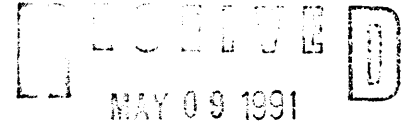


703

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 Mercantile Company Oil Storage Building

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 300 Mission

not for publication: n/a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: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</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 MTSHPO 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 Antiquities Act 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

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

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic: Commerce/warehouse

Current: Vacant/not in use

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Other: vernacular rubble stone

Materials:        foundation: stone  
                  walls: stone  
                  roof: wood shingles

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located at the southeast corner of Mission and Third Streets, this rectangular, one-story building with a gabled roof was constructed of irregularly shaped, random course rubble stone. The walls are very thick and there are no door or window openings, other than the historic, diagonally slatted door located at the center of the north elevation. The building is oriented parallel to the gabled roof line facing north toward Third Street. The roof and support beams are constructed entirely of wood, and the roof is sheathed with wooden shingles that are quite deteriorated. The gable end is sheathed with clapboard siding. Although the roof of the building is not in good condition, the oil storage building possesses a high degree of historic architectural integrity and well reflects its original use, design and materials.

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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: **A**                      Areas of Significance: **Commerce**

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): **n/a**                      Period(s) of Significance: **1907-1941**

Significant Person(s): **n/a**                                      Significant Dates: **1907-1941**

Cultural Affiliation: **n/a**    Architect/Builder: **Unknown**

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

This small warehouse was constructed in conjunction with the new Stevensville Mercantile Company during 1907-1908, and was located one block west of the mercantile for the purpose of storing oil and other flammables. This diminutive oil storage building is of primary significance because of its association with the historic Stevensville Mercantile enterprise, which was owned and operated by the group of May brothers who had such an important economic impact upon the community. The Stevensville Mercantile burned in 1937 and this simple, vernacular oil storage building is the only remaining property associated with that early 20th century business. The construction of this building illustrates the merchants' concern for the safe storage of flammables, particularly since Stevensville had experienced its first major fire in 1905, a few years before the construction of this warehouse. The town adopted Ordinance #35 on September 4, 1905 that required safe and "fire-proof" construction of all new buildings within the central business district. The oil storage building is situated on the corner of what for many years was an undeveloped block located adjacent to the cluster of houses owned by the competing mercantilist brothers Amos, Fred, Earl and Charles Buck.

The building became the property of the Borrough and Fullton Hardware Company in 1927, and continued to be used for the storage of flammables for many years. Currently, the building is not in use.

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## 9. References

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Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.  
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, 1909.  
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).  
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, Special Edition, December 23, 1909;  
December 12, 1907.  
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.  
Negative file: N. elevation, Sleeve 4, Row 6, Neg. 25.

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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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	722840	5154600

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Block 20, Lot 20.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic building is situated.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kathleen M. Olson

Date: revised October 1990

Street & Number: 237 South 2nd West

Telephone: 406/728-7523

City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Zip: 59801