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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Vetter, Herman House
Lamberson Investment Property
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 5830 SE Taylor Street N/A not for publication
Portland
city or town _____ N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97215

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hamrick April 25, 1992
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper Delores Byrum Date of Action 6/14/92
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The Herman Vetter residence is a large two story, single detached wood clad building cited on a 100 by 160 foot lot. The 2,486 square foot house was built on Lot 6 in the Edgewood residential tract. Edgewood was platted in 1889 and is located in Central Southeast Portland within the current boundaries of the Mt. Tabor neighborhood. The Mt. Tabor neighborhood is located three miles east of downtown Portland on a clearly defined natural butte known as Mt. Tabor.

The most predominant natural feature of the neighborhood is the above mentioned butte and extinct volcano. The volcano is now enclosed within the 200 acre Mt. Tabor park. Surrounding the park on the lower slopes of the butte are acres of residential homes built after the turn of the century. Their blend of architectural styles create a rich historical context which surrounds the Edgewood subdivision. The Vetter residence is located only four blocks away from the entrance to Mt. Tabor Park.

Flanking the Vetter residence on the northern elevation and anchored on the lot lines are two massive Sequoia trees. The Sequoias are reputed to be the second oldest set of Sequoia Trees located within the City of Portland.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The house is constructed as a large rectangular volume with projecting gables extending out on the eastern and western elevations. The exterior shape is further defined by a one story polygonal wraparound porch located in the northern corner of the residence. The house sits upon a one-half brick foundation with a one-half timber support wall which covers the entire length of the building. Interior walls of the basement have been removed to allow for structural repairs. The house is two stories in height with the main volume covered by a steeply pitched gable roof. Two additional projecting gables intersect the main roof line on the western and eastern elevations. Sanborn Insurance Maps dating back to 1923 indicate that the exterior shape of the house has not been altered from the historic period except for the reconstruction of the back porch which was structurally unsound.

Salient features which identify the residence as a Queen Anne Vernacular house include the additional of the large square turret tower in the northeastern corner, one story wraparound porch that encloses the tower, two story polygonal bay repeated on the western and eastern facade, repetitive use of cutaway bay windows, umbricated shingle siding, elliptical shaped window motifs repeated on both the first and second floor, stained and beveled glass windows, and decorative woodwork in the gable ends.

The main entrance to the Vetter house is located on the northern elevation and is enclosed within the wraparound porch. The size and scale of the porch harmonize well with the proportions of the remainder of the house. The porch features Tuscan styled wooden columns which are set upon square pedestals. The porch railing and baluster are simple without any decorative detailing. The front door is reached via a set of wood stairs that lead up from S.E. Taylor Street. The main entry to the house is a compatible but non-original multi-paned wood and glass door with a transom above. Windows throughout the residence are primarily one over one double hung with a few exceptions on the northern elevation.

The house is covered with ship lap dropped siding that is broken up at the gable ends with umbricated fish scale siding. The siding is finished off by corner boards. Roofing material is asphalt shingles.

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The northern elevation is by far the most elaborate with many special architectural features. The first of these features are the various types of windows, including cutaway bay windows, elliptical windows on both the first and second floor, a leaded, beveled glass window in the front parlor bay, and a derivative of the Palladian style, triple window, found on the second floor. The window in the front parlour bay is believed to be a product of the Povey Brothers Glass Company. The elliptical windows constructed on the second story in the square turret also serve another purpose to introduce a set of glass paneled doors located directly under the arched window and which open up out into a second story veranda. Two windows do not retain their original glass.

Decorative woodwork is also used to further define the northern facade; a brilliant reversed sunburst pattern is tucked underneath the front eaves. The sunburst pattern was uncovered when the asbestos siding was removed and duplicated by the current owners by tracing existing dirt lines. Decorative stick work has also been added to the northern facade service as a belt course to separate the first and second stories.

The western facade continues the architectural definition begun on the northern facade. A two story gable projects out at cross angles from the main gable. Windows are one over one, double hung and set in matched groups on the basement and second floor. Cutaway bay windows are featured in the two story polygonal bay. Decorative stick work is used above belt course to separate the first and second floor.

The southern facade has had exterior alterations due to the back porch being structurally unsound. Current owners have stripped off the lean to porch bringing back the original wall to its original configurations. A pent shed roof extends out from the exterior wall and encloses the original pantry. The pantry features a leaded glass window which is incorporated into the pent shed roof line and features small panes of colored glass around its borders. The window has been added by the current owners. An exterior set of stairs leads out from the kitchen and down one full flight into the basement. Windows on the second floor are one over one double hung with plain exterior moulding.

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The eastern facade's main distinguishing feature is the repeated use of a two story polygonal bay with a gabled roof. One over one double hung sash windows are repeated on this facade with five on the first floor and three on the second floor. The one story polygonal wraparound porch completes the architectural description of the eastern facade.

Originally cited on the southwestern corner of the lot was a two story carriage house that was recently demolished because it was deemed structurally unsound. Current owners documented the architectural significance of the building prior to demolition. They intend to accurately reconstruct the carriage house at a future date.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Vetter residence clearly reflects the essential elements of Queen Anne Vernacular style. The year of 1890 when the residence was constructed marked the beginning of a dramatic change in Victorian design philosophy which included a move away from the overwhelming decorative ornamentation found in older examples. Queen Anne residences from the late 1800's treated interior space with a stronger sense of simple elegance according to Winkler/Moss in "Victorian Interior Decoration." The Vetter residence interior floor plan and finishing details clearly reflect this new philosophy. The floor plan is direct and simple with spacious and comfortably sized rooms. The first floor includes a front parlour, second parlour, dining room, library, kitchen, pantry and half bath. Interior space on the first floor is treated with a fluid sense of continuity with large spacious rooms that quietly lead from one room into another. The second floor features four bed chambers, one bath, a trunk room, service corridor and a staircase landing located in the northeastern tower.

Queen Anne vernacular designs also placed a strong emphasis on wood as a primary material used for doors, windows, stairs, and additional appropriate decorative mouldings. The use of wood rounds out the interior definition and gives it a sense of substance. Wood is used to enhance the balance and scale of the house. It is also used to bring out the distinctive and special interior features such as the foyer and stairwell. The foyer and

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stairwell are a major focal point of the house because of their scale. The stairwell and foyer are found inside the main entrance. The stairwell features a half bath tucked underneath. The foyer is a rectangular shaped room with a door that leads into the library and a door that leads into the front parlour. To the right of the foyer and directly opposite the stairwell is the front parlour. The parlour's entrance is framed by a set of simple wooden columns capped off by square pedestals. Symmetrically moulded and fluted trim with corner blocks are used to frame the entrance to the front parlour. The stylized moulding is consistently repeated throughout the house on both the first and second floor. Most interior wood mouldings and trim have never been painted and have a clear varnish finish.

Treatment of the interior walls also reflect the trend in the 1890's to minimize decoration; walls are unobtrusive with their surfaces broken up only by the continuous band of picture rail mouldings which brings the eye forward to introduce coved ceilings. First floor rooms all feature coved ceilings with picture rail mouldings.

The front parlour is a rectangular shaped room that is defined by polygonal bay windows. Featured in the front window is Povey Brothers stained glass window fabricated in hues of amber, green and teal. The window's motif includes a diamond fret which is intertwined with a fleur de lis pattern. The rectangular shaped window is found in the upper transom of the central window. The front parlour also has hardwood floors.

Ceiling fixtures in the front parlour date back to the Gilman family renovation in the early 1900's. They have not been altered since their date of installation. The entire house retains its matched fixtures from this period.

Directly leading back from the front parlour is the sitting room/second parlour. The sitting room is entered through a set of panelled pocket doors. The pocket doors are constructed from cedar and feature brass plated, Eastlake style hardware. The second parlour features bay windows. With the exception of the central window all of the windows are one over one with double hung sashes. The central window features in its upper transom a rectangular window with beveled wood. The second parlour also features a

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fireplace which was updated in the early 1900's by the Gilman family. The fireplace is constructed of brick with a plain wood mantle. Coved ceilings and hardwood floors are again repeated in the second parlour/sitting room.

The library and dining room can be reached through the second parlour. The dining room is located directly to the left of the sitting room via a double paneled door. Directly across from the dining room through another paneled door is access to the kitchen. The kitchen is a square shaped room and still retains its original corner block mouldings. The original cabinets have been altered and are in the process of renovation back to their original design. The pantry has also been altered with wainscoting used as a finishing material for the walls.

The dining room has two additional features not found in the other rooms on the first floor: a pass-through window that leads into the pantry and the coved ceiling features a more delicate, intricately designed picture rail moulding not found in the other rooms.

The final room on the first floor is the library. The library also features a polygonal bay window arrangement. The central window has an upper transom with beveled wood which matches the window design and size of the second parlour. As in the style of the rest of the house, the door and window mouldings are fluted, symmetrically balanced and are enhanced by corner blocks.

The second floor of the Vetter residence is reached through a set of stairs accessible through the front foyer. The staircase features an open stairwell with matching spindles enclosed under the hand rail. The stairs follow an open well plan with three flights of stairs leading up to the second floor. The newell post and its cap give only a hint of decoration. The stairs lead up to the second floor bed chambers.

The second floor plan includes four bedrooms, one bath separated into two rooms, a trunk room, a service hall and a staircase landing located to the left of the stairs. The staircase landing features a set of double doors that open out to the veranda. The second floor features hardwood floors which have been refinished. Three of the four bedrooms have one over one double-hung sash

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windows. The fourth bedroom which faces north features the unique three part segmented window.

The bathroom on the second floor is separated into two rooms. The larger room retains its original clawfoot bathtub and its original marble-top sink with the plumbing company name and address on a plated plaque on the marble backsplash. The company who installed the fixtures, T.A. Evans & Company, 994 Belmont Street, was located in the Sunnyside District, one mile east on the street car line.

This house remains remarkably intact from its historic period. The current owners have spared no expense in updating the mechanics of the house and maintaining its historic integrity. Future plans for the residence include re-roofing the residence with wood shingles and decorating the interior with authentic period designed wallpapers and color schemes.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1890-1891

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Vetter, Herman, House
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.36 acres Mount Tabor, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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5	0	3	9	9	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Grimala

organization House Histories date November 29, 1991

street & number 1302 SE 47th telephone (503) 233-0841

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97215

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bradley S. and Sherrie C. Graves

street & number 5830 SE Taylor street telephone (503) 236-4346

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97215

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The commodious, two-story cross-gabled house at 5830 SE Taylor Street in the Mt. Tabor neighborhood of southeast Portland, Oregon was built about 1890 for the investor Buell Lamberson and was occupied by bookkeeper Herman Vetter from 1891 to 1897. The house is a generally well-preserved vernacular version of Queen Anne architecture of a genre sometimes referred to as the tri-gabled ell. It rises from a high basement on high ground in the Edgewood subdivision. The house is distinctive in the Mt. Tabor neighborhood of central southeast Portland for the half-round and Diocletian windows of its facade and the quality and state of preservation of its interior in the Arts and Crafts vein.

The house was included in the 1983-1984 City of Portland Historic Resource Inventory as a rank III property. Present documentation revises the date of construction and fills in much information previously unknown about owners and occupants. The house meets National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of its type in the Edgewood subdivision, one of the various residential tracts developed on the flanks of Mt. Tabor as the street car line pushed east from the city center in 1889. To demonstrate the distinction of the Lamberson-Vetter House within the neighborhood, four houses of comparable scale, style and date were identified. None is thought to have the architectural quality or to be as well preserved overall as the nominated property.

Rectangular in plan, the house is longitudinally oriented on its generous, 100 x 160-foot landscaped lot replete with late Victorian plantings. The north-facing facade is organized with the picturesque asymmetry, broken roofline and variegated surface treatment characteristic of the Queen Anne aesthetic. A flight of steps from grade level give access to a wrap-around veranda on the front and east side. The veranda is supported by slender Tuscan columns. Its upper deck balustrade is a replacement of missing original fabric. The entry stairhall section is surmounted by a tower having a bell-cast, pyramidal roof, recently reconstructed. The face of the tower block is penetrated by a large, Roman-arched window with a toplight of many small panes. The two-story parlor section, projecting from the plane of the north facade, is symmetrically composed under its gable having boxed cornice with returns. Varied surface treatment includes imbricated shingling in the gable, a square-headed Palladian, or three-part window lighting

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the upper story, angular stickwork, and beveled, or jettied window bays on the ground story.

Typically, windows are double-hung sash with one-over-one lights and plain surrounds. Leaded and colored glass transoms are used occasionally, as are square colored border lights. Apron brackets at the outer edges of window sills are typical. The body of the house is clad with shiplap. Side elevations are similarly articulated with stickwork and have two-story gabled sections as their dominant features. The rear elevation is more or less formally composed with three regularly-spaced windows in the upper facade and a ground story projecting window bay. The back porch utility area, including a new dogleg stairway and an aedicula, or temple-fronted basement portico, is sheltered by a shed-roofed canopy.

The building interior is characterized by good quality woodwork--all dark-stained, including a fine Tuscan column screen dividing the entry stairhall from the front parlor, a staircase with classically-detailed newel posts, both turned and square, door and window frames with bull's-eye corner blocks and sliding pocket doors.

No historic views could be located to aid the current owner's restoration efforts of the past year. However, when non-historic exterior siding was removed, nail holes and other intrinsic evidence provided the basis for reconstruction of the stairway tower's bell-cast pyramidal roof.

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The Vetter residence is locally significant under Criteria "C" of the National Register as one of the best preserved, remaining, pristine and representative example of a late period Queen Anne Vernacular Victorian residence found in Mid-Southeast Portland in the Mt. Tabor district. The well preserved Vetter home is the best remaining example of five Queen Anne Vernacular Victorians found within the Mt. Tabor district. The five best representative examples used for comparative analysis were identified through the City of Portland Historic Resource Inventory. It is almost virtually intact from the historic period of significance 1890 through 1920. The original builder of the residence is unknown and the owner of the property during the year of construction, in 1890, was Buell Lamberson. Of secondary historical importance is the pivotal role that subsequent owners of the property played in the development of the Mt. Tabor area from 1890 to 1920. These owners include Charles H. Thompson, local realtor and Samuel Gilman, land developer.

The salient and outstanding features that define the Vetter house as a Queen Anne, and match the architectural definition according to Rosalind Clark author of Oregon Style, can be found through the use of a combination of roof types, an irregularity of plan and massing, towers and turrets, wrap-around porches and verandas, recessed porches, various window shapes often incorporating stained glass, wood frame construction with varied wall surfaces including horizontal siding, patterned shingles, and carved wood panels.¹ The size, scale, finishing details, method of construction and historic integrity of the Vetter residence closely match the above mentioned benchmark elements of the Queen Anne Vernacular style. It remains as a unique and visual reminder of the street car era development period of Portland history. The residence has been listed on the City of Portland Historic Resource Inventory² as a Rank 3 property and is also cited on the "Preservation Options for Portland Neighborhoods" Study³ completed in 1975 as having unique historic qualities due to the street's historic context. This context was created because of its location within the residential subdivision of Edgewood: a four block tract of Victorian homes built in the 1890's. The Vetter residence remains as the oldest and best preserved example of a Queen Anne Vernacular built in Edgewood.

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Although undocumented, the present homeowners were informed from previous homeowners that William Jennings Bryan, a republican candidate for the United States presidency, gave a speech from the second floor veranda.

Edgewood was one of many residential tracts platted on Mt. Tabor after the arrival of the street car line in 1889. The subdivision's appeal to prospective homeowners such as Herman Vetter was its distinctive geographical location. Edgewood became, in its formative years of the 1890's, a high brow residential district located near the 600 foot volcanic butte known as Mt. Tabor. The Vetter residence also shared breathtaking views of downtown Portland located three miles west of the butte. The residence was built on a large 100 by 160 foot lot which allowed for views of both Mt. Tabor and downtown Portland.

Advertising brochures located at the Oregon Historical Society eloquently describe the area:

"Almost every large city has one location destined by nature to draw itself the culture, wealth, and taste that seek expression in the form of beautiful homes. Portland has Mt. Tabor. For this purpose it is ideal. Rising up gently out of the lowlands to a height of 600 feet within the City crowded up it's western slopes as pictured on the opposite page and with just enough wilderness left; it is as fair an eminence as one could wish to see."

The second distinct advantage that enticed Buell Lamberson to purchase and plat property in Mt. Tabor 101 year ago, was its suburban location with access to public transportation via street cars. The introduction of the Mt. Tabor street car line in 1889 completely changed the rural topography of Mt. Tabor. The newly built Vetter residence was located only three blocks away from the recently opened Willamette Railway Company street car line whose route came up S.E. Belmont.⁵ The street cars ran 24 hours daily to and from downtown Portland. This period of change was aptly described in this excerpt published in The Oregonian on July 9, 1893:

"The Willamette Railway Company extended its motor car line from Sunnyside to Mt. Tabor and the completion was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Following the construction of this line buildings were constructed with great rapidity and development resulted in every direction. It was the railway era for the east side. ...One may stand up on Mt. Tabor and trace the routes of the various streets

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and suburban lines by the cottages and elegant residences that have sprung up among them between Mt. Tabor and Lone Fir.⁶

Multnomah County Tax Records indicate that the residence was built in 1890 and correctly predates the City of Portland Inventory form by five years.⁷ The residence was built in Edgewood located only four blocks from Mt. Tabor Park. The Edgewood residential tract was carved out of the Donation Land Claim of Henry Prettyman through the efforts of Buell Lamberson. Multnomah County Tax Records indicate that Buell Lamberson filed numerous plats between 1888-1891 in mid-southeast Portland, including Edgewood, Belmont Place, Belmont Villa and Mt. Tabor Park.⁸ Buell Lamberson filed papers for the platting of Edgewood in Multnomah County on October 25, 1889. The residential tract originally included 20 lots that abutted S.E. Taylor between 55th and 60th streets. Lots one through six are the only remaining parcels of land that retain their original lot lines and residences. The Vetter residence is the best preserved residence and is most closely aligned with the essential elements of the Queen Anne Vernacular style.

In 1891, Buell Lamberson sold Lot 6, Edgewood, to Herman Vetter. This real estate transaction is documented in the October 2, 1891 edition of The Oregonian. Cost of the transaction is listed as \$2,500.00.⁹ Herman Vetter owned the property from 1891 to 1897 according to Ticor Title records. Polk City Directories list Herman Vetter as being a bookkeeper. It is unclear as to why he sold the property in 1897. Herman Vetter died in relative obscurity in 1927 from an auto accident according to an obituary found in The Oregonian dated October 15, 1927.¹⁰ For the next three years the property had many short-term owners including A.L. McCully, a local realtor, and T. Altona.¹¹

In 1900 Charles H. Thompson purchased the 12 room home located midway up the crest of Mt. Tabor. He would own the property for the next seven years while he established his career as a realtor and a builder on the east side of Portland. Charles H. Thompson had arrived in Portland only seven years earlier and promptly went into business for himself as a realtor. He worked in this field for the next fifty years until his death in 1943. He was described in his obituary as "reputed to be the oldest active real estate dealer in the United States."¹² He was also active in many Portland

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organizations including the Lang Syne Society and the Portland Realty Board.

In 1907 the Gilman family purchased the residence from Charles H. Thompson. Samuel Gilman was instrumental in development of the Mt. Tabor neighborhood during the street car era starting in the 1890's. Fred Lockley quotes Samuel Gilman in the History of the Columbia River Valley, as follows:

"The Sunnyside Street Car Line used to stop at twenty-eighth street. Campbell and Swigert said they would extend it to the heights of Mt. Tabor if we would raise fifteen thousand dollars and secure the rights of way for them. I took over this job and succeeded in raising the money and getting the rights of way. I had ten acres on the summit of Mt. Tabor, near Belmont and Stark. I paid two hundred dollars an acre for the first acreage I bought there. J. Fred Hart, Campbell and Swigert, Harvey Scott and H.L. Pittock had all secured acreage there. People thought we were wildcatters to clear out to Mt. Tabor and cut acreage into lots."¹³

The Gilman family included daughters, Julia and Mary, and son, William. The family lived at what was then known as 1556 Prospect Avenue from 1907 to 1920. Samuel Gilman was also a charter member of the Lang Syne Society along with Charles H. Thompson. The Gilman family was responsible for the only set of alterations that occurred during the historic period. these alterations include electrifying the residence and adding appropriate hanging fixtures, installing central heating and adding a second set of hardwood flooring on the first and second floor. The Gilmans sold the property in 1920 to J.L. Austin who would retain ownership for the next 30 years.¹⁴

The Austins and subsequent owners have respected the historic integrity of the residence with the exception of two alterations. The alterations have been corrected and the residence has been brought back to the original design. The first alteration was the removal of asbestos siding and the replacement of the wood sunburst pattern found under the front gable. The second alteration that was corrected was the replacement of the tower roof on the northern facade. The restoration completed on the tower roof is historically correct based on the original spire found in the

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carriage house and original lumber found in the attic and used as building prototypes.¹⁵

The Vetter residence is one of four Queen Anne Vernacular residences found within the Mt. Tabor neighborhood. The City of Portland Historic Resource Inventory was thoroughly evaluated for comparison with the Vetter residence for historic architectural quality and integrity. It is the contention of this nomination that this is the best preserved and most pristine example of a Queen Anne Vernacular in mid-southeast Portland, particularly Mt. Tabor.

The four other Queen Ann Vernacular residences are as follows:

1. 5732 S.E. Yamhill - built in 1890.

This property is located one block away from the Vetter residence and was constructed in 1890. It has a much larger scale but has undergone major renovations in the past 101 years which have compromised its historic integrity. These alterations include the demolition of the original porte cochere and rebuilding of the porte cochere with an altered design; and construction of a brick fence which post dates the historic period of the residence. The most significant alteration is the addition of the second floor and alterations of rooms on the first floor. The house still retains from its historic period a gabled roof line, projecting gables, bay windows and pent roof encircling roof.

2. 5632 S.E. Taylor - built in 1892 - the Dr. Stanley Steinmetz Residence.

This residence post dates the Vetter residence by two years and was constructed in 1892. The original siding has been covered by asbestos siding. The residence is located three houses west of the Vetter residence within the boundaries of the Edgewood subdivision. The rectangular shaped building lacks the complex massing found on the Vetter residence. The building features a hip roof with cross gables. Special features of the building include a frieze of wood panels beneath the eaves. There is a pediment over the porch entry. Many of the windows have been altered on both the northern and southern elevations. The southern elevation also has been significantly altered with an addition added, date unknown.

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3. 5810 S.E. Taylor - built in 1892.

This house is located directly west of the Vetter residence and post dates the Vetter residence by two years. The house was originally designed as a Queen Anne Cottage. In addition to its smaller scale the house underwent major renovations in 1990. These renovations include the addition of a second floor. The exterior definition of the second floor was based on the scale, size and finishing details of the Vetter house.

4. 6652 S.E. Stark

This house is located approximately 18 blocks east of the Vetter residence on the northeast slope of Mt. Tabor. It was built on S.E. Stark which was a major transportation corridor in the 1880's. It shares many of the same features found in the Vetter Residence but lacks the geographical setting and neighborhood ambiance. The exterior facade also lacks the detailing found on the Vetter residence including the turret tower, arched windows, massive wraparound porches, Povey stained glass window, and sunburst wood detailing found underneath the front gable.

CONCLUSION

Queen Anne Vernacular style houses were extremely popular in Portland between 1880 and 1910. Numerous additional examples of this style can be found in the neighborhoods that surround Mt. Tabor, including Montavilla, C.E.N.T.E.R. and the flatlands of Sunnyside. However, the preponderance of these lack the Victorian landscape context, panoramic vista, originality of building materials and neighborhood scale, generally, to equal qualities found in the setting and fabric of the Herman Vetter House at 5830 SE Taylor Street.

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- 2) City of Portland Historic Resource Inventory, Bureau of Planning, Portland, Oregon, 1984.
- 3) Staehli, Alfred, Preservation Options For Portland Neighborhoods, A Report on the History of Portland's Neighborhoods and Their Historic Centers, National Endowment for the Arts, Portland, Oregon, 1974, Page 52.
- 4) Oregon Historical Society. Vertical File, Neighborhoods, Mt. Tabor.
- 5) Labbe, John T., Fares, Please! Those Portland Trolley Car Years, John T. Labbe, Portland, Oregon 1980, Page 39.
- 6) Oregonian, July 9, 1983.
- 7) Multnomah County Tax Records Plat Book.
- 8) Ibid.
- 9) Oregonian, October 2, 1891.
- 10) Oregonian, Obituary, October 15, 1927, Page 10.
- 11) Ticor Title Company Records.
- 12) Oregonian, September 3, 1943.
- 13) Lockley, Fred, History of the Columbia River Valley, Three Volumes, S.J. Clark Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1928, Page 329.
- 14) Oregonian, January 3, 1950, Page 13.
- 15) Interview with present homeowner, Bradley Graves.

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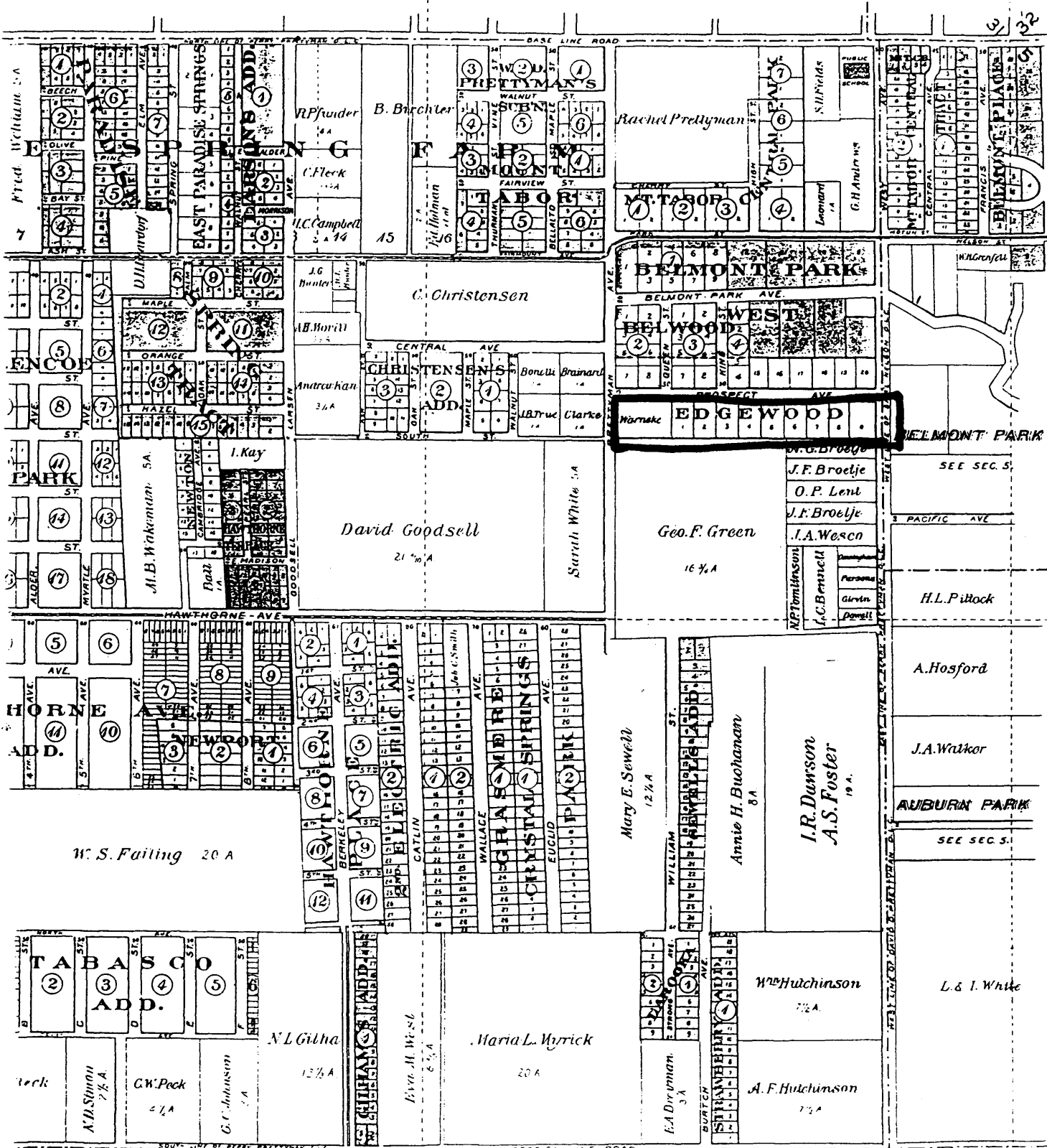
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in SE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 6, Township 1S, Range 2E, Willamette Meridian in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. It is legally described as Lot 6 of the Edgewood subdivision at said location.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses the entire 100 x 160-foot urban tax lot historically associated with the house built for investor Buell Lamberson in 1890.



Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND OREGON



1983 Photograph showing condition before restoration of stair tower roof.

8-880-05830

5830 S.E. Taylor Street

Edgewood, Lot 6

QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3136

Mt. Tabor

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Residence

DATE BUILT: ca. 1895

STYLE: Queen Anne Vernacular

ORIGINAL OWNER: Thompson, Charles H.

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-23850-0160

ZONING: R5

Rank III

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Projecting cross gables over polygonal bay windows. Encircling porch with flat roof which forms balcony. Glass-panelled double doors with transoms open onto balcony. Half-round window next to front door.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST: