

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Pickel, Dr. E.B., Rental House
and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 815 ~~West~~ Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Medford N/A vicinity of congressional district Second
state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Adella Jean Jeldness
street & number 815 West Main Street
city, town Medford N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse
street & number Eighth and Oakdale Streets
city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. E.B. Pickel Rental House was constructed in 1900 and is a vernacular type with a modest amount of distinctive, Eastlake-Style surface decoration. Neither architect nor builder are known. It is likely that the design was derived from a pattern book. The two-story, wood frame house is located on a major arterial street surrounded by land in mixed commercial and residential use in west Medford, Oregon. It is occupied as a single family residence and recently was rehabilitated by the owner.

Location

The Dr. E.B. Pickel Rental House is located in Section 25, Township 37 South, Range 2 West of the Willamette Meridian. The building is on the western half of lots 15 and 16 of Block 2 in the Park Addition to the original Medford town plat. The nominated area is the north 75 feet of Tax Lot 2800, or a parcel measuring 53.5' x 75'.

Site Description

The main facade of the Dr. Pickel rental residence fronts on West Main Street and is oriented to the north. A shed/garage, converted to a small house in 1954, stands approximately 15 feet from the rear of the house on the southerly 25 foot section of the Tax Lot and is not included in the nominated area. Located on the southeast corner of Orange and West Main Streets, the Pickel House is set back from both streets approximately 20 feet, and elevated about 5 feet above street level. A retaining wall composed of clinker brick and mortar tapered piers evenly spaced between river-washed, uncoursed boulders inlaid in mortar, extends along the north (West Main Street) and west (Orange Street) property lines. An aged black walnut tree shades the northwest corner of the lot. The rear yard has a small apple and prune tree. Foundation shrubbery is planted along the front and west sides of the house.

Neighborhood Characteristics

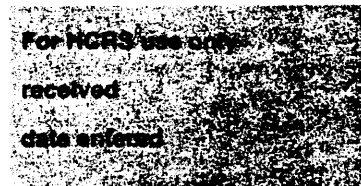
The house is located in a mixed-use commercial and residential neighborhood. West Main Street, a major east-west thoroughfare, has buildings of both residential and commercial uses. Commercial or public buildings in the immediate vicinity of the Pickel House include two churches, a funeral home, a grocery store, a gas station, a professional office building, and single-family rental residential houses. Some residential buildings fronting on West Main Street have been converted to business uses. Several owner-occupied houses are interspersed among business buildings on West Main. The Pickel House is located in a narrow, commercially zoned corridor that cuts through large area of residentially zoned neighborhoods to the north and south of West Main Street.

Side streets perpendicular to West Main Street in the vicinity of the Pickel House typically have narrow, deep lots with modest one or one-and-one-half story bungalows and small Post War builder's homes. These wood frame houses have a relatively uniform sidewalk setback, and are set apart by small front and side lawns and shrubbery. Unpaved back alleys bisect several of the blocks surrounding the Pickel House.

The densely populated, fully developed residential neighborhood surrounding the Dr. Pickel Rental House is located four blocks west of the Jackson County Courthouse, the

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Carnegie Public Library, the Civic Center Park and the Medford City Hall. The downtown commercial business district is about a half mile east of the Pickel House.

Architectural Description: Exterior

The Dr. E.B. Pickel Rental House is of balloon frame construction and L-shaped in plan. The main block of the house is two stories in height; a rear ell with a small enclosed porch and shed roof addition is one-story in height. A one-story brick cold storage house projects from the west wall near the rear of the house. Including the attached brick store house and porch, the house is forty feet wide and forty-two feet deep.

The house is sheathed with horizontal channel-drop siding. The longitudinal axis of the main volume runs north to south. The steeply pitched gable roof is presently clad with composition shingles. Gable ends of the minor volumes are revealed on west and east elevations. Cornices are boxed, and the gable ends have returns at the base. A low-pitched hip roof covers the porch which wraps around north and west sides. The main front door opens onto the porch at the east end of the principal facade. A large, multipaned picture window was added to north facade in the 1930s, and a similar window was added on the west face. All other windows in the house are one-over-one, double hung sash with molded architraves. The major portion of the Pickel House rests on a coursed, cut sandstone foundation. A small one-story shed roof addition at the southeast corner and wrap-around porch are set on a poured concrete foundation.

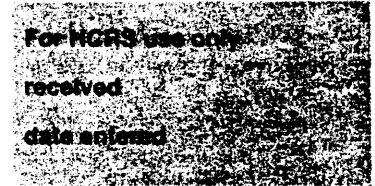
Ornamental details of the Pickel House are restrained by nonetheless distinctly related to the Eastlake tradition. Paired brackets which are scalloped and pierced are located under the returns at the gable ends. Regularly spaced, plain brackets are also found under the porch eaves. The porch frieze is cut in modified segmental arches with pierced spandrels which spring from chamfered porch posts. The porch is contained by a simple wood railing consisting of closely spaced, square balusters. The most distinctive decorative feature of the house is the tabernacle framement surrounding two windows in the upper north facade. The pedimented framement terminates in a pendant post between volutes, and ornamental sticks work is applied to the wall surface between the two windows.

The one-story brick cold storage house attached to the rear portion of the west wall of the house has many of the design features found on the main block of the house, including the boxed cornice, returns at the gable end, and wide frieze board under the eaves. There is a single, segmental arched window opening in the north elevation of this wing, and a small pergola is centered on this wall.

The exterior design, materials and workmanship of the Pickel House are essentially unchanged since the date of construction. The two picture windows of the 1930s on the north and west walls are perhaps the most obvious exceptions, but because they are multi-paned and are sheltered by the wrap-around porch, they are less obtrusive than they would be otherwise. The addition of a small, shed roof, one-story room at the rear, southeast corner of the house, and the enclosure of a rear porch adjoining the brick

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cold storage house, are believed to have been done during the 1920s. These earlier alterations are inconspicuous since they are at the rear of the house and the roof pitch, siding and style of windows and trim are in harmony with the rest of the house.

Interior

The interior spatial arrangement is nearly unchanged. The second floor contains two bedrooms, and the ground floor has four rooms - a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, and a bedroom. There is a bathroom on both first and second floors. The addition of the first floor bathroom and the conversion of the cold storage house to a "utility room" are the only apparent changes in use or spatial configuration.

Over the years there have been minor changes in the location of doorways between rooms on the ground floor. In most cases, the wood molding around newly created doorways is identical to the trim around the original doors.

Openings into the living room from the front hall and the dining room are arched. Right angle corners framing the recessed living room fireplace, and also where the brick cold storage room joins the house, have been given a streamline curve. A small, recessed niche in the dining room also has a curved head. Although the exact date of these modifications is not known, stylistically, they appear to have been made in the 1920s. At about the same time, the ceiling in one downstairs room was lowered.

Plumbing fixtures in the two bathrooms and the kitchen have been periodically updated. Wallpaper was used extensively in both first and second floor rooms, and, in some instances, on the ceilings of rooms. The present owner has taken care to photographically document and salvage samples of various wallpaper. Presently, the rooms are wallpapered in designs consistent with those used in the early 1900s, or they are painted.

Much of the interior wood work, hardware, and early lighting fixtures in the house, are intact and are being preserved or repaired. Painted, four-panel doors, and windows are framed with wide beaded molding with decorated corner blocks. Paneled and carved newel posts in the Eastlake tradition are at the top of the stairway, while a single, rounded post--probably a replacement of the 1920s-- is at the bottom tread. Oak flooring is typical.

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Grant Memorial University at Athens, Tennessee in 1880, and received a degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Kentucky in 1888. Six years after settling in Medford, Dr. Pickel received his second degree as doctor of medicine and surgery from Illinois College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago (2,9).

During his forty-four years in the Rogue River Valley, Dr. Pickel gained a reputation in the community as a competent physician and leader in his profession. Dr. Pickel helped organize the State Board of Health in 1903, was a charter member, and was twice elected president of the Board. By invitation, he became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1920, and was a Fellow of the American Medical Association. Pickel served as president of the Oregon State Medical Association, and was an organizer and president of both the Southern Oregon Medical Association and the Jackson County Medical Association. He was a surgeon for the Southern Pacific Railroad for thirty-five years, and chairman of the Medical Advisory Board during the First World War. For many years he was the Medford city health officer (9). Dr. Pickel conceived of and carried out the idea of building Medford's first hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital.

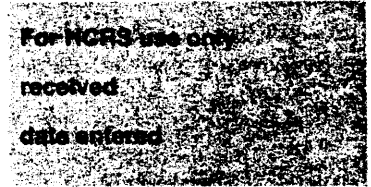
During Pickel's early years of practice in Medford, he was associated with Dr. E.P. Geary, one of the city's first physicians. As a team, the partners received high acclaim in the Medford Mail newspaper article in 1897: "These eminent doctors placed themselves in the highest rank of gentlemen. . . and since coming to Medford have gained a very large and lucrative practice. They have successfully performed several surgical operations, which were apparently impossible. Drs. Geary and Pickel are progressive men, and aid all enterprises that advance the city. . . there are none more worthy of note in the state (4)." At the turn of the century, the local weekly newspaper regularly reported the various medical feats performed by Dr. Pickel ranging from inoculations to amputations. Dr. Pickel made routine calls throughout the Rogue Valley between Ashland and Grants Pass. In 1900, a noteworthy "city happening" was Dr. Pickel's purchase of an \$600 x-ray machine, then the only x-ray machine between Albany, Oregon and Yreka, California (5).

Dr. Pickel was progressive in other areas outside medicine. In 1893 he installed the first private telephone line in Medford, which ran between his home and his office. Local folklore credits him with owning the first automobile in Medford. Dr. Pickel was one of the original directors of the Medford Library Association, formed in 1903 (12).

Dr. Pickel was active in local city government, social, and fraternal activities. In 1892 he was elected to the Medford City Council, and went on to become Mayor in 1904-05. He was a charter member of Medford's prestigious men's social club, the University Club, organized in 1910. Dr. Pickel frequently entertained out of town visitors prominent in the medical profession, or who were social acquaintances. He apparently had regular correspondence with Will G. Steel, a Portlander instrumental in the construction of Crater Lake Lodge, and regularly aided in organizing travel parties to Crater Lake, a geological wonder which became Oregon's only National Park.

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Pickel invested in real estate in the Rogue Valley. He purchased large acreages on the east side of Medford, and planted them to fruit trees. Pickel gained considerable prominence as a valley orchardist (1). He was one of nine directors of the company responsible for building the Medford Hotel in 1911 (11). He also owned several residential lots on the west side of Medford.

E. Barton Pickel was married to Mattie E. Delashmitt in 1885 in Philadelphia, Tennessee. The Pickels had no children. Dr. Pickel died at the age of seventy on January 29, 1932.

Prior to 1900, as a real estate investor, Pickel owned the entire block on which the Pickel Rental House now stands. In 1902 he sold the northwest quarter of the block to James and Serena Boyd, who retained possession of the property for one year. James Boyd was a partner in the Medford firm of Boyd and Conklin, one of the city's early undertakers and furniture dealers. The longest term of owner occupancy of the Pickel House occurred between 1903 and 1922, when Hugh L. and Mary B. (nee Hunter) Orr, a couple in their 50s and 60s, lived in the house. Except for one or two shorter periods of owner occupancy, the Pickel House has continued its early use as a rental residence.

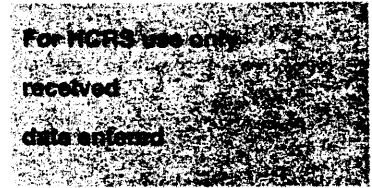
As a rental property, the house provided shelter for some of the Rogue Valley's aspiring citizens who gained notoriety in later years. Soon after its construction, when the house was described as one of the "prettiest dwellings in the city (7)," Dr. Pickel rented his new residence to John A. Lucas, in 1901. Lucas later became a successful hardware merchant in Grants Pass, Oregon. Dr. Warren Cameron, a young graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, returned to his native southern Oregon town, whereupon he rented Dr. Pickel's house in 1902. Along with Dr. Pickel, Dr. Cameron was instrumental in establishing Medford's first hospital. During his practice in southern Oregon, Cameron served as Jackson County coroner, and Medford city physician and health officer (8,10).

The house had numerous other residents over the years, many of whom contributed to the advancement of the valley in a wide range of fields, including medicine, merchandising, and mining.

In addition to the building's locally significant historical associations, the Pickel Rental House is architecturally noteworthy in the city of Medford. It stands as the best preserved example of vernacular farmhouse architecture in the Gothic tradition on the major route of travel between Medford and Jacksonville. West Main Street, first known as the Jacksonville Highway, is bordered by only four existing residences within the Medford city limits that were constructed around the turn of the century. Two of the four are modest examples of the Queen Anne Style, while the third, although similar to the Pickel House in design, has recently been gutted by fire. After the Pickel House was acquired by its present owner in 1981, it was substantially rehabilitated and now stands as the best preserved turn-of-the-century residence on West Main Street.

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A noteworthy feature of the property is the brick cold storage room which is attached to the main body of the house. Few outbuildings or additions of this antiquity or construction material and design remain in the city of Medford.

The location of the Dr. Pickel Rental House on the old Jacksonville Highway is significant. As a progeny of the Oregon-California Railroad (later the Southern Pacific Railroad), Medford was born in 1884, when the south-bound railroad reached the Rogue River Valley. Within ten years, Medford surpassed Jacksonville in population. Since the mid-1850s, Jacksonville had been the county seat and largest town in southern Oregon. The seven-mile Jacksonville Highway was the direct link between the two towns. In an effort to prevent Jacksonville's economic and political demise, several attempts were made between 1892 and 1920 to connect the two towns by train and electric interurban cars. Railroad tracks were laid on West Eighth Street, one block south of the Pickel Rental House, and an electric interurban was routed on West Main Street, the street passing in front of the Pickel house. Although all early efforts to connect the two towns by steam and electric cars failed, both West Seventh and West Main Streets have remained the major routes of traffic between Medford and Jacksonville.

The Dr. Pickel Rental House is highly visible to both motorists and pedestrians who travel on West Main Street, not only because of its location on one of Medford's principal streets, but also because of its elevated position on a terraced lot.

Since Dr. Pickel built the house in 1900, the property has had more than a dozen owners. George Howard, who owned the house in the 1950s, was the chief Jackson County clerk in 1917, and deputy sheriff of the county in the late 1910s. In 1922, Howard developed the southern Oregon wilderness resort, Diamond Lake Lodge. He served as U.S. postmaster at Diamond Lake for twenty-seven years. Adella Jean Jeldness, occupant of the house in 1956, is the present owner.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) medicine

Don't apply JN 05.8/3/85

Specific dates	1900	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The two-story, wood frame rental house built for Dr. E.B. Pickel on West Main Street in Medford, Oregon in 1900 is significant as one of the four oldest houses now standing along the major thoroughfare within the city limits. Of four houses in the West Main Street neighborhood dating from the turn of the century, the Pickel House is the singular, intact example of its type. A plain, but nonetheless dignified vernacular type, it displays ornament in the Eastlake tradition, including scalloped and pierced brackets and a second story tabernacle window framement incorporating applique stick work. The vertical proportions of its main volume and its steeply pitched roof are related to buildings in the Rural Gothic Style. The building's prominence on the thoroughfare is heightened by its terraced site, which is about five feet above street grade and retained by a wall of river-washed boulders which appears to have been added in the Bungalow era, at the same time certain modifications were made to the interior. Indeed, most of the neighboring houses on side streets are one or one-and-a-half story bungalows post-dating 1910. A noteworthy feature of the Pickel House is a gable-roofed, single-story brick cold storage wing on the west face to which a pergola was attached. Multi-paned, ground story picture windows in the north and west facades are believed to have been added in the 1930s. A modest rear porch enclosure and a small lean-to addition at the southeast corner are thought to date from the 1920s. The interior is spatially intact, but there have been minor changes in the location of doorways between ground story rooms. Later doorway trim, for the most part, matches original trim. Several arched doorways and the livingroom fireplace appear to be additions of the 1920s. Dr. Pickel, who was responsible for development of the rental property in 1900, was a prominent local physician who was active in medical affairs statewide and served a term as Mayor of Medford. He invested in the local orchard industry and in real estate, and at one time owned the entire block on which the house stands. The house was rehabilitated by its current owner in 1981. Architecturally, the Pickel House embodies the distinctive characteristics of Gothic vernacular styles popular at the turn of the century. It possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and is significant for its association with Elijah Barton Pickel, a leading figure in the business, professional and social life of Medford from the time of his arrival in 1888 to his death in 1932.

Dr. Pickel's rental house was constructed in 1900 by an unknown architect and builder. The design was most likely derived from a pattern book. Construction of the house was announced in the local Medford Mail newspaper in October, 1900: "Dr. Pickel is having a six room, one-and-one-half story cottage built on one of the lots which he owns in West Medford. . . The building will be modern in design and neat and substantial in structure - and will be for rent(3)." [Numbers in parentheses refer to items in the bibliography.]

Arriving in Medford in 1888, Dr. Elijah Barton Pickel became a well known and beloved figure in southern Oregon. He attained distinction in medical circles statewide. Born in 1861 in Sweetwater, Tennessee, he completed academic course work at

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Medford, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

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4	6	8	5	5	1	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Dr. E.B. Pickel House is located in Section 25, T. 37 S., R. 2 W., W.M., Medford, Jackson County, OR, & occupies North 75' of Tax Lot 2800, Map Reference 25 DB. The parcel, measuring 53.5' x 75' lies on the westerly portions of Lots 15 and 16 of Block 2, Park Addition to Medford.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail E. H. Evans

organization N/A date March, 1982

street & number PO Box 339 telephone (503) 899-8216

city or town Jacksonville state Oregon 97530

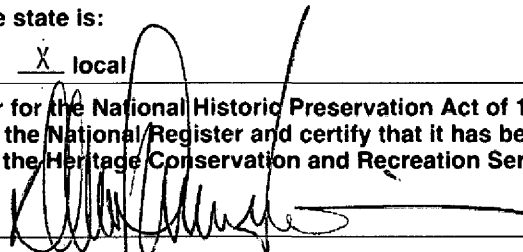
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

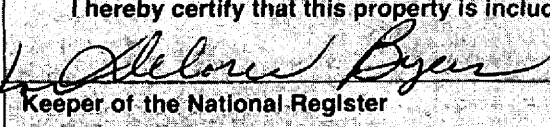
national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

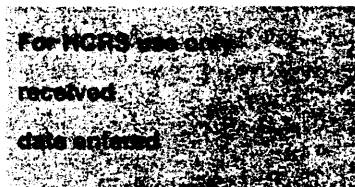


title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 28, 1982

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>10/29/82</u>
Attest: Chief of Registration	date

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Major Bibliographical Sources

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2. Hines, Rev. H.R. (D.D.)
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3. 12 October 1900, p. 7, c. 4.
4. 28 May 1897, p. 6, c. 4.
5. 29 June 1900, p. 7, c. 1.
6. 17 May 1902, p. 7, c. 4.
7. 25 October 1901, p. 7, c. 4.
8. 29 August 1902, p. 7, c. 5.

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9. 29 February 1932.
10. 21 October 1936.

11. The Medford Sun, 6 January 1911.
12. Snedcor, Jane.
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