

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 16 1986

date entered MAR 31 1987

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

1. Name

RECEIVED

historic HELME-WORTHY STORE AND RESIDENCE

OCT 09 1986

and/or common WORTHY BUILDING AND RESIDENCE

OMP

2. Location

street & number 513-515-517-519 Walnut Street and 128 Sixth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Huntington Beach N/A vicinity of ZIP 92648

state California code 06 county Orange code 059

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 checked="" 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"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Please see attached

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orange County Hall of Records

street & number 630 N. Broadway

city, town Santa Ana state California 92701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Huntington Beach Heritage Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Huntington Beach City Hall

city, town Huntington Beach state California 92648

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	(1904 commercial building)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>residence moved in 1903</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Helme-Worthy Store and Residence consist of a Western Falsefront commercial building that is the only remaining commercial building from the early settlement period (1903-1912) to retain its integrity, and an 1880's two-story residence that is the oldest house in the city. Constructed in 1904, the M. E. Helme House Furnishing Company building is the only pre-1910 commercial building in Huntington Beach which retains its original front facade and is the only surviving commercial building from the settlement period to retain its original integrity. The buildings are adjacent to the original Main Street commercial area which has seen substantial changes in three different growth periods: the industrialization in 1912-1920, the oil boom of 1920, and the slant-drilling era of the early 1930's. The Helme-Worthy building still retains its original wooden cornice, lap siding, second-story fenestration, large transom windows, plate glass windows and the majority of its original doors. A shed-style addition on the north side, built before 1917, has a manufactured stone facade. The furniture store building is the only surviving commercial building with the original Western Falsefront architecture remaining in south and central Orange County. The Helme-Worthy House was moved to this location in 1903 by M. E. Helme and is the oldest house in the city, having been built in the 1880's in the farm country between Santa Ana and Huntington Beach. The two-story-high house features a hipped roof with gablet, narrow lap siding trimmed with corner boards, the original double-hung windows, a mansard-roofed front porch, and a plain railing. The glassed-in front porch, side-facing slanted bay window, and enclosed rear porch were all added or enclosed before 1912. The house and store are significant visual reminders of Huntington Beach's earliest beginnings. They retain their integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association with the period of significance (1903-1917) and are a valuable contribution to Huntington Beach's unique historic past. A recent redevelopment scheme, completed by a firm from Houston, Texas, is in the process of being accepted by the City Council. It removes all of the buildings in the downtown area except the post office and a Spanish Colonial auto dealership building. This will further destroy any evidence of Huntington Beach's historic commercial streetscape.

Moved to the site in 1903, the Helme-Worthy House was built in the farm country between Santa Ana and Huntington Beach in the 1880's. The hipped roof is capped with a gablet. A plain frieze and enclosed eaves ring the perimeter of the roof line. The second floor of the front (north) facade features a pair of evenly-spaced matching double-hung windows. The flat porch roof is ringed with a plain wooden railing without balusters, which appears to be original. The front porch, which spans the entire front of the house, was enclosed with multi-paned glass panels, some time between 1905 and 1912. An original turned porch post is still evident in the northwest corner of the porch. Louvers, which will be removed, have been added to the west side of the porch. The front door, which is capped by a narrow single-paned transom, is accented by a large window in the top and three recessed wooden panels below the window. The base below the enclosed porch is clad in the same narrow lap siding as the house, placed vertically. The slanted bay window on the east side was added between 1905 and 1907. The roof style, eaves, and siding match the rest of the house. A diamond-paned transom is located above the center plate glass window. The slanted bay window replaced one of the evenly-spaced double-hung windows on the east side. The west side contains two second floor windows with a square bay, added before 1912, near the

(continued)

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

House built 1880's

Specific dates House moved 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Store built 1904 with pre-1917 addition

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Matthew E. Helme, a member of Huntington Beach's first Board of Trustees and its fourth mayor, played a significant role in the formation and settlement of this sea side town. He moved to Huntington Beach in 1903, living in this house, which he had moved from the farm country between Santa Ana and Huntington Beach. He began his business, the M. E. Helme House Furnishing Company, in 1904 in the newly-constructed building. He contributed much to the formation and incorporation of the community of Huntington Beach. He fought for incorporation, was elected to the town's first Board of Trustees, worked to get that all-important commodity, water, functioning in a city system, helped to set up a modern fire department, helped set up the city manager system which still prevails, authored an ordinance setting up the sale of the city's first gas bonds, and introduced a substantial street paving and lighting program. The Helme House Furnishing Company store is the only remaining Western Falsefront store remaining in south and central Orange County. It retains most of its integrity and is the only commercial building in the city to do so. Huntington Beach's Main Street was the only commercial area in the city until the 1950's. Substantial changes were made to the exterior facades of the buildings along Main Street during the industrialization period (1912-1920), the oil boom of 1920, and the slant-drilling revival of the early 1930's. Several buildings received substantial changes in the Fifties and Seventies. These two buildings retain their integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association with Huntington Beach's early settlement period. Although the residence is simple in style, it is the oldest house in town. Both provide the only visual picture of early Huntington Beach and its settlement period. With the loss of integrity of the entire commercial district, little remains to remind us of Huntington Beach's historic past.

Matthew Elmer Helme, who moved from Washington state to Santa Ana in the 1890's, must have seen the promise of the new town of Huntington Beach. In 1903 he moved the home he had purchased from the Leatherman family from the country between Santa Ana and Huntington Beach to the two-year-old townsite of Huntington Beach. An early photograph in the book, Historical Volume and Reference Works Vol. 111 Orange County, shows the house at its original location with the Leatherman family on the front porch, and mentions the move and present location at Sixth and Walnut. The house appears exactly as it did in the photograph included here dated 1905. In 1904 M. E. Helme built the store building that was to become the M. E. Helme House Furnishing Company. He sold many kinds of household furnishings and equipment in this building, the first furniture store in town. From the beginning he was civic-minded and was a major force in the formation and incorporation of the town.

Matthew Helme was pro-incorporation and felt strongly about forming a city which would provide adequate municipally-owned services for the safety and well being of the residents. He was one of five persons elected to the first city Board of Trustees. The election was conducted with all write-in votes as there was not time to print ballots. In the election of 1912 and 1916, he received the highest number of votes. On April 19, 1916, he was elected Mayor by a unanimous vote of his fellow Trustees. The Huntington Beach News reported: "the tribute is a fitting one for Trustee Helme, as he has been a member of the board since the city was incorporated

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see attached continuation sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .520

Quadrangle name Seal Beach

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute series

UTM References

A 11 407120 3724580
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The parcel number is Book 24, page 15, No 152-1. This constitutes the historic property purchased by M. E. Helme in 1903. It is made up of four contiguous lots 25' by 117.5' which run parallel from Sixth Street to the alley. (See continuation sheet)

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diann Marsh

organization date June 1, 1986

street & number 833 North Minter Street telephone 714/558-1328

city or town Santa Ana state CA 92701

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 Kathryn Mathis

title date 12/8/86

For NPS use only

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

William B. Bushay 3/31/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:
Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

12/16/86

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owner ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Susan Kathleen Worthy Lucio
515 Walnut Street No. 4
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Shirley Worthy
801 13th Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Jerry Joe Worthy
128 Sixth Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED <i>12/14/88</i>
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

rear of the first floor. The center window of the bay contains 20 mullioned glass panels and matches the material used to enclose the front porch. Single, double-hung windows occupy the sides of the bay, and a single door, which matches the front door, leads out to the side yard. The rear (south) facade of the house has two evenly-spaced double-hung windows on the second floor and a shed-style porch attached to the rear. The porch, which was added in three stages, was enclosed before 1912. The lap siding was used to enclose all sides. A variety of double-hung, wood-framed windows were used in the process. The door which now leads out to the east side is not old. The house is in good condition and lived in by a member of the original family. The shutters flanking the front windows will be removed soon. The house retains its 1903 setting, having the same small front and (east) side yards and a large yard on the west side. The Helme-Worthy family wants very much to retain the buildings on this site and return them to their historic appearance. The interior of the house retains its original floor plan, with the stairway placed on the west side, to the right of the front door. The woodwork is typical 1880's, with rosettes in the corners of the lintels. The kitchen is in the rear. The parlour is open to the front porch enclosure. The house retains its feeling of a simple, dignified farm house.

Constructed in 1904, the Helme House Furnishing Company is the only Western Falsefront store building in south and central Orange County. It retains most of its original integrity. Two stories high and symmetrical in form, the building is clad in narrow lap siding, trimmed with corner boards. The parapet, accented with a ledge across the top, is capped at each end with a taller rectangular pier. A wide cornice, accented with closely-set brackets, dominates the top of the building. Four matching double-hung windows, trimmed with wide boards and accented with with molding along the top of the lintel are spaced evenly across the second floor facade. A plain beltcourse runs above the unusually large wood-framed transom windows. The centered stairway entrance leads to the second floor and is flanked by two identical store spaces. The plain wooden double doors on the central stairway entrance are not original. The symmetry is further emphasized by the store fronts, which are centered with single wooden doors featuring a pane of glass in the center. Matching plate glass windows flank the doors. The south facade, on the alley, contains four window spaces on the second floor, with one window removed, one jalousied window, and two original double-hung windows. Four small windows and one door are located near the back and indicate the ground floor and mezzanine levels at the rear of the store.

A single-story shed-style addition, with a manufactured stone false front, is located along the entire north side of the building. Built before 1917, the manufactured stone facade contains the original single door, containing a large pane of glass, and a large double-hung window. Four equally-spaced double-hung windows, which match those in the main facade, are visible along the second floor, above the addition. Behind the false front of manufactured stone is a low-pitched roof clad in asphalt roofing and attached along the entire north side of the main building.

The rear of the store building has a narrow, two-story addition at the first and mezzanine levels, with the original porch on the second floor. A variety of

(continued)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 12/16/76
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

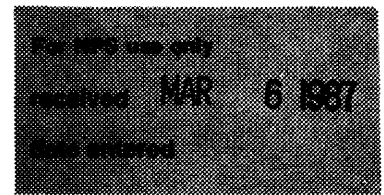
windows, nearly trimmed with wide boards and molding, are visible along the back of the building. A large multi-paned plate glass window, a trio of windows with a plate glass window in the center and double-hung windows on the sides, and several individual double-hung windows occupy the rear. Two doors, with large windows in the top half, lead out to the rear yard. A stairway runs down from the second floor porch to a point near the southwest corner.

The interior retains much of its original integrity. The wide central stairway runs from the double doors in the front facade to a hallway, shaped like a cross. The hall to the back is an extension of the front hall and leads to the second floor covered porch. The four apartments are arranged along the halls, with one in each quadrant. A large skylight is centered in the main hallway. All of the rooms have the original wide woodwork with molding across the top of the lintels. Restoration has begun on one apartment and consists of painting, cleaning and restoring the rooms and hallway. The rooms will not be changed or historic fabric removed. The first floor has had a wall added down the center to form two store spaces. The mezzanine is still visible in the south store, but has been fronted with a wall in the north store. An apartment has been added into the back. The rooms on the north end are original and the high tank toilet is still working. The store on the south is occupied by a furniture restorer and the store on the north contains a dance studio. The apartment across the back was added in the 1920's and is two-storied, filling in the back part of the first and mezzanine floors. The 1917 addition to the north side is unchanged and presently used for storage. Both the exterior and interior of the building retain their integrity of feeling and association and have a strong visual character.

*Two (2) contributing buildings.
One (1) non-contributing building.*

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

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



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

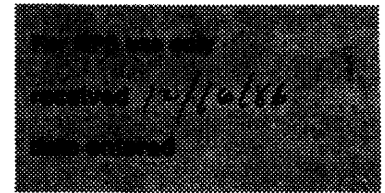
Page 2

and at the election of April 19 received the highest votes cast for any of the candidates for Trustee. He was accorded the same honor in the election four years, which gives him a standing in the community that any citizen might be elated over." On July 12, 1916, the City Manager system in the city was set up under his guidance and he was Mayor when the new city hall on Fifth Street was built (August 1916). He sponsored the ordinance authorizing the sale of gas bonds, set up a municipal system which would buy its gas from the Southern Counties Gas Co. (1916). In December of 1916 he formed a committee to set up a municipal water system. He felt strongly about obtaining more modern fire department equipment and worked hard toward that end. Gas street lights were placed along Main Street to the city limits. That stretch of street was paved, as was Ocean Avenue from First Street to Twenty-third Street. This act recognized the change in methods of transportation from street car, train, and buggy to automobile. Mr. Helme was president of the Huntington Beach Tent City Company in 1914. The company leased the Auditorium and grounds at 12th Street where many encampments were held during the summer season. The Huntington Beach Methodist Assembly and the Southern California Veteran's Association were among the many groups who used the facilities. People came from all over Southern California to attend encampments. Mr. Helme resigned as Mayor of Huntington Beach in May of 1917, to return to his ranch in Washington state. The Helmes planned to return to Huntington Beach to retire in September of 1929, but Mr. Helme died following an operation in June of that year.

The Helme-Worthy Store and Residence are the most significant visual reminders of early Huntington Beach, since all other commercial buildings have lost their original integrity. This early house and store retain integrity, and are representative of an important style, illustrative of broad patterns of history, and are associated with a person significant in the area's history.

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

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



Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 1

History of Orange County, California and Biographical Sketches Samuel Armor 1911
The Historical Volume and Reference Works, Vol. 111, Orange County
Thomas Talbert, Editor 1963

Helme-Worthy family remembrances and photographs

Huntington Beach News:

Feb 5, 1909

April 15, 1910

April 12, 1912

Jan 9. 1914

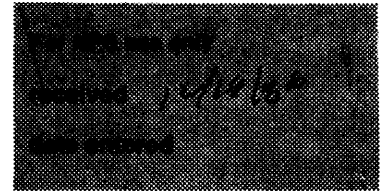
April 7, 1916; April 14, 1916; April 16, 1916; April 21, 1916, June 16, 1916;
July 7, 1916; July 7, 1916; July 21, 1916; August 4, 1916; August 18, 1916;
August 25, 1916; December 18, 1916; January 19, 1917; February 16, 1917; Feb-
ruary 23, 1917; April 20, 1917; May 18, 1917

January 27, 1929

8 undated ads for the Helme House Furnishing Company from 1906 Huntington Beach
News

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

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



Continuation sheet Boundary Justification Item number 10

Page 2

Starting from the corner of Walnut and Sixth, go southwest for 100', along Sixth Street; turn southeast and go 117.5' to the alley; turn northeast and go 100' along the alley; turn northwest and go 117.5' along Walnut Street to the beginning. The boundary of the application is the boundary of both the historic property from 1903 and the present property.

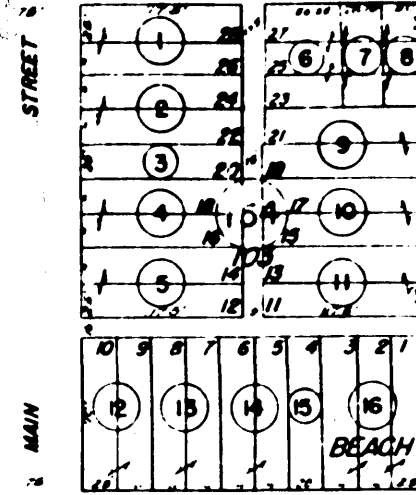
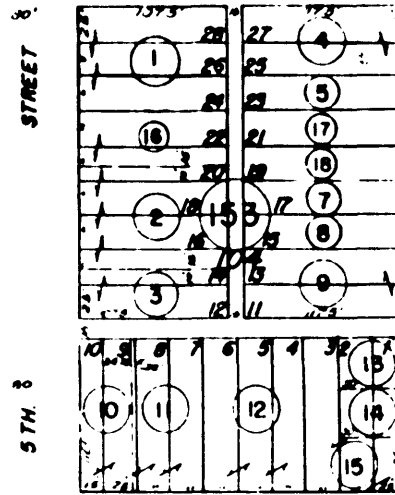
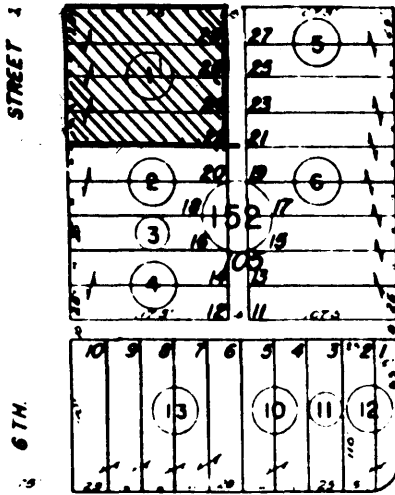
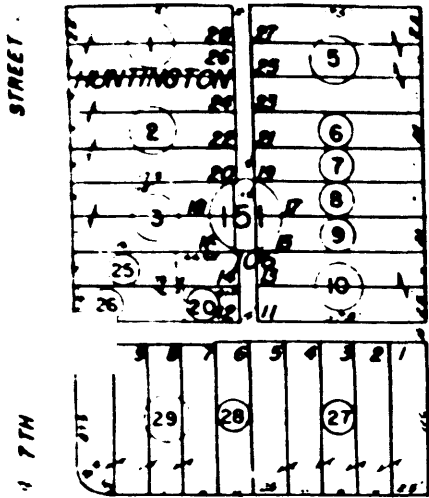
SEE SPECIAL PAGE 24-159 FOR FEE TITLE ASSESSMENT BELOW SURFACE

14

24-15

WALNUT

AVENUE



STREET
2 3RD

1"=100'
SCALE

16

COAST

HWY

P.M. 8-21
P.M. 8-19

17
265AC

6
549AC

R 5 35-13

SECTION 11
SECTION 14
T.6S. R.11W

HELME-WORTHY STORE AND RESIDENCE
513-519 Walnut Street and 128 Sixth Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Orange County

Scale: 1"=100'

Assessor's Parcel Map Book 24, Page 15,
Parcel 1

MARCH 1948

HUNTINGTON BEACH M.M. 3-36

PACIFIC

OCEAN

NOTE - ASSESSOR'S BLOCK &
PARCEL NUMBERS
SHOWN IN CIRCLES

ASSESSOR'S MAP
BOOK 24 PAGE 15
COUNTY OF ORANGE



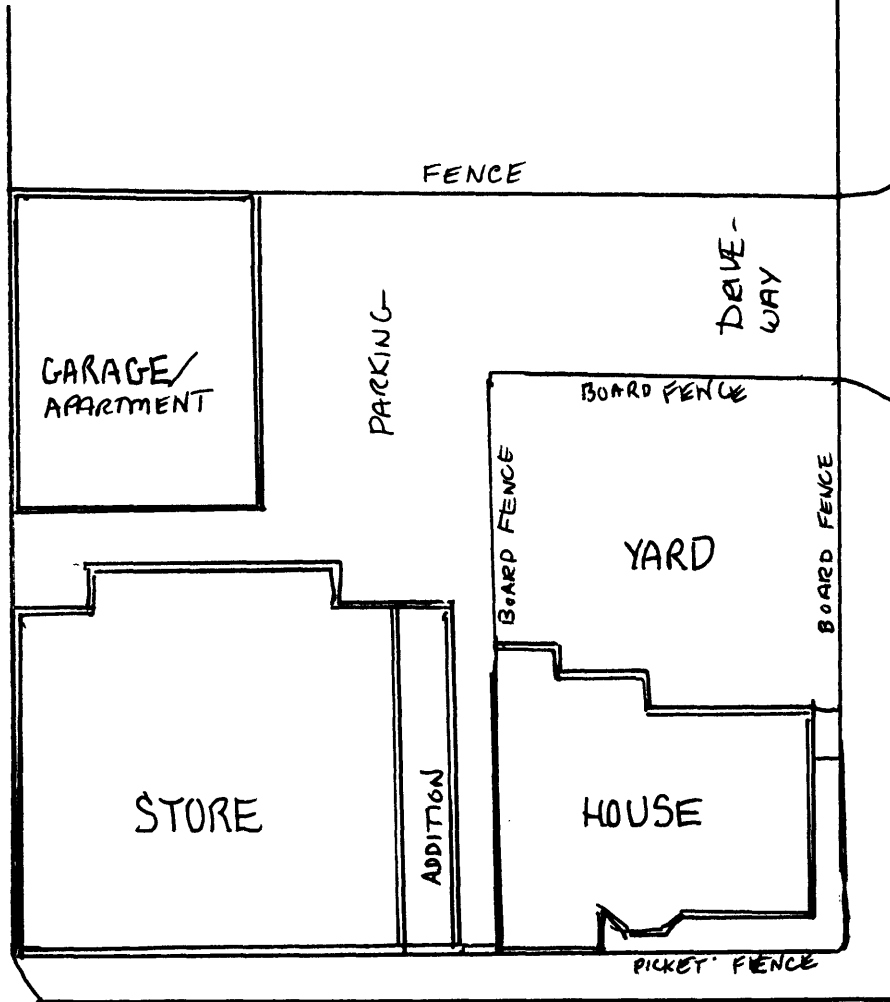
HELME-WORTHY STORE AND RESIDENCE
513-519 Walnut Street and 128 Sixth Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Orange County

Sketch map of property (not to scale)

↑
OCEAN
BLOCK

SIXTH STREET

ALLEY



4-25'
LOTS =
100'

117'5"
WALNUT ST.

SKETCH MAP
NOT TO SCALE

↑
FIFTH
STREET