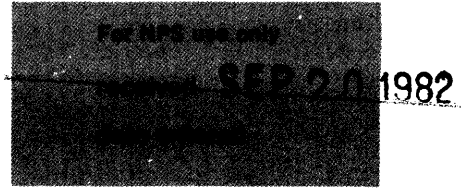


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic House
May, George Residence
and/or common May, George Residence

2. Location

street & number 100 Park Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Stevensville N/A vicinity of congressional district
state Montana code 030 county Ravalli code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Melvin J. and Kathleen M. Cook
street & number 100 Park Avenue
city, town Stevensville N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ravalli County Courthouse
street & number 105 Bedford
city, town Hamilton state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George May Residence is a two story neo-classical structure of frame construction with a concrete block foundation, oriented toward the Bitter Root Mountains on the west. It has a half basement of concrete. The house is painted a soft cream color which is said to be the original color. It has wooden storm windows on each window of the house and they are painted a dark chocolate brown. There is a gable roof with composition shingles, which were originally wood, and a double stack chimney. Fanlight windows are set in the three gable ends of the third floor attic. There are three bay windows and beveled glass was used in many rooms throughout the home. A colonnaded veranda was supported by twelve ornate pillars wraps around three sides of the house. The balustrade is complete and intact. There are two doors on the veranda, one opening to the front entry hall and the other door to the dining room. Both of these entries have green slag glass porch lights. The second floor has a porch on the north side with five ornate pillars and a door which leads to the upper hall. The second floor porch had a balustrade all around it, although this was removed after 1941 sometime. Concrete steps and curvilinear walks were put in at the time the home was built. The house is now surrounded by large, old cottonwood trees. The original barn and garage are still in place. A window in the garage has been moved and another taken out in order to make a doorway for an automobile.

The front entry hall of the house incorporates finely crafted oak woodworking. The original stained and leaded glass light fixture hanging from an unusual wooden chain, still welcomes guests as they arrive, as it has since the home was built. There is a beveled and leaded glass window here to give light on the north. The heavy oak front door also has an oval beveled glass insert. Tall narrow windows flank on each side of the door. The wide oak stairway leads off this front hall to the upstairs.

Beams grace the high ceiling of the parlor and dining room. Oak columns separate these two rooms. There are bay windows in both these rooms. The parlor has a window seat with oak columns on each side. Leaded glass windows with beveled edges in these two rooms send a rainbow of colors spilling ont the floor. Two more unusual light fixtures are to be found in the parlor and dining room, each hanging from hand crafted wooden chains. A large heavy oak sliding door separates the dining room and kitchen. There is a fireplace in the diningroom with heavy oak mantel and beveled mirror, however a wood burning stove sits in front of the fireplace now. The original tile and iron work for the fireplace are all carefully stored in the basement and the fireplace could sometime be restored easily to its original condition.

The kitchen faces south and east, and has seven arched windows which let in much sunshine. Another window in the kitchen has been changed to a higher more modern window. Also the bathroom window had been changed to a small higher one, which is a new window.

The home is in excellent condition and sits on 5.5 acres within the city limits. It is the only home with that amount of property in town. The house was built in an unusually substantial manner and the ground and walks had been carefully prepared under George Mays' supervision. He did much of the carpentry work that pertained to the inside finish work. George was a well trained and excellent wood craftsman. Since its construction the May home has been a landmark, an architecturally outstanding and picturesque home and represents another lifestyle of elegance and craftsmanship.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1909

Builder/Architect A. J. Gibson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George May home is significant for its historic association with the development of Stevensville, the lifestyle and craftsmanship of the times, and its prominent owner, George May. The home was constructed in 1909 and completed the same year. A newspaper article states that a crew from Spokane were brought in to do the carpentry work. Typical of the neo-Classical style of houses built between 1900 and 1920, the May House features the ordered columns, doorway, windows, portico, etc. of the style. The architect for the house was A. J. Gibson, a prominent Missoula architect, around the turn of the century. He designed many prominent buildings in and around Missoula (including the Main Hall at University of Montana, Missoula County Courthouse, Greenough Mansion) and two other buildings in Stevensville, the Bass Mansion and the Stevensville Mercantile. The latter was also owned by George May. A. J. Gibson also designed Marcus Daly's mansion in Hamilton.

George May did much of the carpentry which pertained especially to the inside finish work. He was a well trained and excellent wood craftsman. The interior of the home reflects the superior craftsmanship of the turn of the century. Emphasis upon careful detailing and joinery is evident in the interior woodworking. Original leaded glass light fixtures hang from handcrafted wooden chains. Built-in cabinets, window seats, and beamed ceilings add to the Arts and Crafts style interior finishing.

The home was built at a time when Stevensville was progressing rapidly, because the city water system was put in then and also the telephone exchange in 1909. No more wooden sidewalks could be erected in the fire limits of Stevensville, and the walks were to be made of cement, flagstone, or brick. By 1909 a hospital was opened also. Stevensville had generators to supply electricity, but by 1910 electricity had come to town.

George May was born in Canada in 1858, at sixteen he left home, and signed up for three years to learn the cabinet business. He invested his money in tools and got a job as a cabinet maker, and also made piano cases. Later he came to Helena the 21st day of May 1881, twenty three years old. He met "Cowboy Russell" (C.M. Russell) in Utica the first day of January 1882. He worked in the Dakotas a few years, then moved to Stevensville, Montana with his brother Albert, and purchased the John Winslett band of sheep which had been trailed overland to the Bitter Root Valley from California. "We (Albert) then leased old Fort Owen here, close to Stevensville for fourteen years from Major McCormick."* (This was in March 1892 according to the Western News) George lived at the Fort and this is where his children were born. They raised both sheep and cattle. George started buying land in 1895 and is found in the deeds numerous times. They formed the Bitter Root Livestock Co., and as such owned some 3,000 acres of land, 20,000 head of sheep, and 500 head of cattle. He purchased the George W. Dobbins farm adjacent to town for \$2,317 on the 23rd of January 1899. On part of this land his home sits today. "People were talking of a school, they consulted me about where to build this school, and what I would do. I said I would give them

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fort Missoula Historical Museum

*Life Story of George May, written by himself, in possession of grandson listed below
Grandson of George May - George Cunningham 1840 #. Sycamore, Anaheim, CA 92805

Newspapers: Western News 29 March 1892 - Ravalli County Museum, Stevensville Register 22 July 1909-Stevensville Office Supply, Stevensville Register, 23 December 1909.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.5 acres

Quadrangle name Stevensville, Mont

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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7	2	1	3
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 Easting

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 Northing

B

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

C

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2, Blk 6, May Addition to Stevensville, Montana as follows: T19N; R20W, Sec. 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$. All of that portion of said Lot lying South of Second Street and North of Third Street and West of 40 foot road as described in book 69 Deeds, page 602. Except tract as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of Lot 2,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Kathleen Cook

organization

date March 25, 1982

street & number 100 Park Avenue

telephone (406)777-5665

city or town Stevensville

state Montana 59870

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Margie Sheffy

title Deputy SHPO

date 9-14-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McClelland
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/25/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

\$1,000 and would give them all the land that would be necessary for school purposes, also open up a street and build a walk, also open up a road to Pine Hollow."* This he did giving ten acres of ground for the school. The foundation of this building was laid 4 July 1901 and sits about 1½ blocks south of where George's future home would be built. He served on the board of Trustees and on the Executive committee of the new school. The school building is still being used today, and houses the Junior High. The High School, Grade School and football field now occupy the rest of the property. On the 4th of August 1900 George and another brother William Harry May assisted in organizing the Stevensville Mercantile Co., a concern capitalized at \$50,000 in which George May was a principal stockholder and also the President. By 1909 the business transacted was one of the largest in Western Montana and the building in which the business was connected was the largest in the Bitter Root Valley.

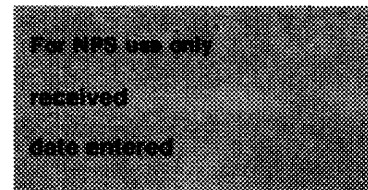
The May addition on the eastern side of the original townsite was opened up by George May on 2 June 1907 and is now a flourishing residential district. George May contributed much to the building of Stevensville, he established a reputation of honesty in business dealings and private life. He was associated with many enterprises and was particularly public-spirited and did much to develop the community. He died there 16 June 1945.

This structure is significant because of its association with George May, architect, A.J. Gibson, and its neo-Classical style. Also it retains its integrity of materials and craftsmanship with very minor alterations to the exterior or interior of the building.

*Taken from The Life Story of George May, written by himself and in the possession of his grandson, George Cunningham, 1840 E. Sycamore, Anaheim, CA 92805.

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

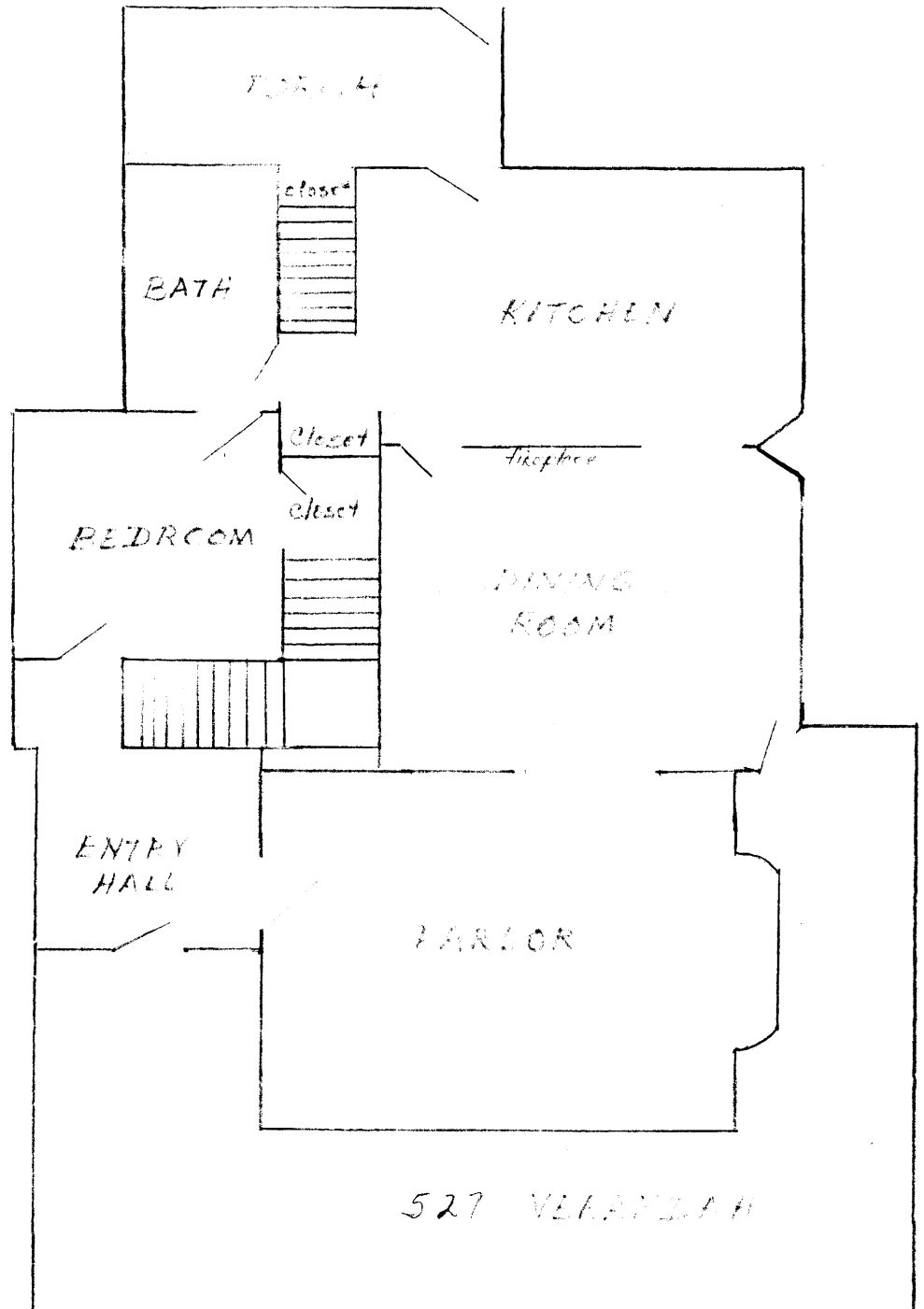
Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

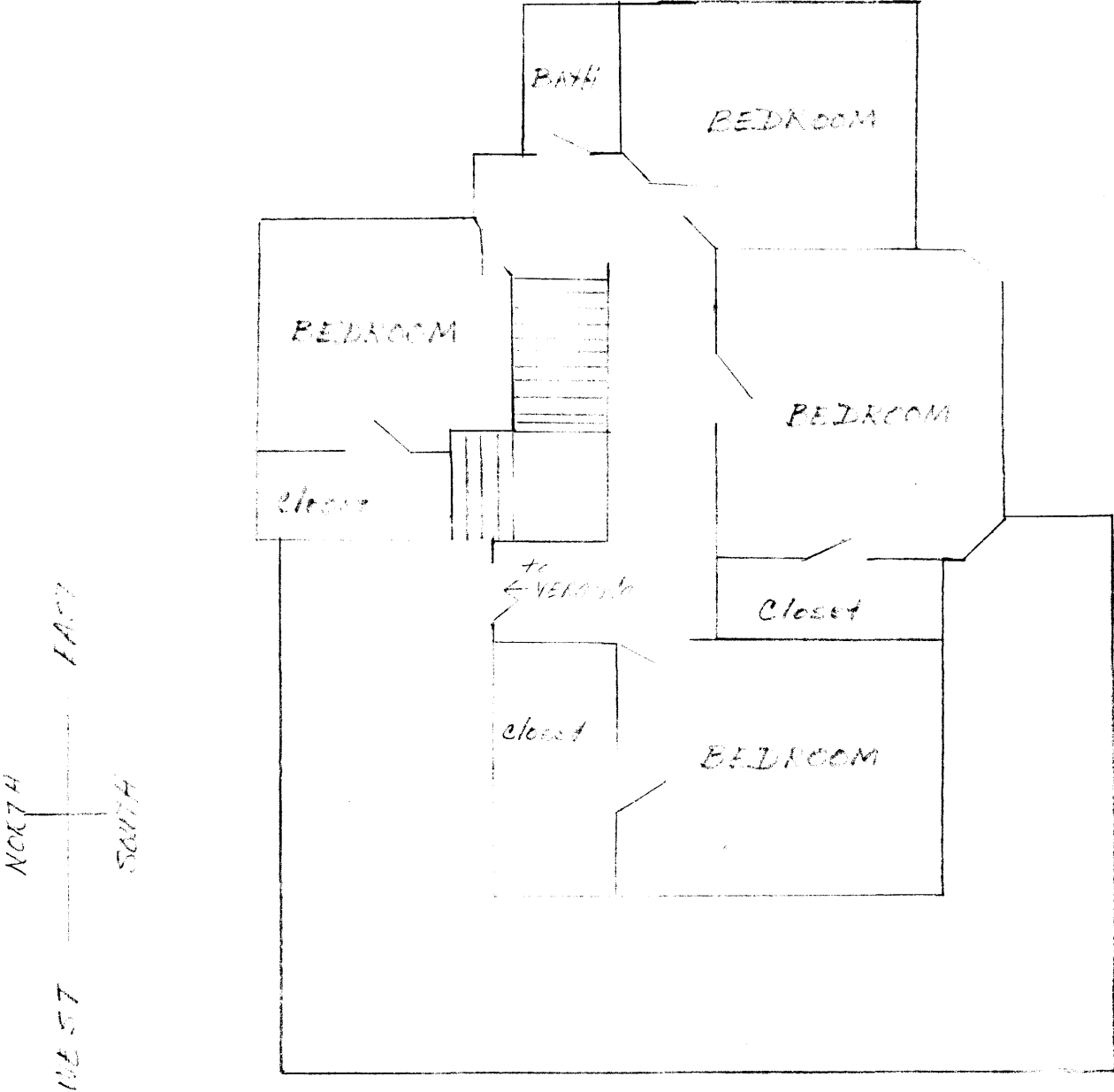
Block 6, which is on the North side of Third Street; thence North 493 feet; thence East 226.5 feet; thence South 400 feet; thence Southwesterly 202.5 feet; thence West 80.5 feet to place of beginning.

George May Residence
Stevensville, Mt.

NORTH
WEST
EAST
SOUTH



George May Residence
Stevensville, Mt.



2nd Floor