

1780

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 14 1993
[Stamp]

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Benson, Dr. Theodore J., House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 10 N. Montana

not for publication: n/a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.)

 Marcell DeFoy 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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 Patrick Anders 1/28/93

 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):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property: Buildings	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
	<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 Health care: clinic	Current Functions: Domestic: single dwelling
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7. Description

Architectural Classification: Colonial Revival	Materials: foundation: concrete walls: wood/weatherboard roof: wood shingle
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Narrative Description

The Dr. Theodore J. Benson House is located in Fromberg, Montana, a small rural community in the south-central portion of the state. The property is comprised of a house and a barn located in a residential neighborhood, just west of the central business district. The house faces east onto North Montana Avenue and is set back several feet from the street. The barn stands behind the house at the west end of the lot and is adjacent to an alley. Just to the south of the house is the site of Dr. Benson's office; the historic clapboard building was recently moved from the property and the area reclaimed for lawn.

The 1½ story house is of wood-frame construction and sits on a concrete foundation. The rectangular-shaped first story was constructed in 1907; the front-facing gambrel roof was added in 1912. Clapboard siding covers the exterior walls of the main level and wood shingles clad the gambrel ends. A molded frieze board delineates the floor division. The wood-shingled roof has wide eaves, boxed on the sides with partial returns. Eaves at the gambrels are open and have decorative purlin tails. A three-quarter length dormer projects from both sides of the roof. The dormers have wood shingle cladding and a shed roof with open eaves that feature decorative rafter and purlin tails. Windows in the house are predominately one-over-one, double-hung wood-sash and metal-sash storms; they appear in single units and in pairs. The house is fronted on the east by a full-length porch with a low hip roof. Originally open, the front porch was enclosed with clapboard siding after 1927; it more recently has been altered with metal-sash sliding windows and an aluminum screen door. Two one-story additions extend from the west wall at the rear of the house. The rear addition towards the north is sided with clapboard and has a hip roof; it apparently was constructed in 1912 and enlarged in 1915. The rear addition towards the south is a flat-roofed porch built in 1940, and also has clapboard siding. Exterior brick chimneys abut the north and west walls of the house; the lower portion of the west chimney is covered by the hipped rear addition.

The house retains integrity. Alterations to the house since the period of significance have not greatly altered its historic form, massing, and scale. Most key stylistic details and ornamental elements remain intact; the house clearly conveys its historic appearance.

The rectangular-shaped barn is a gable-roofed block with shed-roofed wings on the north and south. The barn rests on a concrete foundation. The gabled block and the north wing have drop siding; they were built as a horse barn apparently in 1907 when the house was constructed. The gabled block has hay mow openings in both ends and a pair of outswinging doors on the west wall. The clapboard-sided south wing was added as a garage in about 1912; the south wall has a large opening filled by a modern garage door. The garage retains integrity and easily contributes to the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement
Health/medicine

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1907-1929

Significant Person(s): Benson, Dr. Theodore J.

Significant Dates: 1907, 1912, 1915

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Schofield, Edgar J.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Dr. Theodore J. Benson 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 Dr. Theodore J. Benson House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the growth and emergence of Fromberg; and under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Theodore J. Benson, the town's leading physician for 45 years and an important civic leader. The house has sustained few alterations and retains integrity in all aspects.

The Dr. Theodore J. Benson House derives significance under Criterion A as a representation of Fromberg's rise as an important retail trade and shipping center for the surrounding agricultural region in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Fromberg's increasing prosperity and population growth stimulated construction of many new houses. They included several large, architecturally sophisticated houses, such as this one, that were constructed for Fromberg's emerging upper class of businessmen and professionals.

This house was originally constructed in 1907 as a one-story dwelling for the town's first doctor, Theodore J. Benson. It was enlarged with a second story and a major rear addition in 1912.

The Dr. Theodore J. Benson House derives significance under Criterion B as the best representation of Benson's contributions to the town of Fromberg. Trained in Minnesota, Dr. Benson came to Montana at the urging of a fellow doctor practicing in the nearby town of Bridger. Benson opened his medical practice in Fromberg in 1907 and established a small office [recently moved] adjacent to his house. Benson served the medical needs of the community for the next 45 years and except for a few years in the early 1920s was the only doctor in town. Benson also contributed to the town's civic development. He served on the school board, was a trustee of the Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church, acted as the town's mayor in the mid 1910s, and helped to raise necessary funds for construction of the Fromberg concrete arch bridge in 1914.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Carbon County Republican. 27 July, 25 August 1906; 8 March 1907.

Dewing, Ab. Interview with Erika Kuhlman. 20 August 1988.

Fromberg Herald. 1 January 1913; 4 February 1915.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fromberg. 1907, 1912, 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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A	12	663690 5028450

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses Lots 3, 4 & 5 of Block 3 of the Dudley First Addition to Fromberg (SE¼ SW¼ SE¼ Section 17, T05S, R23E).

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Dr. Theodore J. Benson 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

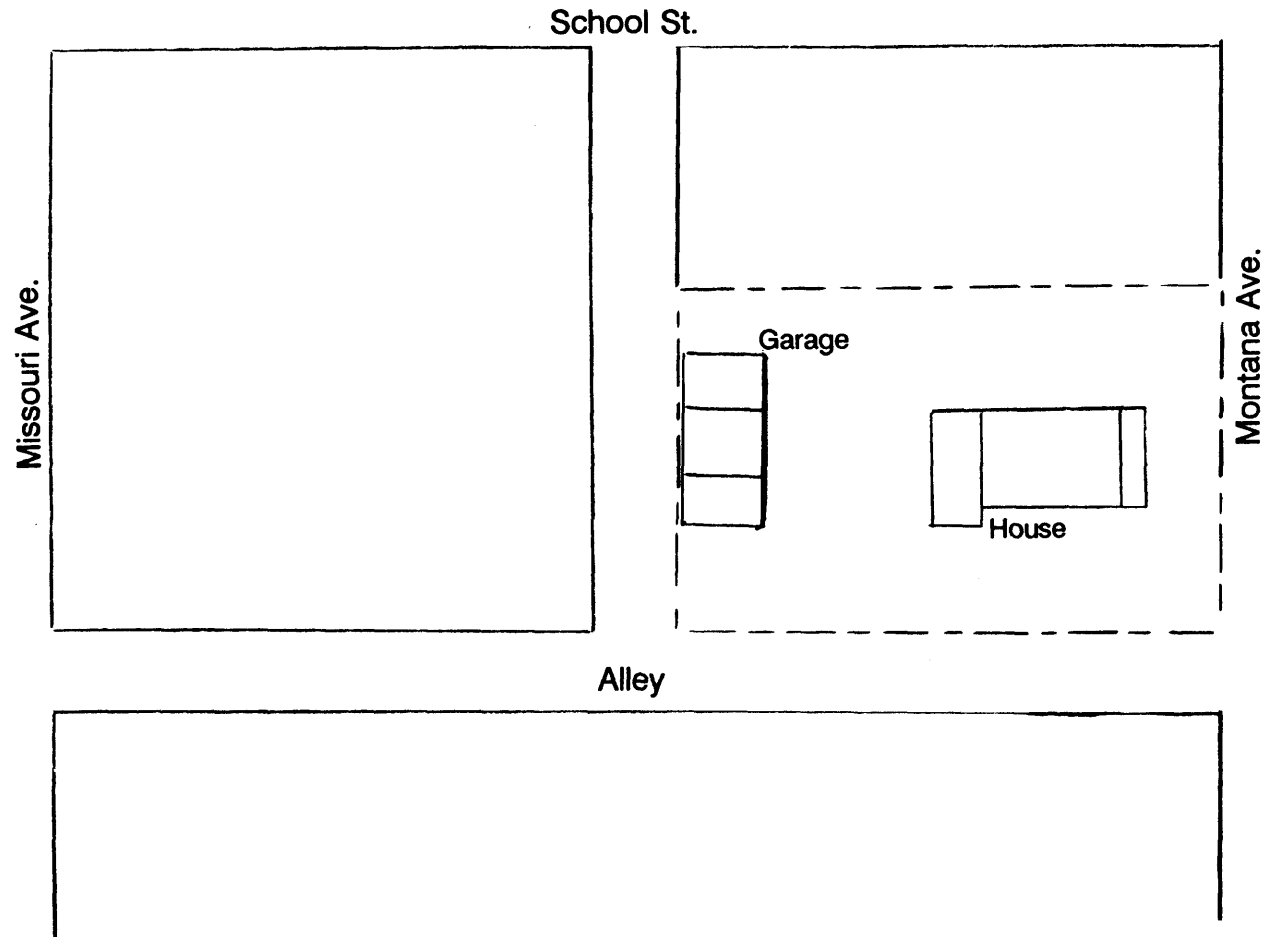
name/title: William Butts

street & number: 10 N. Montana

city or town: Fromberg

state: MT

zip code: 59029



Dr. Theodore J. Benson House

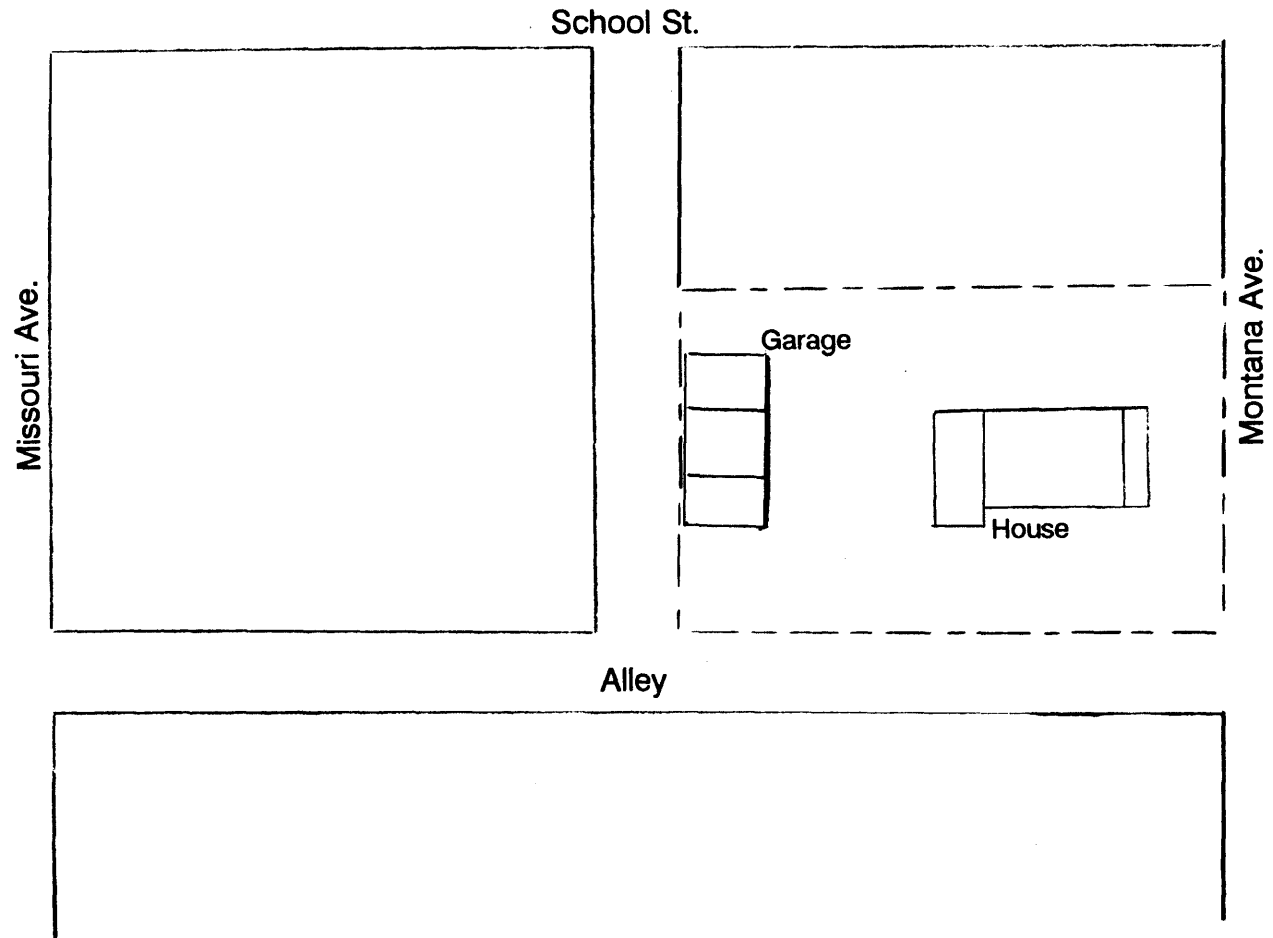
Fromberg, Montana

**Lots 3, 4, & 5, Block 3
Dudley First Addition**

National Register Boundary:



**Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet
August 1992**



Dr. Theodore J. Benson House

Fromberg, Montana

Lots 3, 4, & 5, Block 3
Dudley First Addition

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