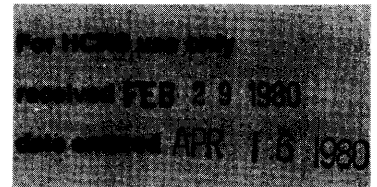


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 A.J. Gibson House

and/or common Residence of George Frazer

2. Location

street & number 402 S. Second Street ___ not for publication

city, town Missoula ___ vicinity of congressional district Western

state Montana code 30 county Missoula code 063

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 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name George Frazer

street & number 402 S. 2nd Street

city, town Missoula ___ vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Missoula County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Missoula 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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original Queen Anne style building on 402 S. Second Street in Missoula, Montana (ca 1889) was reworked into a bungalow-style residence by its owner, the noted architect A.J. Gibson in 1913.

The original house was a one-story frame dwelling with a hipped roof and a central projecting gable. The L-shaped porch was one-story high with turned columns and Queen-Anne grillwork stretching across the top. The basic rectangular form of the building was interrupted by a one-story porch protruding from the back, northwest corner and a polygonal bay on the eastern face. Both features were retained in the redesign.

Much of the original interior Queen Anne ornamentation remains in evidence: beadwork over the entrance way with similar handling of the lathe and bead in the oak diningroom cabinets; fixed stain glass in the large living areas; engraved bronze hinges; mother of pearl light switches; bronze chandeliers; and French leather wall coverings in the diningroom. All of these features have been retained in their original state.

The major distinguishing features of the original house closely resemble the "American-style" catalogue house circulating during the late 19th century. During the earliest part of his career, Gibson frequently used such pattern-book designs. Since Gibson was one of the few major builders in Missoula at this time, it is highly probable that he built this original home as his residence soon after his marriage.

Gibson significantly rebuilt the house in 1913. His original remodelling sketches are in the possession of the current owner. Barely recognizable as the same house (but affirmed by the Sanborn maps), Gibson added front rooms, three gables, a new exterior river cobble chimney, and a porch which stretches the complete front width. Gibson converted a one-story Queen Anne style dwelling into a one and one half story prairie bungalow style home.

The Gibson house remains a wood frame building with white beveled siding, upon a field stone foundation. Under approximately 50% of the building, there is a basement housing a coal-burning furnace for the forced hot air heating system. The roof is shingled in wood, stained an antique green. The overhanging front gable has four windows; the western gable has two windows; both are stuccoed, with structural members exposed. The eastern gable over the bay has two large windows and smaller windows on the side. The roof line is broken once again by a shed dormer with two windows built next to the river cobble chimney on the eastern side.

The base and the four supporting columns of the L-shaped porch are of river cobble (gathered by the Gibson's themselves) and capped with cut stone slabs. Part of the front porch was enclosed and made into another room by Gibson. Another story was added to the back porch and it also was enclosed as a sunroom.

Gibson's reconstruction of his residence makes interesting use of organic materials with river cobble facing, columns, and chimney, stuccoed gables, and exposed floor beams and ornate oak cabinetry on the interior. Only the kitchen has been altered. The 1913 redesigned house by A.J. Gibson stands as an excellent period piece, demonstrating the noted architect's response to popular tastes.

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 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 ca 1889 - 1913 **Builder/Architect** A.J. Gibson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The A.J. Gibson house and studio is eligible for listing on the National Register by meeting Criterion B, relating to a significant person in the local history of Missoula and Montana.

A.J. Gibson was born on April 1, 1862 on a farm in Savannah, Ohio. At age 21 he came to Butte, Montana, at this time a flourishing mining town just beginning to construct major buildings. While in Butte (from 1883-88) Gibson worked as a carpenter for the prominent architect H.M. Patterson. Patterson is known for his fine examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture.

Gibson moved to Missoula in 1888, where he and another ambitious young carpenter became partners under the firm name of Selander and Gibson. The following year, Gibson married Maud Lockley and shortly afterward moved into his home and studio at 402 S. Street. It is this home which he remodeled in 1913 (see description, sec. 7).

Later, Gibson became partners with Robert Mentrum and took up the study of architecture. At this point Gibson's significance as an architect begins to develop, marking his transition from mere construction to design and supervision. Quite soon thereafter, Gibson designed St. Patricks Hospital and the Missoula High School. By 1915, Gibson had designed all of the buildings at the University of Montana, including University Hall.

Gibson was a builder and an architect with a keen entrepreneurial sense. "When Mr. Gibson first settled in Missoula, he saw the possibilities of the town, and as soon as he was able to do so he began purchasing business lots. He put up the handsome brick block, the Gibson Block...[T]oday the Gibson Block is the heart of the town of Missoula's busiest corner...To drive over Missoula is to see on every hand evidence of his skill and ability. He built the High School, the Hawthorne School, the Sacred Heart Academy, the Harnois Theatre, all of the University of Montana buildings, and innumerable others."¹ In 1888 Missoula was little more than a village; by the time Gibson retired in 1909, with his help, Missoula was translated into a stable and prosperous city. Moreover, Gibson's impact reached far beyond Missoula; his influence can be seen throughout the State of Montana in his many impressive private and civic buildings.

Gibson retired at the height of his career due to increasing deafness. One of his major past times in retirement was "motoring" and he made numerous cross country trips. On December 31, 1927 Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Gibson were killed in an automobile accident when hit by a train because they did not hear the whistle at the crossing.

¹Sanders History of Montana Vol. III p. 1356

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Montana, Sanders, Helen Fitzgerald, Vol. III, Lewis Pub. Co., Chicago & N.Y. 1913 p. 1356
 "National Irrigation Journal: Missoula & Ravalli Counties", Wagner, Archives University of Montana, 1898.
 Sunday Missoulian, Jan. 1, 1928, pp 1,6 See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 0.3 acres
 Quadrangle name Southwest Missoula Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 & 12, Block forty of Knowles Addition to the City of Missoula - Located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 21, T.13N., R.19W.

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

state	<u>None</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George Frazer, Realtor & Kingston Heath, Architectural Historian
 organization Sayer Realty date 11/28/78
 street & number Glacier Bldg, 111 N. Higgins Ave telephone
 city or town Missoula state Montana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert [Signature]* date

title for [Signature]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

An Evaluation of Gibson's work as an Architect:

A.J. Gibson's maturation as a builder and architect may be traced through his career. Beginning as a carpenter-builder in 1883, Gibson made frequent use of pattern book designs. His own home at 402 S. Second Street, Missoula was probably such a catalogue house, prior to his reconstruction in 1913. Gibson's own designs in the early period show the influence of his mentors. He quickly responded to popular and national architectural movements. Over time, Gibson resolved many conflicting tendencies in the aspects of his design, emerging with a unique style of his own.

Gibson's University Hall in Missoula (1898) reflects the strong influence of H.M. Patterson. This building borrows the general massing and features of Richardson's Allegany County Courthouse (1887). Richardsonian stylistic features may be noted in Gibson's work until 1901. At this point as evidenced by the Ravalli County Courthouse in Hamilton, Montana (National Register 4/20/79) we see the watershed of two styles: the Romanesque and the Classical. The classical design aspects emerge strongest and can be seen reflected on a broad scale; the Hamilton Town Hall (1906-7), the Bass Mansion in Stevensville (1908), and culminating in the Missoula County Courthouse (1908-10). "It is said that no better building, for the money (\$170,000), and no building more complete and up-to-date has ever been built in the West than the courthouse, built in Missoula from A.J.Gibson's plans and under his supervision."²

Shortly after the completion of the Missoula County Courthouse, Mr. Gibson would retire from his professional offices. Finding the time to turn to domestic design, Gibson set to work on his own residence and studio, refashioning it in prairie-bungalow style. This major shift from classicism to prairie style can be seen as Gibson's response to popular taste and is significant as a cultural reflection of the times.

The City of Missoula plans to hold a Gibson retrospective during 1980. Thirty to forty of Gibson's original designs are at the offices of the Witmere and Price, a Missoula architectural firm. The Fort Missoula Historical Society has proposed a conversion of the Gibson residence into a house museum to honor this revered local architect.

² Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

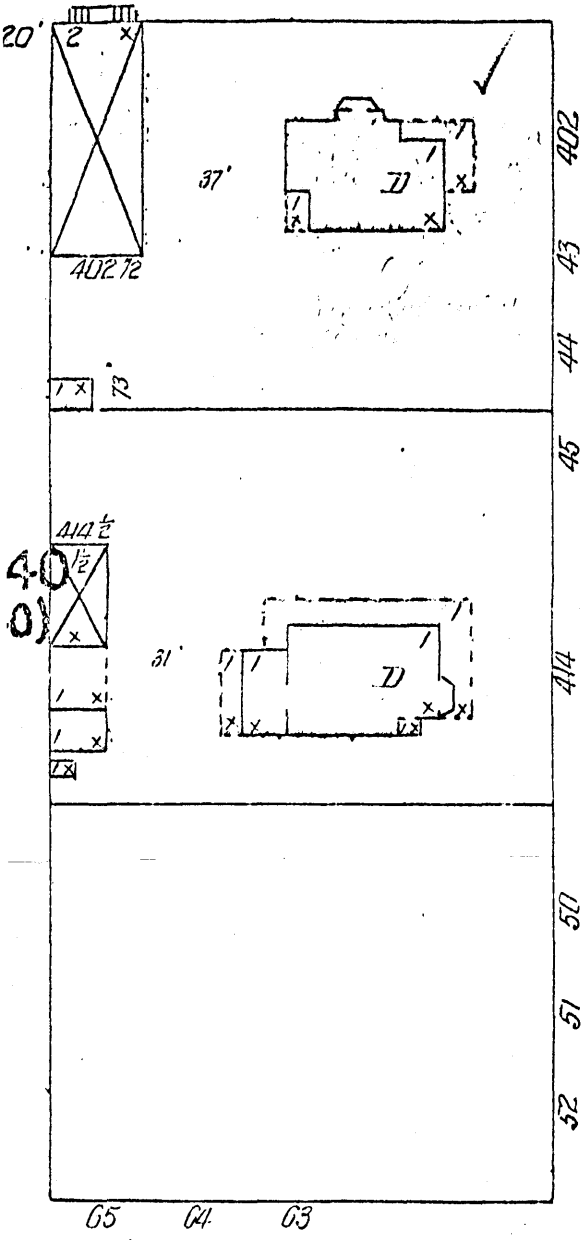
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Missoula Gazette, January 1, 1890.
Sanborn Maps of Missoula: 1902, 1912, 1921.

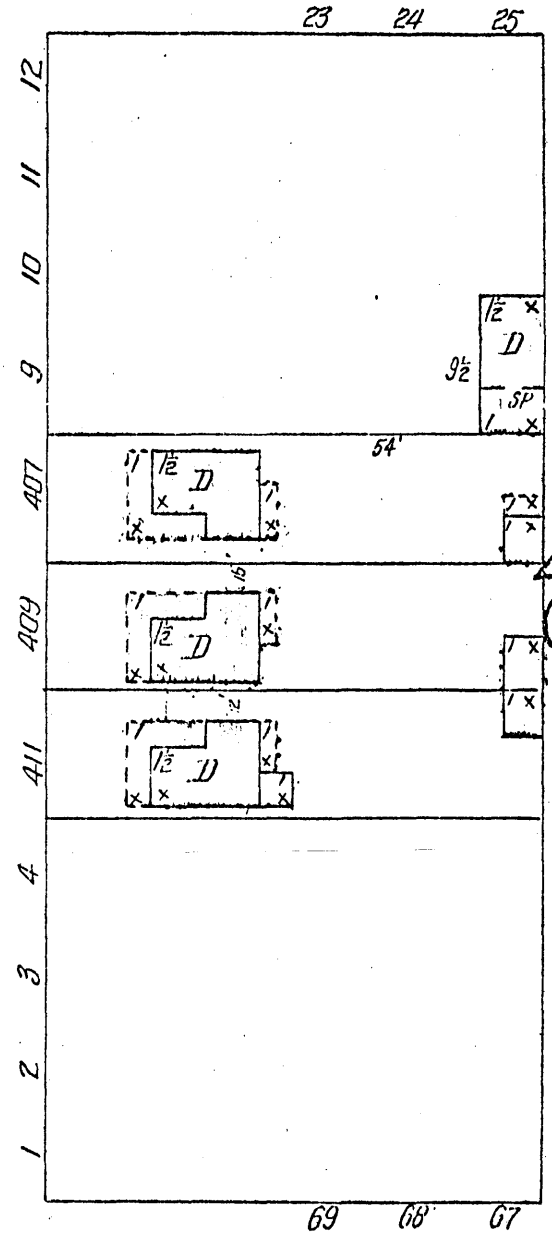
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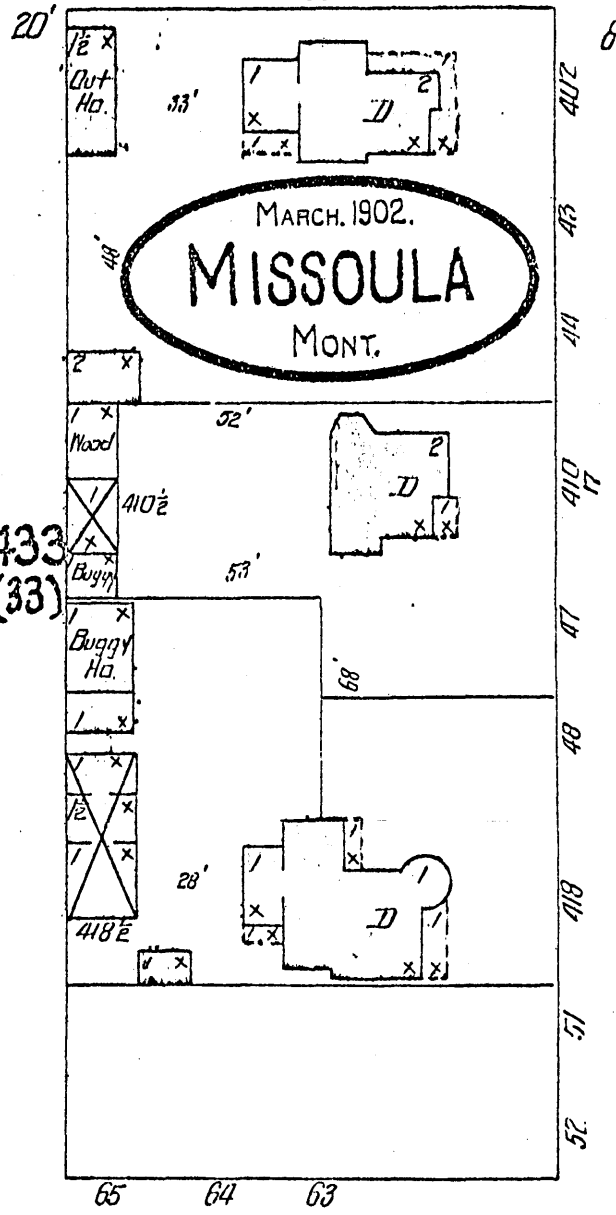
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80'



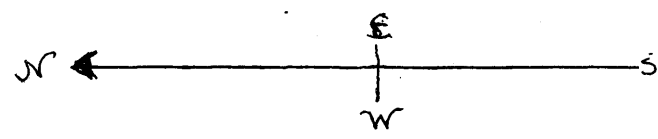
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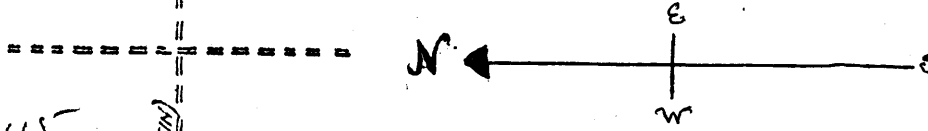
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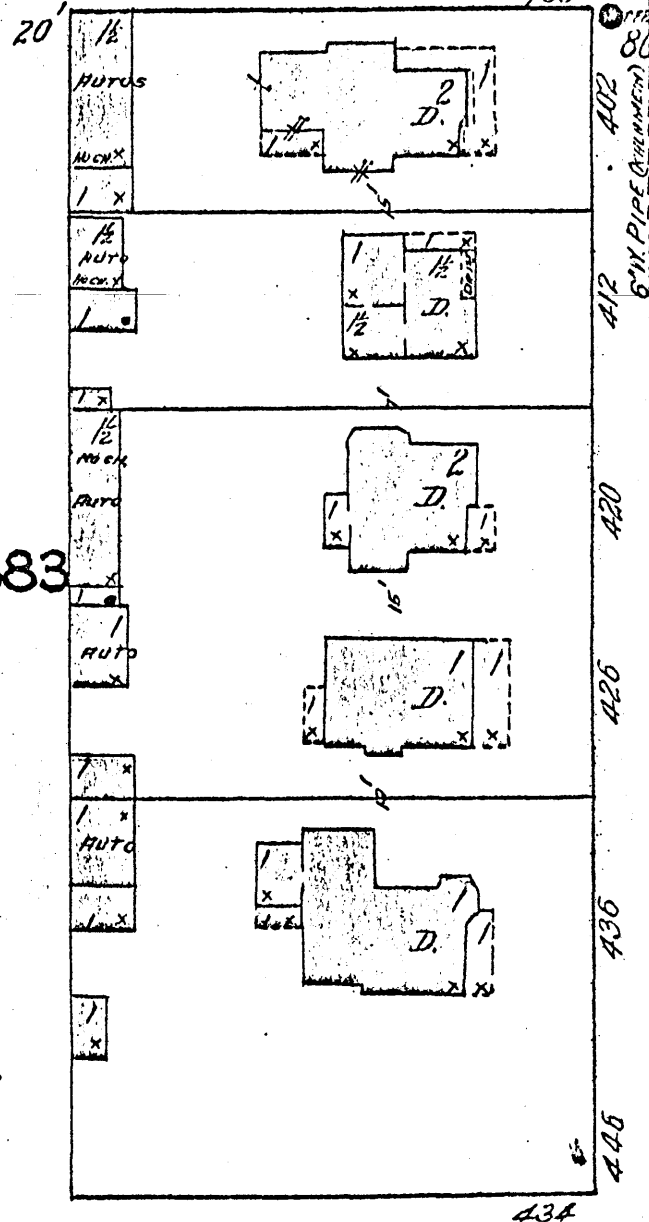
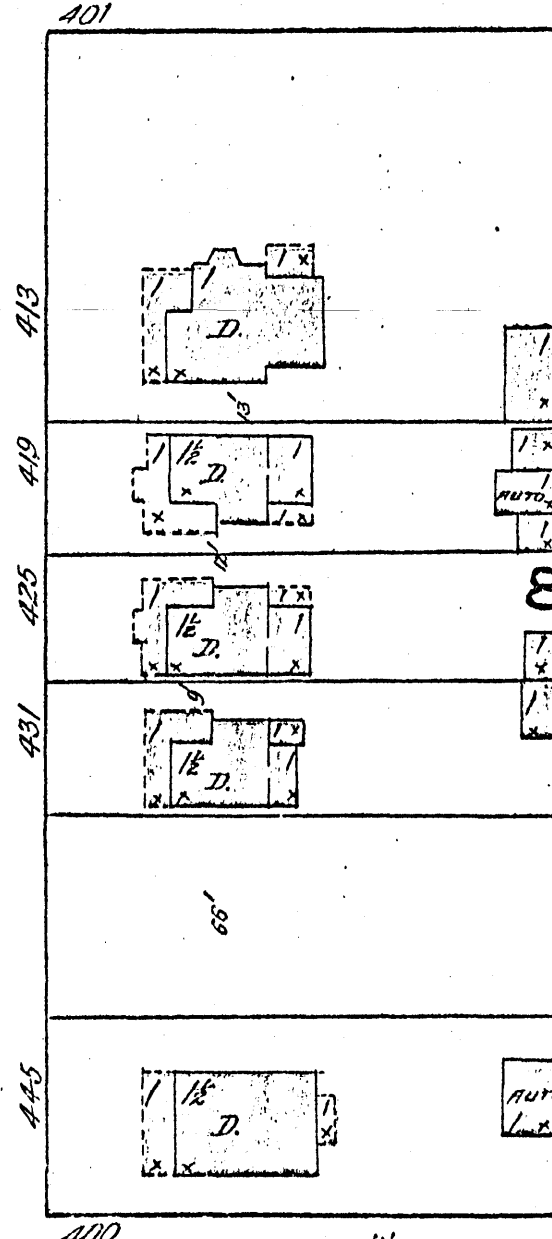
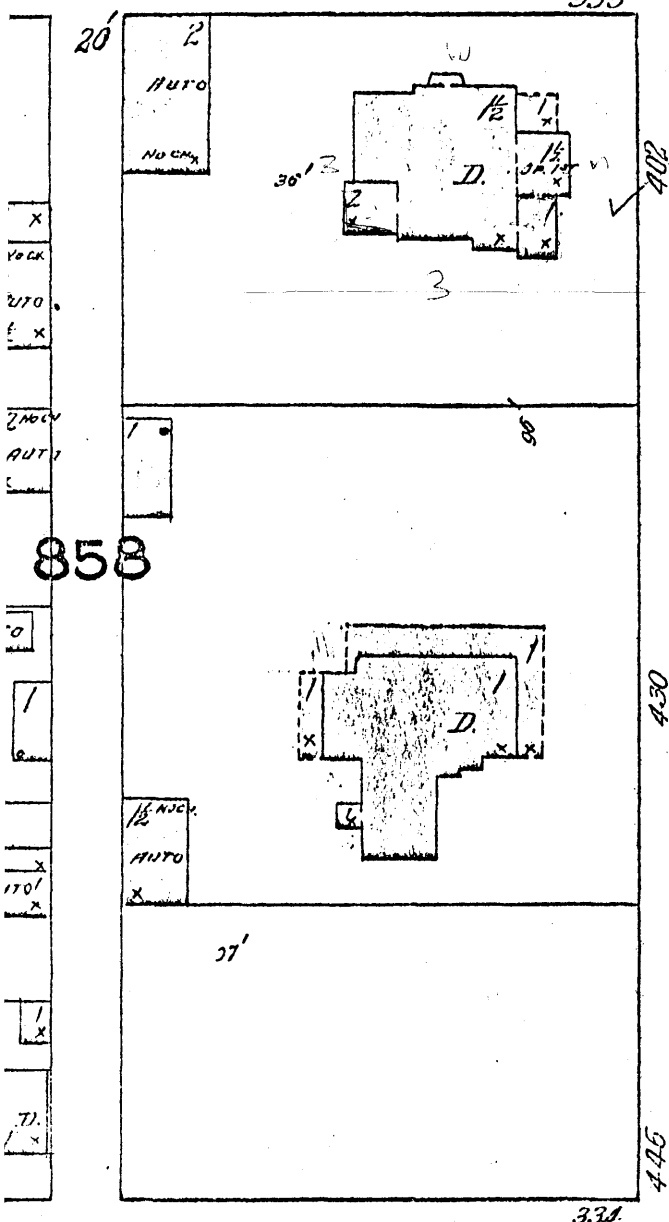
FEB 29 1980

1921 Sheet 45



4" W. PIPE (KALMEIN) 80'

PIPE (KALMEIN)



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AUTO
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ZNOV
AUTO
C
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X
X
170'
X
X
71'
X

435 D.H.
80
402
6" W. PIPE (KALMEIN)
412
420
425
435
445

National Irrigation Journal 1898
Archive Dept U of Montana
Missoula - Ravalli Counties

Photo C. 1898

MISSOULA AND RAVALLI COUNTIES

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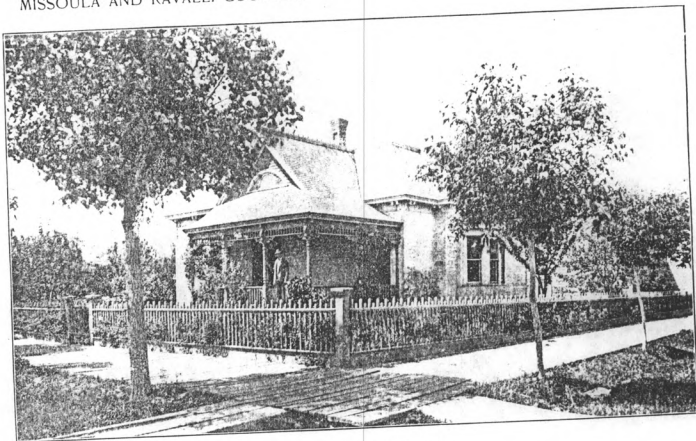
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Officers.

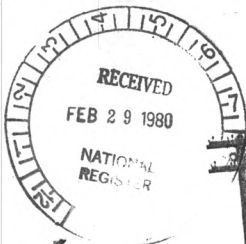
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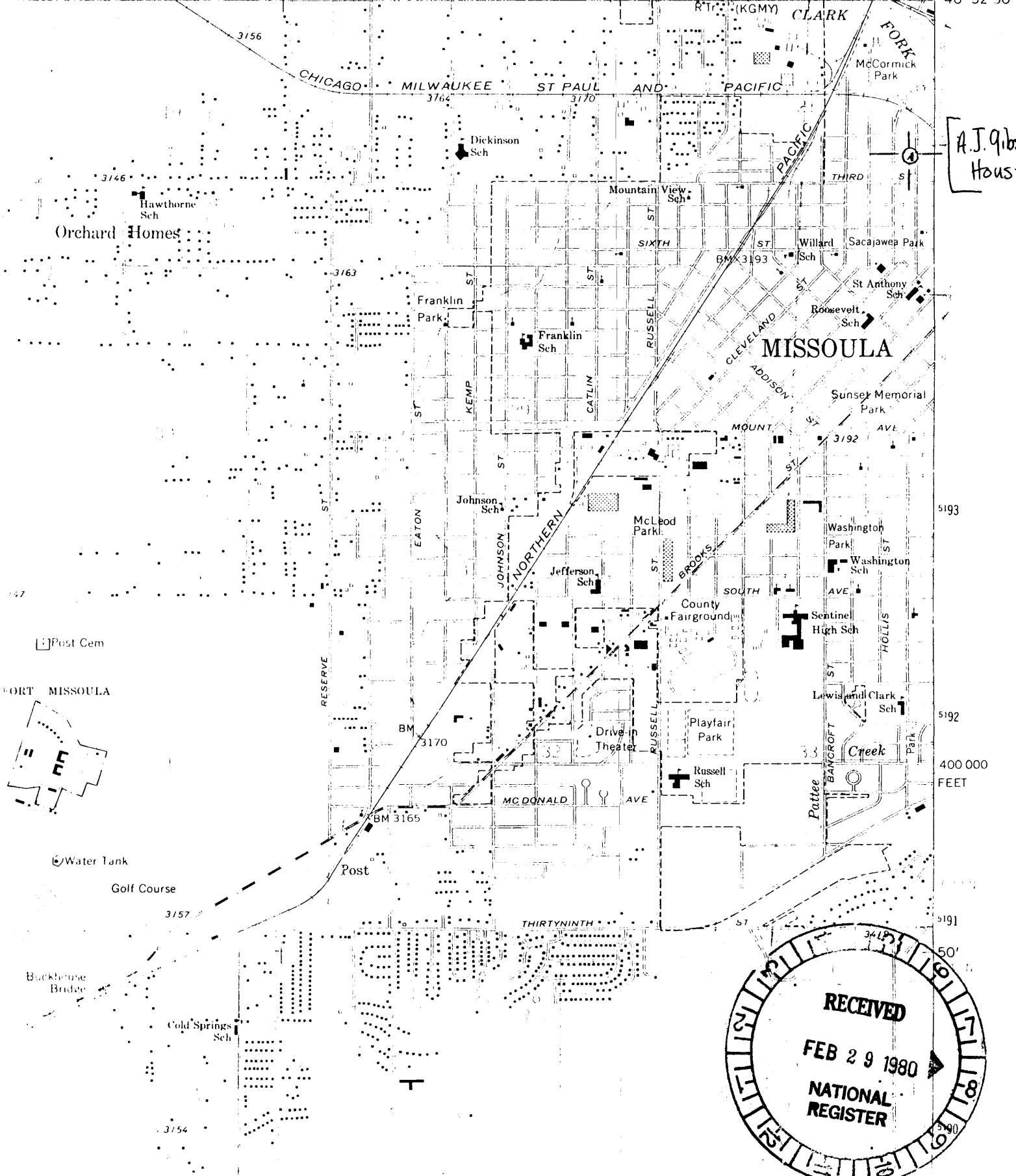
RESIDENCE OF A. J. GIBSON.



SOUTHWEST MISSOULA QUADRANGLE
MONTANA—MISSOULA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NORTHEAST

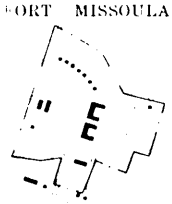
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A.J. Gibson House

RECEIVED
FEB 29 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

Post Cem



Water Tank

Golf Course

Buckhouse Bridge

Cold Springs Sch

3154