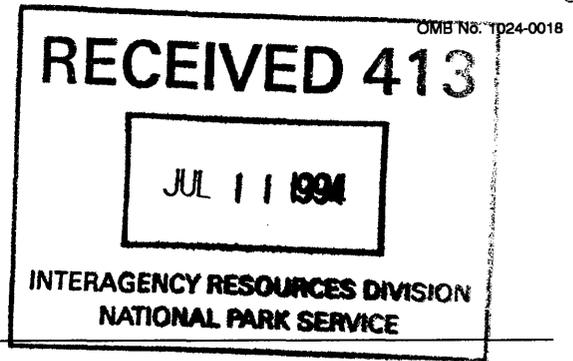


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Young Brothers Chevrolet Garage

other name/site number: AAA Garage, Taylor Motor Company, Tilleman Chevrolet, Precision Auto Body

2. Location

street & number: 201 Pennsylvania Street

not for publication: n/a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

city/town: Chinook

state: Montana code: MT county: Blaine code: 005 zip code: 59523

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.)

Maull Shays MT SHPO 6-24-94
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): _____

Edson B. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the 6-16-94
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
--------------	-----------------

Category of Property: Building(s)

<u> 1 </u>	___ building(s)
--------------	-----------------

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

___	___ sites
-----	-----------

___	___ structures
-----	----------------

___	___ objects
-----	-------------

Name of related multiple property listing:

Roadside Architecture Along US Highway 2 in Montana

 1

___ TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Current Functions:

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials:

Late 19th and 20th century Revivals: Mission

foundation: concrete

walls: stucco

roof: asphalt

other: n/a

Narrative Description

The former Young Brothers Chevrolet Garage is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Pennsylvania Street and 2nd Street in Chinook, Montana. The building faces east, one block west of the town's commercial center and two blocks south of US 2. The building was constructed in 1912 on a site close to where the first cabin in Chinook was erected in 1888. Although the building may have initially served as a livery stable, evidence indicates that it has exclusively housed automotive-related businesses of one type or another over the past seventy-five years.

The Young Brothers Garage is a large (59' x 140') rectangular long-span, arched roof, stucco building with a relatively ornate, Mission style facade. Four pilasters extend above the roof line, the center two topped by decorative caps.¹ A large rectangular opening to the interior is located between the two inside pilasters. Originally this opening was arched and fitted with a wooden door. Sometime after the 1940s, the opening was squared off and a metal overhead unit installed. Walk-in doors were originally located just outboard from both center columns but today only the north door remains operable; the other one was boarded over sometime in the past fifteen years. Large symmetrical fixed showroom windows with smaller transom lights above are located beyond the pedestrian entryways and extend almost to the corner pilasters. Relief horizontal banding graces the facade above both doors and windows and along the upper edge of the curvilinear gable.

See continuation sheet

¹Originally decorative caps topped all four pilasters. Sometime after 1940 the caps were removed from the corners.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Young Brothers Chevrolet Garage

Page 1

Along the north wall concrete pilasters are spaced at twelve-foot intervals. Windows are positioned within each separate bay except at the front of the building. In 1935 an additional thirty-six feet of shop space was added to the back of the building. Except for slightly different windows and a noticeable sag in the roof, the addition blends well with the original structure. The lot slopes toward the rear, exposing approximately four feet of concrete foundation at the northwest corner.

The south side of the building is similar to the north except there is only one window and the pilasters are more widely spaced. The lone window was installed in the late 1950s to permit sales personnel inside the dealership to view the used car lot which was located parallel to Pennsylvania Street, just south of the showroom/shop.

In 1953 a metal storage building was attached perpendicular to the rear of the main building, extending south. In 1978 another metal structure was added to the earlier addition to provide additional office space. In the early 1980s a small metal wing was attached to the east side of the 1953 addition. The entire complex essentially forms a large 'L' when viewed from above. Located at the rear, these additions only slightly impact the integrity of this well-preserved building.

The rear (western exposure) of the historic main building is quite plain when compared with the rest of the building. A small rectangular overhead panel service door is slightly right of center. Two pilasters, one on each side of the access door, extend two-thirds of the way up toward the arched roof line. Small windows are located to the right and left of the pilasters.

The interior of the original building is mostly open, except for a small office and parts room located in the northeast corner. A paint spray booth, positioned in the center toward the rear of the shop is the only other division of what otherwise is a very large open space. For many years the southeast corner was reserved to display new vehicles. There is no indication that this area was ever separated from the remainder of the building by permanent walls. Small storage lofts are located at both the front and rear of the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C	Areas of Significance: Architecture Commerce
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1912-1944
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1912
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Young Brothers Chevrolet Garage building is significant for its long association with the automobile service industry from the early teens to the present. The various businesses that have occupied the building for over seven decades have served US 2 motorists and local citizens alike with a wide array of automotive products and services. Few buildings in Montana have such a long and continuous history in support of the motoring public. Architecturally, the garage is an outstanding example of a design not particularly common to the northern Great Plains/Rocky Mountain region. The Mission style is noted for its simplicity of form, rounded arches, numerous piers or pilasters, a stucco exterior, and usually a red tile roof. The former Young Brothers Garage displayed all of these characteristics at one time or another with the exception of the roofing material which was likely to have been wood shingle at the time of construction and is now asphalt shingle instead of tile.

The garage was built in 1912 according to county records. Its initial use is subject to debate. Most likely it first was used as a livery stable but soon was converted to serve the motorist. An early photograph (circa 1920) reveals that in the early 1920s the business was known as the Triple A Garage. It may have also housed the local Essex dealership during the same period. In 1929 Neil and Hollis Young bought the building and moved their automotive business from across the street about the same time they purchased the local Chevrolet dealership. Within five years they also acquired the Pontiac and Oldsmobile franchises, providing the citizens of Chinook with a fine array of General Motors products from which to choose.

Hollis Young left the business about 1933 but Neil continued to operate under the name Young Brothers Chevrolet Garage until 1939 when S.L. Taylor purchased the business. Mr. Taylor had formerly worked in the automobile business under his brother, L.E. Taylor, in Great Falls. The dealership's name was changed to Taylor Motor Company and ownership remained in the Taylor family until July 1977 when Mike Tilleman acquired the business. Mr. Tilleman soon moved to Havre where he opened another dealership. The Chinook franchise was closed in 1979 but the building was still used to house Tilleman's auto body business until the early 1980s. One of Mr. Tilleman's employees, Wesley Bevis, then purchased the facility and has operated Precision Auto Body out of this location ever since.

As was typical of most early small town dealerships, gasoline and petroleum products were also sold to supplement the automotive sales and repair business. A mid 1930s photograph reveals that the garage was basically a Conoco outlet although closer inspection indicates that both Grizzly and Silver gas also were dispensed from the dealership's pumps. Grizzly gas was a product of Northwest Refining Company in Cut Bank while Silver gasoline was distributed from the refinery in Great Falls. Gasoline sales continued well into the 1970s, after which the pumps were removed.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Bevis, Wesley. Owner of Precision Auto Body, Personal communication (Chinook, MT), August 1993.
 Blumenson, John. Identifying American Architecture. American Association for State and Local History, Nashville (1981).
 Dominguez, Henry L. The Ford Agency: A Pictorial History. Motorbooks International, Oscella, WI (1981).
 Liebs, Chester. Main Street to Miracle Mile. Little, Brown & Company, Boston (1985).
 Phillips, Peter H. "Walking In and Driving Out: A Brief History of Automobile Dealerships," Society for Commercial Archeology News Journal 12:3 (1993).
 Taylor, Ernst. Former partner in Taylor Motor Company, Personal communication (Chinook, MT), August 1993.
 VanDeven, George. Former employee of both Young Brothers and Taylor Motor Company, Personal communication (Chinook, MT), September 1993.

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	630400	5383600

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): NE ¼, SE ¼, NW ¼ of Section 27, T33N, R19E

Verbal Boundary Description

Chinook Townsite, Block 18, Lots 5, 6, 7.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the lot upon which the nominated building is located.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Joseph M. Ashley, Associate Professor of Geography
 organization: Montana State University date: October 1993
 street & number: Dept of Earth Sciences telephone: 406/994-6904
 city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59717

Property Owner

name/title: Wesley Bevis
 street & number: Box 1209
 city or town: Chinook state: MT zip code: 59523