

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: 91000753      Date Listed: 6/18/91

Charles 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.

*Autumnella Bee*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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

**Description:** The roof material is amended to read asphalt shingles.

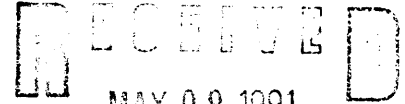
This information was confirmed with Patricia Bik of the Montana SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

753

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: May, Charles, House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 109 Church

not for publication: n/a  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: 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.

Maudie Sharp MT SHPO 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 Autawellee of Lee 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): \_\_\_\_\_

fu \_\_\_\_\_  
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: Other: Vernacular/Gabled Ell

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

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Charles May house is a 1½-story, wood framed vernacular house. Reflecting the gabled ell tradition of vernacular building, the house is laid out in an L-shaped plan, with a main gabled upright and a side wing projecting to the south. The house is clad with clapboard with simple cornerboards and a boxed cornice at the roof line for ornamentation.

Fenestration is characterized by double-hung, 1-over-1 sash windows, with wooden surrounds and corniced window heads. The original glazing and framing were replaced in September 1988 with contemporary metal-framed units, of the same size and configuration as the originals. The roof is covered with asphalt composition shingles. The main structure sets on a rubble stone foundation. A new addition rests on a poured concrete foundation.

The facade faces east toward Church Street with the main entrance offset to the south end of the side wing. An open porch with a hipped roof spans the length of the wing. Two turned columns support the porch roof with simple stick balustrade extending between the columns. A decorative stick frieze also runs between the turned porch columns. The front (east) facing gable contains two windows. They are both centered in the wall, one over the other. The second story window is double-hung; the first-story window is a cottage window that has been replaced with a single sheet of glass. A double-hung window illuminates the wing.

The south-facing gable has the same window arrangement as the east-facing (front) gable. A porch (originally open, but partially enclosed by 1927) on the south side of the gabled wing extends to the west. A door has been placed on the left end, a double-hung window to its right. A large single-pane window is centered in the wall enclosing the porch. The enclosed portion now rests on a poured concrete foundation; the remainder of the porch is supported by concrete block footings.

A rectangular addition was made to extend from the west elevation (rear) in 1927. The addition includes a screened porch supported by a poured concrete foundation. The addition has a hip roof. The windows on the west facing gable end are asymmetrically arranged. Double-hung windows are located on the first floor singly and paired, with a single window above in the gable end.

On the north elevation, two double-hung windows are symmetrically placed in the original structure; a third illuminates the new addition.

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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: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1909

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1909

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.

The Charles May residence is of primary significance to the Stevensville community, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its significance on its architectural merits, as a good example of the gabled ell form of vernacular style architecture in Stevensville. The house was built for an individual who, with his brothers, shaped the social and economic development of their community. The Charles May house retains a relatively high degree of historical integrity. The house exhibits the upright and wing arrangement common to the gabled ell form. It is 1½ stories in height, with a substantial wing, sheltered by the porch characteristically spanning its front.

Charles May, a native of Orton, Ontario, Canada, was one of five May brothers to take up residence in Stevensville. Although his brothers George and Albert came to the community in 1891, Charles arrived later with his brothers William and Louis. With his brothers, Charles 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. Naturally, the May brothers opened a butcher shop (locating it on the west side of Main Street, between 2nd and 3rd streets).<sup>1</sup> The meat market was destroyed in the 1905 fire.<sup>2</sup> In 1909, the land holdings of the Bitter Root Livestock Company were sold 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. W.H. May served as president, John Dowling as general manager.<sup>3</sup> 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>4</sup> and it rapidly outgrew its original Main Street location at the northwest corner of Main and Second Streets. In September, 1908, the Mercantile relocated to the southwest corner of Third and Main Streets. The new structure dominated the downtown area, occupying the entire length of the block from Main Street to Buck Avenue with 100' of Main Street frontage.<sup>5</sup> In addition to the main structure, the Mays constructed a small stone gasoline storage building on the southeast corner of Mission and 3rd Streets.<sup>6</sup>

X See Continuation Sheet

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<sup>1</sup> North West Tribune, October 21, 1904.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Stevensville Register, December 23, 1909.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., December 12, 1908.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Charles May House

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Charles and Martha May acquired this property on Church Street in 1898. This residence, located on part of their original holdings, was constructed during the spring of 1909. The Mays maintained close associations with one another in residence as well as business --this home is located on the same street as the homes of Louis May (100 Church) and Albert May (218 Church), and is only a short distance from the W.H. May home (522 3rd Street) and the George May house (100 Park Avenue).

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## 9. References

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Abstract of Title, Stevensville Townsite, Block 7, Lots 4-6  
Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.  
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.  
Northwest Tribune, July 15, 1904; October 21, 1904; August 30, 1905; May 4, 1909.  
Polk, R.L. & Co., City Directories for Stevensville 1903-4, 1906, 1909, 1917-1918.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Co., Map of Stevensville, Montana, 1909, 1927, (New York).  
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).  
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, August 30, 1905; December 12, 1908; Special Edition, December 23, 1909.  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Twelfth U. S. Census, 1910, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C.  
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.  
Negative File: E. Elevation, Sleeve 1, Row 7, Neg 34

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	723160	5154820

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Block 7, south half of Lot 4, all of Lots 5 and 6.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the property historically associated with the building.

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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