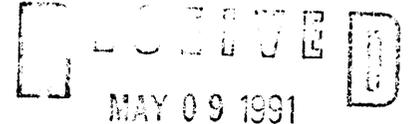


765

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Stevensville Feed Mill

other name/site number: Stevensville Feed and Fuel

2. Location

street & number: 407 Main

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Stevensville

state: Montana code: MT county: Ravalli code: 081 zip code: 59870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 3 </u> building(s)
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 3 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Stevensville, Montana: 1866-1941.

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

MTSHPO Maude Day 4-9-91
Signature of certifying official Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

___ See Continuation Sheet

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

entered in the National Register Alcarron Zyer 6/19/91

___ See Continuation Sheet

___ determined eligible for the National Register _____

___ determined not eligible for the National Register _____

___ See Continuation Sheet

___ removed from the National Register _____

___ See Continuation Sheet

___ other (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Commerce/specialty store
Agriculture/processing

Current: Commerce/trade

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Vernacular/False-Front Commercial

Materials: foundation:concrete
walls: wood
roof: metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Stevensville Feed Mill is composed of a group of wood frame and metal buildings designed for the purpose of processing and storing grain. Parts of the complex also serve as a general farm merchandise warehouse and retail store. Two front-facing, single-story, wood frame, gable-roofed buildings, with a connecting addition that joins them into one interior space, present stepped parapet false fronts to the street. The buildings are covered with galvanized, corrugated iron roofs and wooden weatherboard siding. The roof structure of the feed mill and elevator is located at the west end of the complex and rises above the parapet line.

The original building that housed the Stevensville Feed Mill is the long, rectangular gable-roofed section of the complex located at the northeast corner of the lot. The false-front of this building faces east toward Main Street. Originally, a large central doorway in the facade provided access for wagons and trucks for loading and unloading grain within the building itself. Historic photographs reveal that this loading entrance was flanked by large fixed 4-light window units. Later remodelling of the building resulted in the replacement of this early warehouse door, the installation of a small single-light wooden door at the northeast corner, and replacement of the historic window treatment with large plate glass, metal framed commercial windows that wrap around the corner. A modern, wooden, single light door provide access to the interior. Along the sides of the building, fenestration also included tiny square windows and double-hung, 1-over-1 units. These windows have been covered over during later remodellings. A painted sign with the legend "STEVENSVILLE FEED AND FUEL" and Purina logos are hung on the parapets. On the north elevation, the gabled roof line extends to cover an outdoor concrete walkway and loading ramp.

About 1930, a second false-fronted building was constructed 19' south of the original feed mill. Similar in exterior architectural design to the first, it features a higher stepped parapet, a single entrance door on the east, and a single upper window centered in the parapet. A connecting, flat-roofed addition was built between the two to increase the retail merchandizing space. These 1930s constructions featured large, 6-light fixed windows along the facade and a centrally-placed entrance in the southernmost bay. The windows have been removed from this section of the building, and only a centrally-placed wood panel, single-light door remains.

On the north elevation there are three galvanized steel silos, and a series of vacuum tubes for loading, mixing and storage of feed grains. The structure of the frame elevator (feed mill) reaches an elevation of 28 feet and 36 feet above ground, and the high point

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Stevensville Feed Mill

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of the mechanical grain elevator is approximately 50' above ground. The largest silo on the east, protrudes through the roof of the mill. The other two silos on the west side of the elevation are free standing. A high platform along the south elevation of the frame elevator holds six small, round, metal grain-storage bins. The construction methods used for the elevator conform to the standard pattern for grain elevators throughout the West, where 2" x 8" planks are laid up for the base, followed by 2" x 6" planks, and 2" x 4" planks for the top portion.

An underground, covered grain dump is located on the west elevation. The gabled cover is supported by steel pipe columns. The exposed primary mechanical elevator rises along the west side of the frame elevator and extends some distance above the peak of the frame elevator gable. A second mechanical elevator is located at the southeast corner of the frame elevator. Exposed round metal ducts lead from the top of the elevator to storage bins located about the premises.

A separate concrete masonry unit boiler room is located south of the elevator. This building was constructed ca. 1973 and is considered a noncontributing component of the property. The other noncontributing building that is part of the complex is the large, gable-roofed, corrugated steel equipment storage building built in 1985, that is located on the southwest corner of the property. It has two large doors in the north gabled end, and a third vehicle door at the far south side of the west elevation. Four large circular, steel grain-storage bins are located along the east elevation of the garage.

As the business of the Stevensville Feed Mill grew, the physical plant grew to accommodate new technology and additional business expansion. The size and shape of the physical plant mass reflects the evolution of business from 1918 to the present.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: Commerce

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1918-1941

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1918, ca. 1930

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Stevensville Feed Mill is an architectural expression of the primary importance of agriculture to the economy of Stevensville and the Bitterroot Valley. The property is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for the ways in which it reflects the broad changes which took place in agriculture in this valley during the first half of the 20th century.

The Stevensville Feed Mill has historically been a symbol of the vital economic link between Stevensville and the surrounding agricultural community. The valley was settled on the basis of its agricultural potential, and at the time this building was constructed, cultivated farming and orchard production in the Bitterroot were peaking. The construction of this complex reflects that agricultural boom, as well as changing agricultural economies in the Bitterroot Valley since that time.

The distinctive components of the Stevensville Feed Mill reflect changes in farming technology over time and the process by which this business expanded to meet the needs of a growing community. The original feed mill building and the ca. 1930 implement sales and service building are readily identifiable in their original design and massing and exhibit the classic false-front format, with a stepped gable facade masking a simple gabled form behind. The classic frame elevator, added in ca. 1946, was an important modernization that kept the business competitive. Visually, the elevator makes the Stevensville Feed and Fuel immediately recognizable as a farm-related building. A purely American architectural form, the frame elevator, with its high and low gable roof lines and stacked plank construction, connotes early 20th century advancements in crop transportation and storage technologies. During the 1950s, a pellet mill, steam roller, and equipment to molassesize grain were added. The silos and elevators contain the artifacts of feed grain mixing and production related to mid-century developments. The later additions to the feed mill are not considered contributing components to the complex at this time due to their recent age. Because the changes represent an architectural and historical continuum that matured through the 1950s, these buildings warrant re-evaluation after they have reached 50 years of age.

In addition to serving as an essential agricultural processing and supply center, the Stevensville Feed Mill sold general merchandise. Associated with the Lockridge family for over half a century of growth and expansion, the Stevensville Feed Mill Company is proof of their business acumen, and a reflection of their leading influence in the Stevensville and Bitterroot Valley business community. In a tradition established locally by such general merchandise stores as the Stevensville Mercantile, Stevensville Trading Company, Henry Buck and Company, and Amos Buck Company, the Stevensville Feed Mill was organized and stocked to meet the needs of the farming and ranching community, and profited as a result.

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Stevensville Feed Mill

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Background History

In 1894, Stevensville hosted the first horticultural show in Montana, in the hall above Henry Buck's store on the corner of Third and Main. The fair led to the organization of the Montana State Horticultural Society, and the construction of the Horticultural Hall on this property in 1895. Shortly thereafter, Hamilton began holding fairs, and interest in the Society waned.¹ The large hall was soon put to other uses. In 1902, Fred Buck and Professor Roark laid out tennis courts in it.² In 1910, Vincent Gallagher and Leslie Weir remodeled the building and renamed it "The Grand." Plays, roller skating and dancing were held there.³ By 1917, the building had been converted into the Grand Garage, an auto agency owned by C.P. Mendel. On July 30, 1917, the building caught fire, which leveled it, a garage and the livery barn and corrals to the south.⁴

In 1918, Henry Lockridge purchased lots 2 and 3 from Amos Buck, and built the original Stevensville Feed Mill. To the south, on lot 6 was the City Jail, which was subsequently moved to another location east of town. On Lot 1 a service station (owned in turn by John Hammitt, Luther Brechbill, and Hart Refineries) was located.

Henry Lockridge died in an automobile accident shortly after starting the mill and his brother Dayton took over the operation. Between 1918 and 1956, the Stevensville Feed Mill, in the hands of the Lockridge family expanded to lots 1 through 6. The name was changed to Stevensville Feed and Fuel, and the storing and delivery of coal to the homes in the community became an important aspect of the family business. A second frame building housing agricultural implement sales and services was erected ca. 1930. After the Second World War, in order to attract his son Carl to the business, Dayton Lockridge invested in major improvements at the feed mill by constructing the elevator in 1946. Continued improvements through the 1950s included the addition of the pellet mill and steam rollers. During this time, the mill had an exclusive franchise on Purina products. Carl Lockridge ran the business until 1964.⁵ Although new metal and concrete block buildings have been added to the complex, along with grain storage tanks and other feed mill equipment, the Stevensville Feed Mill still accurately reflects its historical development.

¹Ravalli Republic, June 19, 1895; Stevensville Register, December 23, 1909.

²Stevensville Register, August 27, 1902.

³Stevensville Register, September 29, November 3, 10, 17, 1910; March 2, 1911; North West Tribune, February 2, 23, 1912.

⁴Montana Genesis, p. 135.

⁵Interview with Max Scalf by Patricia Bik, November 28, 1990, Stevensville, Montana.

9. References

Abstract of Title, Pleasantvale Addition, Block 2, Lots 1-6
Missoula Herald, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.
Missoulian, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1909; August 14, 1949.
Northwest Tribune, February 2 and 23, 1912.
Ravalli Republic, June 19, 1895.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Stevensville, Montana, Maps for 1927, 1944 (New York).
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis, (Missoula, Mountain Press, 1971).
Stevensville Register, August 27, 1902; December 23, 1909; September 29, 1910; November 3,
10 and 17, 1910; March 2, 1911.
Western News, December 19, 1911.
Interview with Bob Popham by Patricia Bik, November 20, 1990.
Interview with Max Scalf by Patricia Bik, November 28, 1990.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723000	5154380

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville, Pleasantvale Addition, Block 2, Lots 1-6

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries encompass the area historically associated with the Stevensville Feed Mill.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Frank R. Grant

Organization: Consultant

Street & Number: 544 Hastings

City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Date: revised October 1990

Telephone: 406/549-2468

Zip: 59801