

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666807

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 29 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 Lowell M. and W. Foster Hidden Houses

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

100 and 110 West 13th Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vancouver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th - Mike McCormack

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple - see attached

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Auditor's Office, Clark County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1200 Franklin

CITY, TOWN

Vancouver

STATE
Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

January, 1975

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE
Washington

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lowell and Foster Hidden Houses are situated side by side on a block in the heart of downtown Vancouver. Built entirely of brick manufactured by the Hidden Brick Company, these two substantial homes and their dependencies comprise an intact residential complex. The Lowell Hidden House was erected in 1884 in the Queen Anne style, designed by Lowell's brother Oliver Hidden. Next door, the local architect A. E. Davis executed a Georgian Revival style home for Lowell's son Foster in 1913. Both of the residences now house compatible commercial activities.

The Site

The Hidden House complex is located on the block bounded by Mill Plain Boulevard on the north and 13th Street on the south, Main Street on the east and Washington Avenue to the west. The two houses occupy the southeast and southwest corners of the block, fronting on 13th Street. Both of the dwellings stand on raised lots, landscaped with grass, trees and a variety of plantings. The lots are bordered along 13th Street and a portion of Washington Avenue by a cut basalt retaining wall and by an ornamental iron fence, both of which are original features of the Hidden complex. At the corner of 13th and Main, a service station was put up by the family in the 1920's. This necessitated removing a portion of the raised lot along with the retaining wall and fence at the corner of Lowell Hidden's property. The alteration remains today, although the gas station has been razed and only a triangular parking area marks its former location. Except for the dwelling houses and their associated outbuildings, the block is developed only on Main Street. There a row of commercial structures, built in the 1920's and 1940's of Hidden brick, has been recently modernized and is not included in the nomination.

Today the Hidden Houses are entirely surrounded by commercial development for many blocks in every direction. Much of this development is without distinction, characterized by an abundance of paved parking lots and modern banking establishments. A notable exception is St. James Church, built of Hidden brick in 1883 and located kitty-corner from the Foster Hidden House on 13th and Washington. When the Lowell Hidden House was erected in 1884, a small working farm stretched out to the north and west. Orchards and outbuildings and unpaved roads occupied areas now covered with asphalt. The Hidden Brickyard was situated directly north of Lowell Hidden's house, across Mill Plain Boulevard where a parking lot and row of one-story commercial structures fronting on Main Street now stand.

The Lowell M. Hidden House

The house which Oliver Hidden built for his brother Lowell in 1884 is a two-story structure with an asymmetrical plan and roof configuration. The various gabled roof forms are sheathed today with composition shingles, although they were originally clad with cedar shingles. A raised front and side porch with a wooden balustrade occurs on the south and east facades. The porch roof is supported by short wooden columns on brick masonry piers. The north wall of the house is shared by an adjoining commercial building which faces Main Street. An adjacent small structure on Main, built by the Hiddens in the 1920's, also tends to obscure the original free-standing house plan.

The Lowell Hidden House has a number of strictly decorative elements which contribute to its Queen Anne character. Stained glass windows, corbelled chimney caps, jigsawn barge boards and brackets in the gables, ornamental corbelling and patterns of coal-tarred brickwork add distinction to the exterior.

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APR 12 1978
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED
APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Mr. Robert Hidden ✓
Hidden Brick Company
2610 Kaufman Avenue
Vancouver, Washington 98660

Mrs. Helene Van Buren ✓
4273 S.W. Council Crest Drive
Portland, Oregon 97201

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The interior of the house has been only slightly modified to accommodate a two-story restaurant operation. This alteration has been restricted to some changes in door width and location. The interior is notable chiefly for its ornate woodwork - a rich juxtaposition of ash overlaid with walnut trim. The house has an irregular floor plan which creates a variety of small but interesting spaces.

Just northwest of the house is the Hidden barn, an unusual brick masonry structure built at the same time as Lowell Hidden's home. This two-story building with its steeply-pitched pyramidal roof is essentially square in plan. On the barn's west side is an appended frame harness room, thought to be original, and attached to that a small masonry shed where the Hidden family generally stored potatoes and dynamite. The barn has brick dormers with corbelled, round-arch window openings and a louvered lantern at the apex of the roof. Patterns of coal-tarred brickwork and a number of segmental-arch doors and windows make the barn an extraordinarily handsome dependency. Currently the structure is being sympathetically adapted for office leasing. Although some windows are being converted to doors and vice-versa, for the most part original spaces, materials, and surface textures are being carefully preserved.

Immediately south of the brick barn is a frame buggy shed also thought to have been constructed simultaneously with the Lowell Hidden House. The shed is perhaps most interesting for its low hipped roof with cross gables on the east-west axis. The building is clad with shiplap siding, and appears to have been little altered over the years. Between the buggy shed and the brick barn is a small open space which will be landscaped as a lunch patio for use by the new tenants of the Hidden barn.

The W. Foster Hidden House

In 1913, Foster Hidden erected a substantial brick home next door to his parents' house on 13th Street. The two-story Colonial Revival structure was designed for him by the architect A. E. Davis. Like the Lowell Hidden House, this residence displays a number of finely-executed details which underline its architectural quality. The exterior walls are laid up in a Flemish bond and the gabled roof is still covered with its original slate shingles, retrieved from Vancouver Barracks. A dentilled wood cornice and hooded dormers decorate the roofline. Window sills, string courses, and quoins are of sandstone. A columned portico with a balustered deck forms the formal front entry, and a similar arrangement encloses a screened porch on the east facade.

The interior of the Foster Hidden House is generously trimmed with woodwork of high-grade Douglas Fir. In various locations are dark stained wainscoting, panelled doors, a built-in sideboard and cabinets, heavy crown mouldings, and a window seat - all clearly influenced by the Craftsman Style, but with some stylized references to the classical tradition. The floor plan is regular and symmetrical, with four basic rooms arranged around a central stair hall. The house is presently occupied by an architectural firm on the ground floor and by a few additional small offices on the second floor. Over the years, little if any alteration of the architectural fabric has taken place.

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RECEIVED	APR 24 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 9 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

One small outbuilding is associated with the Foster Hidden House. It is a modest one-car garage on Franklin Avenue, situated directly to the rear of the house. The garage was built in 1929 of Hidden brick, when the Foster Hidden family purchased their first automobile.

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 checked="" 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 1884, 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oliver Hidden (Lowell Hidden House)
A. F. Davis (Foster Hidden House)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lowell M. and W. Foster Hidden Houses are the legacy of a family which has helped to shape the face of Vancouver, Washington, for four generations. Brick manufactured by the Hidden Brick Company have built residences, schools, churches, and commercial structures throughout the city from 1871 to the present day. For the past sixty years, the Hidden Family complex has survived intense development pressures brought on by the growth of the surrounding central business district. In recent times these two distinguished homes have provided a much-needed sense of place and time in Vancouver's increasingly modern commercial center. The houses and their dependencies are architectural tributes to a prominent pioneer family and the important local industry which they established.

Hidden Family in Vancouver

Lowell M. Hidden emigrated from the family home in Craftsbury, Vermont to the Pacific Northwest in the 1860's. Hidden was talented and ambitious, and upon his arrival in the small settlement of Fort Vancouver in 1864, he soon became a major influence in the community. Experienced in New England farming and famous for his skill with an ax, Hidden proved himself a successful northwest agriculturalist as well. He is said to have cultivated one of the first prune orchards in the area.

Of greatest impact was Lowell's brick manufactory, opened in 1871 to supply the needs of the growing settlement. Over 100 years old, the Hidden Brick Company remains a family operation even today. Like so many first generation pioneers, Lowell Hidden and his three brothers, who soon followed him to the northwest, were entrepreneurs of the first order. The Hidden brothers built, owned, and operated several Vancouver hotels in the latter part of the Century. The Hotel Columbia was a four-story brick structure erected at Third and Main Streets in 1890, expressly to accommodate Vancouver's boom-time economy. Lowell Hidden was quick to realize opportunities with the railroad. In 1882 and again in 1889 he gathered up large crews of men to build railroad grades in eastern Washington and outside Vancouver. Hidden also operated a flour mill and steamboat dock at the foot of Main Street. Local farmers contributed wood for the steamboats in exchange for flour and chop. Wheat was supplied from as far away as Walla Walla in southeastern Washington. In addition to his many business ventures, Lowell Hidden served on the Vancouver City Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

Lowell's son Foster was a community activist himself. During his lifetime Foster was also elected a City Councilman and County Commissioner, he served as a school teacher, and managed the farm. He was a co-partner in the brick business until 1929, when his brother Oliver sold out to him.

The Hidden Brick Company

In the early 1870's Vancouver's Sisters of Providence, a pioneer religious order whose mission in the northwest began in 1856, were finalizing plans for a grand new convent,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hidden, Foster. "Activities of Lowell Mason Hidden" - unpublished biographical sketch.
 No date.
- Hidden, Robert and William. Interviews with the grandson and great-grandson of Lowell M. Hidden. December 21, 1977 - February 3, 1978.

(continued on attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>10</u>	<u>51215161310</u>	<u>5101512191410</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the block bounded by Mill Plain Blvd. on the north, 13th Street on the south, Main Street on the east, and Washington Avenue on the west, excluding three brick masonry commercial structures which front on Main Street and occupy the north-east corner of the block.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Florence K. Lentz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

111 West 21st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-1707

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

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

Jeanne M. Welch, Deputy

TITLE

Jeanne

DATE

4/3/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

hutch

DATE

1/25/78

ATTEST:

Bill Lebowich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov 24, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

orphanage and school. The Sisters, however, were sorely in need of a suitable building material. It is believed that Mother Joseph herself convinced Lowell Hidden to establish a brick manufactory. Hidden chose a location about seven blocks from the House of Providence construction site, on 15th and Main Streets near several of Vancouver's many clay pits. 300,000 bricks for the three-story building were turned out in a single season. Ten years later the Hidden Brick Company signed another large contract with the Church. Under it they supplied two-thirds of the brick for St. James Cathedral, a handsome Gothic structure situated kitty-corner from the Hidden Family complex on 13th and Washington.

The Hiddens operated a manual brickyard until 1905. Clay was soaked overnight in pits alongside the brickyard, and then shoveled into a pugmill with mixing blades fixed on a center shaft. The clay was thus thoroughly mixed with water and sand, by means of a single horse and sweep. The mixture was extruded a little at a time through a small opening at the base of the pugmill. It was then cut and thrown into moulds by hand. The hardened, moulded bricks were stacked in tiers for thorough drying, and finally hauled to the kiln in wheelbarrows. Bricks sold for \$8.00 per 1,000 in the early days of the company. During a normal 150-day season approximately 1,200,000 bricks could be produced.

In 1905, when Foster and Oliver took over the business, a brick machine which eliminated hand moulding was installed. The Hiddens marketed their product widely. For many years bricks were hauled in wagons pulled by Morgan horses. Two wagonloads per day were ferried across the Columbia to Portland. In later years, the company used white Packard trucks. In 1929 when the brickyard moved to its present location on Kaugman and 26th, nearly 60 million bricks had been made at the family yard behind Lowell Hidden's commodious Queen Anne home.

The Family Houses

Hidden family tradition holds that Lowell's brother Oliver was a practicing architect, and the quality of the older Hidden House suggests that Oliver was indeed experienced in design. Oliver apparently drew heavily upon the plans for an existing house in Detroit, Michigan (thought to be one of his own works). No biographical record on A. E. Davis, architect for the Foster Hidden House, is known to exist. The family remembers him as a local practitioner of solid reputation.

The Hidden Houses are architecturally significant to the city of Vancouver as the prime examples of local building technology. In a single building complex, hand-moulded bricks of 1883 can be compared with machine made bricks of 1913 from the same yard (and adjacent to the proposed historic complex are Hidden brick structures of the 1920's and 1940's). The houses reveal changing approaches to the craft of bricklaying through differences in bond, mortar joints, and structural and decorative details. The family complex holds the status of a true landmark in downtown Vancouver, largely because of its pleasing architectural effect. The Hidden Houses and grounds function as a familiar place holder in Vancouver's unfamiliar, rapidly changing urban landscape.

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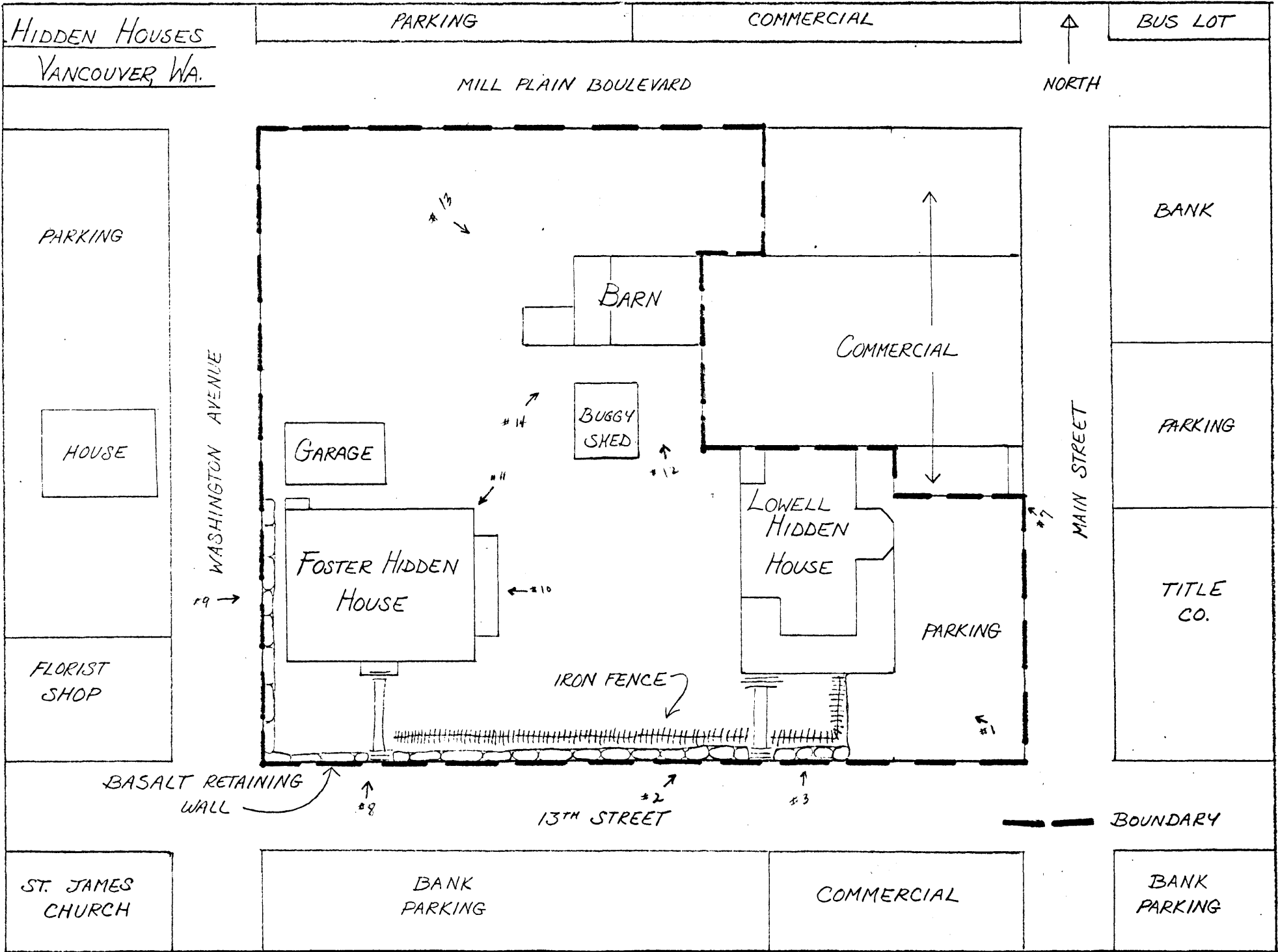
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DATE ENTERED	NOV 29 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

The Thrifty Nickel, Mother Joseph series, Chapter 39, "A Historical Sketch of the Hidden Brick Family", by Ann King. December 14, 1977.

Van Buren, Helene. Interviews with the granddaughter of Lowell M. Hidden. January 12 and February 2, 1978.



HIDDEN HOUSES
VANCOUVER, WA.

PARKING

COMMERCIAL

BUS LOT

MILL PLAIN BOULEVARD

▲
NORTH

PARKING

BANK

BARN

COMMERCIAL

WASHINGTON AVENUE

HOUSE

BUGGY SHED

PARKING

GARAGE

LOWELL
HIDDEN
HOUSE

MAIN STREET

FOSTER HIDDEN
HOUSE

PARKING

TITLE
CO.

FLORIST
SHOP

IRON FENCE

BASALT RETAINING
WALL

13TH STREET

--- BOUNDARY

ST. JAMES
CHURCH

BANK
PARKING

COMMERCIAL

BANK
PARKING

F.K. LENTZ
2/78

NOT TO SCALE