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Kathleen and Floyd Hardenburgh built the "Hardenburgh House" at 243 McLeod Avenue in Missoula in 1936. The Hardenburghs were a part of Missoula's business community for several decades and raised their children in the house. Through existing public records we can reconstruct the basic outlines of the family's life in Missoula. According to his obituary, Floyd Hardenburgh was born in Sheffield, Pennsylvania] in 1885. Before he was ten years old, his family moved to Missoula. Floyd's father, Miles Hardenburgh, ran a men's clothing store on Higgins Ave in the early 1900s. Floyd Hardenburgh attended the University of Montana (then called Montana State University), where he played on the football team and was a charter member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. After graduating college in 1906, Hardenburgh worked in his father's store. Within a few years he purchased the J.J. Curran Sign Shop and set up his own business as a sign painter. Hardenburgh lived at his family's home at 922 Woodford in Missoula until his first marriage in 1917.<sup>1</sup> He married Eleanor Larson of Missoula at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane in October of that year. At this time, the couple moved into their own home at 238 S. Sixth in Missoula. The marriage was short. In less than three years, Mrs. Hardenburgh filed for divorce through the district court at Thompson Falls. There were apparently no children from this marriage. Hardenburgh remained single until his second marriage almost nine years later. In the interim, Hardenburgh built up the business that began with the purchase of the Curran Sign Shop and stayed in the Hardenburgh family into the 1990s. In 1917, Hardenburgh had purchased another business—the Poster Advertising Company—from a R. R. Garver. For several years, the sign painting and poster advertising businesses operated out of the same address as Hardenburgh Signs and Hardenburgh Poster Advertising Co. Miles Hardenburgh began working for, or with, his son in about 1917, and was associated with the businesses for about eleven years as an advertising agent. A 1922 ad for Hardenburgh Poster Advertising boasted that the company provided factory representatives "For Advertising Specialties of All Kinds: Calendars, Taylor Thermometers, Pencils, Yard Sticks, Balloons, Etc.," as well as "Factory Quantity Signs of Metal, Cardboard, Paper, Felt, Etc." In about 1928 Hardenburgh opened a branch in Great Falls called "Hardenburgh Outdoor Signs/Painted Outdoor Advertising." For at least six years the business operated under the direction of a local manager. Sometime after 1934, it apparently closed, because it disappeared from city listings in Great Falls. In February 1929, Floyd Hardenburgh married Kathleen Lyle of Helena. She was the daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Lyle of that city. Andrew Lyle held a variety of occupations, including mining in the early part of the century. By the early 1930s he was listed in Helena city directories as an "engineer" at the Consistory Shrine Temple. After graduating from Western Montana College at Dillon, Kathleen Lyle taught grade school in Helena, Spokane and eventually Missoula. Hardenburgh and Lyle married in Spokane, and the new couple initially lived at 1420 Maurice Avenue in Missoula. In 1935 Kathleen Hardenburgh purchased a parcel of land on McLeod Avenue and the Hardenburghs contracted with H. E. Kirkemo to build a house. The couple by this time had two children, John (b. 1930), and Marilyn (b. 1934).

About the same time, Floyd Hardenburgh began using the single name "Hardenburgh Outdoor Advertising" for all his business enterprises. The company changed offices frequently over the next couple of decades, including locations on Main, Front, Brooks, and Mullan Road. By the mid-1950s, the Hardenburghs' son John had joined the family business in some managerial or partnership capacity. Floyd Hardenburgh retired in 1963 and died in 1965; at some time in this period, ownership of the company transferred to John. Daughter Marilyn eventually married and moved out of state. For about fifteen years between the late 1960s and early 1980s, John Hardenburgh owned the business but left management of it to a Ron Fernelius. Eventually, some of John's children would also be associated with the business. John Hardenburgh sold it to Ron Fernelius in the early 1990s. It is now called Twentieth Century Plastics and is still operating at 2221 S. 3rd W. in Missoula, apparently under new ownership. Kathleen Hardenburgh sold the Hardenburgh House in 1977 and died the following year.