

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: 90000088

Date Listed: 2/12/90

Claude O. Marcyes House  
Property Name

Rosebud  
County

MT  
State

Forsyth MPS  
Multiple Name

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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* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

2/12/90  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Statement of Significance:** Under Significant Person, Hiram R. Marcyes should be inserted in the place of n/a.

This information was confirmed with Pat Bick of the Montana SHPO by telephone.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name: MARCYES, CLAUDE O., RESIDENCE  
other names/site number:

### 2. Location

street & number: 390 South 7th Avenue na not for publication  
city, town: Forsyth na vicinity  
state: Montana code: MT county: Rosebud code: 087 zip code: 59327

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public - local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public - State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	objects
		1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
HISTORIC RESOURCES OF FORSYTH, MONTANA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Maude Shuff Date 12-21-89

State or federal agency and bureau MT SHPO

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. 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
  
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Patrick Andrews  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Signature of the Keeper

2/12/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)  
  
Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)  
  
foundation: stone  
walls: brick  
      wood  
roof: shingle  
other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Claude O. Marcyes residence is located at the corner of Vine Street and Seventh Avenue in the community of Forsyth, Montana. Forsyth has an estimated 1989 population of 2,100; its economy is based largely on agriculture, railroad, and energy-related employment. The building site is in a relatively small, largely historic residential area; portions of the neighborhood south of the Marcyes residence were eradicated by the construction of Interstate highway 94 in 1977. This "south-side" neighborhood is separated from the bulk of the Forsyth community by the right-of-way of the Northern Pacific (now Burlington Northern) Railroad.

This building is a 1 1/2 story residence exhibiting Queen Anne architectural details. Wall surfaces are red brick, probably locally-produced; the complex gable roof is surfaced with unpainted wood shingles. The building rests on a stone foundation which has an outer concrete finish. There is a central red brick chimney. The primary (east) facade is marked by a prominent gable end surfaced

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with variegated wood shingles and featuring a Palladian-style tri-partite window; this window has a central one-over-one unit flanked by fixed panes. Other gable ends include similar shingling, but lack any other detail.

All other fenestration areas are rectangular, above concrete sills. Brickwork above fenestration areas is segmentally arched. Windows are wood-framed, largely one-over-one double-hung, with modern aluminum-framed storm windows. The south elevation, however, includes one small, fixed window filled with multiple lights of colored glass. Doors are of paneled wood (five panels arranged vertically) and appear to be historic.

The front door opens to a small, single-bay wooden porch with a gable roof and turned wood supports. Although it is visually compatible with the historic building, it is not original; historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and a 1916 panorama photograph reveal a large shed-roofed porch covering much of the east and south elevations. The small wood-framed shed-roofed rear porch is shown on Sanborn maps. The building's wood trim is painted white.

The buildings interior appears to retain much of its historic configuration, although historic materials and finishes have been covered with modern materials.

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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:

nationally       statewide       locally

Applicable National Register criteria:     A       B       C       D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):     A       B       C       D       E       F       G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)      Period of Significance      Significant Dates

Architecture      ca. 1899-1916      ca. 1899  
Exploration/Settlement

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

n/a

Builder: Zeb Tart (attributed)

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

The Claude O. Marcyes residence meets criteria "a," "b" and "c" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is significant as an excellent surviving example of the Queen Anne building form in Forsyth, and is an unusually intact representative of early brick residential construction. It is also significant for its association with Hiram R. Marcyes, one of the two leading entrepreneurs and developers in pioneer Forsyth. This home is the best surviving example of a number of brick homes erected in Forsyth's southside under Marcyes' sponsorship.

### Historical Significance

In the years following Forsyth's 1882 establishment, by far the largest amount of residential and commercial construction activity took place in that portion of town north of the Northern Pacific right-of-way. One of the few advocates of development in the town's southern sector was Hiram R. Marcyes (1844-1913), a highly successful local entrepreneur. Marcyes arrived in Forsyth in 1882 and established a mercantile business on Main Street; in 1888 he erected the town's first brick business block to house his expanding business. His business activities, centered in the 800 block of Main Street, culminated in 1903-06 with the erection of the Commercial Hotel, a Link & Haire-designed Renaissance Revival edifice that was Forsyth's largest commercial building.

The brick for many of Marcyes' construction projects came from a small brickyard Marcyes operated just west of town; as the primary source of local building brick, it was logical for Marcyes to choose brick construction when he began to erect

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local residences. This was a locally-unusual decision; excluding the Marcyes homes, only 10 to 15 historic Forsyth homes featured brick exteriors (largely veneers of wood-framed homes). It was equally unusual for Marcyes to build on Forsyth's south side. His local counterparts -- Thomas Alexander, Joseph Choisser, Jerry Crimmins, and others -- all lived north of the tracks and invested their money there.

Marcyes residential building activities were concentrated near the turn of the century. He erected a large personal residence (since razed), several rental properties, and a home for each of his children. This residence was constructed as a gift for Marcyes' son Claude; its 1899 construction date is suggested by an August, 1899 deed granting Claude title to the lot. Two other Marcyes-built homes are directly north of the residence.

Although undocumented, actual construction work on this and other Marcyes projects was likely performed by Zeb Tart (1852-1941) a local stonemason and builder, and bricklayer. Tart had a business relationship with Marcyes, and operated a workshop in the rear of one of Marcyes' business blocks.

It is unknown whether Claude ever actually occupied his new home; he was a college freshman in Missoula, Montana at the time he received title to the property. After his graduation in 1903, Claude returned to Forsyth, assisting in his father's business activities and developing ranching interests north of town. Deed records show that Claude sold the house to the Bank of Commerce in 1916 for \$2,000. In the early 1920's he achieved local notoriety by being arrested for moonshining, and in 1923 his reputation reportedly worsened when he crossed union picket lines to accept a job in the local Northern Pacific roundhouse. This last action caused the Marcyes family to relocate Claude to Missoula, where he worked as the foreman of the Northern Pacific's tool department there. Claude later became known as an avid collector of historical material; he was an active member of the Montana Pioneer Society and served a term on the Montana Historical Society board of directors.

#### Architectural Significance

This home displays typical elements of vernacular Queen Anne-style residential construction. Its surviving Palladian window is especially noteworthy. Although several other Marcyes homes originally displayed similar form and detailing, all others have either been razed or substantially altered. This is the only surviving Marcyes home that has not been resided. The loss of its original front porch has cost it some integrity, but the overall historic "feel" is still very evident. This unquestionably the best surviving Queen Anne home in Forsyth, as well as the best surviving brick residence.

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Relatively few turn-of-the-century Forsyth homes utilized this complex a building form. Far more common were simple, single-story hip-roofed vernacular "foursquare" homes, usually sided with clapboard. The level of detail displayed by this home is a reflection of the prominence and relative wealth of the Marcyes family.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

 See continuation sheet

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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Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A	<u>13</u>	<u>370580</u>	<u>511241140</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lot 6, Block 72, Original Townsite of Forsyth, Rosebud County, Montana.

 See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes only the city lot upon which the Claude Marcyes residence is located.

 See Continuation Sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Mark A. Hufstetler

organization \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 610 Dell Place, #10

city or town Bozeman

date November 1, 1989

telephone (406) 587-9518

state Montana zip code 59715



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**Major Bibliographical References:**

Interview with Esther Dean, Forsyth, Montana, February 21, 1989.

Forsyth Independent, February 27, 1941.

Forsyth Times-Journal, March 20, 1913.

Raymer, Robert G. Montana: The Land and the People. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1930.

Records of the Rosebud County Clerk and Recorder, Forsyth, Montana.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1910, 1920.

They Came and Stayed: Rosebud County History. Forsyth, Montana: Rosebud County Bicentennial Committee, 1977.