

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: 91000746 Date Listed: 6/18/91

John G. Howe House Ravalli MT
Property Name County State

Stevensville MPS
Multiple Name

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.

Patricia Bik
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Commerce is added to the Areas of Significance.

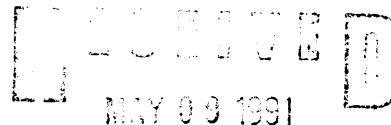
This information was confirmed with Patricia Bik of the Montana SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

746

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Howe, John G., House

other name/site number: Beauneir House

2. Location

street & number: 215 Park Avenue

not for publication: n/a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: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 2 </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 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 Antonieth Rose 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): _____

for _____
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic/single dwelling

Current: Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Vernacular/Four Square

Materials: foundation: concrete
 walls: concrete
 roof: wood shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John G. Howe house is a 1½-story, decorative cast concrete block, hip-roofed four-square style home. An open porch extends across the principal (east) facade, which faces Park Avenue. The porch corner posts and solid balustrade are made with decorative concrete blocks. The opening in the balustrade and the entrance door are slightly south of center. A cottage window is located at each side of the door. All the original main floor windows have projecting concrete lintels and sills. The original glazed door also has a concrete lintel. The foundation is fashioned using smooth-faced cast concrete blocks.

Another cottage window is located at the east side of the south elevation. On the west side, a bay window has been covered by a contemporary concrete block fireplace. The lintel of the original window is still visible behind the chimney. The 1-over-1 double-hung side windows of the bay remain. A small fixed window is located at the far west side of the elevation.

The north elevation of the core structure has a large 1-over-1 double-hung window on the east, a smaller 1-over-1 double-hung window toward the center, a pair of 1-over-1 double-hung windows to the west of center, and a small fixed window at the extreme west side. A large flower box is mounted beneath the double window.

The roof is covered with wooden shingles. Hip-roofed dormers with double 1-over-1 double-hung windows or replacement casement windows are located each side of the roof. The dormers are finished with corner pilasters. A brick chimney with metal cap is centered at the west end of the roof ridge.

The low-gabled addition extends across the west elevation of the house. The addition rests on a concrete pier foundation. Wood lattice covers the open space between the posts. The addition was built in two sections. The east section has a pair of fixed windows. The west section, which is slightly lower than the east, is distinguished by its different wood trim. An entrance door leading to an enclosed porch is flanked by two fixed windows in the west section. The low gabled roof of the addition is covered with rolled asphalt roofing. A pair of casement windows is located at each side of the west wall. A deck has been built on the south side on the top of the addition roof. Access to the deck is gained through a large hip-roofed dormer with double glass doors. The deck is surrounded with a 2"x 4" rail.

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The major alterations in the house include the construction of an addition on the back (west) elevation, rebuilding of one dormer to provide access to an upper level deck, and the building of the concrete block chimney over the bay window. The west addition, which may have been an open porch originally, appears to have been enclosed during the 1930s. The Howe house retains a high degree of integrity of its primary architectural elements. The core structure remains intact, and the rough textured, rock-faced cast concrete block has not been painted.

Outbuilding

A gabled, single-bay garage is located northwest of the house. The garage faces south and has a corrugated metal roof. The walls are covered with pressed tin patterned to make it appear like decorative concrete block. Built ca. 1920, the garage is a contributing element of the historic property.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: B, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1909-1926

Significant Person(s): John G. Howe

Significant Dates: 1909

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Lon Young (builder)

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

The John G. Howe house is one of the finest examples of the residential use of decorative, cast concrete blocks in Stevensville. The construction of this residence followed soon after the passage of a city ordinance requiring fireproof construction in the downtown area. In response to the ordinance, local builders purchased concrete block manufacturing equipment. This new and inexpensive building material was used for a number of commercial projects and several residences. Blocks could be manufactured at the building site. In May, 1909, the Howes purchased lots on Park Avenue from George May and contracted with Lon Young to build a house.¹ The builder of the Howe house used rock-faced concrete blocks throughout the house, including the porch posts and balustrade. To prevent the house from appearing as a heavy fortress, the builder incorporated large window openings with decorative cottage windows. The hip-roofed dormers also help to break up the mass. The Howe house is one of the larger concrete block residences in Stevensville, and, while many of the concrete block buildings were painted, the raw concrete appearance was maintained for the Howe house.

The Howe house is also significant for its association with John G. Howe, an expert butter maker whose skill was recognized throughout the State, and whose effective management of the Bitter Root Cooperative Creamery was cited by the Bozeman Agricultural Experiment Station scientists as an outstanding example of creamery administration. John G. and Ruby Howe came to Stevensville from Minnesota in April, 1908. John Howe was hired to manage the Bitter Root Cooperative Creamery, which had opened the previous year. The Creamery had had management problems and it was hoped that an experienced butter maker could improve the operation. Within a year, Howe had the creamery operating at a profit with a steadily growing number of patrons.²

By 1910, Howe had established a regional reputation for the Stevensville creamery. He won a silver cup at the state fair for the creamery's "Gold Bar" butter. At a dairy competition in St. Paul, Minnesota, he won first prize among 2290 entries. In February, 1911, Howe was elected President of the State Creamerymen.³

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¹ Northwest Tribune, May 14, 1909.

² Stevensville Register, July 1, 1909.
Missoula Herald, January 1, 1909.

³ Stevensville Star, Creamery Picnic Special Edition, 1988, p. 5.
Northwest Tribune, February 11, 1910.
Stevensville Register, February 23, 1911.

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Howe was also a person of vision and enthusiasm. When fire destroyed the Bitter Root Cooperative Creamery in June, 1911, he rallied the community to quickly rebuild at twice the previous size. By August 1st, the new building, which was built of the same type of concrete blocks as Howe's house,⁴ was ready for business. To celebrate the completion of the new building, Howe and the Chamber of Commerce organized a community-wide picnic. So successful was the event that the "Creamery Picnic" was institutionalized as an annual affair the following year, and continues to the present day.

Howe recognized not only the economic importance of the creamery, but also its community significance. The Bitter Root Cooperative Creamery was an institution that joined the interests of the townspeople with the area farmers. In addition to employing several persons it produced a stable cash flow into local households and businesses. The creamery was a symbol for Stevensville community life.

The Howes lived in the residence on Park Avenue until 1926, when John Howe resigned as manager of the creamery and began another creamery in Hamilton. The Howes continued to own the house until 1937.⁵

⁴Stevensville Register, June 22, 29; July 13, 27; August 17, 1911.

⁵Northwest Tribune, January 1, 8; February 26, 1926.

9. References

Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, Special Edition, December 23, 1909.
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.
Negative file: E. elevation, Sleeve 2, Row 3, Neg. 11.

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

Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723660	5154340

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, May Addition, Block 4, east one-third of Lot 2.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic buildings are situated.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Frank Grant
Street & Number: 544 Hastings
City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Date: revised October 1990
Telephone: 406/549-2468
Zip: 59801