

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

For NPS use only Aug 14
received AUG 14 1985
date entered SEP 26 1985

1. Name

historic PRESCOTT, CLARENCE R., HOUSE

and/or common CLARENCE R. PRESCOTT HOUSE

2. Location

street & number UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA N/A not for publication

city, town MISSOULA N/A vicinity of

state MONTANA code 030 county MISSOULA code 063

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

street & number

city, town MISSOULA N/A vicinity of state MONTANA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

street & number 201 WEST BROADWAY

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1898, the Prescott House is located on the east side of the University of Montana campus situated at the base of Mount Sentinel, surrounded by large deciduous and coniferous trees. A large orchard formerly was located south of the Clark Fork River up to the farmstead, but a parking lot presently extends from a point beginning approximately 250 feet north of the house. The eastern boundary ends at the foot of Mount Sentinel, while the southern and western edges of the property extend to parking lots. The site consists of four buildings: the main house, the stone storage shed immediately east of the house, the wood frame garage to the northeast and a frame privy.

The "L"-shaped, two-and-one-half story wood frame residence rests on an uncoursed stone foundation and has a hip roof with intersecting gables in each facade facing north, south, east and west. The dwelling exhibits characteristics of the Queen Anne period of construction, with Neo-Classical details displayed in its overall massing, steeply-pitched, multi-angled roof, and prominent, stylized front porch. The house is sheathed with wide clapboard siding and wood shingles in the gables. A decorative wooden string course is located at the top of the first floor windows as well as below the second story windows. There is a frame shed roof vestibule attached to the rear of the house.

A hip roof porch covering the front entrance wraps fully around the north and west (front) facades on the first story. Supported by round, wooden columns with Doric capitals resting on square, paneled, wooden piers, the porch has a wooden railing with square balusters and decorative lattice work, and a denticulated cornice area. The one story portico which faces west has a set of double columns on each side of the formal entrance. All windows are 1/1 double hung sash with simple, wooden trim. Windows on the second floor of the main facade are doubled, while in the attic they are tripled and separated by wide, round columns covered with wood shingles. Decorative scalloped trim runs across the top of these windows. A small single pane semi-circular window lights the unfinished attic. Bay windows are located on both the north and south facades. There are two corbeled brick chimneys on the cedar shingled roof.

A small 15' x 21' stone storage shed with a cedar shingled hip roof is located east of the main house, and a wood frame garage with lap siding and a gable roof is found to the northeast. There is a wood frame outhouse with drop lap siding and a cedar shingled roof adjacent to the dwelling.

The interior of the eleven room dwelling has retained its original appearance with woodwork, fixtures and details intact. As initially constructed, the first floor houses the kitchen, dining room, front and rear parlor rooms and a bedroom. The front staircase with its original balustrade leads to the second floor, which is partitioned into two areas in the front and rear of the building. These spaces are used as bedrooms.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1898	Builder/Architect	Clarence R. Prescott, Builder Architect Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clarence R. Prescott House remains a wonderfully intact vestige of early agricultural settlement along the Clark Fork River within the Missoula valley in what is now essentially an urban environment. The property is of historical and architectural significance due to its association with Clarence R. Prescott, a man of local historical importance, as an excellent reminder of early settlement and urban development in Missoula, and as an especially fine representative example of late 19th century transitional Queen Anne architectural styling.

The Prescott House and associated outbuildings, located on the east side at the rear of the University of Montana campus, are dramatically set off from the asphalt-covered surroundings by enormous deciduous and coniferous trees that line the drive, the front walk, and the perimeter of the nominated property to the south. To the north of the house stand a number of fruit trees that remain from the once-extensive orchard which originally encompassed the acreage between the house and the Clark Fork River. The stone outbuilding, wood frame garage, and privy to the east of the main house serve to recall the property's homestead origins. The main residence was the second house to be built by Prescott on his homestead land. The size, quality, and styling of the house suggest that by 1898 Prescott had established himself as an active and prosperous member of the Missoula community, in addition to his agricultural pursuits.

Clarence R. Prescott played an important civic role in local and state government during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Prescott came to Missoula in 1878 when he was 16 years old to work for his uncle, C.P. Higgins, who had established one of the earliest mercantile stores in the city. From 1881 to 1889 Prescott worked as a miner, cowboy/rancher and surveyor for the Northern Pacific Railroad between Missoula and Thompson Falls. In 1891, Prescott purchased forty acres of land in the northeastern corner of section 27 of Township 13 North, Range 19 West. At the time, the acreage was undeveloped, and, due to its close proximity to the Clark Fork River, a prime location for establishing a homestead. Using water from the river as a source for irrigation, Prescott created a vast orchard of apple, cherry, pear and plum trees. At least one, and perhaps several log structures (including the original homestead residence), were erected south of the orchard where the present University of Montana Physical Plant is now located. Prescott had most of the orchard removed during the early 1900s, apparently because the operation was not profitable. It appears that Prescott never had to rely solely upon his agricultural endeavors to make his living. In 1891 he was appointed city marshall, a position he held for four years. From 1896-1900 he became the assessor for Missoula County and then from 1900-1902 he served as sheriff. Prescott was elected to two terms as a state legislator, from 1913-1915 and 1927-1929, and he was the Missoula County Commissioner from 1917-1923.

Prescott's choice of architectural styling for his new, second home reflects both his urbanity and prosperity. The Prescott House is an excellent example of a transitional Queen Anne style "pattern book" building with Neo-Classical design features. The building's irregular plan and massing is adorned with a variety of Classical elements, such as the paired and tri-part windows, the full return gable ends, and the pedimented portico announcing

9. Major Bibliographical References

Missoula Sentinel, 28 January 1939.

Progressive Men of the State of Montana, Chicago: A.W. Bowen & Co., 1902

Missoulian, 28 January 1923.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Southeast Missoula

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	2	7	2	8	3	0	5	1	9	3	8	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

University of Montana main campus bounded by Campus Drive on the south and west, Mt. Sentinel on the east and a parking lot and Campus Drive on the north. For specific boundaries, see attached site plan.

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 Mavis McKelvey

organization N/A

date 4 March 1985

street & number 1740 Madeline Avenue

telephone (406)543-5996

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Mavis McKelvey

title SHPO

date 7-31-85

For NPS use only

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

William B. Bushong
for Keeper of the National Register

date 9/26/85

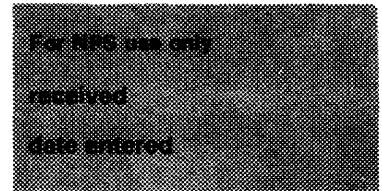
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

the formal entrance on the wrap around, Doric-columned veranda. The house has undergone virtually no alterations since its construction and, although some repairs are now needed, it retains an extraordinarily high degree of historic architectural integrity.

The Prescott House clearly exhibits design features commonly used by the locally significant Missoula architect, A.J. Gibson. The public, commercial, residential and institutional structures, including a number of buildings on the University of Montana campus that Gibson designed in the late 1800s and early 1900s, symbolized the rapid development and civic pride that Missoula experienced during that period. Gibson's residential designs primarily employed Queen Anne and Neo-Classical detailing. While the attribution appears sound, research in primary sources such as the period Missoula newspapers and the known collections of extant architectural plans did not turn up documented proof that A.J. Gibson was responsible for the design of the Prescott House.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Mr. Sentinel

