

# MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site # 17

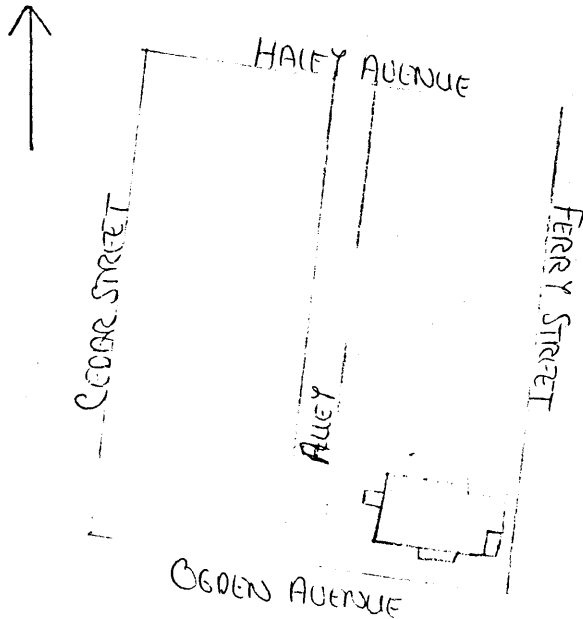


Legal Description: Block 33, lots 9-10

Address: 205 Ferry Street

Ownership: Name: Cynthia Brown

private address: Thompson Falls, MT 59873  
 public



Location map or building plan with arrow north.

Historic Name: PRESTON HOUSE

Common Name: Brown House

Date of Construction: 1909

estimated  
 documented

Architect: N/A

Builder: Charles H. Doenges

Original Owner: Celia Preston

Original Use: residence

Present Use: residence

**RESEARCH SOURCES:** Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Abstract of Title: Deedbook 4, p. 623.

Plat Records: Thompson Falls Original Townsite

Tax Records: 1910 Assessment Book

Building Permits: \_\_\_\_\_

Sewer/Water Permits: \_\_\_\_\_

City Directories: no mention

Sanborn Maps: 1914, 1927

Newspapers: Sanders County Ledger 6/25/09

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with it's original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

A one-story house with an asbestos covered dual gabled roof, this structure has an exterior of single siding on sheathing with alternating rows of diamond and scalloped shaped wood tiles forming an imbrication at the gable points. The foundation is part stone and mortar, part concrete. The overall design resembles a bungalow style house. The front has an enclosed porch that once had been open, a door with sidelights, and a doublehung window with comes in the upper panes. A half window with clathri is nestled among the imbrication. The south side features two screen windows off the enclosed porch, a window bay of 3 doublehung windows with the middle having lead comes, two casement-style windows, and another half window with clathri above in the gable. The west side (rear) includes a casement window, an entrance, and an entryway to the basement. This side is covered by a hipped roof off the N\_S gable and is probably an addition. The north side of the house has three doublehung windows. An interior brick stack is on the north side of the E\_W gable. The expanded root cellar is under the west side of the house.

The house and lawn are above street level on three sides. To level the house against the side of the hill, the area was excavated, concrete retaining walls formed, and the area filled in again. The height of the wall varies from a few inches on the NE corner to several feet on the south side.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION:** Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

Celia Preston belonged to the Eugene Preston family that operated a large livery/teamster/excavation business on the street that now bears the family name. The family sold the property in 1938. Since then, several individuals have owned it. The Browns bought it several years ago.

**Footnote Sources:**

Deedbook 4, p. 623.  
Interview with Richard Wollaston by John Lazuk  
Interview with Cynthia Brown by John Lazuk

**INTEGRITY:** Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

The Sandborn map of 1927 shows back and front porches. Both these have since been enclosed. The back porch has been extended to form a continuous common west wall with the house. The basement entryway is new and was probably built when the root cellar was expanded. Little else appears to have been changed. The interior retains high ceilings and french doors.

**HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

The Preston House is significant as an excellent example of one of the numerous houses that Charles Doenges constructed in the early 1900s, and for its association with the Eugene Preston family, for which Preston Avenue in Thompson Falls was named.

Charles Doenges was the major builder/contractor in Thompson Falls from 1905-1913, and at least 17 buildings, including four from this nomination, can be attributed to him. He built a number of Bungalow-inspired and modest four square workers' cottages in Thompson Falls, three of which are nearly identical in design. The Preston House is a good representation of the high quality craftsmanship typical of Charles Doenges' work in Thompson Falls during the period from 1905-1913. The adaptation of Victorian period motifs such as the bay window and patterned wood shingles in the upper gable ends to an early 20th century house clearly shows Doenges' stylistic influences. The Preston House is very well-crafted and has had few alterations; the interior retains its original high ceilings and French doors. In addition to being named the most prolific builder in the community, Doenges was also considered as one of the most civic minded and well respected men in Thompson Falls. He held several political positions in Thompson Falls including county commissioner and town alderman.

(cont.)

<b>FORM PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:</b>
Name: <u>John Lazuk</u>	Acreage: <u>Less than one acre.</u>
Address: <u>350 Strand Ave, Missoula, MT</u>	USGS Quad: <u>Thompson Falls, MT</u>
Date: <u>October 25, 1984</u>	UTM's: <u>11/624675/5272480</u>

Significance (cont.)

Eugene Preston owned and operated a large livery/teamster and excavation business in Thompson Falls from the late 1880s until the 1920s. His business was located on what is now Preston Avenue, which was named for him. The street runs parallel to Main Street north of the railroad tracks, and is the main thoroughfare for providing access to the west side residential area of Thompson Falls. Celia Preston, probably Eugene's daughter, was the original owner of the house at 205 Ferry Street. The family sold the property in 1938.

---