

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 8 1984
date entered SEP 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic Ferguson, Albert W., House
and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1661 Grand Avenue N/A not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Raymond Henry Hakala
street & number 1661 Grand Avenue
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 7409 Commercial Street
city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Transportation
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built on the undivided one half of Lot 3 in Block 22 of the City of Astoria as laid out and recorded by John M. Shively, the Albert Ferguson House, built in 1886, is a two and one-half story rectangular wooden building with horizontal cedar siding. Fifty-two feet deep and twenty-eight feet wide, this Eastlake style residence has an appearance of great height because of the five-foot high stone wall along the front of the lot facing Grand Avenue, the steep sloping lawn, the five-foot high stone wall along the front of the lot facing Grand Avenue, the steep sloping lawn, the five-foot high foundation, also built of stone, and the fact that the house is taller than it is wide. It occupies a space 50 x 100 feet in dimension and otherwise known as Tax Lot 6900.

Constructed on a stone foundation, the building's balloon frame structure is sheathed in channel siding. Windows are generally paired or single one-over-one double-hung sash. Windows generally have cornice moldings and applied brackets or other decoration. The original elaborate filigreed barge board on the north, east and west elevation gables are missing. In addition, a hipped-roof kitchen wing to the south has been enlarged with a second story, and some windows appear to have been changed. However, construction materials and details are sympathetic with the original.

The front porch is decorated in typical Eastlake fashion and exhibits applied, sawn, and pierced ornament. Its roof is flat and a non-original railing runs along the edges. The hall window on the second floor looks out onto this porch roof. The double front doors, decorated with an elaborate surround, open into a large entry hall. Wide wooden steps lead up from the concrete walk to the porch. Latticework covers the lower porch level to the ground.

The parlor located at the front of the house has a bay window which originally had three single one-over-one sash windows. But sometime before 1900, the bay window was rebuilt and made wider by the substitution of a large window in front with leaded glass above. At the same time, a second identical bay was added just above it on the second floor. This treatment was typical of late Queen Anne style houses, done to allow more daylight to enter the parlor and bedroom above.

The roof has four gables, one facing in each direction, and all originally were decorated with cresting and finials. Built-in tin-lined gutters edge the roof which is covered with non-original cedar shingling. There is a flat 12-foot square windows wall on the roof where the four gables meet, which can be reached by a trapdoor leading up from one of the bedrooms on the third floor. The masonry-covered brick chimneys service interior fireplaces.

There were originally three fireplaces in the house: one in the front parlor with another located directly above in the front chamber on the second floor. A third fireplace was in the back parlor on the first floor, and is still in excellent condition with the original ironwork intact.

The basement originally had dirt floor with stone walls but in recent years, a concrete floor has been put in with additional concrete footing poured under the original stone walls.

Probably the most outstanding feature of this house is a magnificent curved staircase which begins in the large entry hall and then curves upwards in a series of loops, each ending on a landing on each floor. Visiting builders and carpenters have marveled at the curved banister.

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Continuation sheet Albert W. Ferguson House Item number 7 Page 2

A door leads from the entry hall into the formal dining room which has a built-in china closet and wainscot walls three foot high with beaded battens and beveled cap. As in the other first floor rooms, the ceilings are eleven feet high. All walls and ceilings were plastered but many of the cracked and broken walls have been replaced by wallboard.

A double archway opens from the entry hall into the large parlor. Sometime during the 1940s, both of the first two floors were cut up into apartments, with partitions installed which have been removed and the large original rooms have been restored.

Double sliding doors connect the dining room with the back parlor. There is another door leading into the pantry and kitchen area. An original side porch has been closed in and the entire kitchen remodeled. An enclosed outhouse on the back porch is still intact although filled in years ago. There is also a narrow second staircase leading from this area to the second floor.

There are four bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. A long wide hall leads from the first landing of the staircase to the rear of the house and all of the bedrooms and the bath open into this hall. The flooring on this floor is of fir.

On the third floor, there are three bedrooms. All have sloping ceilings and are finished in natural tongue and groove narrow boards, fitted meticulously at each joint and angle. From one of the back bedrooms a trapdoor leads out onto the square, flat roof area mentioned before, which has a tarred surface.

The Albert W. Ferguson House has gone through many stages of occupancy and has been drastically changed in the interior many times, but always on a temporary basis. Today, the present owners have been working to bring the mansion back to its original state. The restoration is almost complete and soon the Albert W. Ferguson House will look just about the way it did when it was first built in 1886.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1886 **Builder/Architect** Albert W. and James Ernest Ferguson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Albert W. Ferguson House located at 1661 Grand Avenue in Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, was constructed in 1886 by noted local carpenter-builder James Ernest Ferguson and occupied by the family until 1937. The house has achieved local significance under Criterion "c" as a documented example of an Eastlake style design derived from a pattern book by A. J. Bichnell of New York, (1873).

The house is equally significant under Criterion "b" for its association with Albert and James Ferguson, who were responsible for the construction of many fine houses in Astoria and in Oregon, since the mid-nineteenth century.

Even though he was an invalid and confined to his bed during the last seven years of his life, Albert Ferguson took an active interest in the creation of the house, directing the efforts of his son James Ernest Ferguson who was actually in charge of the construction. Family tradition maintains that the elder Ferguson personally carved the elaborate newel post which graces the curved staircase in the main entry hall.

Albert W. Ferguson was born on August 29, 1821 in Buckingham County, Virginia. He left home at an early age and entered into an apprenticeship with a local carpenter. He married Margaret Wetzel and then began a series of moves which took him ever westward. He crossed the Plains in 1850 into California where he did some gold mining before migrating north to Oregon. He assisted in the construction of a sawmill near Portland and then moved to Salem where he built and operated a sash and door factory. Here, he was joined by his wife who had traveled west via the Isthmus of Panama. Their two young sons died of fever on this trip.

During the ten years Albert W. Ferguson lived in Salem, he was active in community affairs and built and designed many of Salem's early buildings including the first Marion county courthouse.

In 1862, the Ferguson family moved to The Dalles where Albert W. Ferguson set up and operated a large planing mill in partnership with Louis Pope. Again, he was active in community affairs and was twice elected sheriff of Wasco county. During the thirteen years he spent in The Dalles, the Fergusons had four sons and two daughters.

In 1876, he moved to Astoria where he opened a sash and door factory under the name of Bain and Ferguson, and also worked as an architect and builder. During the next few years he designed and built many of the early Astoria homes and buildings including the historic Capt. J. H. D. Gray residence which still stands at 17th and Grand Avenue, just east of the home which he built for himself in 1886.

In 1884, Albert W. Ferguson became ill with inflammatory rheumatism and for the next seven years was confined to his bed. He died on February 25, 1891.

It is certain that the Albert W. Ferguson House on Grand Avenue was built in 1886. The Weekly Astorian on September 18, 1886, published the following item:

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Albert W. Ferguson", Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1904, 838-39
Margaret Griffin Green, "The Ferguson Family", Cumtux, Clatsop County Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 4, (Autumn, 1981) 2-9.

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	4	5	0	5	1	1	4	8	4	0
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 Albert W. Ferguson House, located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West, Willamette Meridian, occupies a 50 x 150 site known as Lot 3 of Block 22, Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, otherwise known as Tax Lot 6900.

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 Rogert T. Tetlow - Historian and Writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society date January 17, 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 July 24, 1984

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-7-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Albert W. Ferguson House Item number 8 Page 2

Ernest Ferguson is building a handsome residence near Capt. J. H. D. Gray's which will be occupied by his family next month.

James Ernest Ferguson, Albert W. Ferguson's youngest son, was listed as a carpenter in the census of 1880. Apparently, he did the actual construction work on the house while his father designed it and supervised the work from his sickbed. Ernest Ferguson later went into partnership with Charles Houston and founded the architectural firm of Ferguson and Houston. The two men designed and built many residences and buildings in Astoria including the Elks Temple and the Astoria Savings Bank buildings.

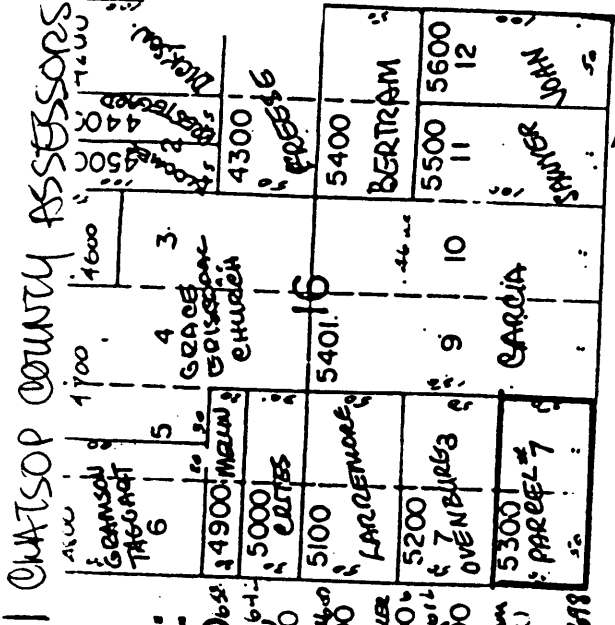
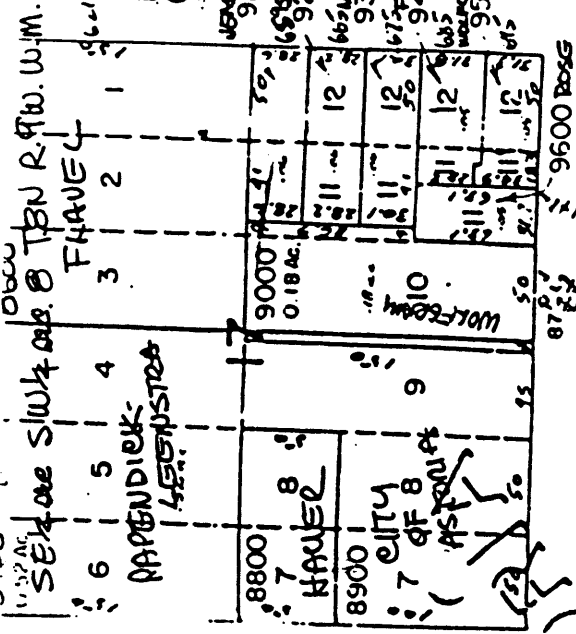
At the time the Ferguson House was completed, all four sons and one daughter were living with Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Ferguson. The youngest daughter Lulu had died in infancy. Hope, the eldest son, left for Alaska while still a young man. The second son, Fidella, followed the printing trade, working in Astoria and Portland before moving to California in 1900. The third son Edward Z. Ferguson remained in Astoria and eventually became president of the Astoria Abstract Co., a firm he founded with John N. Griffin. Ada Ferguson, the surviving daughter of Albert W. Ferguson, married John N. Griffin in 1888. The newly married couple also lived in the Ferguson House.

Mrs. Albert W. Ferguson died in 1895, but Edward Z. Ferguson and his family continued living in the Ferguson House until 1910, when he moved to Portland. At that time, Ada and John D. Griffin moved out of the smaller house which he had built next door, and into the big house. The Ferguson House then remained in the family until Ada's death in 1937. Since that time, the Ferguson House has had a number of different owners.

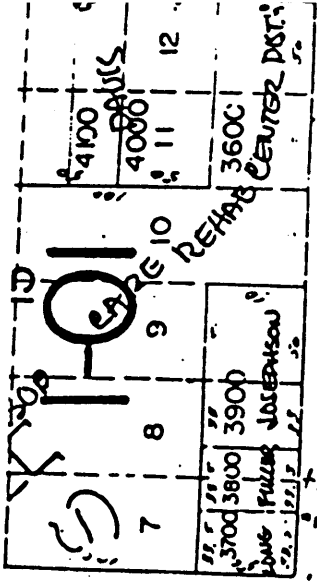
8-9-BCD

SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Q. 8 T. 10 N. R. 10 W. W.M.

CLATSOP COUNTY ASSESSORS MAP 84-8DC



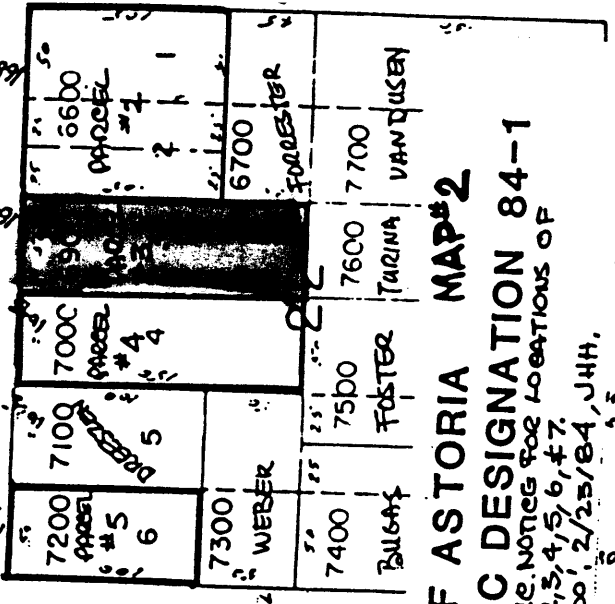
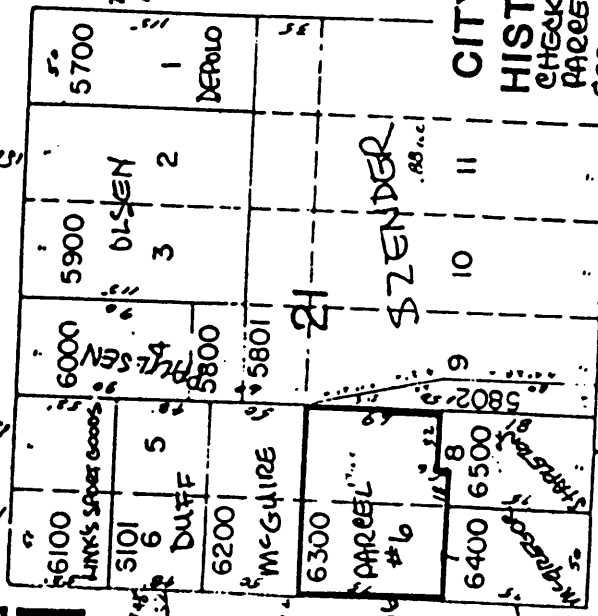
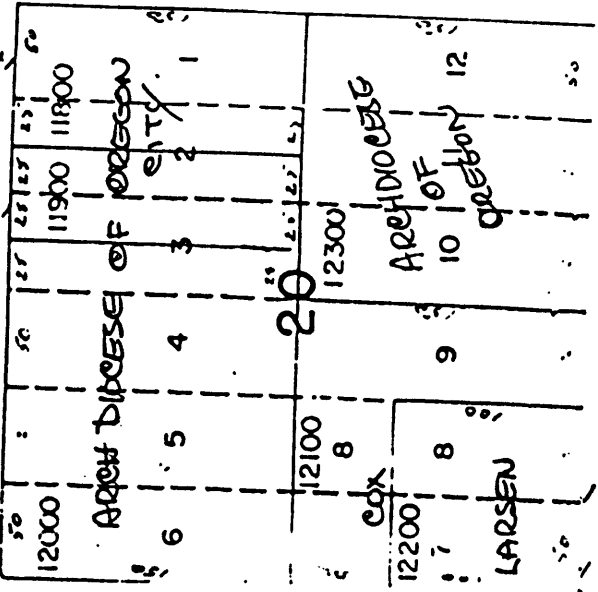
Ferguson, Albert W., House
 1661 Grand Avenue
 Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon



R3

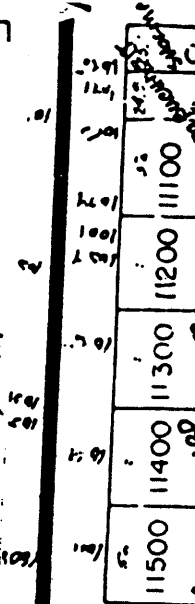
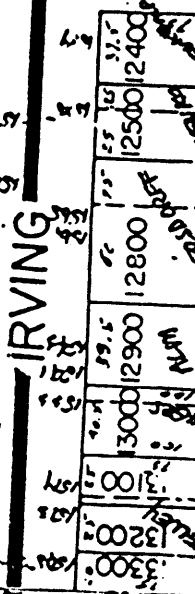
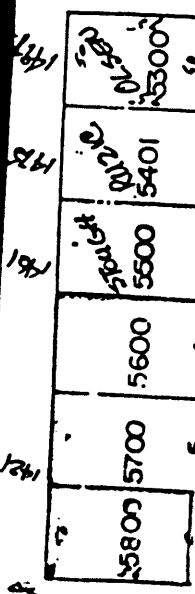
10th

GRAND



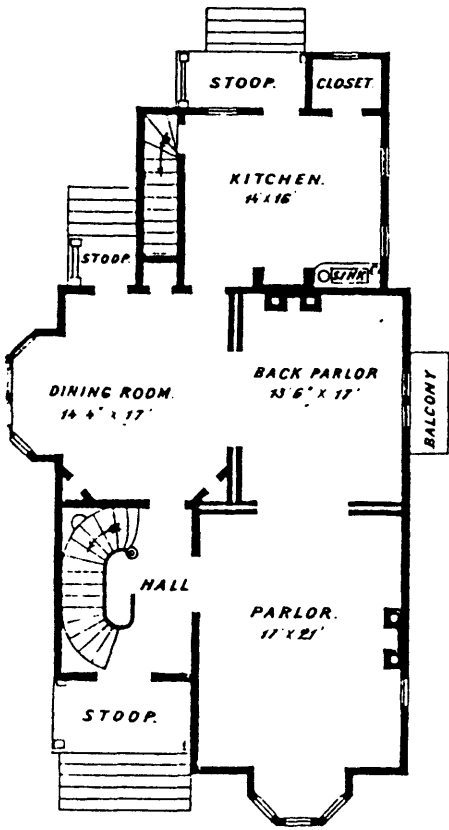
CITY OF ASTORIA MAP #2
 HISTORIC DESIGNATION 84-1
 CHECK PUPPLE NOTES FOR LOCATIONS OF
 PARCELS # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
 SCALE 1" = 100', 2/25/84, J.H.H.

IRVING



DESIGN FOR SUBURBAN RESIDENCE.

D. B. PROVOOST.
ARCHITECT.
ELIZABETH, N. J.



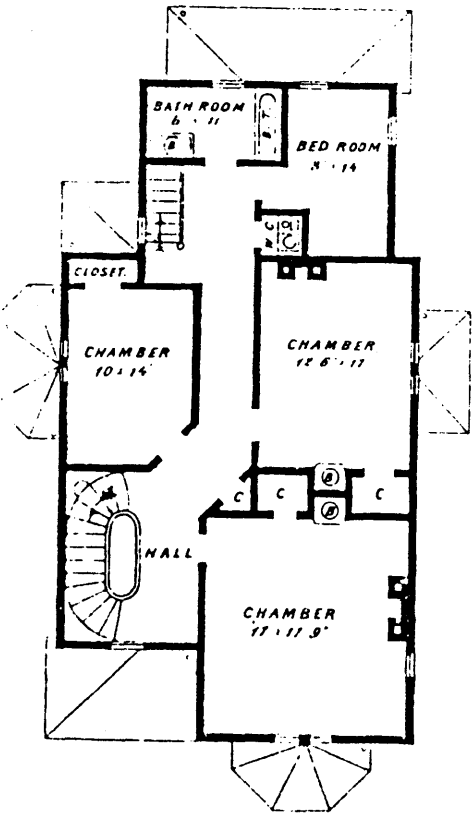
FIRST FLOOR.



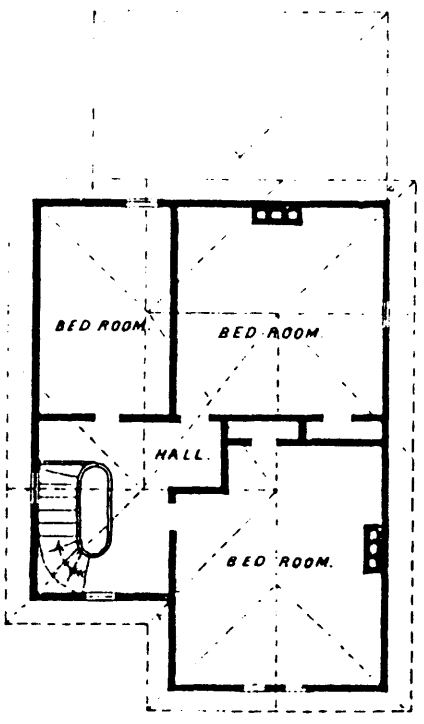
FRONT ELEVATION.

Ferguson, Albert W., House
1661 Grand Avenue
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon
Original pattern book design

Scal



SECOND FLOOR.



The house sketched above is an almost exact duplicate of the Albert W. Ferguson House with the exception of the bay window in the dining room which has been moved to the back parlor on the opposite side of the house. The reason for this is that he has added an outside stairway down to the cellar just below the dining room wall. The sketch and plans were taken from "Detail, Cottage and Constructive Architecture," published under the direction of A.J. Bicknell, New York, 1873.