

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 11 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Blewett, John, House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 2411 E. River Street

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: n/a

city/town: Fromberg

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Carbon

code: 009

zip code: 59029

3. State/Federal Agency 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Manuel Shuf SHPO 12-11-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or 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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
___ see continuation sheet

___ determined eligible for the
National Register
___ see continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the
National Register
___ see continuation sheet

___ removed from the National Register
___ see continuation sheet

___ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Patrick Anderson 1/08/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Category of Property: Buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> building(s)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	_____	_____ sites
	_____	_____ structures
	_____	_____ objects
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Properties in Fromberg	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic: single dwelling	Current Functions: Domestic: single dwelling
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7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Two-story cross-gable brick	Materials: foundation: stone, sandstone walls: brick roof: asphalt
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Narrative Description

The John Blewett House is located in Fromberg, a small town in southcentral Montana. The property is situated in a sparsely developed residential area, east of the downtown and the railroad tracks and bound on the south and west by the Clarks Fork River. The property is comprised of a historic house and a modern garage. The house is centered on a large lawn and faces north towards E. River Street; the garage is behind the house and stands along the south edge of lot.

Constructed in 1912, the two-story house is a brick rectangular block supported on a 3-foot tall foundation of coursed sandstone with a rock-faced finish. The irregular, combination gabled and hipped roof has a wide gable on the north and gables offset to one side on the east, west, and south sides. The brick walls of the house rise into the gables. The asphalt-shingled roof has wide eave overhangs, and exposed rafter and purlin tails. The front porch wraps around the east wall and rests on a sandstone foundation. It features a brick rail with a sandstone cap, square Tuscan columns that rest on the rail, and a built-up hip roof. On the north side of the porch at the west end are concrete steps set between sandstone rails that project from the foundation. Openings between the porch columns were altered in the 1950s with a metal-sash door and metal-sash windows set within plywood infill. A shingle-railed balcony that once graced the porch's roof has also been removed and the present hipped roof constructed. Inset in the southeast corner of the house is a small porch that is enclosed by wood siding and fixed windows. Window and door openings in the house are accented by large sandstone lintels and sandstone lug sills. Doors on the north and east are not visible from the street. The door in the north gable that once provided access to the porch balcony has been infilled with glass blocks. Windows are predominately one-over-one, double-hung wood-sash units, in various sizes and covered with metal-sash storms. In the north gable is a small fixed window with wood-sash tracery.

The house has sustained few modifications since construction and retains all aspects of integrity. Enclosure of the porches and removal of the front balcony have not altered the house's original form, scale, or massing. The house still possesses most of its key ornamental elements such as the massive stone lintels and headers at the window openings, Tuscan porch columns, and the leaded glass window on the primary facade.

The garage is a modern, gable-roofed building. It is a non-contributing element to the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement
Community Planning and Development
Commerce
Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1912-1919

Significant Person(s): Blewett, John

Significant Dates: 1912, 1919

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The John Blewett House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Fromberg" multiple property listing. The significance of the house is established locally under the historic context of "Residential Development in Fromberg, 1900-1929" and meets registration requirements developed for the associated property type, "Residential Buildings." The John Blewett House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the growth and emergence of Fromberg; under Criterion B for its association with John Blewett, an important businessman and influential civic leader in Fromberg; and under Criterion C as an outstanding example of one of the largest, most architecturally sophisticated house built during the town's boom period. The house has sustained few alterations since construction and retains integrity in all aspects.

The John Blewett House derives significance under Criterion A as a representation of Fromberg's rise as an important retail trade and shipping center for the surrounding agricultural region in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Fromberg's increasing prosperity and population growth stimulated construction of many new houses. They included several large, architecturally sophisticated houses, such as this one, that were constructed for the town's emerging upper class of businessmen and professionals. This house was constructed in 1912 at the peak of prosperity in Fromberg for one of the town's most prominent business and civic leaders, John Blewett.

The John Blewett House derives significance under Criterion B as the best representation of Blewett's contributions to the town of Fromberg. Born in St. Austell parish, Cornwall County, England on December 7, 1858, John Blewett came to United States in 1879 and first worked as a miner in Pennsylvania. After arriving in Montana in 1887, he labored in the mines at Butte and then developed mining properties in Meagher County at Copperopolis. In 1901, Blewett moved to the Clarks Fork Valley and took up a homestead. Blewett cultivated wheat and other grains, raised horses, and around 1907 established large orchards of apple and plum trees. He soon became one of the most successful and wealthy farmers in the valley.

Blewett, meanwhile, played a leading role in developing a viable economic base at Fromberg. Blewett largely financed construction of the town's first bank in 1906 and served as the facility's first director, managed the Fromberg Lumber yard from 1907-1909, and constructed at least two commercial buildings for rental properties on main street in the early 1910s. As President of the Fromberg Commercial Club, in 1911 he drove in the golden spike that symbolically joined the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy line to the Northern Pacific. Blewett further contributed to the community's development in 1907 when he purchased acreage east of the rail tracks and platted the Blewett Addition. He constructed one of the town's most impressive new homes, the John Blewett House, in the addition in 1912. Blewett also served important social and civic roles in Fromberg. For example he helped to incorporate the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1907 and was the town's mayor from 1913-1915. Blewett died in Fromberg in 1919. The John Blewett House is the only building still existing in Fromberg that maintains a close association with Blewett that has not been significantly altered.

The John Blewett House derives significance under Criterion C as one of the most distinguished examples of vernacular architecture from Fromberg's boom period. The two-story brick house's straightforward massing is enlivened by a complex combination roof, sandstone foundation and window headers and lintels, and the wrap around front porch. The house serves as an excellent representation of a type of large, architecturally sophisticated house common to the period and remains as the most impressive house ever built in the Blewett Addition.

9. Major Bibliographic References

U.S. Census information (1900, 1910) transcribed on "John Blewett" card. History Files. Carbon County Historical Society. Red Lodge, Montana.

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1907.

Fromberg Herald. 23 February 1911; January 1912; and May 1919.

R.L. Polk Co's. Directory of Billings and Red Lodge; Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater and Big Horn Counties. 1907; 1909; 1912; 1914; 1916.

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
A	12	664270	5028380

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses Lots 5 and 6 of Tract 2 of the Blewett Addition to Fromberg (NW¼ NW¼ NW¼ Section 21, T05S, R23E).

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the John Blewett House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary McCormick (Erika Kuhlman of the Fromberg Historical Society did the initial research and wrote the first draft in 1989.)

organization: Renewable Technologies, Inc.

date: April 1992

street & number: 511 Metals Bank Building

telephone: 406/444-7715

city or town: Butte

state: MT

zip code: 59701

Property Owner

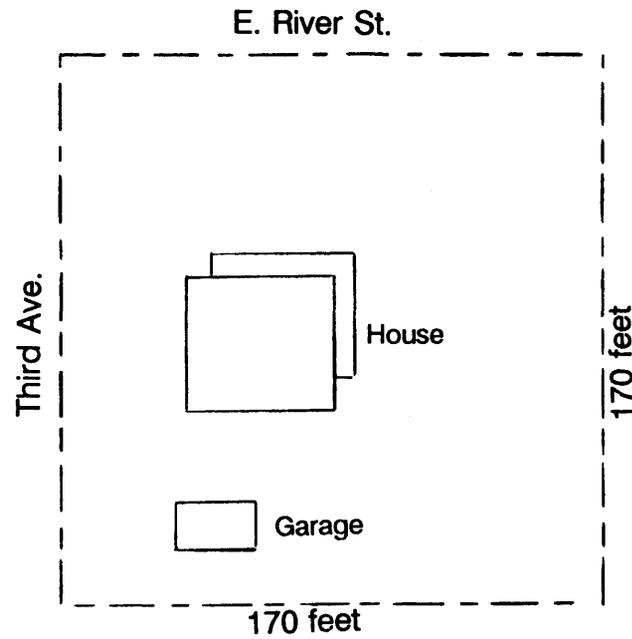
name/title: Loren Emtz

street & number: 2411 E. River Street

city or town: Fromberg

state: MT

zip code: 59029



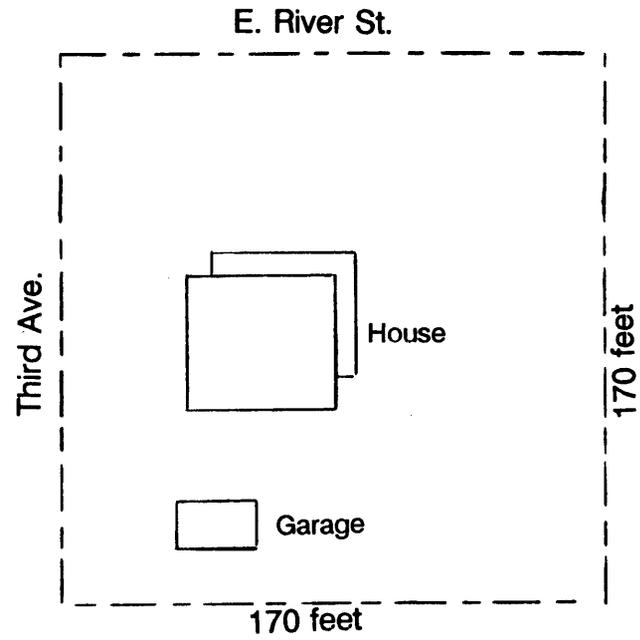
John Blewett House
Fromberg, Montana

Lots 5 & 6, Tract 2
Blewett Addition

National Register Boundary:



Not to Scale
August 1992



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Lots 5 & 6, Tract 2
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National Register Boundary:



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