

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000752      Date Listed: 6/18/91

Harry May House                      Ravalli      MT  
Property Name                      County      State

Stevensville MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Antoinette A. Ace  
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/91  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

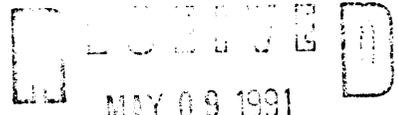
**Statement of Significance:** Commerce is added to the Areas of Significance.

This information was confirmed with Patricia Bik of the Montana SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

752



**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: May, Harry, House

other name/site number: Lola Sipes House

**2. Location**

street & number: 526 Third Street

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Stevensville

vicinity: n/a

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>  3  </u>	<u>      </u> building(s)
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>      </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.

Maude Sharp MT SHPO 4-8-91  
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 Antoinette Glee 6/18/91

\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Ma \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic: Domestic/single dwelling

Current: Domestic/single dwelling

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:  
Prairie School/Craftsman

Materials:        foundation: concrete  
                  walls: brick  
                  roof: asphalt shingle  
                  other: weatherboard

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Harry May house is a 1½-story, rectangular, steeply hip-roofed Prairie/Craftsman style residence. While demonstrating clear Prairie School influences through complex geometric massing, horizontality and detailing, the high, steeply pitched roof lines and heavy hipped gables are also reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style.

Rhythms created by rectilinear bays of varying dimension, accentuate the lower body of the house, which is set under a heavy, overhanging hipped roof. The roof adds weight to the building and visual interest through a series of heavy, projecting, hipped dormers. Fenestration makes use of single double-hung windows, and leaded and banded combinations typical of Prairie School design. The lower story is clad with red brick veneer, the roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles. The dormers and an enclosed porch at the northeast corner of the house are sided in clapboard. A brick chimney is centered in the north/south roof line. Concrete block chimneys are located on the east and west exterior walls, and above the north-facing shed-roofed addition; the house sets on a concrete block foundation.

The main entrance faces south toward Third Street. A spacious full-width front porch is set under the overhanging roof; wooden Tuscan columns on battered concrete block piers support the front of the roof. A turned post balustrade encloses the porch. The entryway is located just east of center in a projecting brick bay. The bay houses a paneled entry door, and, to the east of the door, a decorative window with a leaded glass wreath design. A second bay of panelled wood projects onto the porch; it houses a large cottage style window. Above the porch, a hip-roofed dormer with a square, 2-over-2 double-hung window with vertical, rectangular sidelights projects from the roof. Each sidelight has four muntins dividing the window in halves vertically, horizontally and diagonally.

The east elevation also features a wooden paneled bay window. The east-facing side of the bay has three 2-over-2 fixed windows centered in it. A leaded glass wreath window like that on the front is located at the south corner of the east wall. Two rectangular, 1-over-1 double-hung windows and one square 1-over-1 double-hung window are equally spaced in the north half of the east wall. Centered in this north half is a concrete, shed-roofed cellar door entrance. An aluminum door is located on the east wall of the enclosed porch at the northeast corner of the house. A contemporary, 1-over-1 double-hung window is located in a hip-roofed dormer centered in the east face of the roof. A pair of 1-over-1 double-hung windows are located in the east wall of the north facing dormer.

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On the north elevation, an oversized, hip-roofed dormer dominates the facade. Five double-hung, 1-over-1 windows form a window banding across the dormer wall. On the lower level, a brick veneered bay projects from the west portion of the north elevation; it contains a single, rectangular, fixed window. A wood frame, enclosed porch was built on the south half of the north elevation. The porch is clad with weatherboard siding. A modern casement window is set in the rear porch wall. A sunroom, glazed with 1-over-1 double-hung windows is located on the second floor of this bay.

The west elevation features a five-sided, brick veneer bay, set toward the rear. The central panel has a square, multi-pane (muntins cross vertically, horizontally and diagonally) window centered in the upper half. The northwest and southwest panels have 2-over-2 double-hung windows centered in them. On the upper level, two hip-roofed dormers project similarly to the east elevation.

Outbuildings

There are two outbuildings located in the northwest corner of the property.

The first is a square, one story, hip-roofed carriage house/garage with a cupola placed at the apex of the hipped roof. The main entrance faces Third Street. Sided in weatherboard with corner boards at each corner, the garage sets on a concrete foundation. The south facade has a pair of sliding double doors and a square, single-pane window. The east elevation has a square 4-light window (horizontal divisions) centered in the upper portion of the wall. Directly below is a small, rectangular, multi-pane (3-over-3) window. The north elevation has a hinged, Dutch-style, vertical wood door built to the east of center. Centered in the remaining space to the east is a small, square, hinged, vertical wood window covering. The west elevation has a rectangular, multi-pane window (3-over-3) centered in it.

The second outbuilding appears to have been a chicken house, and its form and detailing reflect the design guidelines published by agricultural bulletins of the early 20th century. The chicken house is rectangular in shape and oriented toward the south with a clerestory window band capturing extra light and solar energy. The south elevation has a pair of square 2-over-2 windows centered in the lower wall. Four adjacent single-pane windows are centered in the upper wall. A hinged vertical wood door is centered in the east wall. There are no windows in the west wall.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: B, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1907-1937

Significant Person(s): W. H. "Harry" May

Significant Dates: 1907

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: J. V. Burnett & Son (builder)

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

The Harry May house is an outstanding example of Prairie/Craftsman Style architecture in Stevensville, Montana, and therefore is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The property gains significance for its associations with W.H. "Harry" May, a leading rancher and businessman in the Stevensville community during the early years of the 20th century.

The Harry May house is an excellent example of early Prairie School/Craftsman style architecture and embodies many of the characteristics which came to define this architectural movement in early 20th century America. The interplay of geometric forms emphasized in the roof lines, heavy dormers, piers, and bays; the horizontality accented by the overhanging hip roof, and the projecting front staircase; and details such as the leaded glasswork are all hallmarks of this style.

The house possesses a high degree of historic integrity. Located in its original Third Street location, it retains its original design and detailing including the brick veneer, decorative windows, doors, columns and piers. Furthermore, the surrounding grounds have retained their historic aspect, with the original outbuildings helping to convey the original property configurations and usage.

Harry May, a native of Orton, Ontario, Canada, was one of five May brothers to take up residence in Stevensville. Harry arrived in 1895 with his brothers, Charles and Louis. Two other brothers, George and Albert, had come to Stevensville in 1891. With his brothers, Harry May formed the Bitter Root Livestock Company. Instant success allowed the brothers to purchase a large amount of land in the area where they raised sheep, cattle and horses. As a result, the May brothers opened a butcher shop (locating it on the west side of Main Street, between Second and Third Streets).<sup>1</sup> The meat market was destroyed in the 1905 post office fire.<sup>2</sup> In 1909, the May brothers sold their Bitterroot land holdings to the Bitter Root Irrigation Company.

In 1900, the May brothers purchased the Stevensville branch of the Missoula Mercantile Company with John Dowling. This became the Stevensville Mercantile Company. Harry May served as president, John Dowling as General Manager.<sup>3</sup> That same year, Stevensville residents elected Albert May as their first mayor.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Northwest Tribune, October 21, 1904.

<sup>2</sup>Stevensville Register, August 30, 1905.

<sup>3</sup>The Missoula Herald, January 1, 1909.

<sup>4</sup>Northwest Tribune, January 12, 1900.

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The Stevensville Mercantile Company became one of the major commercial interests in the Stevensville community. The Mercantile claimed to handle "anything from a pin to a threshing machine or a sawmill,"<sup>5</sup> and it soon outgrew its original location on the northwest corner of Main and Second Streets. September, 1908, saw the relocation of the Mercantile to the southwest corner of Third and Main Streets. The new building dominated the downtown area, occupying the entire length of the block from Main Street to Buck Avenue with 100' of Main Street frontage.<sup>6</sup> In addition to the Main Street building, the Mays constructed a small stone gasoline storage building on the southeast corner of Mission and Third Streets.<sup>7</sup>

In business and residence, the May family maintained close ties. The Harry May House is located adjacent to the George May residence and only three blocks north of Church Street where the homes of Albert (218 Church), Charles (109 Church) and Louis (100 Church) are located. The addition where this house is located is named the May Addition for this family.

William "Harry" May finalized the purchase of lot 2 (2 acres) of Block 6 in the May Addition in 1912. (George May platted the land in August, 1907.) The property was transferred to the Missoula Mercantile in 1919. Robert Davis acquired the property in 1937 and retained ownership until 1972, when Richard Sipes purchased the property. Lola Sipes currently owns the property.

Harry May began construction of his residence in December, 1907.<sup>8</sup> The Mays rented the Presbyterian parsonage while work continued on their new home.<sup>9</sup> Work continued through the spring and summer of 1908.<sup>10</sup> In September, J. V. Burnett and Son put the brick veneer on the home.<sup>11</sup> By the end of September, the home was nearly completed. Harry May also made arrangements for sidewalks and curbs at this time.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Stevensville Register, December 23, 1909.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., December 2, 1908.

<sup>8</sup>Stevensville Register, December 12, 1907.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., February 27, 1908.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., April 16, 1908.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., September 3, 1908.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., September 24, 1908.

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**9. References**

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Abstract of Title, Stevensville, Montana, May Addition, Block 6, Lot 2.  
Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.  
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.  
Northwest Tribune, January 12, 1900; October 21, 1904.  
Sanborn Map Co., "Map of Stevensville, Montana", 1909, 1927 (New York).  
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).  
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, December 12, 1907; February 27, 1908; April 16, 1908; September 3 and 24, 1908; December 2, 1908; Special Edition, December 23, 1909.  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Twelfth U.S. Census, 1910, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.  
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.  
Negative File: S. Elevation, Sleeve 2, Row 1, Neg. #3

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:

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723680	5154560

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, May Addition, Block 6, Part of Lot 2.

Boundary Justification:

The point of beginning is the north right-of-way at the intersection of Third Street, East and Park Avenues. From this point the boundary runs 200' east; then, 280' north; then, 280' west; then, 280' south; then 80' east to the point of beginning. The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic buildings are situated.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kathleen M. Olson  
Street & Number: 237 South 2nd West  
City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Date: revised October 1990  
Telephone: 406/728-7523

Zip: 59801