Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR			

RECEIVED JUL 5



**DATE ENTERED** 

**TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS** NAME Eleve Juck Se. HISTORIC N.J. (Nick) Bielenberg Home AND/OR COMMON "The Bielenberg Home" LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 801 Milwaukee Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Deer Lodge 01 VICINITY OF CODE STATE CODE COUNTY 077 30 Powell Montana **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** \_\_DISTRICT XOCCUPIED \_\_PUBLIC X\_MUSEUM \_\_AGRICULTURE **XBUILDING(S)** PRIVATE \_UNOCCUPIED \_COMMERCIAL \_PARK \_\_\_STRUCTURE \_\_вотн \_WORK IN PROGRESS X\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE EDUCATIONAL \_\_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE \_\_ENTERTAINMENT \_\_\_RELIGIOUS OBJECT XYES: RESTRICTED \_IN PROCESS \_\_GOVERNMENT .....SCIENTIFIC \_BEING CONSIDERED \_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED \_INDUSTRIAL \_\_\_TRANSPORTATION .\_\_NO .....MILITARY \_\_OTHER: **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME Donald D. Bielenberg STREET & NUMBER 801 Milwaukee Ave CITY, TOWN STATE Deer Lodge VICINITY OF Montana 59722 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Powell County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE Deer Lodge Montana 59722 **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TITLE None DATE \_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS STATE CITY, TOWN

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

# 7' DESCRIPTION

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nickolas John (Nick) Bielenberg home, erected between June 8th and December 6, 1910, is located in the Central Addition of Deer Lodge, Lots 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38.

With few exceptions, the house being described is still in its original state. EXTERIOR

The detached ten room home includes two stories and a basement, surmounted by a cross gable roof. It is designed in the bungalow style with an incompassing porch on two sides; it contains an octagonal living room bay and semi-octagonal bays for the dining room and masterbedroom which extend into the porch.

The foundation is poured concrete with stone (rock faced granite with margins); water table, stone porch copings and window sills are also rockfaced granite with margins.

The porch is laid in common bond (well fired quality brick) transported from Milwaukee Wisconsin, and is defined further by long horizontal coping stones. Supporting the porch roof are a series of rectangular brick columns that are corbeled out at the top to form simple "doric" capitols. The columns in turn support a wooden cornice line marked by paired brackets placed immediately over the columns. The stone copings of the porch, the wooden cornice, and the window band in the central roof gable, all stress the horizontal lines desired in bungalow design.

The entrance is approached by five buttressed granite steps and is off center in typical prairie school picturesque manner. The door is oak with side-lights open to the vestibule. The threshold is granite.

The side(west) entrance has two oak screen doors and two oak eight light sash doors which enter into the office or den.

The front dormer is lighted by three double hung four-over-one sash windows forming a horizontal window band. The dormer gable is half timbered, with decorative rafter tip eaves. There is a bracketed shelf above the window band which is glassed, enclosing a Buffalo and two Ibex heads. The Buffalo was shot by Nick Bielenberg and the Ibex by Nicks' son. They were placed there when the home was built in 1910.

The east and west gable ends are the same, with half-timbering motif, shingled, decorative rafter tip eaves, four double-hund sash with four light upper sash. The outboard windows are quite narrow, in the center is a maised four light sash and seven timbered brackets for roof overhead.

The rear dormer has two large double sash windows with six light upper sash. The gable end has a half timbering motif, shingled with decorative rafter tip eaves. All the gables have a gray stucco finish between the timbering motif.

The back porch has steps from the north and south to a platform and two steps to the porch. These steps have replaced the wide straight approach steps to the porch. The steps are not attached to the building. FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The eave over the entrance to the back porch has the decorative rafter tips and two timbering brackets. The rear entrance door is of oak and the threshold of granite.

The lintels throughout the house are of 5/16 inch angle iron.

<u>The garage</u> is  $21'7'' \times 27'11''$ , and has a poured foundation and cement floor. The building is brick and of the quality of the home. The doors to the garage have two double doors, with four vertical windows in the upper portion of each.

The roof has asphalt shingles over the original wooden shingles and has a galvanized flue on the north side of the roof.

The garage was originally heated with a large radiator (hot water) from the boiler in the home. The heating system now is a gas space heater (ceiling). The upstairs had a two room apartment for Mr. Bielenbergs' chauffuer and is presently being used for storage.

#### INTERIOR

The entrance to the home has sidelights and opens into the vestibule: the main door is of oak  $3'2'' \times 7'6''$ , while the oak vestibule doors measure  $3'4'' \times 7'6''$  with a beveled plate glass  $27'' \times 65''$  inset. The vestibule opens into the central hall with an oak "dog leg" stairway.

The floor plan utilizes the <u>central hall</u> to pin down the overt cross axis customary in Prairie School design. Large oak framed archways of colonial design and plain board jambs with cornice treatment open into the living room on the left and the dining room on the right.

The <u>living room</u> has a round 24" brass center ceiling fixture with five chain drops and Quinzell glass bell pattern lamp shades. As one enters the room (on the immediate right) is an oak, built-in glassed, double door bookcase. The fireplace is brick, faced with two colonial oak pilasters  $2\frac{1}{2}x6"$  with brackets supporting the mantle. There are two wall light fixtures with Quinzell shades. (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The oak cornice in the vestibule, hallway, living room and dining room has a full 9" entablature, corner moulding with frieze and architrave picture moulding. The 10" baseboard is oak throughout the home.

Continuing down the <u>hallway</u>, on the left is the office or <u>den</u>, there is a three — vertical panel-over-large panel 2'6" x 7'6" oak door. The fireplace is on the left; it is brick with a thick colonial oak mantle with three oak support brackets. There is a two inch oak cornice. The light fixtures are a center chain drop and wall fixture.

At the end of the hallway is a large mirror 2'x6', oak framed with the cornice treatment. Above the right hand corner of the mirror is the bell ringer and door indicator enclosed in oak with view glass.

The <u>bathroom</u> fixtures are totally intact and provide an interesting cultural index of a turn of the century sanitary facility. Such "utility" rooms are generally overlooked in most architectural studies; hence, the preservation of such rooms are becoming increasingly more important to cultural historians and students of popular level architecture. The room has oil paper (torch-wreath design) on the lower half of the walls. The 26"x 56" tub is enameled cast iron resting on legs--enabling one to clean under the tub. There is a round chrome shower assembly dating from 1910 over the center of the tub. To accomodate the shower assembly the faucets are located at the top center of the tub(to the inside). A pedestal lavatory with wall mounted wooden closet and flush bend toilet is also present. The medicine cabinet with an inset mirror is a built-in fixture with side wall lights. The floor space utilizes l" inlaid octagonal tile with a  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " ceramic baseboard for easy cleaning--reflecting the concern for hygiene prevalent at the turn of the century.

In the <u>upstairs</u> hallway the light fixture is brass suspended by chain drops. The upstairs houses the bedrooms; all of the bedrooms have brass wall fixtures as well. The floors throughout the home are birch.

The <u>basement</u> originally had a bedroom, furnace room, coal bin, laundry room, storage room, supply room, and a bathroom. The storage and laundry rooms have been converted into an apartment for the future curator of the planned Nickolas John Bielenberg house museum. The basement bedroom presently serves as an office and the coal bin is used for fireplace wood.

The <u>heating system</u> is the original hot water boiler converted from wood-coal to gas. There are two rectangular chimneys: one with the original corbeled brick cap, and the other with the corbeling removed for a galvanized cap necessary for the conversion to gas.

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Summary of Changes Since 1910

- -- roof has asphalt shingles over the wood shingles
- -- furnace converted to gas
- -- radiator installed in the kitchen for heat source when the cook stove was replaced
- -- the flour and sugar bins were converted to a cupboard and drawers
- -- one chimney had the corbeled brick removed for the gas flue installation
- -- the storeroom and laundry room have been adapted for an apartment in the basement
- -- the back steps have been replaced

The condition of the house is very good with the exception of the northwest corner of the porch which has settled and is in need of repair; the original arbor is also in need of repair. Hence, this fine example of the bungalow style is in near original condition inside and out. The furnishings and fixtures, with few exceptions date from the 1910 build making this structure (apart from its high local historical significance) a prime choice for a period house museum. Further, being just blocks from National Register sites-- the William K. Kohrs ( a relative of Bielenberg's) Memorial Library and the William Coleman house-the potential is great in Deer Lodge for walking tours and historical interpretation.



St. Paul Contractor

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The N.J. 'Nick' Bielenberg Home is eligible for listing on the National Register according to criteria C (distinctive stylistic type) and criteria A (the regional historical significance of the owner).

#### Criteria C

The home is an outstanding example of a turn-of-the-century bungalow house on the exterior and shares both Prairie school and neo-colonial influences on the interior. Its rectilinear lines, organic use of materials, window bands, broad sweeping roof eaves with projecting rafter feet speak clearly to the bungalow style. Its open planning with stressed cross access betray its Prairie school ties, while colonial detailing over room entrances and fireplace mantels reflect the coeval stylistic influence of the neo-colonial. The house is in near original condition inside and out. There has been no restoration and the furnishings, linen, sterling, and crystal along with the personal effect of "Nick" Bielenberg are intact. Beyond the stylistic purity of the house, such personal footnotes such as the buffalo head and the two ibex shot by Bielenberg and placed in the glassed-in gable of the house are still intact from 1910.

The August 4, 1909 newspaper article in the <u>Silver State</u> describes the design of the new Bielenberg house as an "up to date and thoroughly modern residence for the enjoyment of his family". As such, the Bielenberg house remains a fine period piece appropriately destined to be a house museum in Deer Lodge. On May 25, 1910 the house was described as "one of the finest" of the recent homes to be built in Deer Lodge in what was characterized as "a banner year for building in Deer Lodge" because of the expansion of the Milwaukee Railroad shops and round house in 1910.

Finally, seen from the vantage point of cultural history, the home is indicative of a progressive Montana pioneer's attitude in changing his mode of living from the modest beginning ranch home, to the elaborate 1884 mansion built in Deer Lodge (reflective of Bielenbergs newly acquired prestige and wealth) and finally the comfortable and unpretentous 1910 bungalow which represents his self-assured status in the community.

A St. Paul, Minnesota contractor had the responsibility for the construction, as well as the supervision of the carpenters and masons from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The brick utilized in the construction is of unusually good quality and was shipped from Milwaukee--underscoring the reliance on the local railroad for goods and labor in the burgeoning town. Local carpenters supplied additional talent.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGR	APHICAL REFE	RENCES		
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A lllustrated History of The Lewis Publishing Co	the State of Mor	tana by Jouqu	lin Miller. Vol.	2 (p.552-553)
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A. Regional Historical Significance

N.J. Bielenberg, pioneer stockman of the state of Montana and one of the earliest settlers of the Deer Lodge Valley, is credited with the "first experiment in feeding beef on the wild hay in the Big Hole Country of Southwestern Montana." (The Land of Big Snows, B.A. Francis, 1955)

The Great Falls Tribune (March 14, 1965) recounts: Nick Bielenberg was the first white man to bring livestock into the valley for fattening, on Christmas Day, 1883....Not long after Bielenberg's cattle proved the nutritional wealth of the Big Hole Valley grasses, other men began moving in stock. Today, the valley is known throughout the West as the land of 10,000 hay stacks. Its cattle command top prices in the stockyards of the West and mid West.

Hence, Nickolas John "Nick" Bielenberg, Pioneer, Stockman, Financier, and Mining investor is significant for the active and prominent role he played in the history and development of Montana.

"Nick" Bielenberg was one of the early pioneers of Montana, arriving in Fort Benton the early part of June 1865. His half-brother Conrad Kohrs (Kohrs Ranch, a National Historic Landmark 8/72) and brother John Bielenberg, preceded him in 1862 and 1864 respectively. His brother Charles P.H. Bielenberg arrived at Fort Benton the latter part of June 1865. All brothers became residents of Deer Lodge City, Montana and were butchers by trade.

"Nick" located in Blackfoot City, Montana buying the "Edger Meat Business" from Henry Edger, one of the discoverers of Alder Gulch, the site of the first gold strike in Montana in 1862. His brothers Conrad Kohrs and John Bielenberg "staked him". Thereafter Nick moved to Helena in 1870 and to Deer Lodge in 1872, married Miss Annie M. Bogk, March 14th of the same year. Miss Bogk's parents, Augustav and Margaret Bogk were proprietors of the McBurney House, a Deer Lodge landmark.

In March of 1873, Nick sold his "Blackfoot City" butcher shop to Simpson and Company and purchased the Prowse Ranch on Dempsey Creek, becoming the "Figure Five" ranch.

Later in 1877, Nick established a meat business in Butte which became one of the foremost businesses of its kind in the Northwest. Nick erected a cold storage plant (an innovative move for the times) with a large wholesale trade which was later to become the Butte Butchering Company. FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Nick became one of the first members of the Montana Stockgrowers Association on February 19, 1879.

1883, the era of the Montana cattle barons, Mr. Bielenberg became associated with J.K. Mallory and D.D. Walker in a livestock and butchering operation forming "Bielenberg and Company" in Anaconda. Nick Bielenberg is credited as the first stockman to feed or winter beef in the Big Hole Valley.

In the 1880's Nick, with his half-brother Conrad Kohrs and brothers John and Charles P.H. Bielenberg became involved in an extensive cattle operation - including the famous "D-S" (Davis, Hauser and Stuart) outfit.

Not too long after this relationship he became interested with Joseph Toomey in an enterprise of immense proportions for that time. They handled more than 130,000 head of sheep in one year. Bielenberg and his associates were considered the fathers of the sheep industry in northern Montana. Nick was the first shipper to discover the value of screenings in the feeding of sheep in transit.

It should be mentioned that Nick built a mansion in 1883 reflective of his acquired wealth; it was described in the newspaper as "Handsomest Dwelling House in Western Montana", "splendid residence" and "Best Dwelling House in Montana".

Some of the meat market outlets that Nick had were known as; "Bielenberg and Falligan"- Wholesale and Retail Butchers, Butte City, Montana 1884, "N.J. Bielenberg", Wholesale and Retail Butchers, Anaconda, Walkerville and Butte, Butte, Montana 1885, and "The City Meat Market", N.J. Bielenberg and Company, Deer Lodge, Montana 1892.

Of the many mining interests that Mr. Bielenberg had, the following were noteworthy. He was president of the Champion Mining Co., vice president of the Deer Lodge Mining and Reduction Co. (his brothers Conrad Kohrs and John Bielenberg were presidents of same Co.); Nick was also director of the Potamac Copper Co., vice president and director of the Tuolumme Mining Co., and one of his principal interests was the "Bear Gulch Mining Corp", 14 miles from Twin Bridges (formerly the Pritchett Mining Co.). Nicks' son-in-law, W.I. Higgins was a partner and the mine was called the "B and H" mine. They built a 12 mile, 50,000 volt transmission line to the mine making it one of the first mines in the country to be electircally operated.

Mr. Bielenbergs' interests as a builder were distinguished by the three-story brick, stone and cast iron structure on 15-19 W. Broadway, Butte, MT. The building is the "Mantle and Bielenberg", also known as the "Henderson and Bielenberg" building (1890-1891). Nick was involved in the construction of the Hotel Deer Lodge. It was incorporated May 11, 1911. Nick had the first or one of the first summer homes on Rock Creek lake, 14 miles west of Deer Lodge. This structure is still in use and at the time Nick built it, was considered "quite" a summer home.

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An active Republican, Mr. Bielenberg was a delegate in 1892 to the national convention at Minneapolis and was a delegate to the National Progressive Convention at Chicago in August of 1912 that nominated Theodore Roosevelt for president on the "Bull Moose Party". Nick was a friend and confidant of Theodore Roosevelt.

Nick was an active participant in the development of the City of Deer Lodge. He was one of the principal founders of the Citizens Water Company, January 31, 1900, commonly known as the Deer Lodge Water Company and served as president. He also had water rights on Cottonwood Creek dating back to September and October of 1865. Nick contributed funds for the completion of the Deer Lodge Chapter House of the American Womens' League (Deer Lodge Womens Club) as a memorial to his daughter, Augusta Kohrs Bielenberg, who passed away in 1901. Nicks wife Annie was one of the charter members.

In the famous "Smoke Case" (Fred J. Bliss vs. The Washoe Copper Company and The Anaconda Copper Mining Company - May 5, 1905 to April 26, 1909), Mr. Bielenberg was the leader in the fight of the farmers and ranchers against the powerful interests of the Opper Kings. He fought these formidable adversaries with courage, vigor and his own financial resources.

The mansion that Nick built in 1883-1884, was sold by him in August of 1904 for the High School in Deer Lodge. It was razed in 1917 for the present High School. (Old part of present High School) It should be noted the home to be nominated is less than one block away from the former mansion site and across the alley from the Deer Lodge Womens' Clubhouse.

Mr. Bielenberg belonged to the following Masonic orders, Deer Lodge No. 14, A.F.& A.M., Valley Chapter No. 4, Royal Arch Masons, Charter member of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 16, Knights Templar and Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Deer Lodge, Montana. He was a member of the Butte Silver Bow Club, the Elks Lodge and the Society of Montana Pioneers.

The home ranch (figure 5) of Nick Bielenbergs' is located on Dempsey Creek in the Deer Lodge Valley and is part of the Montana State Prison today. (called Ranch Two) The old ranch home is still being occupied.

It is evident that Nick Bielenbergs' interests were varied and extensive. He not only lived to see Montana take her place among the great western states but helped to contribute to the transformation. 'Nicks' motto was, "do right by all and fear no one".

Of significance, relative to the home are some of the personalities that have been guests.

Granville Stuart, one of Montanas' earliest and most noteable pioneers was one of Nicks first friends and that friendship lasted their lifetimes.

Reverend William Wesley Van Orsdel, whose nickname was "Brother Van", one of the most beloved, colorful, courageous and dedicated men of the Wests' pioneer days. Brother Van was an earlyday Methodist Minister.

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Edgar S. Paxson, artist, was a close friend and frequent visitor and guest of Nick Bielenbergs'. There is a painting in the home that was a gift to Nick from the artist.

Jeanette Rankin, first Congresswoman elected to Congress - two terms (3/4/1917 to 3/4/1919) and (1/6/1941 to 1/4/1943) was a frequent quest.

In later years, Nancy Russell, Wife of artist Charlie Russell and Gary Cooper, actor were guests of the Bielenbergs.

Nick Bielenbergs' son and daughter-in-law, Claude Nickolas and Ethel Marcum Bielenberg - with their five children, were living in the home at the time of Nick Bielenbergs death in 1927. Nicks' wife Annie, preceded him in 1918. The home has been occupied by three generations of Bielenbergs, presently by Nicks grandson, Donald D. Bielenberg; He was born in the home.