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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 11 1992
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Rahrer, Francis, House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 309 School 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not for publication: n/a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.)

Manella Shufy SHPO 12-11-92
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

Patrick Anderson

Date of Action

1/28/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Category of Property: Buildings		
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Properties in Fromberg	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Craftsman

Materials:

foundation: concrete
walls: wood: weatherboard
roof: asphalt

Narrative Description

The Francis Rahrer House is located in Fromberg, Montana, a small rural community in the southcentral portion of the state. The property is comprised of a house and garage situated in a residential area west of the downtown. It is located just east of the high school, and occupies the northeast corner at the intersection of School Street and Kids Court. The house faces south towards School Street and is fronted by a large lawn landscaped by mature trees. The garage stands behind the house at the northwest corner of the property.

The house is a Craftsman style dwelling, built in 1921. The 1½ story, wood-frame house rests on a stone foundation veneered with concrete, is sheathed with 4" clapboard siding, and has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. A hip-roofed bay projects from the west end of the north wall. The front porch is near full-width and has a gable roof supported by square, tapered columns that rest on clapboard rails; in 1937 it was enclosed with three large fixed windows and a metal sash storm door on the south side and 3 one-over-one fixed windows on both the east and west sides. The house and porch roofs are accented by knee braces under the gables, exposed rafter tails, and fascia boards that feature an extended tail. Shed-roofed wall dormers rise along both the east and west roof slopes. The main entry on the south holds a wood door with three narrow lights. Windows predominately are "Craftsman" three-over-one, double-hung wood-sash. They appear in a triple grouping on the south wall; as paired sets in the gable ends and on the east wall; and as single units in the dormers, the bay, and elsewhere.

The house retains integrity in all aspects. The only modification since construction has been enclosure of the front porch with windows which has not diminished the house's integrity of design, workmanship or materials.

The garage was built in 1921, at the same time as the house. The single unit, rectangular-shaped building sits on concrete foundation, is sheathed with beveled shiplap siding, and has a wood-shingled gable roof. The west wall holds a pair of outswinging doors. On the floor of the garage interior are a set of narrow metal tracks that served as guides for the wheels of an auto.

The garage remains as constructed and retains all aspects of integrity. It easily contributes to the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1921

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1921

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Parker, W. C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Francis Rahrer 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 Francis Rahrer house is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as the best example of Craftsman style architecture to remain in Fromberg. The house retains integrity in all aspects.

The Francis Rahrer House was one of just a few houses built in Fromberg after 1918, the end of the Clarks Fork Valley's agricultural boom. The house was built in 1921 by W.C. Parker, a prominent local carpenter responsible for most of the large architecturally sophisticated houses constructed during the town's boom years (1906-1918). Unlike Parker's earlier houses which reflected a Colonial Revival style or fairly elaborate vernacular form, the Francis Rahrer house was built in the Craftsman style. It was originally owned by the Thompson Lumber Company but soon after construction was sold to Francis Rahrer who owned a local pool hall, soda fountain, and movie theater. Mr. Rahrer used the house as a rental property; it is still owned by members of the Rahrer family.

The Francis Rahrer house embodies distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style, the most popular style for domestic construction across the nation throughout the 1910s and 1920s. It is representative of a front-gable Craftsman bungalow, a common subtype of the style. Its distinctive characteristics are found in the low-pitched front-gable roof, the near full-width front-porch sheltered under a separate gable roof, exposed rafter tails, decorative braces under the gables, and three-over-one, double-hung windows. The house is one of just three Craftsman dwellings remaining in Fromberg. Of these examples, it best exemplifies the style and is the most well preserved.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Collins, Doris. Interview with Erika Kuhlman. 15 September 1988.
Fromberg Herald. 11 March 1915.
Fromberg: The Fruitbasket of Carbon County. Billings, Montana: Empire Printing, 1976.
O'Conner, George. Interview by Erika Kuhlman. 15 September 1988.
Rahrer, Sandra. Interview by Erika Kuhlman. 3 December 1988.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fromberg. 1927.
White, Charles E. Jr. The Bungalow Book. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1923.

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	663520	5028540

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses Lots 11 & 12 of Block 7 of the Dudley First Addition to Fromberg (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 17, T05S, R23E).

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Francis Rahrer 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

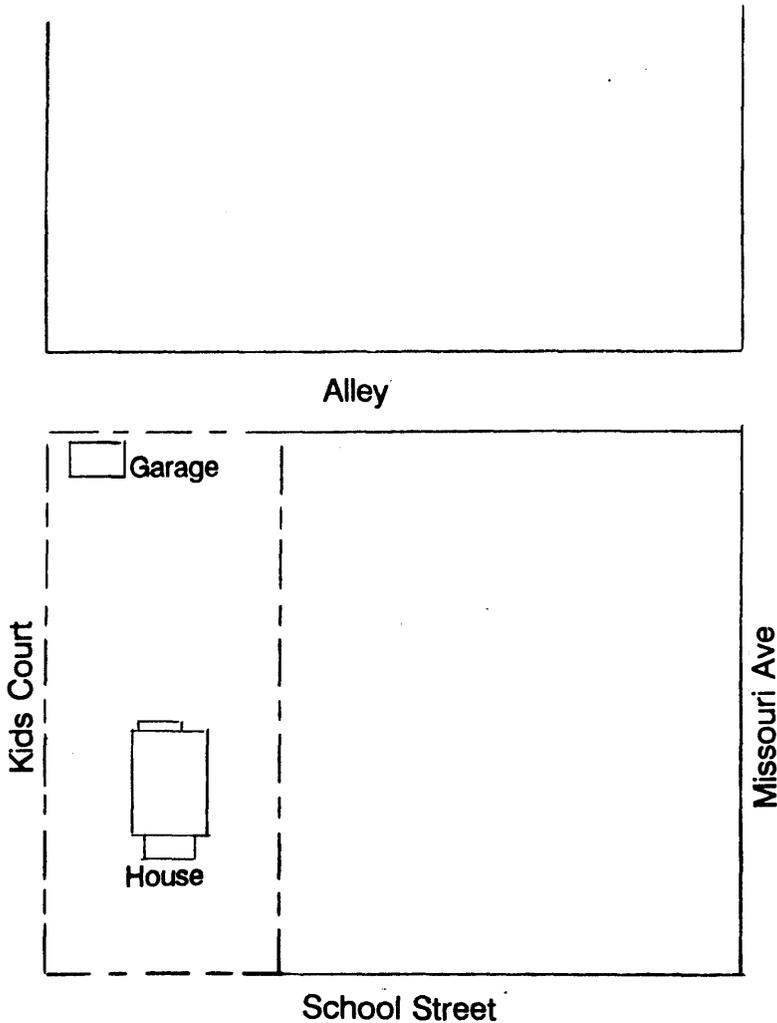
name/title: Sandra Rahrer

street & number: 405 W. Central

city or town: Missoula

state: MT

zip code: 59801



Francis Rahrer House

Fromberg, Montana
Lots 11 & 12, Block 7
Dudley First Addition

National Register Boundary:



Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet
August 1992