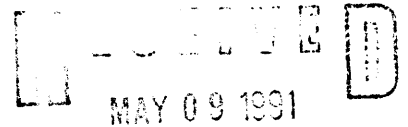


75.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: May, Albert, House

other name/site number: Maclay House

2. Location

street & number: 218 Church Street

not for publication: n/a  
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Stevensville

state: Montana code: MT county: Ravalli code: 081 zip code: 59870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u> building(s)
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </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.

Maull Shelby MT SHPO 4-8-91  
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 Antietam Place 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

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic: Domestic/single dwelling

Current: Domestic/single dwelling

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Queen Anne

Materials: foundation: stone  
walls: wood  
roof: asphalt shingle  
other: wood shingle clapboard

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This attractive detached 1½-story, Queen Anne style wood frame residence has a wood shingle-covered complex intersecting roof and irregular plan. Three chimneys of locally manufactured brick penetrate the roof. A highly ornate porch wraps around the southwest corner of the house and a smaller porch covers the back entrance on the south elevation. Original portions of the foundation are made of rubble stone from the property grounds. The exterior wall surfaces are defined by a wooden water table, corner boards with entablatures suggestive of capitals, and a wide wooden frieze beneath the boxed cornice. The original clapboard siding (for many years concealed behind an asbestos shingle covering) remains in excellent condition. Wooden entablatures above the windows and decorative scrollwork in the gable ends add interest to the exterior ornamentation. The building is enhanced by numerous applied late Victorian-era ornaments. The turned porch newel posts, support posts and spindle frieze complement the square balusters and small turned ornaments set below the railings. Small decorative brackets support the curved roof the wrap-around porch. The bay window of the south elevation features clipped corners with finials and scroll brackets.

The house has a generous number of windows, including eleven double-hung, 1-over-1 units and five cottage windows, some with stained glass transoms above. All window openings have simple slip sills and low relief architraves. There are five entry doors of which two have decorative stained glass panels in both the transom and door lights.

The exterior of the residence retains excellent integrity from the time period of the occupancy of its third owner, Albert May, from 1900 and 1909. The interior, replete with original wood finishes (including floors, moldings, stair balustrade, picture rails, etc.) remain intact.

A portion of the residence may still have remnants of the log building originally constructed on the lot by George Donald in ca. 1892 enclosed within the walls, although this has not been substantiated by physical evidence. In about 1892, the earlier house was either removed from the site or modified dramatically to create the residence's present appearance. A date inscribed in the plaster above the light switch in the dining room dates the construction to November 11, 1898.

In 1920, Dr. Frank Prince ("Doc Prince"), the fourth owner of the property, altered the interior of the house by installing additional doorways to separate his living quarters from the medical practice that he ran from the west one-half (on Church Street) of the house. Dr. Prince also likely added the bay window on the north elevation during this remodeling. Despite these alterations, the Queen Anne floor plan is otherwise intact.

There are no other buildings remaining on the site. Mature maple trees line the property on both Church and Third Streets. A pleasant mature landscape complements the building.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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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, Commerce

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1898-1917

Significant Person(s): May, Albert

Significant Dates: 1898, 1910

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

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

The Albert May house is significant for its quality of aesthetic attenuation and excellent structural condition as an example of one of the finest surviving late 19th century Queen Anne style residences in the area. It also gains importance for its association with the third owner, Albert May, who was a prominent businessman, rancher, and the first mayor of Stevensville.

Constructed in 1898, just shortly before Albert May purchased the property, the house is an excellent example of the way in which Queen Anne style design and ornamentation was interpreted in the Bitterroot Valley in Montana. While the overall irregular plan, scale and ornamentation suggest strong Queen Anne influences, the house retains a balance achieved through restraint: no element is treated in excess.

The original house located on this property was built by George Donald in ca. 1892. It was a two-room, gable-roofed building of log and wood frame located one block from the central business district of Stevensville. At that time there were already located on Church Street four houses and the Methodist Church South for which the street is named. The town population was 300.

Settlement came slowly to the Bitterroot Valley following the Homestead Act of 1862. Still unincorporated at the time Montana achieved statehood, the population of the Stevensville townsite began to expand with improved transportation from the first railroad spur line of the Bitterroot Valley Railroad in 1889. Stevensville quickly claimed its position in the Valley economy as a service, marketing and supply center for the surrounding agricultural, ranching and mining population. Apparently, the Albert May family lived in this house prior to purchasing it in 1900.<sup>1</sup> The population within the town limits had reached 1,000 by the turn of the century.

Albert May, one of five brothers who came to the Bitterroot Valley from Ontario, Canada in the late 1800s, was elected the first mayor of Stevensville on January 9, 1909, in the same election in which the Stevensville incorporation vote was passed. Albert May also served as one of the three trustees of the First State Bank when it officially incorporated in 1908. May's business interests involved sheep and cattle ranching. In 1892, Albert and his brother, George, bought a band of sheep and leased Fort Owen land from Major Washington McCormick and for the next fourteen years expanded their agricultural endeavor to include sheep, cattle and cherry orchards. In conjunction with the livestock operation, the May brothers opened the Stevensville Mercantile.

X See Continuation Sheet

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<sup>1</sup>Northwest Tribune, May 26, 1899, reported that Mrs. Albert May entertained a number of friends at her "palatial home," which very likely refers to this building.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Albert May House

Page 1

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Following the death of Albert May in 1917, his daughter Alberta May Mills sold the property to Carrie E. Prince, who transferred deed to her husband, Dr. Frank Prince, in 1919.

The Albert May house is an important illustration of the architectural expression of the prosperity of Albert May as interpreted during the first years of the 20th century in Stevensville, Montana.

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## 9. References

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Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.  
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.  
Sanders, Helen Fitzgerald, History of Montana, Vol. 2, p. 1150; Vol. 3, p. 1411 (1913).  
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).  
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, Special Edition, December 23, 1909; Jan. 4, 1905; Nov 22, 1917; Sept 15, 1910; May 18, 1911.  
Northwest Tribune, Stevensville, Montana, November 23, 1917; January 12, 1906.  
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, Sept. 29, 1891.  
U.S. Census Records, 1880, 1900, 1910  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Maps, 1893, 1896, 1904 (corrected 1896), 1905, 1927

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:

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723180	5154610

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Block 14, Lots 11 and 12.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic building is situated.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Lynda Maclay  
Street & Number: 218 Church Street  
City or Town: Stevensville State: Montana

Date: revised October 1990  
Telephone: 406/777-2593  
Zip: 59807

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: 91000751 Date Listed: 6/18/91

Albert May 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.

*for* *Antoinette d Lee*  
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/91  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Description: The roof material is amended to read wood shingles.

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

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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)