's Café building has had rooms for rent on the second floor ever since it was built. In 1910, at least 16 single men were listed as living at this address. Their occupations included bartender, logger, house carpenter, bank cashier, cigar maker and blacksmith.

The pressed metal façade was designed to imitate rock-faced coursed stone, with an egg-and-dart pattern along the sides, floral swags along the top, and pilasters surmounted by decorative metal pineapples.

42. 123 Main Street Historically: Wilson's Café, built 1891, 1903. Currently: Beckman's Fine Furnishings. This one-story wood-frame structure is one of the older buildings in the district, with the front portion constructed between 1891 and 1892. The building is one of the few remaining gable-roofed wood-frame structures with a false front that is located along Kalispell's Main Street. A 1941 photograph shows the building as having an Art Moderne look, designed by Fred Brinkman.



It housed a grocery store from as early as 1894 and as late as 1918. From approximately 1903 to 1906, Ned N. Rice operated a grocery out of the building and shortly afterwards so did Fred K. Main who owned the building from 1907 to 1939. In 1918 the building was remodeled by Mr. Main for use as the Glacier Park Restaurant. The proprietor of the restaurant was Chin Sing, who came to Spokane, WA, from China when he was a child. He moved to Montana in the 1890's, first setting up shop in Whitefish, MT. In 1918 he moved to Kalispell where he operated the Glacier Park Restaurant until his death at age 54 in 1924. The Flathead Monitor described Chin Sing as "...one of the square men of the city, highly respected by all (Flathead Monitor, 1924:6)." This building is a unique example of an early Western Commercial-style building in Kalispell, many of which were constructed with fireproof materials and flat roof-lines that slope toward the rear. While material and design changes have been applied to this building over the years, they were completed within the historic time period established for the district. The storefront windows and entryway were updated in 2015.



43. 117 Main Street Historically: Brust Building, built 1928. Currently: unoccupied

The Brust building is a single-story brick commercial structure with a castellated parapet. The parapet has a dark coping and decorative diamond shaped terra cotta medallions. The signboard, which is now blank, originally read “Kalispell Tailoring.” The current windows replaced older ones sometime after 1992. According to historian Kathy McKay, the original pressed metal is still

located in the entry ceiling (McKay, 1992). Henry Hansman, a contractor for Reinhold Brust, constructed the Brust Block building in 1928. The north half of the Brust building was occupied by Brust’s “Kalispell Tailoring Business,” while the south half was occupied by Don Shepard’s Owl Barber Shop. During the 1930’s the south half of the building housed the Crescent Barber Shop, a shoeshine parlor and the Kalispell Beauty Shop. The building remained in the Brust family until the early 1970’s. Reinhold Brust was born in Ldz, Poland, in 1880 and married Frida Debus there in 1906. They came to the United States and Flathead Valley around 1908. The Brust’s lived at 285 2nd Avenue North as early as 1913. He was a member of the Elks lodge and the Woodmen of the World. Henry Hansman constructed numerous other Kalispell commercial buildings in the 1920’s and 1930’s. He was the general contractor for the Fred Brinkman-designed Art Deco City Service Station and City Water Department buildings on 1st Avenue East. The Brust Block is one of only a few examples of a late 1920’s commercial building in downtown Kalispell.



THE FORD BUILDING, EARLY 1900’S | 141-149 MAIN STREET AND 2ND STREET EAST

301 First Ave. East, circa 1945



FIRST AVENUE EAST

44. 120 First Avenue East Historically: Liberty Theatre, built 1920. Currently: Liberty Theatre/Fresh Life Church.

The Liberty Theatre was designed by Kalispell architect Marion Rizzo in 1920 for Carl and Marius Anderson. Marius was involved in its management for many years.



The Liberty Theatre opened on January 24, 1921, with a showing of the film “Humoresque” with music provided by a pipe organ. Just before opening night in 1921 the Kalispell Times reported that the theater walls and decorations were painted in white, French gray and cloud tints, and the furniture and fittings were in green leather and plush. In 1929 the theater managers purchased “talkie” equipment that “sprayed” the theater with sound. The first movie with sound shown in the Liberty was “The Godless Girl.” It operated as a movie theatre until about 2007.



45. 128 First Ave. East Historically: State Employment Service, built 1950-1955. Currently: Fresh Life Church “The Lab.”

As early as 1899 this general area housed a residential dwelling that offered lodging, and the 128 building itself is in the approximate location of an old taxidermy that was located in the middle of the block. The building’s white brick façade is similar to that of the neighboring Liberty Theatre, and it’s possible

that the owners of the Liberty Theatre, Carl and Marius Anderson, may have constructed it. The earliest known occupant of the structure is the State Employment Service, which occupied the building as early as 1955. By the mid 1960s the Liberty Loan Corporation operated out of the building and the Beneficial Finance Company of Kalispell occupied the building as late as 1975. This is one of several buildings in the district that was constructed during one of Kalispell’s most recent building booms (c.1955).



46. 136-141 First Avenue East **Historically: Hotel Montana/McKnight Block, built 1910. Currently: Montana Building (professional offices).** James McKnight and Robert Benn were partners in the construction of the Hotel Montana building. Mr. Benn was murdered in 1915 at the age of 51 and his widow, Minnie Mae Sloan, became the proprietor of the Hotel after his death. The original businesses on the 2nd Street East side of the Hotel Montana were a “metropolitan cigar store” and Hay’s Café. The latter, run by A.H. Hay, operated out of this building from 1910-1918 and again from 1929-1933. Alfred H. Hay was a well-known restaurateur and businessman of the Flathead Valley. Born in China, he came to Missoula when 15 or 16 to join his uncle. Soon he began working as a cook in a private residence, where he was the “wonder of Missoula” for the dishes he prepared. Hay settled in the Flathead Valley in 1893, where he was best known for his Kalispell café and his Oriental goods store.

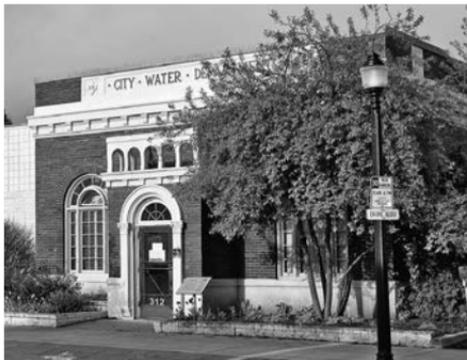
Photo circa 1913



47. 200-224 First Avenue East **Historically: KM Building aka Missoula Mercantile/ Kalispell Mercantile, built 1894-1910. Currently: KM Building (professional offices and retail businesses).** The Missoula Mercantile (later renamed the Kalispell Mercantile) was one of the first businesses organized in northwest Montana and until it closed in 1980 it was one of the largest, most influential businesses in the Flathead Valley. Its customers relied on deliveries by wagon, train and later truck to receive their purchases, which could be anything from chinaware to heavy farm equipment. The KM Building is actually a complex of buildings and additions constructed between 1892 and 1910.

48. 312 First Avenue East Historically: City Water Building, built 1927. Currently: City Public Safety Center.

The City Water Department building was designed in the Georgian Revival style by Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman and reflects the pride early Kalispell residents took in their public buildings. It is one of only a few high style buildings in the district. In



2009 the building became known as the City Public Safety Center. The setting of this building has changed substantially since it was built in 1927. The city's two-story jail, built in 1891, was located just to the south of the Water Department and later became a lodging house. In 1918 Lew Somers and his wife were accused in a civil action of running a "bawdy house" at that address. South of the city jail was a large feed stable complex that was in business until approximately 1915.



49. 400 First Avenue East Historically: Henry Good's Garage, built 1927-28. Currently: The Yoga Room and Straight Blast Gym.

Henry Good (1877-1944), a successful Flathead Valley logging contractor, investor, and community activist, had this garage built in just over 60 days for \$25,000. At the same time, he began work on the Montgomery Ward store on Main Street less than a block away. Good was born in Allegheny, PA. He came to Butte, MT with his parents in 1884. Two years later the family homesteaded 160 acres two miles southwest of what became Kalispell Townsite. In 1899, Henry married Ada Bowdish and had two children, Mark Henry and Ruth. Ada died in the 1918 influenza epidemic; two years later Henry married Alice Ketchum and they had a son, Henry K. Good. The Good Garage is a one-story Modernistic building constructed of concrete and cream-colored pressed brick with red sandstone trim and shields. The windows are accented with triangular capped pilasters and horizontal borders of stucco. One of the earliest known occupants was Phillips-Wohlwend Motors, Inc. By 1943 Stoops Garage, an auto repair and supply business, occupied the building. The corner entrance originally had a diagonal driveway to accommodate drive-through gasoline, oil and grease service with two gasoline pumps. By 1955 it was occupied by the Pelletier Motor Company.

50. 401 First Avenue East Historically: City Service Building, built 1927. Currently: KCFW-TV.

This Modernistic building exhibits Art Deco features, which include towers and vertical projections, a smooth stucco wall surface, and geometric motifs. The building's front-facing façade is curved, and faces both First Avenue East and 4th Street East. The building originally served as an auto service and gas station and was constructed in 1931 for Anderson & Red-



dick. It was built by Adolph E. Anderson for the City Service Company and was considered unique because of its modern floor plan. It was said to represent “a radical departure from the usual plan,” in that all departments of automobile service were included. The building was designed by Kalispell architect, Fred Brinkman, and the general contractor for the construction was awarded to Henry Hansman. Adolph Anderson was born in 1880 in Trondheim, Norway, and educated in Minneapolis. He came to Kalispell in 1917; in 1919 he married Marion Freer and worked as the district manager for the Continental Oil Company. In business in Kalispell for almost 40 years, Adolph and his sons later managed the Kalispell Hotel at 100 Main Street, beginning in 1944. He served on the Kalispell City Council and was a member of the Elks, Masons, and the Kalispell Kiwanis Club. He died in 1967 at the age of 86 (McKay, 1992).



51. 345-347 First Avenue East Historically: Oddfellows Temple, built 1927-1940. Currently: McGarvey, Heberling, Sullivan & Lacey, PC.

This two-story (with full-

basement) building has a flat roof and is resting on a concrete foundation. The building was a lodge that has recently been remodeled and now exhibits modern stylistic features and solar panels. According to an earlier undated photo of the building, the exterior was covered in stucco (Schliesman, 2010). The building housed a double door front entry that was accented with a wide arch window located above the entry (since removed). The lots where the lodge is located were vacant as early as 1899 and as late as 1910; the existing lodge building was constructed sometime between 1927 and 1940. In 1940 the lodge building served the Odd Fellows Temple. In 1955 it was utilized by the Lake Lodge No. 50 (IOOF), the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Neighbors, the Theta Rho Girls, Rebekah Crescent No. 10 (IOOF), Flathead Encampment No. 3 (IOOF) and the Scandinavian Fraternity of America. The building was listed as the Sons of Norway Hall in 1975. It was sold and remodeled in 2008 and again in 2013 by the law firm.



52. 315 First Avenue East Historically: Saverud's Paint Shop, built 1903-1910. Currently: Unoccupied. The lot where the 315 1st Avenue building is located was vacant as early as 1899 and as late as 1903. This building was moved from Demersville sometime between 1903 and 1910, and is believed to have originally served as a lodge meeting house. Prior to 1923, the building housed a paint and wallpaper shop on the main level. John Saverud bought the building and ran his paint store out of the main level from 1923-1944. In 1944 the business and building was sold to Peter Saverud.

By the early 1970's, Wilhelmina Saverud owned the building and Wayne Saverud owned the paint business (Polk). The paint store recently closed its doors, but the building continues to be Saverud family-owned. The building evokes a feeling for the historic period in which it was constructed, typifying the False Front/Boomtown architecture that was common during the early 20th century in Western Montana. Significantly, it is one of only a few buildings in the district that displays a false front, and it housed the same type of business for more than 80 years, with the Saverud family occupying the property for the majority of that time.



53. 301-307 First Avenue East Historically: Glacier Dairy, built 1955. Currently: Glacier Building; KAJ TV station and professional offices. This two-story building has International style features, with a smooth tile exterior and a flat roof with coping. As early as 1910, this end of the block housed a moving pictures building on the corner with an attached dwelling (301 1st Ave. E.), and a harness shop (307 1st Ave. E). By 1927 the Glacier Dairy, a creamery and storage facility, occupied the property. The history of the Glacier building is not exactly clear, but at this time it is believed to be made up of a portion of the original creamery buildings and a structure that was built in 1955. It is likely that the old single-story portion of the dairy complex was torn down to construct a two-story portion, the entire building complex was renovated, and the existing façade was put on about 1955. Although it is unclear whether any of the original creamery structures exist under the exterior façade of the Glacier Building, it appears that the building is made up of at least two or more different age structures.



54. 233-247 First Avenue East Historically: Federal Building, built 1917 Currently: Imagine It/Flathead County Library. For many years this Colonial Revival-style building housed the offices of the U.S. Post

Office, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Land Office and the U.S. Weather Bureau. It thus represents in physical form the strong influence of the federal government on the Flathead Valley. The U.S. Forest Service, in particular, has had a very significant role in the development of the Flathead Valley because of its management of millions of acres of public land. The original flooring of the Post Office was yellow pine. The Kalispell Times commented in 1917 that “We think a good deal of vertical grain Oregon fir flooring in this section but the treasury architect hails from south of the Mason and Dixon line.”

55. 120 Second Street East (*historically connected to 1st Avenue East; see below*) **Historically: Strand Theatre, built 1917 Currently: Fresh Life Church.**

This two-story Art Moderne brick commercial structure features a front-facing façade covered in yellow tile, with blue and red tiles accenting areas along the street level. A marquee with neon lights is



located above the entry, and a vertical neon sign advertising the “STRAND” is centered on the building. This building was associated with the Roxy Theatre that faced 1st Ave. East on this same block (where the south end of City Hall is located today). The Strand building is believed to have first been constructed as a relatively small, two-story brick building that was added on to in the 1920s. The lot that was occupied by the theatre originally served as the location of Kalispell’s Business College (c.1903). The college building and two small adjacent buildings were removed to build a two-story theatre (with office spaces on the second floor) and hardware store sometime between 1903 and 1910. In 1910 a long concrete foundation was poured directly behind the buildings. The foundation ran from the alley all the way to the front of the lot facing 1st Ave. East. Prior to 1927, the Second Street movie house had a new marquee constructed along the front of the building. The storefront facing 1st Ave. East that was connected to the Second Street movie house by a foundation was occupied by the Princess Theatre, later a billiards palace, and eventually the Roxy Theatre.



56. 133-137 First Avenue East Historically: Keller Building, built 1899-1903 Currently: Designworks Graphic Design. Documents indicate that this building is one of the District's earliest commercial buildings constructed by Knight & Twining. Wood pilasters accent the corners of the building on the upper story, and a cornice with wood brackets accents the roofline. The building originally served as a barber shop on the first floor and a lodge hall on the second. In 1903 a grocery occupied the storefront, followed by a paint and wallpaper store in 1910, Kalispell Sheet Metal Works in 1915, and briefly, Mrs. Houston's ice cream shop in early 1938. By late 1938 it housed

the Coca-Cola Bottling Works. The second floor was being used for rooming purposes around 1920; there are currently five apartments upstairs. In 1940, optometrist Dr. Fred H. Keller (Kalispell's mayor from 1949-1951) purchased and remodeled the building for office space with a reception room finished in brown Philippine mahogany. The building's front featured chromium grillework and enamel steel bulkheads under the show windows—the first ever used in Kalispell. Milton Mercord was the contractor and Fred Brinkman the architect. Façade renovation in 2014 included restoration of original wood columns, hand-stenciled lettering, black granite at the foundation, paint, and new striped awnings.

57. 131 First Avenue East Historically: Johnson Finance Co., built 1920-1927 Currently: Digital Planet Fine Art Reproduction.

This one-story commercial structure was built in 1919 to house the Daily Inter Lake, replacing a one-story wood frame building the newspaper had rented since 1901 (located two doors to the north). The Inter Lake was founded as a weekly newspaper in Demersville by C.O. Ingalls in 1889,



moved to Kalispell in 1891, and by 1907 became (and still is) a daily. The newspaper stayed in this building until approx. 1930. In 1934 the Kalispell Harness & Saddlery Co. was listed at this address. From approximately 1936 until 1939 insurance agent James Jorgensen, Jr. occupied the building. He had the front façade of the building remodeled to its present Modernistic-style with Art Deco features and a 1,000 sq. ft. apartment addition in the rear during this period by Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman. The painted chevron details and curved metal awning dates from Jorgensen's remodel; the stone veneer was added c. 1970's.



58. 121 First Avenue East Historically: Kalispell-American Laundry, built 1919 Currently: High Country Linen Supply. Laundries played an important role in early Kalispell because they provided two needed services: baths and clean clothes. In 1921 the laundry's equipment included modern washers and "spinning baskets," "drying tumblers," steam-heated presses, large flat work ironers for linens, collar finishing equipment, curtain dryers and conveyors for carrying the garments from one department to another. This building has always served as a laundry facility.

59. 35 First Avenue East Historically: Continental Oil, built 1932 Currently: The Body Shop.

The Continental Oil company Filling Station is an excellent example of the "domestic" filling station popular in the 1920s and 1930s. The Tudor-style building was owned by the Continental Oil company until 1964. The site was originally occupied



by the West Hotel, long a landmark in Kalispell. Built in 1891 before the Great Northern Railway even reached the new town of Kalispell, the West Hotel was a three-story building strategically located just one block from the railroad depot. In fact, this corner location was considered "the exact center of activity" in the 1890's. In later years 1st Avenue East became the transportation corridor of Kalispell, lined at first with liveries and feed stables and blacksmiths, gradually shifting to bicycle repair shops, automobile repair shops, new and used car dealers, and filling stations supplying gasoline and oil to automobile travelers. The lots to the north of the filling station have always been vacant. During the West Hotel era beginning in the 1890s, the grounds north of the hotel were flooded to create an ice skating rink.



60. 7 First Avenue East Historically: Kalispell Monument Works, built 1911 Currently: The Emporium/retail shops. The Kalispell Monument Works was built near the railroad tracks to allow for delivery of heavy materials to the rear of the building via a spur line. A traveling crane carried the granite or other stone from the railroad car to any part of the work room or show room. The stock included monuments made of Barre (Vermont), Scottish, Swedish, Quincy (Massachusetts) and Montello granites and also Vermont, Georgia, Italian, Colorado Yale and New York marbles.



VINTAGE PHOTO OF THE FLATHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Although not officially part of the Downtown Historic District, the Flathead County Courthouse is located at the south end of Main Street and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Continuously operated as a public building since its construction in 1903, the courthouse went through considerable renovation work in 2010. In 2015 a privately-funded clock was installed in the north tower window.



Thank You:

KALISPELL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND
KALISPELL DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

for making this brochure's production and free distribution possible

PAM CARBONARI, KBID COORDINATOR

BRET BOUDA, PHOTOGRAPHER

KATHARINE THOMPSON, CITY OF KALISPELL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

JOHANNA HARDESTY, RECORDS MANAGER FLATHEAD COUNTY RECORDS DEPT.

CHRISTINE HENSLEIGH

LEE KOZLOWSKI

for the use of a selection of vintage photos from his personal files

KATHRYN MCKAY, WRITER/HISTORIAN

for her 1992 research materials on the City of Kalispell

DESIGN AND ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY: RITA FITZSIMMONS | DESIGNWORKS, KALISPELL

PRE-PRESS: DIGITAL PLANET, KALISPELL | PRINTING: THOMAS PRINTING, KALISPELL

ALTERNATIVE ACCESSIBLE FORMATS OF THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.

ALSO SEE: WWW.DOWNTOWNKALISPELL.COM

Most of the featured buildings were built to accommodate a wide variety of commercial and retail businesses (as they continue to do so today), while some of the structures were built for public use or government agencies. Eligibility requirements for a building to be considered for the National Register of Historic Places is defined at www.nps.gov/history/NR/



THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE IN KALISPELL ON PARADE

No. 183

ABSTRACT OF TITLE

TO

*Kalispell Townsite
Company, Inc.*

For

Missoula County, Montana

COMPLETE ABSTRACTS OF TITLE
TO ALL LANDS AND TOWN LOTS
IN THIS COUNTY.

— A Kalispell Keepsake —

2015