

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 27 1984
date entered OCT 25 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Staples, Norris, House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1031 14th Street N/A Not for publication

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name William R. and Esther Meyer

street & number 1031 14th Street

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number 749 Commercial Street

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Astoria Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Astoria Historic Buildings and Sites Commission

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Norris Staples House, built in 1910, is an imposing Craftsman Bungalow style house prominently sited on a corner lot in the hilly section of Astoria. Having had little alteration, the property retains a high degree of integrity.

Oriented to the east and centered on a 100-foot square lot at the corner of 14th and Jerome Streets, the house occupies Lots 1 and 2 of Block 57, Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon. It is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian.

The basic rectangular mass of the two and one-half story house is expanded by various bay projections on the north, south and east elevations, and by an imposing veranda which measures 46 feet along the east elevation and extends 24 feet on the north. Low pitched composition shingled, hipped roofs with flared ends predominate, and rafter ends project from the exposed eaves at the roof and porch levels.

Narrow weatherboard siding sheathes the exterior. One-over-one, double-hung sash windows of varying sizes are the norm and are covered by aluminum-frame storm windows. Most are set into modest corniced frames.

The full basement is of concrete and can be reached either from the interior of the house or from the south side entrance leading from the driveway. The foundation extends above the ground approximately three feet and has eight windows cut into it to allow daylight to reach the basement. The boiler for the old hot water heating system is located here and all of the old pipes and the radiators are still in place throughout the house and in use.

A gabled roof leads to the entrance on the east elevation. The porch is supported by large, square stylized columns which are ornamented by plaster scroll brackets. The porch rail is plain. Original hammock hooks are still in place on the north side. A brick exterior chimney is not original, but was installed early in the Staples family occupancy.

There are two bay windows on the main floor, the south bay window is composed of leaded glass. The one on the north side gives light to the dining room while the bay window on the south side is located at the first landing of the square staircase which leads up from the entry hall, and then doubles back again with another flight to the second floor. Another smaller staircase leads off this landing down into the kitchen which is located at the southwest end of the house.

The 12 by 17 foot reception hall opens into the living room which is located in the northeast corner of the main floor. It is separated from the dining room by two panelled pocket doors. The finish throughout the first floor is in plaster with 10 foot coved ceilings. The main window in the living room faces east.

There is a built-in china closet on the west side of the dining room. The kitchen door opens directly into this room as does a door connecting the dining room with an office and attached bath at the rear.

There are four bedrooms and a bath on the second floor; two in front on the east side and two on the west. There is also a sewing room on this floor.

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90-984984

Continuation sheet STAPLES, NORRIS, HOUSE Item number 7 Page 2

One of the unique features of this house is that it had one of the first driveways and garages in town. The original driveway, made of concrete, soon became too narrow for modern cars and it has been replaced by a wide concrete drive leading into a new double garage, built to replace the small garage originally built on the south side of the house.

The only structural changes made in the Norris Staples House since 1910 are the new chimney put in on the south side of the house shortly after it was built, and the closing in of the back porch. A deck has been added at the rear of the house, and the kitchens and bathrooms have been modernized.

The Norris Staples House is in excellent condition and has been maintained in a manner which has not changed its 1910 appearance. Even today, the massive square lines of the house dominate that particular portion of the neighborhood, making it one of the most attractive historical homes in Astoria.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** John Wicks (architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Norris Staples House, located at 1031 14th Street in Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, was built in 1910 after the design of architect John Wicks in the Craftsman Bungalow style. The imposing residence derives its primary significance from its associations with Mr. Staples and meets Criterion "b" for his relation to the timber industry in Clatsop County and commercial development of Astoria.

The property can be secondarily evaluated under Criterion "c" as a large, intact example of the Craftsman Bungalow style house which has retained a high degree of interior and exterior integrity.

The significance of the Norris Staples House, built in 1910, is to be found in the relationship between its first owner Norris Staples and the sudden emergence of the timber industry as an economic factor in the growth and development of the Pacific Northwest. He was one of the first to build a financial empire from the harvesting of timber and his house was one of the first to evolve from the elaborate ostentatious Victorian mansions of the late 1890s into the plain, sturdy no-nonsense residences of the early 20th century.

Many of the early residents of Clatsop County made their fortunes from water-related industries such as salmon canning or river shipping. But by the turn of the century, a new kind of wealth was being made from the harvesting of Clatsop County's vast forests and from the transformation of the timber into lumber. Norris Staples was one of the leaders in this new industry.

He was born in Minnesota on December 30, 1866 and spent his youthful years in that state. The Staples family eventually moved to the Pacific Northwest where Norris Staples first found work in the timber industry. Having only a grammar school education, he started at the bottom as a common laborer but by using his shrewd native intelligence and his capacity for hard work, he was able to save enough money to set up his own small logging operation in Clatsop County on Youngs River around 1880, where he utilized the convenient nearby river for the transporting of his logs to the sawmills of the area and to other mills at Portland, 100 miles up the Columbia River. A second logging camp at Tucker Creek proved to be a big success and by 1904, Norris Staples was able to sell all of his logging operations and retire. He then moved his family to Astoria to pursue new commercial and industrial interests. In 1907, he erected a new business building on 12th Street and the following year incorporated the Astoria Clay Products Co. and was elected president.

It was about this time that Norris Staples decided to build a fine new residence for himself and his family. The Astoria Daily Budget, on December 22, 1909, published a short news item which establishes the date of construction of the house. The article announced that Norris Staples was to build a new residence at the Southwest corner of 14th and Jerome Avenue which would be completed in the spring of 1910.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gaston, Joseph The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1911 Portland: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 192, Vol. III, p. 455.
Astoria Daily Budget, August 21, 1901 - January 13, 1922.
Morning Astorian, July 7, 1919 - December 9, 1922.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	3	6	1	7	0	5	1	4	6	0	5
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The Norris Staples House occupies Lots 1 and 2 of Block 57, Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, and is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian.

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger T. Tetlow - Historian and Writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society date January 28, 1984

street & number 1832 Exchange Street telephone (503) 325-4083

city or town Astoria state Oregon

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date August 30, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melissa Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-25-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet STAPLES, NORRIS, HOUSEItem number 8Page 2

Always quick to sense new trends and new opportunities for financial gain, Norris Staples was one of the first men in the Pacific Northwest to see the possibilities of the automobile. He purchased an interest in the Astoria-Nehalem Auto Transfer Co. in 1914, and in 1916 bought an interest in a local garage and Buick agency. The following year, he was one of the incorporators of the Lovell Auto Co., a pioneer auto agency of the area and one that is still in operation today. In 1919 Norris Staples also purchased the Rowan-Cook Auto Co.

Because of his position as one of the leading businessmen of the town, he was one of the incorporators of the Bank of Commerce in 1919 and was elected president of that institution in 1920.

Norris Staples died December 8, 1922, the single fatality of the great Astoria fire of 1922 that wiped out 28 city blocks in a few hours. He suffered a heart attack brought on by over-exertion in his attempts to save the automobiles in his sales room.

Since his death, the Norris Staples House has had a series of owners, all of whom have kept the house in immaculate condition, always adhering to the original appearance and design of the house. Today, the Norris Staples House looks just about the way it did when it was first built in 1910.

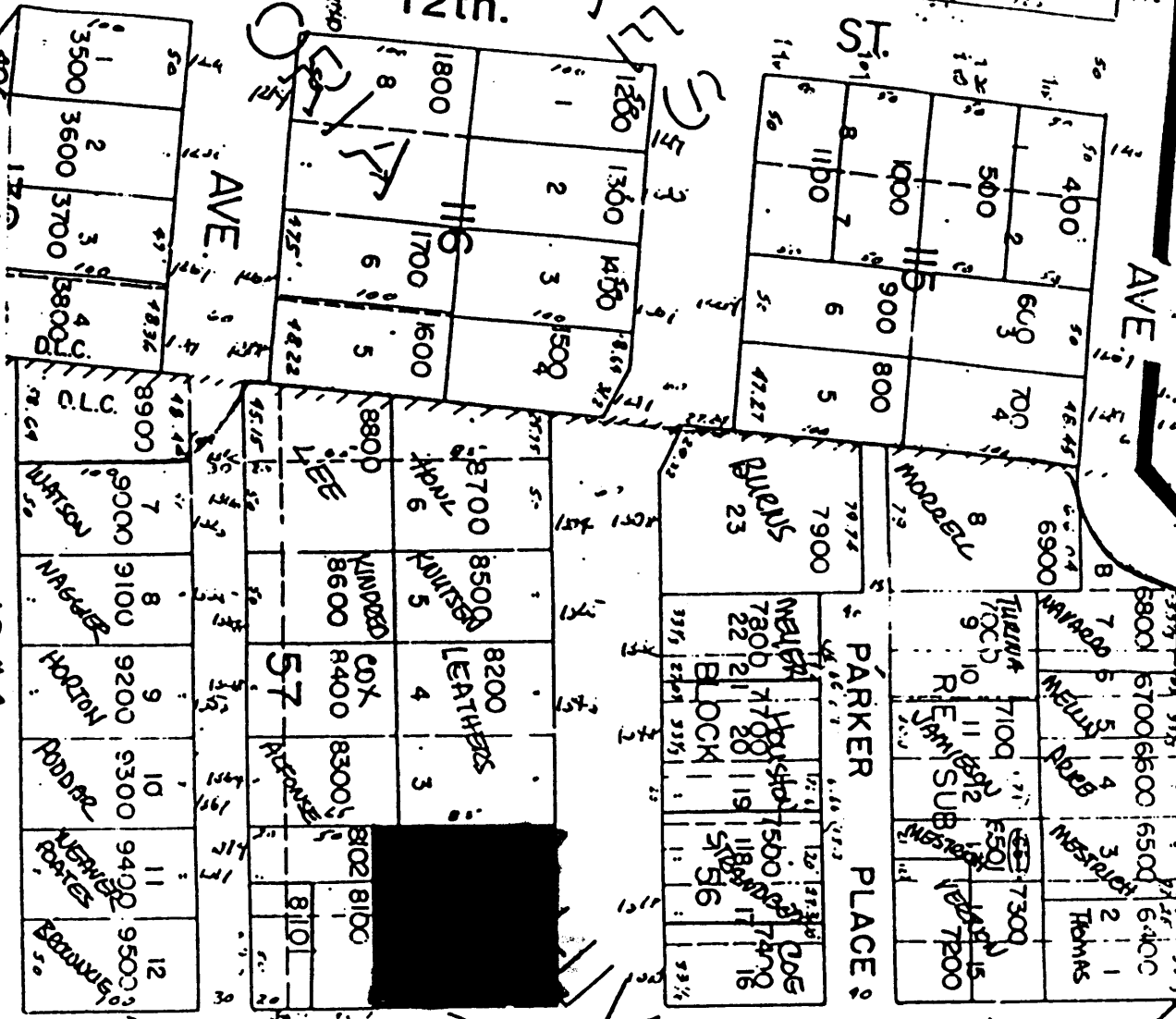
John E. Wicks, Astoria architect who emigrated from Finland as a young man. He is of statewide interest because when Oregon began to certify architects, he was given license No. 3, and sat on the certification board for twelve years. He designed many of the major residences and buildings in Astoria, and was responsible for remodeling the old North Pacific Beer Storage House into the new Fire Station headquarters; that building is also being nominated to the National Register. His daughter Ebba is one of Oregon's early women architects.

(HAMILTON ST)

12th.

ST

AVE



CITY OF ASTORIA MAP #1

HISTORIC DESIGNATION 84-1

PAGE #1 "NORRIS STAPLES HOUSE"

ZONES: R-1 HOUSE DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

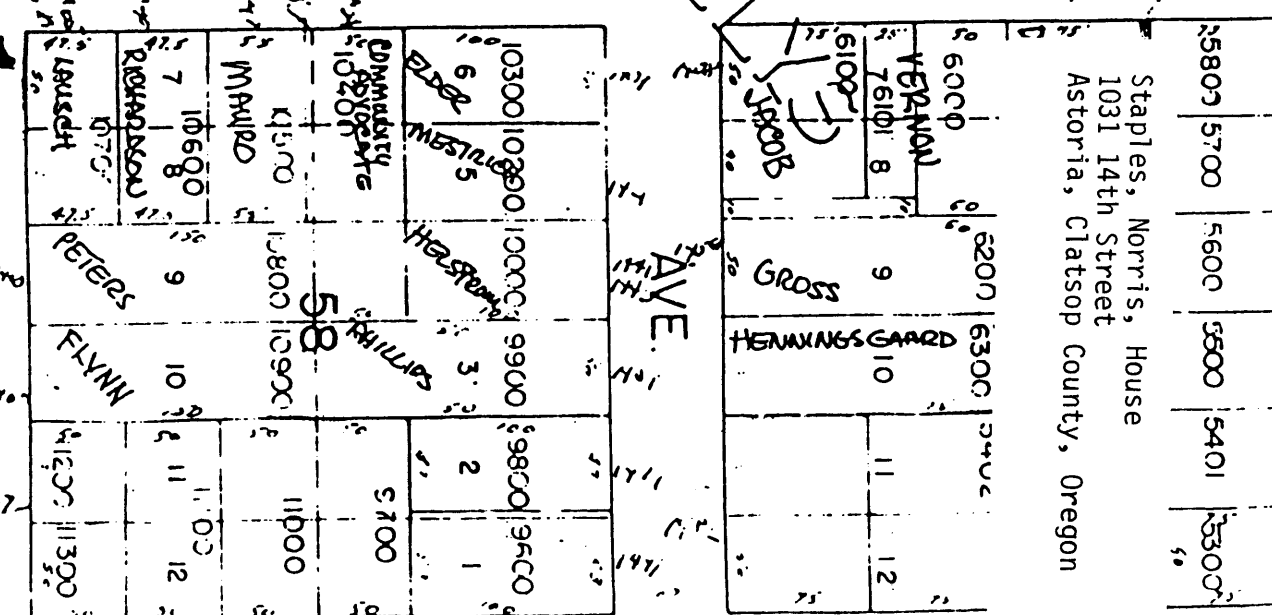
LOCATIONS: NORTH 100' LOTS 1-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

R1

(WEST 9th ST)

14th.

ST.



R1

(WEST 8th ST)

15th.

ST.

Staples, Norris, House
1031 14th Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon