

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 24 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 14 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC BASS MANSION

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

216 NORTH COLLEGE STREET

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

STEVENSVILLE

NEL/4, NEL/4, SEC. 27, T. 9N., R. 20W.

\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

WESTERN

STATE

MONTANA

CODE

30

COUNTY

RAVALLI

CODE

81

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM SYPHERS

STREET & NUMBER 216 NORTH COLLEGE STREET

CITY, TOWN STEVENSVILLE VICINITY OF

STATE MONTANA 59840

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. RAVALLI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN HAMILTON

STATE MONTANA 59840

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two story frame structure has a dominant entry framed by a giant order of six quasi-Ionic columns, two of which are engaged or half-columns attached to the house itself. The columns support a triangular pediment at the roof line; the pediment contains a semi-circular fan light window.

The main entry, rectangular in plan, projects outward to form a vestibule. This in turn supports a semi-circular balcony at the second floor level. Access to the balustraded balcony is given by a door leading from the billiard room situated above the living room. The entry door and side lights framing the door are of beveled glass. The main facade is a balanced composition having two large windows on each side of the entry porch and similar windows above on the second floor. The outer windows on both floors have transom lights of beveled glass. The projecting bay window of the dining room has a large glass window, also with a beveled glass transom.

The vestibule gives access to the centrally located living room. A fireplace is located on the north wall of the living room adjacent to a bedroom on the northwest corner of the building. There is a second bedroom on the first floor beyond this bedroom to the east. On the south of the living room, to the rights as one enters the building, a parlor occupies the southwest corner of the house. Both the living room and parlor have decorative beamed ceilings.

From the parlor moving eastward a pair of hardwood sliding doors lead into the dining room. The dining room has a bay window in the south wall; its large bay center window was described earlier. Beyond the dining room, a square pantry stands adjacent to the door from the dining room to the kitchen. To the east of the pantry, there is a small back porch on the southeast corner of the building.

The large kitchen is directly behind the living room, the main staircase to the second floor and part of the dining room. There is a bathroom, and an "L"-shaped hall leading from the dining room towards the kitchen whose one leg leads past the bathroom to an outside door on the north opening to a moderately large back porch.

The staircase to the second floor is built in the southeast corner of the living room. The staircase is a "U"-shaped structure on the first floor and almost completes a square on the second floor, giving a nice two story space at this point. Beneath the long run (east and west) of the staircase a set of stairs leads from the kitchen to the full basement.

On the second level, the staircase goes to a small hallway from which access is gained to a rear storage room. A staircase leads from this room to the unfinished attic, a bath and a bedroom. The hall opens through a large arch into the billiard room on the front (west) of the building.

Doors from the billiard room lead into three additional bedrooms, each having a large walk-in closet.

The building is well planned for family use with exceptionally good circulation. Its five bedrooms, parlor, large dining room, the spacious kitchen and the large windows give the building a warm touch.

(continued)

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The building has lap siding and wood columns, all painted white. The hip roof is of cedar shingles and there is a single dormer on the north and another on the south facade. The dormers each contain a single window having a semi-circular head with a keystone. The upper light of the window is fan-like in form. The other windows of the house, large 1/1 light double hung units, have square unadorned heads. The exception to this are the picture windows having the beveled glass transoms mentioned earlier.

There are three chimney stacks, one on the rear of the building and two decorative wide brick units towards the front set above interior walls. The one on the north is the chimney for the living room fireplace. The other is a dummy built to balance the composition. It extends only into the attic space. There is a wide cornice around the building supported by evenly spaced dentil-like brackets.

The foundation of the building is of native sandstone and projects several feet above grade. This allows for windows to light the basement space. Five risers are needed to bring one from grade level to the first floor level. The basement has a stream that runs through it. Early attempts to plug the stream failed and it is, even today, allowed to flow through. It has caused some problems at times of high water run-off.

The building has been loved and well cared for. It's spacious rooms, fine hardwood interior finished, the abundance of light from the large windows, and the lofty columns on the front mark it as one of the finest residences of this era of Montana's growth. It is by far the most impressive home in the small rural town of Stevensville.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT JOHN BRECHBILL/ A. J. GIBSON

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dudley C. Bass and his brother, William E., migrated to Montana from Missouri in 1864. In that year, they crossed the plains with a mule team, arriving at Alder Gulch, Montana Territory. Here they engaged in mining for a time. The mining activities were not as productive as they had expected and they then turned to agricultural pursuits.

From Alder Gulch, they went to the Bitterroot Valley and homesteaded near present-day Stevensville. Their ranch, one of the earliest in the area, soon became productive in the raising of hay, grain, and vegetables, and they found a ready market for the produce. In 1871, the Bass brothers planted fruit trees. While the trees were maturing, they continued their farming operations as well as, at times, engaging in other enterprises such as saw and flour mills.

The orchard business was to grow steadily until about 1907, when it triggered a boom in the area. About this time, the famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, designed two planned communities, Como Orchards and the town of Bitterroot, both located in the Bitterroot Valley and both with economies based on apple orchards.

The Basses pioneered the fruit industry in the state. Their ranch was renowned in the east as well as in the northwest. It was called the Pine Grove (Fruit) Farm. By the turn of the century, fruit was shipped to all parts of the northern United States, southern Canada, and even as far away as New York and other Atlantic Coast cities. Their nearly 1,000 acre farm contained 100 acres of fruit-bearing trees that yielded an annual shipment of 10,000 boxes of apples and 1,500 boxes of smaller fruits and berries. Vegetables continued to be raised on the ranch, as well as fine grade Durham cattle, Norman Percheron horses, and sheep.

From the inception of the fruit industry, Dudley C. Bass was its manager and active promotor, and by 1901, he was the sole proprietor, having purchased his brother's interest. In 1874, Dudley had married Etta Emmett, the sister of his brother's wife, Jennie. They had one child, a son, Lee Emmett.

In 1907, Dudley sold his ranch and moved into Stevensville. He hired the noted Missoula, Montana, architect, A. J. Gibson, to design and oversee the erection of a fine southern style mansion in 1908-09. The supervising architect for the project was John Brechbill. At the time of the construction of the Bass mansion, both men were engaged in the construction of the Missoula County Courthouse, Missoula, Montana. Many of the fine details are similar on the two buildings. The mechanical innovations were the very latest available at the time. Dudley and his brother William had gone to the World's Fair in St. Louis to inspect the latest fixtures.

Dudley died not long after the spacious home was finished and his widow lived there only

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Montana, Helen F. Sanders, Lewis Pub. Co., Chicago, 1913 Vol. III, P. 1356.  
 Progressive Men of Montana, pp. 994-995.  
 Northwest Tribune (newspaper), Stevensville, Montana, June 13, 1968.  
 Western News (newspaper), Hamilton, Montana, Magazine Supplement, May, 1910.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.19 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA 1967

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 | 7,2,3 | 3,2,0 | 5,1 | 5,4 | 8,6,0

B    |    |    |    |    |   

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |    |    |    |   

D    |    |    |    |    |   

E    |    |    |    |    |   

F    |    |    |    |    |   

G    |    |    |    |    |   

H    |    |    |    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LOTS 19 & 20, BLOCK 9, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF STEVENSVILLE

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

JOHN N. DE HAAS, JR. ARCHITECT

ORGANIZATION

DATE

DECEMBER 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1021 S. TRACY

586-2276

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

BOZEMAN

MONTANA 59715

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Kenneth L. Korte*

KENNETH L. KORTE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE OCTOBER 20, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Herring*  
 for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-14-78

ATTEST: *Marcella Sheff*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-13-78

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a short while. From 1912 to 1960, Dudley's son, Lee, and Lee's family resided in the building.

The stately mansion is today a single-family residence occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Syphers and their family who purchased the building in 1966. They have taken excellent care of it.

This southern Colonial styled house is probably the most impressive residence in this southwestern Montana Community. It's design is the product of the imagination of Architect A. J. Gibson, of Missoula, Montana. Gibson also used this style in several other houses and buildings in the Montana Bitterroot Valley. This choice of styles may also reflect the heritage of the owner, Dudley C. Bass.

The scale of the building without and the detailing and use of materials within combine to make this a very beautiful and imposing residence.