

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0683949

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 8 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 1 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Taverner, (George), House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 912 Siskiyou Blvd. Boulevard

CITY, TOWN Ashland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4th

STATE Oregon

VICINITY OF  
41 CODE

COUNTY Jackson CODE 029

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Ethel M. Romano

STREET & NUMBER 912 Siskiyou Boulevard

CITY, TOWN Ashland

VICINITY OF Oregon STATE 97520

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN Medford,

STATE Oregon 97501

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Salem

STATE Oregon 97310

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

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

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

The Taverner House is located on Siskiyou Boulevard, along which the well-to-do and socially prominent of Ashland built fashionable homes in the early 1900s. The house was built in 1904 after designs by Frank C. Clark. It was purchased by George Taverner, who resided there with his wife and three daughters. The present owner is the granddaughter of the original occupant.

With a frontage of 125 feet and a depth of 200 feet, the property is lined by privet hedge and is landscaped with fir, cedar, holly, hawthorne, Italian cypress, English laurel, weeping willow, rhododendron, roses and camellias.

The distinctive feature of the exterior of the two-story house is a round bay, or turret with conical roof and overhanging eaves on outriggers at the NW corner. The turret commands a view to the north and west over the Bear Creek Valley.

The rectangular ground story plan measures 36 by 40 feet and includes entry hall, parlor, dining room, den, pantry, and kitchen. Interior finish work is predictably lavish. The entry stair hall with fireplace and Corinthian column screen, paneled sliding doors between parlor and dining room, dining room wainscoting, and beamed ceiling and fireplace in the den are pleasing features typical of turn-of-the-century interior design. On the second floor, four bedrooms and a bath open onto a central hallway. Two back bedrooms give access to a sleeping porch which runs the length of the south elevation. Plaster walls are intact.

The foundation is of rock-faced ashlar masonry. Clapboards cover the ground story walls; the second story is covered with coursed shingles which were originally treated with natural stain. The complex roof combines hipped and gambrel forms. Originally wood shingled, the roof is now covered with composition shingles. Several flare-top brick chimneys were covered with stucco. Sets of ornamental corbels carry overhanging eaves on the north and west elevations. On the west elevation, shingle siding was patterned in a draped effect above a small oriel window which lights the entry hall.

The main entry at the NW corner of the house is sheltered by a porch with square ashlar columns and a deck with bracketed eaves and a railing of turned balusters between shingled posts. Distinctive features of the east elevation are a second story balcony and a pergola which marks an outside entry (French doors) to the dining room. A pseudo Tudor arch is a motif used in transoms and other openings in the principal facades. The front door has sidelights with Art Nouveau leaded panes.

Some alterations have been made to the house over the years, but none is particularly obtrusive. The whole of the house has been painted, for example, and when the den fireplace was damaged in 1930, the den in the SE corner of the house was extended to align with the columns of the pergola. A back porch on the south, or rear elevation was enclosed in the early 1950s to provide a breakfast nook and small bath room. The second story sleeping porch on the rear elevation appears to have been an add-on also.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank C. Clark, Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The fashionably eclectic George Taverner House of 1904 is significant to the City of Ashland as an intact and visually accessible example of the work of Frank C. Clark, Southern Oregon's leading -- perhaps only professionally trained -- architect of the early 20th Century.

Today, Clark is noted for the many commodious residences in the Colonial Revival Style he designed in Ashland and nearby Medford. Best known among his work in the latter vein is the Chappel-Swedenburg House (1904) fronting Siskiyou Boulevard on the Southern Oregon State College campus a few blocks to the SE of the Taverner House. By comparison, the Taverner House combines several stylistic idioms, including those of the Dutch Colonial, Tudor Gothic and Shingle Style. Because of the attention to craftsmanship and detail, because of the placement of openings to command the best views offered by the site, and because of an "open" floor plan allowing efficient circulation around a central stair hall, the Taverner House is a good example of the "Progressive American Architecture" of its day.

According to Robert J. Keeney, Medford architect who worked with Clark from 1932 to 1941, Frank Chamberlain Clark was a "genius in working out a problem in design with classical detail". Not much is recorded as yet about Clark's origin and background. He is said to have been the student of a New Jersey architect named Dayone, from whom he learned the vocabulary of the Colonial Revival. Clark eventually came to the West Coast, where he worked with the Greene brothers on residences in the Los Angeles area and with the McDougal brothers in San Francisco. Clark was sent to Oregon by the McDougal firm to supervise a project in Ashland in 1902. He is said to have been impressed by the Rogue River Valley and its potential for development, and he decided to relocate there to practice independently. The Liberty Building (1909) in downtown Medford, a National Register property, was one of Clark's projects. Other examples of the architect's work are: Elk s buildings in Ashland (1909) and Medford (1914); Medford Municipal Airport Terminal Building (1929); cold storage addition (1940-41) and south building (1946) for Harry and David Fruit Packers (Bear Creek Orchards); Granite City Hospital in Ashland (1910); Administration Building of the Southern Oregon State Normal School (1903); the Community House in Lithia Park (1915); reconstruction of the Masonic Temple and Natatorium (1909) in Ashland; Medford Hotel; Holly Theatre in Medford; Medford High School, and small schools in outlying districts such as, Prospect School District #59, and Sam's Valley Elementary School.

George Taverner, the original owner of the house, was a public-spirited citizen of Ashland. He was a member of the planning committee for Lithia Park which was formed in 1909. He was president of the Ashland Park Board when John M. McLaren, designer of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, first came to Ashland in 1914 to examine the proposed park site. He was president of the board when McLaren came back to Ashland to assist in the physical layout of the park in 1915 and was still head of the board during the grand celebration of the completion of Lithia Park the following year.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with Louise Patterson, daughter of Frank C. Clark, architect of house, on December 3, 1977, and December 16, 1977.

Skibby, T. and Davis, M., Old Ashland (Klamath Falls: Craft Printers, Inc., 1972).  
 Microfilm of The Ashland Tidings (Southern Oregon State College Library).  
 December 29, 1904. July 16, 1914. December 31, 1914.  
 October 14, 1907. July 20, 1916.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	0
ZONE	

5	2	4	8	2	0
EASTING					

4	6	7	0	5	8	0
NORTHING						

B 

ZONE							

EASTING							

NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the southerly sideline of Siskiyou Boulevard north 56° 13' west 259.12 feet from the intersection of the westerly sideline of Mountain Avenue and the southerly sideline of said Boulevard in the City of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon; thence continuing along the southerly sideline of said Boulevard north 56° 13' west 125 feet; thence south 200 feet' thence east 70 feet; thence northerly to the place of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Ethel M. Romano

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE February 10, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 912 Siskiyou Boulevard TELEPHONE 482-4760

CITY OR TOWN Ashland STATE Oregon 97520

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL XX

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 *Ethel M. Romano*  
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE August 23, 1978

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <u><i>William J. ...</i></u>	DATE <u>11/7/78</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <u>Nov 6, 1978</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	