

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 20 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clark, Robert F. and Elizabeth, House
other names/site number Clark-Moulton House

2. Location

street & number 1522 Washington Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Baker N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Baker code 001 zip code 97814

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	2 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	2 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: September 1, 1989
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official: _____ Date: _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____
[Signature] Entered in the National Register 10/30/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt: composition shingle

other windows: glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Clark-Moulton House in Baker, Oregon, is located on the east bank of the Powder River approximately three and one half blocks east of the town center. It occupies a parcel of approximately half an acre fronting the north edge of Washington Avenue, between Clark Street on the east and East Street on the west. The house is oriented to the south.

The primary feature, a two-story frame house in the Italianate style, was built in 1880 for Robert F. and Elizabeth Clark. The property was purchased from J. P. Atwood on November 17, 1879. The architect and builder are unknown. Atwood was a Baker City physician. Clark was noted for his mining and real estate interests in the Baker City area, and is the figure commemorated in the naming of Clark Street.

The house is a tall, essentially rectangular volume, longitudinal in its orientation from the street and measuring roughly 30 x 65 feet in ground plan. The house rests on a sandstone foundation and is clad with shiplap siding. The low hip roof has a bracketed cornice in which triangular brackets simply decorated with inset panels alternate with molded frieze panels. A distinctive feature of the exterior decoration is the use of staggered wooden quoins at all corners of the building.

The most distinctive feature, however, is the two-story polygonal window bay which dominates the west side of the narrow facade and is offset on the east by the entrance with its hip-roofed portico supported by slender, chamfered columns and shadow pilasters. It is the two-story polygonal bay, along with the bracketed cornice and low hip roof, which mark the house as a carpenter-builder's asymmetrical variant of the "Bracketed Villa" popularized by architectural handbooks from 1860 onward. Though well-crafted, the simplified quality of the house is revealed in its fenestration. High Victorian Italianate houses typically had segmental or round-arched window heads. The Clark House displays the fashionable elongated window openings on the upper story, but these are ordinary straight-topped windows with plain trim, except for the small cyma recta sill brackets which are pleasing finish details. The openings are fitted with double-hung windows with one-over-one lights. Ground story windows, also double-hung, are slightly truncated and are believed to reflect interior modifications of the second owner, George Moulton, who lowered the first floor ceiling from 13'6" to 9'. Probably at the same time, a rear bedroom was added to the second floor thereby making a two-story volume of the kitchen block.

The interior of the main block is organized on the side hall plan, with bed chambers on the second story above the ground story parlor and dining room. The kitchen occupying the offset volume at the rear was enlarged by the second owner by enclosing a lean-to porch on the east elevation. On the north end wall is a single-story, hip-roofed bathroom addition of the 1920s. Interior walls are of 1 x 12-inch rough pine lumber, double construction, covered with cheesecloth and

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papered. Interior trim is standard mill work of the day characterized by beaded door and window frames with decorated corner blocks and high baseboards with elaborate crown moldings. The front door is a four-panel door with moldings and stilted, flat arches crowning the upper panels. The entry stairhall has a straight-flight staircase of twenty steps and an elaborately turned newel post with bosses. The former passage from hall to kitchen has been converted to a closet.

Originally, the house had standard brick stove chimneys with corbelled caps. That which vented the cook stove remains, but the parlor stove chimney was supplanted by a fireplace and outside stack on the west wall in 1975. The parlor and dining room have been opened as a single undivided space. The house has a partial basement with fruit room. The original wood shingle roof cover had been replaced with asphalt composition shingles.

A detached garage on the west side of the property, and a pumphouse at the rear, are non-historic, non-contributing features.

There are two noteworthy mature plantings in the front yard: an American Linden, which is approximately 60 feet tall and a Blue Spruce, approximately 50 feet tall, both trees planted by George Moulton in 1920. A Weeping Birch tree stands east of the kitchen area. A large garden with its pumphouse and irrigation system, and a fruit orchard occupy the back yard. The orchard consists of cherry, plum, apricot, peach and apple trees.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1880

Significant Dates

1880

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"The History of Baker County, Oregon," Baker County Historical Society, 1986, page 21.
Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 2, June 1949.
Morning Democrat, May 20, 1989.
Baker City Directory 1889-1900.
Personal interview with Pearl Jones, local historian, July 1988.
Personal interview with Mrs. C. D. Cassidy, former owner of nominated property, July 1988.
Baker County Deed Records, Book E, page 543; Book J, page 295, Book 127, page 10; Book 139, page 461; Book 175, page 128; Book 68-33, page 017; and D77-38-085.
Baker City Inventory of Historic Places, 1987.

See continuation sheet

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:

Baker City Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.52 acres Baker, Oregon 1:2400

UTM References

A

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4	9	5	8	3	3	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in Section 16, Township 9S, Range 40E, Willamette Meridian, in Baker County, Oregon. The area is legally identified as Tax Lot 1900 in Block 17 of J. P. Atwood's Second Addition to the Plat of Baker City. The nominated area is more particularly described as follows: (continued)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is that property developed for Robert F. and Elizabeth Clark in 1880 and occupied by George B. Moulton from 1885 to 1930. The detached garage and free-standing pumphouse are non-historic and, therefore, non-contributing features. The rear poriton of the half-acre property contains an historic fruit orchard.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Keith R. and Virginia Long, owners of nominated property
 organization N/A date February 1989
 street & number 1522 Washington Avenue telephone (503) 523-5900
 city or town Baker state Oregon zip code 97814

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The two-story frame house in the Italianate style located on Washington Street, near the intersection of Clark Street in Baker, Oregon was built in 1880 for local farmer and real estate entrepreneur Robert F. Clark and his wife. It is significant under National Register Criterion C as a rare and generally well-preserved example of a distinct architectural type. It is, in fact, the only example of its particular variant of the Italian Villa in Baker.

The city of Baker claims two outstanding examples of High Victorian Italianate architecture of the type known as "Symmetrical Bracketed Villa," a type popularized by builders handbooks in the later 19th Century. The Smith-Baer House at 2333 Main Street, built in 1882, and the Fuller-Baisley House at 2305 Main Street, built in 1890, were included in the Baker Historic District listed in the National Register in 1978. The Clark House antedates these high style examples and represents a plainer, more compact version of the villa type which does not have bilateral symmetry. The facade of the Clark House has one two-story polygonal window bay offset by a side entry as opposed to the polygonal bay on either side of a central entrance. Neither does the Clark House have the arched window heads which are a hallmark of the Italianate style. The house has a certain architectural pretension nonetheless. It has a low hipped roof and bracketed cornice in which brackets are spaced between frieze panels. Shiplap siding is used on all exterior elevations and is accented at all corners of the building by staggered quoins. Windows are elongated, plainly-trimmed and fitted with double-hung sash having one-over-one lights. Those in the ground story are thought to have been shortened as a consequence of a general ceiling modification after 1900.

The hipped roof of the porch is supported by chamfered posts with shadow pilasters and by a fascia having a modified basket arch profile. The front door is an especially handsome four-panel door with moldings and stilted, flat arches crowning the upper panels. The interior is organized on the side hall plan, with bed chambers of the second story above a parlor and sitting-dining room which have been opened as a single space without subdivision. The kitchen at the rear was enlarged by the filling in of a back porch by subsequent owner, George Moulton, who acquired the house in 1885. Moulton also was responsible for a small bath addition on the north face in the 1920s.

Sandstone masonry units making up the foundation were quarried at a site 15 miles east of Baker. The framing system of rough pine lumber was produced by a local mill. Interior wood trim is standard mill work of the day characterized by beaded door and window frames with decorated corner blocks and high baseboard with elaborate crown moldings. The fireplace and chimney on the west wall of the house are non-historic additions of 1975. The garage and pumphouse are non-contributing features of the property.

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Situated at the south end of a broad valley, where the Powder River flows out of the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon on its eastward course to the Snake River, Baker evolved as the center of trade and shipping for an extensive mining region. Shortly after the initial gold strike in the foothills south of Baker in 1861, the town experienced the first of two dramatic periods of growth. The second occurred with new strikes after 1890.

In 1874 the town was incorporated as Baker City, named in honor of Colonel Edward D. Baker, United States Senator from the State of Oregon who died early in the Civil War leading his Union troops. In the following year, the boom was underway. Several sawmills operated in the vicinity. Lumber was plentiful and cheap. Between 1880 and 1890 the population jumped from 1,258 to 6,663, in large part owing to completion of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company's connection to the mainline rail network in 1884. The town had all the earmarks of a regional trade center: brick bank buildings and stores, livery stables, industrial plants, churches, schools and academies and prosperous-looking residential sections.

For a time, Baker was larger even than Spokane and Boise City in the neighboring states of Washington and Idaho and was considered the "Queen City of the Inland Empire." The local economy solidly based on gold mining was strengthened by the lumber and cattle industries. In 1895 the mines near Baker shipped \$1.3 million in gold and employed about a thousand miners. During the final heyday of gold production locally, through 1910, most of the city's public buildings and several important commercial edifices were built of tuff, an indigenous volcanic rock. The city's strong social and economic underpinnings prevented decline when the mines ceased production, but Baker ultimately was outstripped by other metropolises of the intermountain region.

Robert Fozzard Clark (1832-1905), a farmer who had earlier followed the lure of gold excitement to California and southern Oregon, arrived at Baker City in 1877 and in the comparatively brief span of three years erected one of the distinctive houses of the period at that place. A carpenter-builder's version of High Victorian Italianate architecture in the villa mode, Clark's house represented the latest in fashion upon its completion in 1880. It expressed the means attained by Clark through hard work and prudent investment in land at the height of Baker's early mining boom.

Baker County deed records provide evidence of the building's date of construction. Clark and his wife, Elizabeth Endersby Clark, acquired the land from the proprietor of the subdivision, J. P. Atwood, on November 17, 1879, for "\$400.00 in gold coins of the United States." The property's improvement was

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reflected in the tax rolls for 1880. A perspective rendering of Baker City post-dating 1880 shows the Clark dwelling place with a windmill, other outbuildings and orchard.

Robert Fozzard Clark was born in England October 16, 1832. He came to the United States and settled in Illinois, from which place he removed to California in 1849, joining the rush to the gold fields. He left California and went to southern Oregon when gold was discovered there. He fought in the Rogue River Indian Wars in 1858. He met his wife, Elizabeth Endersby, in Lane County, Oregon. Elizabeth Endersby was a native of Illinois, having been born May 23, 1841. She and her family came to Oregon as overland trail immigrants settling near Estacada, Oregon. Her mother died when she was 11 years old, leaving her to take care of her younger brother and two sisters. A few years later she moved with her family to the Creswell vicinity, on the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. There Elizabeth and Robert were married on May 30, 1858. Nine children were born of this union.

Robert and Elizabeth Clark settled in Baker City in 1877 and engaged in farming. They purchased property in 1879 from J. P. Atwood and had their family home built at 1522 Washington Avenue in 1880. Their oldest daughter, Sarah, was married to John W. Barnes on March 6, 1882 in the family home.

The 1880 decennial census for the Baker City precinct listed Robert F. Clark as a farmer, his wife as a housekeeper, and five children residing with them, of whom the two oldest, daughters Sarah and Bessie, age 20 and 17, were school teachers.¹

In 1885 Robert F. and Elizabeth Clark sold their house on Washington Avenue to George B. Moulton. The Clark family then moved to 1645 16th Street in Baker City. Washington Avenue was becoming built up as a residential area, whereas the area around 16th Street remained suburban and enabled Clark to continue his vocation. Although Clark's principal occupation was farming, Baker County records show many real estate transactions under his name.

In 1901, the Blue Mountain American, the newspaper of Sumpter, Oregon, reported the Pioneers of Baker County spent a day in the Blue Mountains. Robert F. Clark age 66, and Mrs. R. F. Clark, age 64, were in attendance.²

Robert Fozzard Clark died in Baker City on November 28, 1905, at the age of 73, in the family home at 1645 16th Street. He was buried in the Baker Cemetery.³ Elizabeth Endersby Clark died November 15, 1925, at the age of 84, at the home of her daughter, Ella G. Cornwell in Prairie City, Oregon. She also was buried in the Baker Cemetery.⁴

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When the Clarks moved to their suburban location in 1885, they sold the property on Washington Avenue to George B. Moulton and his wife, Ellen Paxon Moulton, who recently had arrived at Baker City. The transaction was recorded on August 13, 1885. For the ensuing 45 years, until his death in 1930, Moulton, a prominent citizen, resided in the house, where he and his wife raised three children.

George B. Moulton died January 21, 1930, at the age of 92 in the family home at 1522 Washington Avenue. He was buried in the Baker Cemetery.⁵ Ellen Amelia Moulton died April 5, 1939, at the age of 88, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Baker. She also was buried in the Baker Cemetery.⁶

¹ Baker County Census, June 1880.

² Blue Mountain American, August 3, 1901.

³ Obituary and funeral record, Robert Fozzard Clark.

⁴ Obituary and funeral record, Elizabeth Endersby Clark.

⁵ Obituary and funeral record, George B. Moulton.

⁶ Obituary and funeral record, Ellen Amelia Moulton.

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Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 2 (June 1949) states:

"By the end of 1879, Baker City had three breweries, 21 saloons, gambling houses that never closed, a flour mill, a church, a school, blacksmith shops, fast houses, horse-watering troughs and large popular trees on front street. Horse drawn freight wagons took one week to make the trip from Boise City, Idaho to Baker City, Oregon. The streets of Baker City were not named or numbered. Main street was known as Front street. None were paved, the sidewalks were wooden, and the crosswalks were long planks laid about 4 feet wide. The Name was not changed until 1911 when Baker City became Baker, Oregon, officially, after strong objection from the Federal Government because there was a town named Baker in every State in the Union, but only one Baker City and this name was printed on Money Orders, Maps and Government Records. The Government Census gave Baker City Oregon a population of 1,258 in 1880. A local Census of Population was taken in 1879, showing 1,197 inhabitants, of whom 143 were females and 166 were Chinese."

The Morning Democrat, Baker City, Oregon dated May 20, 1898 states:

George B. Moulton, a well known and highly esteemed resident of Baker City, is an active, energetic citizen and a gentlemen who takes an active interest in the welfare and prosperity of both the city and county of which he has been a resident for the last twelve years. He was born in Maine in 1837 and remained there for ten years, during which time he received a public school education. Arriving at the age of manhood he moved to California, but spent only a year there, going to Washington Territory for a short time. He then went to Caribou B.C. In the spring of 1863 he passed through this country, later crossing the Payette and Weiser Rivers, he crossed the mountains to Lewiston, where he operated on the bars of the Snake River for gold. He gave that up to follow the Kootenay excitement in the spring of 1864. He stayed but a short time, then went to Virginia City, Montana and later, in the fall of 1865, moved to Salt Lake, and that was nominally his home until 1876, although he was largely interested in mining, both through Utah and Montana. During '79 and '80 he operated in Colorado in the interest of the Omaha Refinery Works, and later erected a smelter at Bay Horse. Severing his connection with it in 1882 he established a smelting works at Wood River, Idaho, and also conducted the smelting plant at Ketchum for Philadelphia parties. In the spring of 1885 he came to Baker, and was successfully engaged in the cattle business up to his retirement, some three years ago. He acted as one of the first councilmen under our new charter for a term, and two years ago was elected by the council to fill a vacancy which he has held since. He is also a member of the County Court, and chairman of the school board. Being a firm believer in the fact that our school system underlies the success of our republican form of government, he has aimed in every way possible to aid in making those of our county as efficient as possible, and takes particular pride in the position they occupy. In 1868 he married Miss Annie Hedges, of Salt Lake, but lost her by death a year later. In 1881 he married Miss Ellen A. Paxon, of Salt Lake, and has three children, 2 boys and a girl, all attending public schools. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for 31 years."

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The property's chain of title since construction of the house is as follows.

Robert F. and Elizabeth Clark sold the house to George B. Moulton,
August 13, 1885.

Ellen A. Moulton (widow of George B. Moulton) sold the house and property
to her daughter, Ella L. Moulton, September 16, 1938.

Ella L. Moulton sold the house and property to C.D. Cassidy, June 15, 1946.

C.D. Cassidy sold the house and property to Gaspard Koenig, December 1, 1964.

Gaspard and Mable E. Koenig sold the house to Garn A. and Marian N. Brady
August 7, 1968.

Garn A. and Marian N. Brady sold the house to Keith R. and Virginia Long,
May 15, 1970.

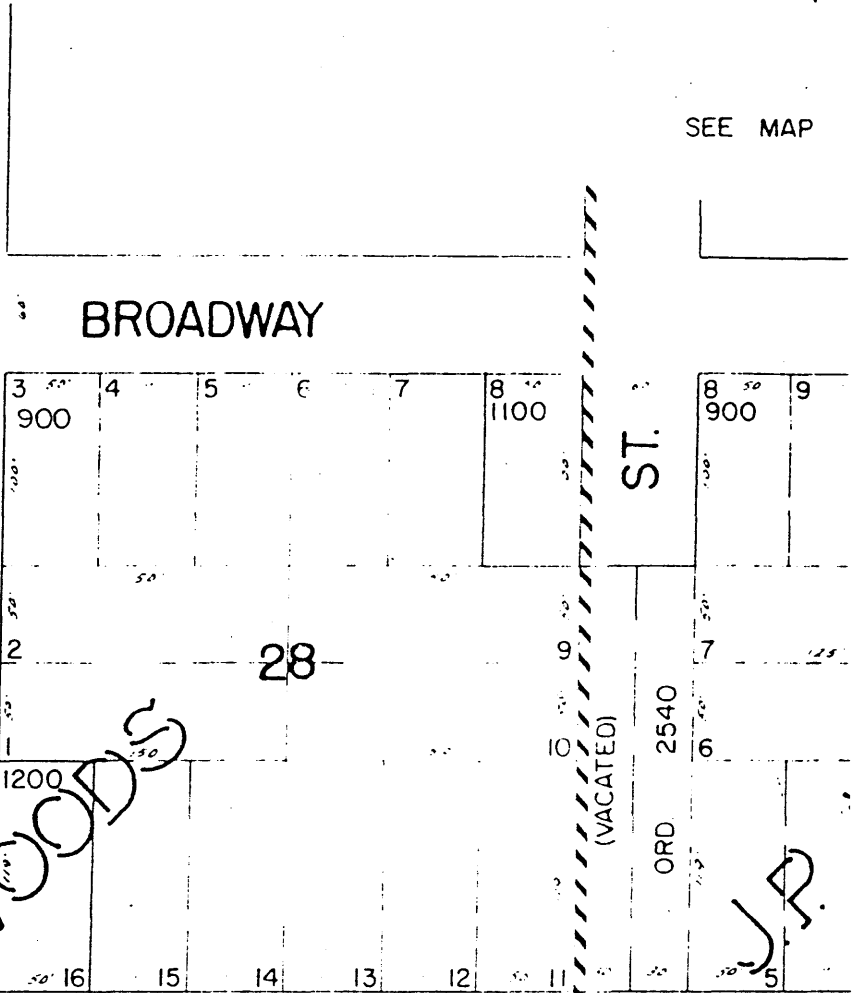
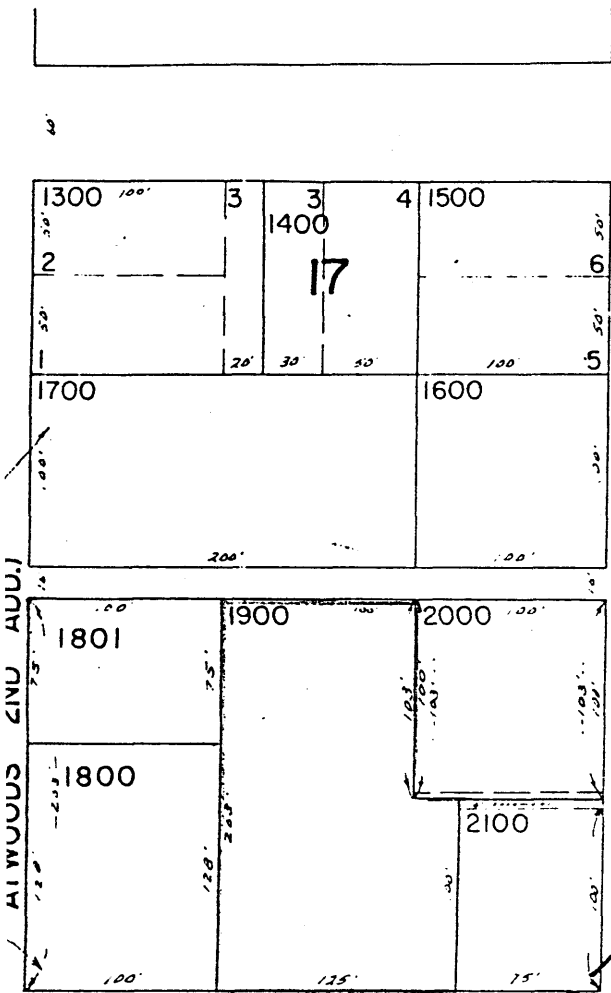
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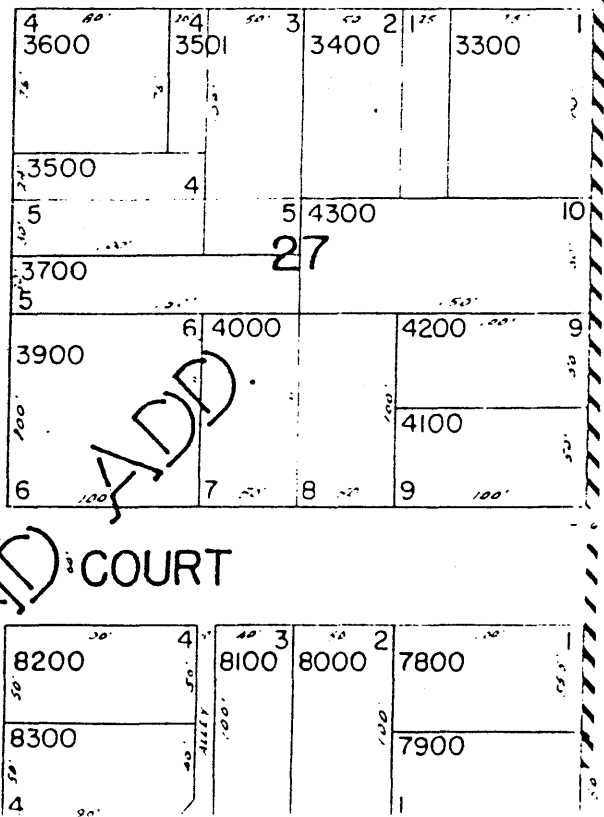
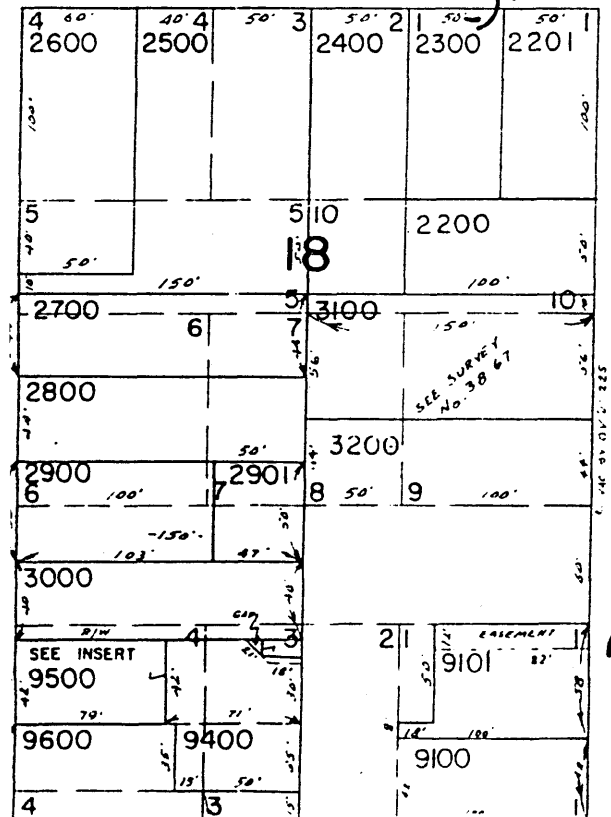
Commencing at a point which is 160 feet east of the SE corner of Block 17 of Atwood's Addition to Baker, Oregon, thence East by 125 feet; thence North 100 feet; thence West 25 feet; thence North 103 feet to the south line of an alley; thence Westerly along the south line of said alley 100 feet; thence South 203 feet to the point of beginning.

SEE MAP



WASHINGTON

5-1

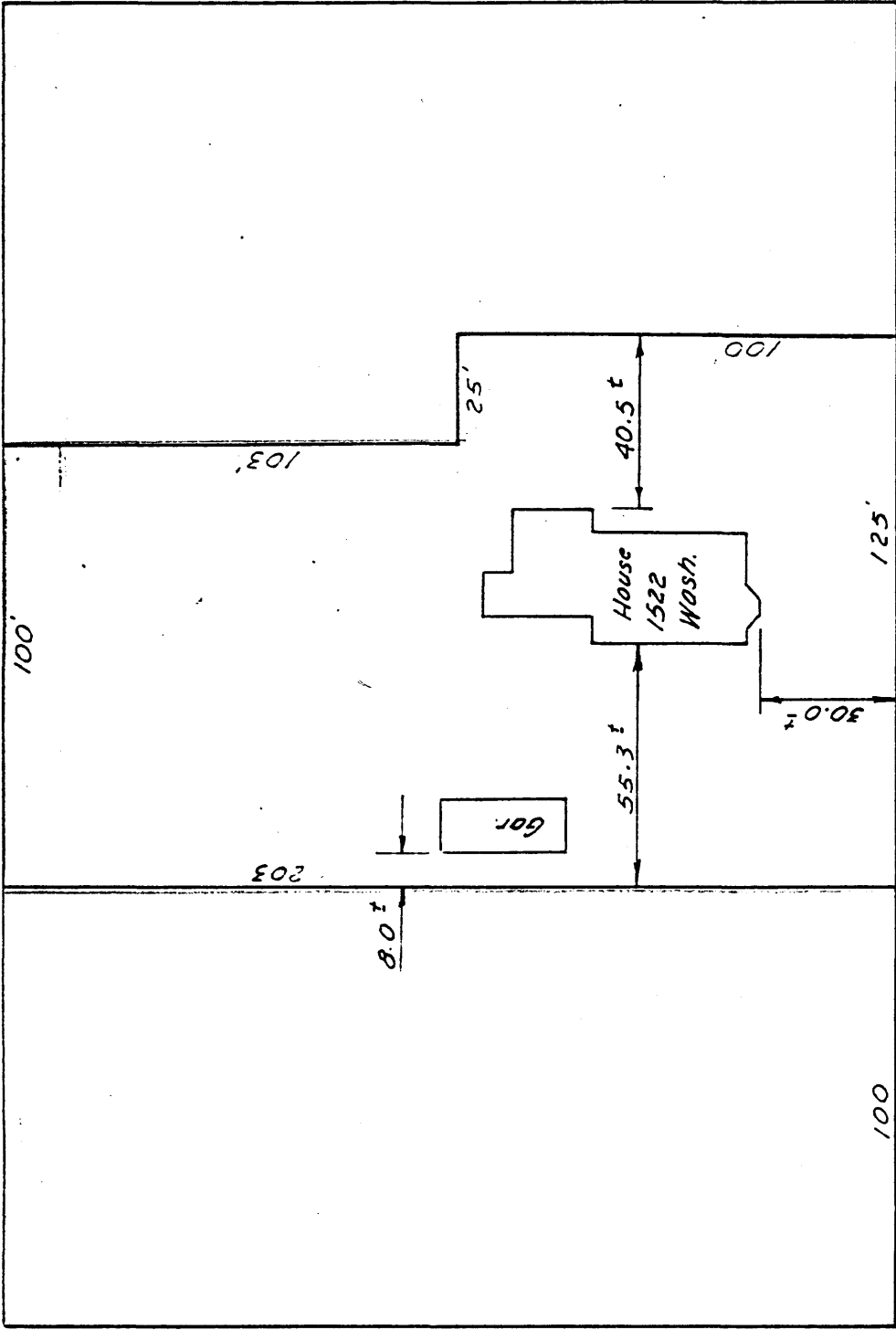


(HARRISON)

COURT

2ND

(BA)



CLARK ST.

60'

EAST ST.

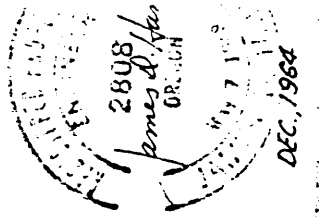
60'

SE Cor. Block 12, ATWOOD'S 2ND ADDITION

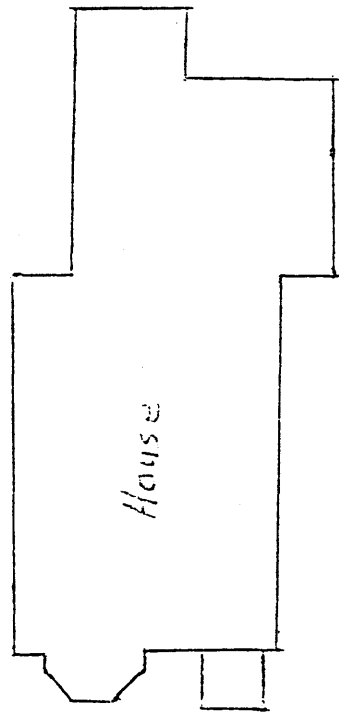
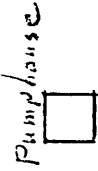
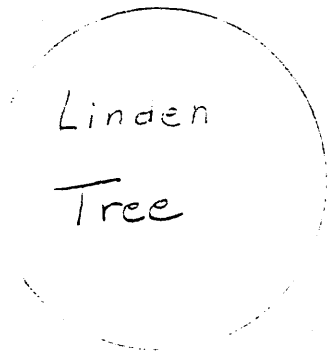
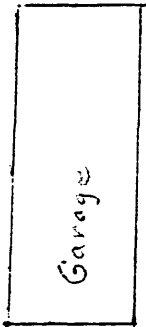
TAPE SURVEY
 TRACT IN CLARK'S BLOCK
 OF ATWOOD'S 2nd ADDITION
 BAKER, ORE.
 1" = 40'


WASHINGTON AVE.

80'

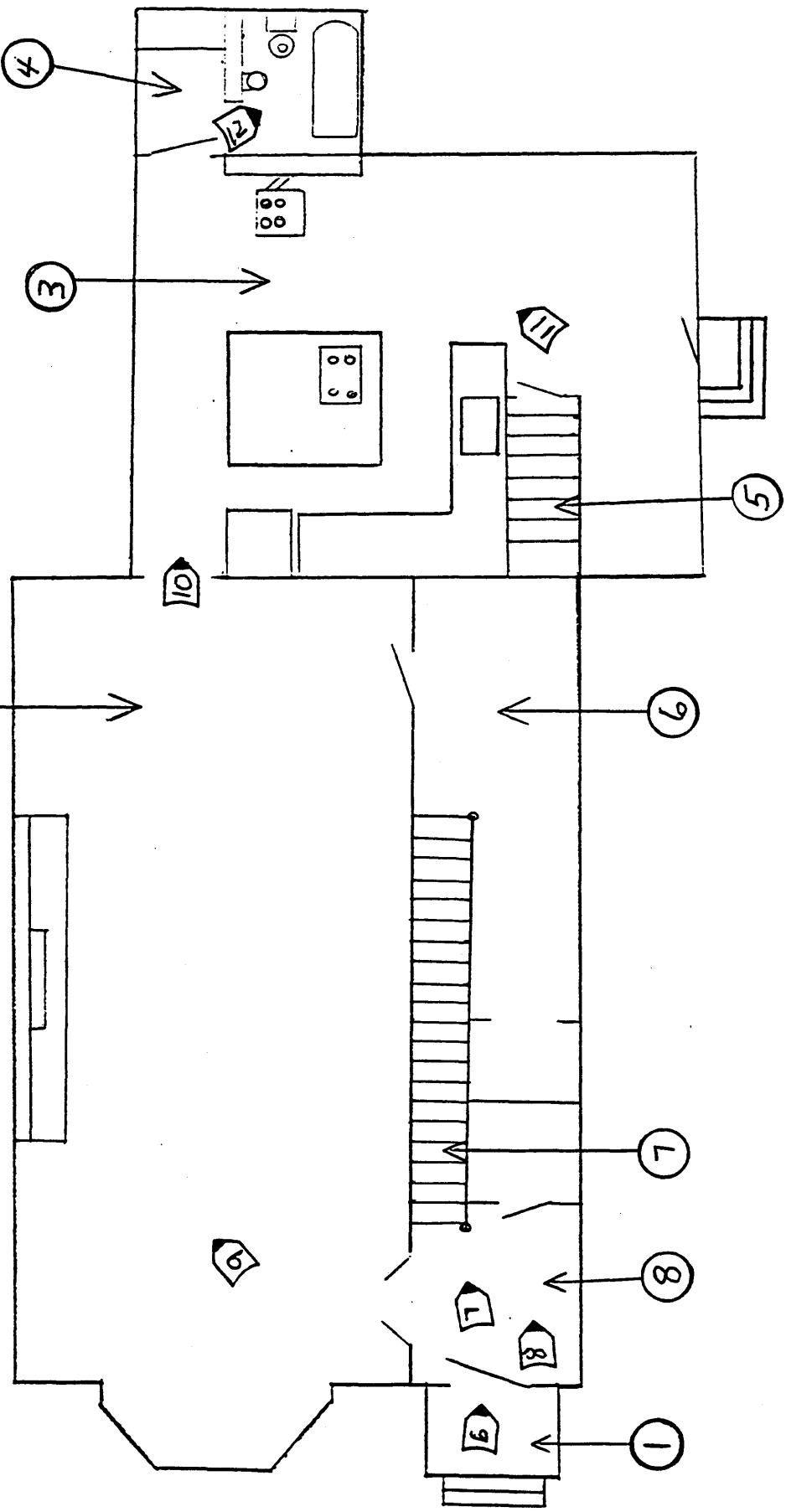


DEC. 1964

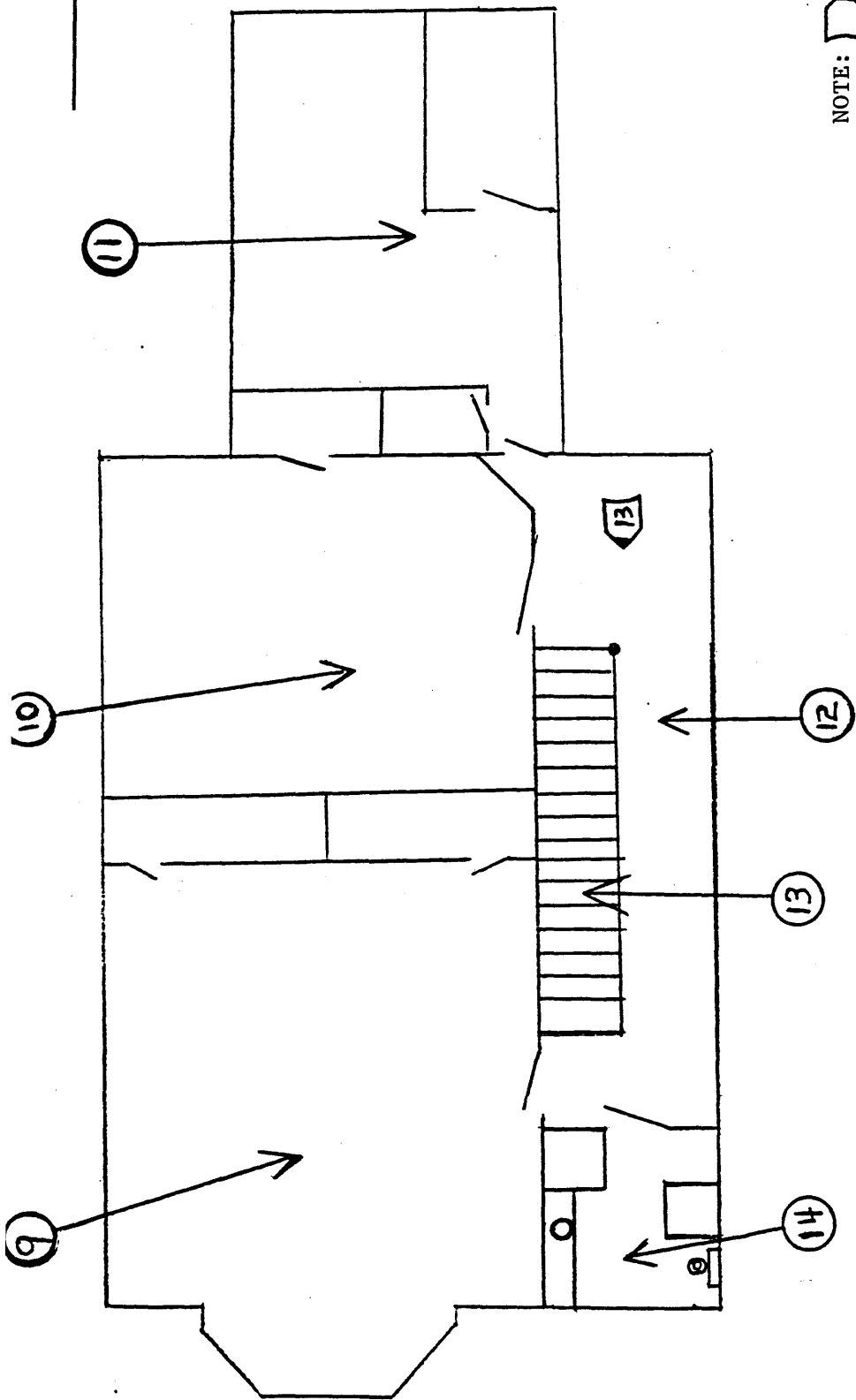



NOTE:  Indicates where photo was taken.

 N



- 1. FRONT PORCH 4' 7" X 7' 3"
- 2. LIVING-DINING ROOM 37' 6" X 14' 7"
- 3. KITCHEN-BREAKFAST AREA 18' 6" X 23' 4"
- 4. BATHROOM 9' 1" X 6' 4"
- 5. STAIR TO BASEMENT 8' X 16' 5"
- 6. UTILITY ROOM 8' X 16' 5"
- 7. STAIR TO 2ND FLOOR 8' X 16' 5"
- 8. ENTRY HALL 8' 4" X 8'



NOTE:  Indicates where photo was taken.

- 9. MASTER BEDROOM 20' 6" X 14' 8"
- 10. BEDROOM 12' 6" X 14' 8"
- 11. BEDROOM 17' 2" X 13' 2"
- 12. HALLWAY 8' 4" X 25' 10"
- 13. STAIR TO 1ST FLOOR
- 14. BATHROOM 7' 5" X 8'