



GREAT FALLS MONTANA

**Historic Lower
North Side Residential
Walking Tour**

GREAT FALLS HISTORIC LOWER NORTH SIDE OVERVIEW

Stately Queen Annes, sprawling Colonial Revivals, Tudor, Second Empire, Arts and Crafts and Prairie—a cornucopia of architectural styles can be found on Great Falls's historic Lower North Side. The second oldest neighborhood in town and the grandest, the Lower North Side is chockablock with dwellings that harken back to the early days, when the Electric City was expanding rapidly and bursting with promise.

Name any of Great Falls' prominent early residents, and chances are they lived along Third or Fourth Avenues North. Lawyers, doctors, architects, contractors and business owners resided alongside one another, socialized with one another and enjoyed the same pleasant amenities that, a century later, still render the North Side an agreeable place to live.

Great Falls founder Paris Gibson deserves most of the credit. A native of Brownfield, Maine, Gibson moved to Fort Benton from Minneapolis and from there set out to view the great falls of the Missouri he had heard so much about. A year later he returned, and on that second visit, while enjoying the falls from a high vantage point, was struck by the flat landscape sandwiched between the Missouri and Sun Rivers.

It seemed the ideal setting for a town. The following year, in 1883, Gibson linked up with Minnesota railroad magnate James J. Hill, and the two men hired a surveyor, Herbert P. Rolfe, to plat the city of Great Falls.

The Lower South Side, on the opposite side of downtown, is the city's oldest neighborhood. Its early houses were mostly modest wooden abodes: tents, shacks and other temporary dwellings cobbled together with whatever materials were handy. The first house on the north side, the Roberts House at 811 4th Avenue North, was built around 1885. A handful of others followed, and from 1890 to 1893 several more houses sprouted.

By the early 1900s, Great Falls was on a roll. In addition to the lively shops downtown were such flourishing businesses as the Great Falls Meat Company, the Cataract, Sapphire, and Royal mills, and the International Harvester Company, which offered sales and repairs. Home construction picked up considerably, and well-to-do citizens could afford to build sizable houses befitting their station. Gibson carefully managed which local residents could buy what parcels of property for businesses and dwellings. He began selling choice parcels on the Lower North

Side to residents prosperous enough to build dignified homes.

As Great Falls' population neared 15,000, the Lower North Side claimed its place as the city's premier neighborhood. The north side houses weren't nearly as enormous and majestic as mansions found Back East, but they were stylish and elegant. Despite the diversity in architectural styles, the properties shared a few things in common. The lots were similar in size, generally 50 feet by 150 feet. Houses, for the most part, were two stories high and were set back roughly the same distance from the street. And homeowners kept their vehicles in garages or carriage houses at the rear of their lots. In addition to laying out a symmetrical grid of streets and alleys similar to Minneapolis, Gibson insisted on planting trees up and down the streets, lots of them—cottonwoods and box elders in the beginning, later replaced by elms, ash and maples.

Dozens more homes sprouted up from 1910 to 1920 and apartment buildings popped up as well to accommodate World War I veterans streaming back home, smelter workers and farmers who had given up trying to grow crops in the semi-arid terrain. Apartment houses such as the Toy, the Terrell and the Geraldine are still inhabited. Their humble designs are unique to Great Falls and add another dimension of livability to the

Lower North Side.

The neighborhood has had its ups and downs. By 1980, downtown living had lost its cachet and dozens of houses and buildings on both the Lower North and South Sides were boarded up, empty and deteriorating. A fourth of the residential lots were cluttered with trash and debris, and transients began living in a few of the alley garages. Businesses began to eye the rundown old homes with the idea of razing them in favor of more modern buildings. Two Lower North Side residents, Nancy (Stephenson) O'Brien and Patty Jo Swanberg, launched a zoning battle to prevent commercialism from encroaching into their neighborhood. They succeeded. With the exception of a handful of law firms and other businesses, the Lower North Side maintains its residential flavor.

Today the Lower North Side enjoys a Renaissance of sorts. Residents take pride in their historic dwellings and work hard to keep the neighborhood clean and safe. Although Dutch Elm disease has wiped out a number of the old trees, towering survivors still shade the sidewalks, tended to as part of the city's Boulevard District. With spacious Gibson Park bordering the district's west end, the neighborhood is close to downtown happenings and the perfect setting for an afternoon stroll.





1 *212-214 4th Avenue North*

The Clark Apartments are a lasting example of the apartment building boom that accompanied Great Falls' population growth in the 1910s, when businesses were expanding and soldiers were returning home from World War I. Built in 1916, the four-plex townhouse features a full porch with a balustrade flat roof, supported by battered columns with brick piers. The built-up roof has a stepped front parapet. In addition to being an entrepreneur, the original owner, Joseph E. Bullock, also worked for the Boston & Montana Smelter.

2 *221 4th Avenue North*

Queen Anne and Classical Revival influences distinguish this two-and-a-half story home, built sometime between 1902 and 1918. Decorative molding adorns the gable dormers, a round window sits above the gabled peak of the sun roof and a pointed arch window faces west. The garage at the rear of the property started out as a barn. The house was once occupied by David R. Edwards, who owned one of Great Falls' first furniture stores.



3 *314 3rd Street North*

Built in 1918, the Blackstone Apartments were patterned after apartment houses in big cities like Chicago and Minneapolis and were said to be the finest of their kind in Montana. Residents pass between a pair of pillars and cross a central court to reach massive entry doors made of three-quarter French plate glass. Inside, a spacious lobby leads to 35 apartments, originally furnished with "jack-knife" beds that could be placed in any position. The basement contains a soundproof ballroom. The largest of the suites originally rented for \$75 a month.

4 *309 4th Avenue North*

This cheerfully painted house was built in 1908 and was once occupied by Dr. E. Martin Larson, who co-founded the Great Falls Clinic and served as its director for the first 30 years. Larson later served as president of the Montana Bank and Trust Co. and was elected to the state Legislature in 1925. The house is built in a symmetrical T, with a hipped roof with flared eaves and a first-floor porch that wraps around three sides, supported by piers square columns. An arched entry gate accents the picket fence encircling the yard.





5 *310 4th Avenue North*

Gable returns, corbelled extended eaves and a central entry pediment with a fan lite and barrel vaults highlight this Colonial-style home. Built in 1931, it was purchased in 1947 by George Roberts, a rancher who later went on to operate the Great Falls Breweries, Inc. His widow, Loretta Lehman Roberts, filled the house with collectibles from her world travels. The curved driveway and the wrought iron fence bordering the front of the sprawling yard add a graceful touch.

6 *317 4th Avenue North*

Paris Gibson's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Phil Gibson, originally owned this large one-and-a-half story house, which was built sometime between 1900 and 1920 and offers some of the same architectural features as the pattern-book houses so popular in the early part of the 20th century. Note the oval decoration in the gable end, the central corbel brick chimney and a full three-bay front porch supported by Roman Doric columns.



7 *401 4th Avenue North*

This imposing Period Revival house features locally quarried ashlar sandstone and has a ballroom on the third floor. It was built in 1908 for the family of Lee M. Ford, whose father, Robert Simpson Ford, helped settle the Sun River Valley and was a principal organizer of the Great Falls National Bank. Lee Ford succeeded his father at the bank, where the paintings of Charlie Russell and O.C. Seltzer and the pottery of Peter Voukos were displayed. The house features an enormous porch surrounding the west and south sides and oversized windows with flat arches and keystones on the main level. A porte cochere-covered driveway leads to an elaborate garage and outbuildings.

8 *400 4th Avenue North*

Great Falls founder Paris Gibson spent his final years in this 1890 Queen Anne-style home built by his son, Theodore, who sold real estate and owned the original Park Hotel. Paris Gibson died here in 1920 at the age of 90. The rectangular house has a combination gable and hipped roof and a wrap-around porch with its own half-hipped roof. Stucco that was later applied to the exterior has been removed to reveal the original clapboard siding.



9 *410 4th Avenue North*

Time and wear can't conceal the beauty of this Neo-Classical house, built sometime in the 1890s for prominent grocery store owner C. T. Grove. Note the Corinthian columns supporting the hipped roof of the porch and the double bay window centered in the front north hall. The windows all feature a molded architrave with cornices and the front dormer set back into the roof offers an entryway to a small enclosed deck.



10 *515 4th Avenue North*

One of Great Falls' first druggists, Morris L. Bridgeman, lived in this simple Queen Anne-style house, built in 1895. Bridgeman first worked at Driver Bradley Drug Company and Red Cross Drug before opening his own business, Roberts and Bridgeman, at 203 Central

Avenue. Clapboard walls with stick-style vertical boards distinguish the exterior of the home. The roof has several gable extensions and also a turret in the southeast corner. Note the millwork on the gable end and stone veneer planters that have been added beneath the solid rail of the screened porch.

11 *617 4th Avenue North*

This 1906 house represents a mixture of Classical Revival influences. Stickwork distinguishes the gable ends of the roof dormers and the second-story bay windows. Large Tuscan columns set behind a wood balustrade support the wrap-around porch. The eaves of the hipped roof flare slightly and are supported by corner knee bracing and curved brackets, while windows in the gable dormers have pointed arch upper sashes with tracery. The house was once owned by Abe Kaufman of Kaufman's Menswear. It was converted to apartments in 1951 and later reverted to single-family use. An original chandelier shipped by steamboat from St. Louis to Fort Benton remains in the house.



12 *626 4th Avenue North*

This 1901 transitional Queen Anne Colonial Revival first belonged to Herman Afflerbach, secretary of the Great Falls Meat Company, which opened the first meat-packing company in Montana in 1914. In later years the

house was carved into apartments and any decorative grillwork it might once have had has been removed. The combination gable-hipped roof and the gabled dormer with an angled bay window on the north side are noteworthy, as is the single bay window on the first story. The house has been restored to single-family use.

13 *709 4th Avenue North*

Georgian details highlight this transitional Queen Anne Colonial Revival house built in 1908 and owned by J.C. Quigley, an associate of the Great Falls Land and Investment Company. Flared eaves complement the hipped roof and gable dormers

garnish three sides of the side of the roof that faces the street. An angular single bay beneath the porch to the east of the front facade and a brick retaining wall with beveled sandstone cap elevates the front yard. The house was converted into apartments in the 1930s, but has since been reconverted to a single-family home.





14 *715 4th Avenue North*

Dr. John Henry Fairfield was the first physician to settle in Great Falls and the second owner of this transitional Queen Anne Colonial Revival, built in 1892. Fairfield was also one of the earliest sheep ranchers in the area, Cascade County's first coroner and Great Falls' second mayor.

The irregularly shaped residence is made of brick masonry and features decorative turned woodwork in the gable end with triple windows underneath. The front bay windows are surrounded by roughly cut sandstone sills and lintels.

15 *724 4th Avenue North*

This tall, handsome Victorian was built in 1893 by F. W. Webster, proprietor of the Churchill and Webster groceries at 216 Central. The house's L-shaped footprint features a cut stone foundation and large windows with molded cornices and decorative shutters. The beveled-edge plate glass was transported up the Missouri River by steamboat. Note, too, the multi-gabled room and iron railing above the sun porch.



16 *727 4th Avenue North*

A hipped roof with flared eaves, hipped dormers to the east and west, and double-gabled dormers to the south distinguish this 1897 transitional Queen Anne Colonial Revival dwelling. The house was built for L.G. Phelps, one of the original

stockholders in the Great Falls Electric Company. Phelps also bought the waterworks system from Ira Myers and sold it to the city, and sold Cascade County the site of its now-defunct jail at the corner of Third Avenue North and Fourth Street North. He eventually left Montana for Chicago and then Wyoming, where he operated one of that state's largest cattle and sheep ranches.

17 *811 4th Avenue North*

This 1885 structure is one of the oldest houses in Great Falls and a rare local example of the Second Empire style. Most notable is its mansard roof with flared eaves, punctuated by gabled dormers. An Italianate-style bay extends to the west and a three-sided bay projects eastward. The house was built by contractor William Roberts. Among his projects were St. Ann's Cathedral, the stonework for the Cascade County Courthouse, and the long-since-demolished Great Falls Opera House.



Historic North Side Residences



Residential Buildings

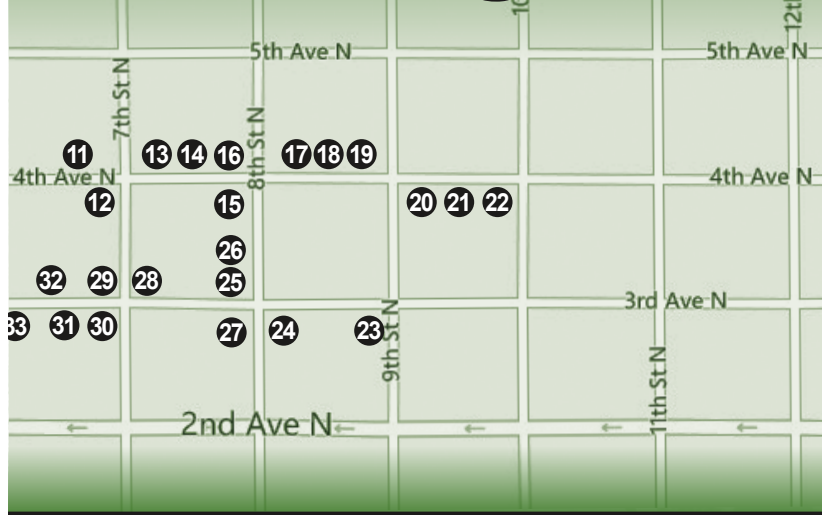
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Clark Apartments
-212 4 th Ave. N. | 12) 626 4 th Ave. N. |
| 2) 221 4 th Ave. N. | 13) 709 4 th Ave. N. |
| 3) Blackstone Apartments
-314 3 rd St. N. | 14) 715 4 th Ave. N. |
| 4) 309 4 th Ave. N. | 15) 724 4 th Ave. N. |
| 5) 310 4 th Ave. N. | 16) 727 4 th Ave. N. |
| 6) 317 4 th Ave. N. | 17) 811 4 th Ave. N. |
| 7) 401 4 th Ave. N. | 18) 813 4 th Ave. N. |
| 8) 400 4 th Ave. N. | 19) 825 4 th Ave. N. |
| 9) 410 4 th Ave. N. | 20) 906 4 th Ave. N. |
| 10) 515 4 th Ave. N. | 21) 912 4 th Ave. N. |
| 11) 617 4 th Ave. N. | 22) Sacred Heart Convent
-920 4 th Ave. N. |
| | 23) Fairview Baptist Church
-824 3 rd Ave. N. |



18 813 4th Avenue North

Civil War veteran, sheep rancher and horse trader Felix Armstrong owned this Queen Anne-style home, built in 1900. It's a vernacular form of the East Lake style, characterized by elaborate roof lines and decorative trim. A single bay to the east has an Italianate bracketed, scalloped shingled roof. The garage at the rear was originally a barn that once housed Dewey, a white gelding horse purchased by the city fire department in 1903. Dewey helped pull a fire wagon for 17 years; he survived a collision with a street car that killed his mate. When he retired at the age of 25, the city honored him with a celebratory feast.

Lower Potential Walking Tour



- | | |
|---|--|
| 24) 800 3 rd Ave. N. | 36) Cascade County
Courthouse
-415 2 nd Ave. N. |
| 25) 725 3 rd Ave. N. | 37) Cascade County Jail |
| 26) 304-306, 308-310 8 th St. N. | 38) 305 3 rd Ave. N. |
| 27) 724 3 rd Ave. N. | 39) 301 3 rd Ave. N. |
| 28) St. Ann's Cathedral
-715 3 rd Ave. N. | 40) 216 3 rd Ave. N. |
| 29) 625 3 rd Ave. N. | 41) 207 3 rd Ave. N. |
| 30) 624 3 rd Ave. N. | 42) 309 2 nd St. N. |
| 31) 620 3 rd Ave. N. | 43) 308 2 nd St. N. |
| 32) 609 3 rd Ave. N. | 44) 117 3 rd Ave. N. |
| 33) Church of the Incarnation
-600 3 rd Ave. N. | |
| 34) 520 3 rd Ave. N. | |
| 35) 517 3 rd Ave. N. | |



19

825 4th Avenue North

One of Montana's best-known families in the early 1900s lived here. William K. Floweree grew up in Helena and lived in Sun River before moving to Great Falls in 1907. He took over and expanded the family horse and sheep company, helped organize the American Bank and Trust Company and served two terms in the state Legislature. A subsequent owner, Dr. Earle Strain, helped discover a connection between ticks and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The 1916 brick dwelling is a fine example of Period Revival Domestic Architecture. The sun room on the east side features large expanses of glass and the basement contains a ballroom.



20 *906 4th Avenue North*

Built in 1898, this one-and-a-half story brick house is one of the oldest in town. It was built for the family of Michael Curry, an Irish immigrant who met his wife in San Francisco and moved to Fort Benton in the 1870s. They moved to Great Falls

when the Northwestern National Bank relocated here. Curry and his wife later operated a downtown hotel. Note the gable returns, simple frieze and boxed eaves on the roof and the square posts and solid rail adorning the shed-roofed porch.

21 *912 4th Avenue North*

The Arts and Crafts Movement and early prairie style influenced this 1909 square frame residence. Note the molded frieze belt running along the top of the first-story windows. The extended eaves of the low, angled, hipped roof sport carved rafter ends. The original owner was Cochran T. Boals, who worked as a cashier for the Boston and Great Falls Electric Light and Power Company and for the Great Falls Street Railway Company, and later clerked for the Boston and Great Falls Land Company.



22 *Former Sacred Heart Convent* *920 4th Avenue North*

This red-brick, eclectic Classical Revival building, built in 1922, served as a convent for a group of nuns representing the Sisters of Humility who arrived in Great Falls 16 years earlier. The sisters played a key role in establishing the city's Catholic school system.

The building includes Roman and Gothic features. Gabled bays face the street and the entry is centered in a projecting double bay. An emblem on the building's northeast corner reminds passers-by that "Humility is the foundation of every virtue." The building became an alcohol treatment center in 1977.

23 *Fairview Baptist Church - 824 3rd Avenue North*

Built in 1910, this two-story stone church reflects Gothic Revival Prairie Collegiate influences. Gothic windows adorned with colored glass and stone entrance arches with paneled wood doors distinguish the building, which was commissioned by the First Congregational Church. It has been altered and remodeled several times since, but the unusually curved rear of the building remains intact.



24 *800 3rd Avenue North*

Sheep rancher and horse trader Felix Armstrong lived a block away on Fourth Avenue North before moving to this cottage-sized Transitional Queen Anne Colonial Revival, built in 1901. The L-shaped dwelling has intersecting gable roofs decorated with fish-scale shingles in gable ends and a half-lite paneled entry, as well as a wraparound porch with a charming curved solid frieze.

25 *725 3rd Avenue North*

A law firm now occupies this two-story brick English Tudor Revival building, constructed in 1917. Its original owners were Lillian and Lucille Brady, whose father, T.E. Brady, was a lawyer and businessman. Among other things, Brady owned



interests in a large sheep ranch, a Teton County cattle ranch and an irrigating plant near Ashfield, and was secretary and promoter for the Neihart Water Company, which was developed in 1892. The gable roof features bracketed eaves and false timbered gable ends. A two-bay open recessed porch, supported by large brick piers, commands the southeast corner.



26 *304-306 and 308-310 8th Street North*

Lillian and Lucille Brady, who owned the house at 725 3rd Avenue North, also owned this pair of duplexes, built in 1917. Elements of the Arts and Crafts style are evident:

the wood-shingled pyramidal-hipped roof has eyebrow dormers, exposed rafters and double bracketed eaves. Paired columns support a center shed roof porch. Behind 308-310 is a gabled two-stall garage.

27 *724 3rd Avenue North*

The man who built St. Ann's Cathedral, James Donlin, lived across the street in this Transitional Queen Anne Colonial Revival, built in 1902. Donlin was a Pennsylvania native who moved to Great Falls at the age of 30 from Minnesota, where he worked as a contractor. He also built Central High School and the Vaughn and McKnight blocks, among other projects, and was a bigwig in the local Democratic Party. The house is an irregularly shaped residence with a pyramidal hipped roof, a three-sided gabled bay, and a fully enclosed front porch that features square fluted columns, a solid railing and a half-lite door with a transom.

28 *Saint Ann's Cathedral 715 3rd Avenue North*

The stunning St. Ann's Cathedral, a Catholic church built in 13th Century English Gothic style, was dedicated on December 15, 1907. The walls consist of a beige sandstone with a rusticated finish. Note the steeply pitched intersecting gable roof, the turreted bell tower and the enormous arch with recessed windows that serves as the main entrance. The cathedral's interior boasts detailed gothic patterning highlighted with gold paint. The building cost \$100,000, a princely sum in its day. It was remodeled in 1977 and restored to its original splendor in 2003. Next door, in matching sandstone, is the rectory, complete with a substantial covered porch.





29 *625 3rd Avenue North*

This striking residence was built in 1911 by C.O. Jarl, a prominent contractor who also built the Rainbow Hotel, the Strain Building, the First National Bank Building and the Gies Apartments. The dwelling reflects

both English Tudor Revival and American prairie styles: the front porch runs perpendicular to the main structure, large brackets and exposed and corbelled rafters support the roofs, and gables face the street as well as the east side of the second story.

30 *624 3rd Avenue North*

Classical Revival influences mark this 1907 house, built and occupied by prominent contractor C.O. Jarl. The builder spared no detail on his own residence: the hipped roof has flared eaves, modillions and dentils decorate the soffits beneath

the eaves, and decorative latticework is visible beneath the porch floor. Stone brackets support a two-story oriel bay on the east side and diamond-paned windows add a sophisticated touch.



31 *620 3rd Avenue North*

Gables are a common feature in Great Falls' older houses. In this Colonial Revival example, circa 1914, the gables are slightly flared and one gable end is partially enclosed. The wraparound porch sports plain columns, a wood railing and an oval-lite door. One of its

earliest owners was O.F. Whitehead, an engineer for the Great Northern Railway.

32 *609 3rd Avenue North*

This large 1901 house is the only example of the Eastern stick style on the Lower North Side. Note the decorative wood rail surrounding the expansive porch and the pair of roof gables with stick bracing and shingle infills. An enormous brick chimney with a corbelled cap anchors the house. An addition, including a new kitchen, was added in 1988. Its first occupant was Cochran

T. Boals. He sold the property to Sylvia Sieben, a member of the sheep-ranching family near Helena. In 1911 she sold the house to former Great Falls Mayor James Speer. Prominent attorney Leo Graybill and his family subsequently bought the house.





33 *Church of the Incarnation* *600 3rd Avenue North*

This gorgeous two-story stone Episcopal church looks as though it came straight out of the English countryside. Built in 1906, it has a large porch leading into the three-story castle-like tower and large gothic window in the tower and in the second story, above the nave. The glass in the older part of the church is all colored. Alterations were made in 1947 and an addition was built 10 years later.

34 *520 3rd Avenue North*

From the mid-1950s until 1963, A. Bertram Guthrie Jr., a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who wrote *The Big Sky*, *The Way West* and other historical novels, lived in this handsome English Revival Style house. Guthrie used the small building



at the rear as his studio. The house was built in 1907 for F. P. Atkinson, one of the founders of the Cascade Bank of Great Falls. The narrow footprint of the house accommodates an equally narrow lot and features a steep gable roof and gables filled with raised terra cotta shields, intricately molded fascia surrounding the gable ends and square grids of timbering. The studio used by Guthrie has a similar cut-stone foundation, a paneled-timber exterior and a shed-roofed dormer with cedar shingles.

35 *517 3rd Avenue North*

The three-story, rectangular-shaped Toy Apartments are an excellent example of the unassuming apartment buildings that dot Great Falls' older neighborhoods. Built for Walter Toy in 1928, the building features central bay windows with iron balustrades, a recessed front with a projected brick surround and Toy's name inscribed on terra cotta over the entry, flanked by ornamental flowers on either side.



36 *Cascade County* *Courthouse*

415 Second Avenue North

Opened for business in July 1903, 16 years after Cascade County was formed, the Cascade County Courthouse still stands as a tribute to French Renaissance architecture. The building soars more than 45 feet and is topped with a copper-faced tower adorned with a statue of Lady Justice. Inside, the rotunda floors still bear the original mosaic tile and beveled glass windows shine down on an elegant center staircase adorned with iron balustrade and marble treads. H.N. Black and Frank Longstaff designed the building and Lease & Richards constructed it at a cost of \$300,000.



37 *Cascade County Jail*

Built in 1913, ten years after the County Courthouse, the jail next door reflects elements of the Second Renaissance Revival style. The main entrance is capped with a classical Graeco-Roman pediment and the walls are faced with sandstone that came from a quarry southwest of town. The jail was built to hold 90 prisoners, including juveniles, felons

and inmates deemed insane, but if necessary it could accommodate twice that number. The north end of the building served as living quarters for the sheriff and his family and contains a living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and four bedrooms and two baths on the second. The building has been vacant since the county opened a new jail in 1997.

38 *305 3rd Avenue North*

Former Great Falls Mayor James W. Speer lived in this simple frame home with Greek temple styling, built circa 1907. Speer juggled his civic duties with his career as a prominent lawyer and businessman. He was elected to Montana's state Senate in 1926 and later served as the head of the state Republican Party. The house features a combination gable and hipped roof, a half-hip porch and an entryway centered below a projecting gable.



39 *301 3rd Avenue North*

This 1891 Victorian house originally sat perched on Smelter Hill in Black Eagle on the opposite side of the Missouri River, home to the manager of the Anaconda Smelter and the most elaborate of 17 houses

provided to company brass. In 1983, after the smelter closed, "House Number 19" and four others were trucked carefully across town to new locations. The seven-bedroom, 120-ton residence still boasts original pewter and crystal light fixtures, a wrap-around front porch and a three-sided window in the northside guest room.

40 *216 3rd Avenue North*

This two-and-a-half story bungalow was built in 1911 for Carroll McCulloh, a banker, cattleman, mine owner and developer of water and sanitation systems across the state. The hipped walls, triple window, flat-

roof enclosed porch and light-colored brick represented the latest style at the time. Boxed eaves protrude from the front of the house and a raised belt of light brick marks the base of the second-story windows.





41 *207 3rd Avenue North*

Cut sandstone was used to create the lintels, sills, steps and the base of the porch on this elegant transitional Queen Anne Colonial revival, built in 1910. The asymmetrical floor plan features two

gable-roofed double bay windows, a portico and three enormous brick chimneys with detailed corbelled tops and banding. The house was originally owned by S. R. Jensen, who served a term in the Montana House of Representatives and on various local boards.

42 *309 2nd Street North*

The same architect who designed the house at 207 3rd Avenue North planned this similar looking residence, built in 1910. Its owner, Fred Gustav Johnson, was a brother-in-law to his neighbor, Stuart R. Jensen. The pair migrated here from Minneapolis after reading advertisements placed in newspapers there by Paris Gibson. Johnson and Jensen operated the first Anglo laundry in Great Falls, operated a ranch and later bought out their partners in the Montana Brewing Company, an establishment they helped found. The materials used in both houses are identical, but the layouts differ. This structure has a double-projecting bay window that wraps along the south side and a gabled room with dormers, and triple-hung window in the gable ends. A side entry features a flat, projecting roof that's the same height as the balustraded front porch.



43 *308 2nd Street North*

A combination of English Period Revival and Craftsman Bungalow styles lend this large one-and-a-half story brick house a charming country feel. The roof is pyramidal hipped with curved ridges that suggest a thatchwork effect. A low, arched hood hangs over the casement windows in the front dormer and diamond-paned tracery accentuates the casements. The house was built in 1909 for S. Eugene Atkinson who, with his brother, founded the Cascade Bank of Great Falls, which managed to survive the panic of 1893. Prominent grocer Charles E. Heisey later lived here. The Heisey Memorial Youth Center was built in 1936 in memory of his wife, Ella J. Heisey.

44 *117 3rd Avenue North*

This striking Colonial Mission Revival house was built in 1909 for Dr. Francis J. Adams, who played a major role in the construction of Great Falls' first hospital; he practiced medicine in the right front wing of the house. A subsequent owner was Arthur W. Strain, whose father, Herbert, founded the Strain Store. Note the rough-textured stucco walls, the red terra cotta tile roof and the decorative iron balconies, pents and brackets. Balconies overlook 3rd Avenue North and Gibson Park. A shaped parapet distinguishes the single-bay garage at the rear of the house. There's not another house like it in Great Falls.



THE LOWER NORTH SIDE RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT is located on the north side of the central business district in the Original Townsite of Great Falls. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991, the district features 257 buildings that contribute to the history of the city. Material for this brochure was drawn from the National Register nomination.

For information on other buildings in this district and other historic resources in Great Falls and Cascade County, contact the Historic Preservation Office in Room 112 of the Civic Center or call 406-455-8435.



The streets on the Lower North Side looked as wide as an airport runway before the trees grew tall, as this 1907 photo of the intersection of 4th Avenue North and 8th Street North shows.

SPONSORS

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