

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 19 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Harlow, Fred, House

and/or common Harlow-Evans House

2. Location

street & number 726 E. Columbia Street N/A not for publication

city, town Troutdale N/A vicinity of Third Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Troutdale

street & number 104 SE Kibling Street

city, town Troutdale N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW 4th Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Columbia River Highway Project
National Park Service has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Highway Division, Oregon Department of Transportation

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ N/A _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This home was built in 1900 on what was known as the Harlow Farm by Fred Harlow, son of Captain John Harlow, Troutdale's founder. The white, two-story, clapboard-sided farm house sits on a knoll to protect it from floodwaters. Situated at the edge of Troutdale, the house is in a semi-rural environment with a forested hill immediately to its west, and the Sandy River a short distance to the east. Beaver Creek runs to the west of the building and a tributary of the creek forms a pond on the property, a vestige of the trout ponds which gave the community its name. A gazebo has recently been built to the northwest of the house. Today the building is used by the Troutdale Historical Society as a historic house museum, furnished with good from the turn of the century. It retains a high degree of interior and exterior integrity.

Located in Township One North, Range Three East of Willamette Meridian, Section 25, Tax Lot 19, Multnomah County, the nominated property consists of 1.4 acres. The house faces to the north, although its access route, Columbia Street, runs to the east of the house. The reason for its present orientation was to avoid the strong prevailing east winds blowing out of the Columbia Gorge, and the location of the old ferry access road to the north of the property. The ferry access road is no longer a viable route. From the north Columbia Street (the Columbia River Highway) runs from the main Troutdale business center past the Harlow House to a bridge over the Sandy River to the south. The local neighborhood consists of early to mid-twentieth century houses, well spaced along this street. A forested hill overlooks the houses on the west, Beaver Creek flowing out of a side canyon in this hill. The Harlow House sits approximately half way between Troutdale's business community and the bridge over the river.

This is a two-story building with attic and basement. The house has a rectangular floor plan, the main two stories consisting of a square ground plan. The western part of the house is only one story, including a pantry, kitchen and back porch. The entire north side has a covered porch running along it. The main entrance is through the east end of this porch. The white painted clapboard siding is the original color of the house. There are strong cement foundations, which also make up the construction of the basement walls and floor. The basement itself is under the west half of the house. The roof consists of a gradual slope on all four sides. Aluminum shingles were added in recent years, although present plans call for removal and replacement with an historically accurate roof.

The green shutters on the house were not part of the original home, although they have been a visual part of the home for several decades and have become a significant part of the building. A small back porch and lattice on the porch are the only other additions to the exterior.

The interior of the house has changed little since its original construction. One of the major changes made in about 1950 was the addition of a large plate glass window in the east side of the back parlor and the enlargement of the doorway to that parlor. This side of the house previously had few windows because of Columbia Gorge east winds. The main door opens into the front parlor which composes the northeast corner of the house; the back parlor is to the south of this room. The front parlor and dining room to the west is paneled in tongue-and-groove fir boards which were restored to their original color in 1982. The front parlor also has a brick fireplace with a hammered copper plate over its top inscribed with the word "Salve" which means "welcome". This was made by Laura Harlow and her sons. A bathroom is to the west of the back parlor, although the toilet was put in a side room. All of these rooms have exposed ceiling beams.

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The west end of the house has the kitchen which opens to the dining room and the stairs to the second floor. On the north end of the kitchen is the pantry which has a pass-through to the dining room. At the opposite end of the kitchen is the back porch.

Overall the house is in very good condition. The present owner is the Troutdale Historical Society which is buying the home on contract from the City of Troutdale. Since 1979 the Historical Society has continually maintained and restored the building which is open to the public on a weekly basis. The Historical Society is dedicated to maintaining the historic integrity of the house.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1900 **Builder/Architect** Frederick E. Harlow

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1900 Harlow House is particularly significant to the history of the town of Troutdale. The farmhouse is the last remaining building of the Harlow estate, from which the Harlow family promoted, platted and founded the town of Troutdale. Not only were the Harlows instrumental in the origins of the community but they also served as many of the City's officials as the town grew. Laura Harlow, for instance, was one of Oregon's early women mayors. The property is also significant to the history of fisheries of the Northwest. From the Harlow ponds the first carp brought to this part of the country escaped, populating the Columbia and all its tributaries with "one of the best of food fishes," (a nineteenth century view). We feel that the property is eligible under criteria "a", "b", and "c".

The present house is associated with the Harlow family, the founder of Troutdale. The patriarch of the family, Captain John Harlow, was born in Bangor, Maine in 1820. He was a descendant of Richard Warren, a Mayflower passenger, signer of the Mayflower Compact and a settler in Plymouth Colony. John Harlow's early years were spent sailing and learning about the navigation of the seas. His voyages brought him to Portland in 1851 where he settled, becoming a successful businessman with the opening of the Portland Box Factory. In this venture he was partners with John Gates, later to become mayor of Portland. The Captain was master of several steamships including the Commodore Perry, the Shoo Fly, the Minnehaha and the Rip Van Winkle. In 1882 he was responsible for building the Harlow Block, a three-story building at Northwest Park and Glisan in Portland (currently on the National Register).

Captain Harlow first came to Troutdale in 1876 settling upon lands which he bought from his son, Florian Chester Harlow, who had bought the original farmstead in 1871 from Joseph Kibling, the first owner and a son-in-law of John Harlow. This first 100 acres was shortly afterwards supplemented by 125 acres of farm land Harlow bought from the State of Oregon. On his land he operated the first store in the struggling community which was originally known as Sandy but later became Troutdale at the Captain's urging. Harlow also acquired a mail route over the "wire" trail between Portland and The Dalles. At this early period gold miners from Baker City made their way from The Dalles to Portland, stopping at the Harlow farm for a rest while jealously guarding their gold dust.

The Captain attempted to promote the growing town in a variety of ways. One of his most famous efforts was forcing the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company to build a depot for the town. When the company refused to bow to the Captain's request for a depot due to lack of benefit to the railway, Harlow circumvented their objections. The Captain sailed a brigantine up the Sandy River in a spring freshet declaring that the river was navigable and hence forcing the railway to either build a drawbridge to accommodate shipping or a depot for the town's commerce.

At this point the company gave in and built the depot naming it Troutdale at the Captain's request. The brigantine was beached and dismantled at the mouth of Beaver Creek on the Sandy River. Some of the lumber from it was used to make a cabinet which now stands in the Harlow House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.4 acres

Quadrangle name Camas, Washington - Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	4	8	3	1	0	5	0	4	2	7	2	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

Lot 19, Section 25, Township One North, Range Three East of Willamette Meridian.
(See continuation sheet)

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

state None code county N/A code

state None code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Nesbit and Curt Kaiser

organization Troutdale Historical Society date September 1, 1983

street & number 623 Buxton telephone 665-5175

city or town Troutdale state Oregon 97060

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 Jan 12 '84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date

2/16/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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One of the Captain's major business enterprises involved the attempted introduction of carp to the finest restaurants in the Northwest. On his lands were fish ponds which he stocked with trout. It was from these ponds that he derived the name of the town. One of the ponds still remains immediately to the west of the present Harlow House. The Captain proposed to displace some of the trout to breed carp, a delicacy from the East Coast. In May, 1880, 35 German carp arrived on the steamer, Elder, in Portland. These were taken to the rock-bordered pool in Troutdale where in the time of one year they produced 7,000 progeny. Unfortunately, the snows of the previous winter had been particularly heavy causing major flooding along Northwest rivers in the spring of 1881. The Sandy River and Beaver Creek backed onto Harlow's land until his fish ponds were crested. Three thousand juvenile carp escaped into the river. These escapees produced the abundant carp population of the Columbia River, its estuaries and tributaries of today. The Captain's fish which he bought for five dollars apiece in 1880 were worth only five dollars a ton a dozen years later. However, early Oregon journalist George L. Curry had no inkling of that in April, 1882 when he visited the carp ponds on the Harlow farm and praised the Captain in the pages of The West Shore saying, "This culturalist is considerably learned in the business."

Along the northern boundaries of the present property once ran the access road to a ferry which Harlow operated across the Sandy River. This was part of the Joel Palmer Wagon Road which the original owner, Joseph Kibling, granted access to in 1865. This road ran up the canyon behind the house and can still be discerned through the blackberry vines and poison oak.

In 1882 John Harlow bought 52 acres adjacent to the Harlow property from David Buxton for \$2,600. Due to his death in 1883, the Captain was unable to develop this land, but his wife, Celeste, dedicated the town of Troutdale on February 26, 1890. At this time she platted out the major streets of the community gradually selling her interests as the town grew.

The present house was built by John Harlow's son, Frederick Everett Harlow in 1900. Frederick Harlow graduated from the University of Oregon in 1896 with an LL.B. and was admitted to the bar at Salem. He became one of Troutdale's earliest lawyers when he opened up a law office in that city. Fred Harlow served as treasurer of the town after it was incorporated in 1907. In partnership with his brother, Louis Harlow, and Herman Blaser he opened the Harlow-Blaser-Harlow General Store. This became a major center of town commerce. To further enhance the business environment of the new town, the two brothers opened Troutdale's first bank. Fred Harlow also served in Multnomah County government as Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1897.

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Louis Harlow bought the house from his brother in 1920 moving out of the Captain's original house which burned down in the 1930s. Lou Harlow also served in local city government being elected city recorder of Troutdale from 1918 through the 1920s, and at times acting as mayor during this period. Following his brother, he became Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1898, remaining in county government as Deputy Chief Calendar Clerk of the Circuit Court, and at the time of his death in 1937 he was Chief of the Tax Collecting Division of the Sheriff's office of Multnomah County. Louis Harlow also had local business interests in the Harlow General Store and bank and was well known for making dill pickles which he sold in Portland.

Louis' wife, Laura, was the daughter of Portland Judge Samuel Bullock. She also served in local government being elected unanimously as Mayor of Troutdale in 1924. At this time she was made Deputy Sheriff of Multnomah County. She was re-elected to the office of mayor for three terms serving until 1930 when she took the office of city treasurer. Troutdale is known for early-day women mayors in Oregon and Laura Harlow was the longest serving of these.

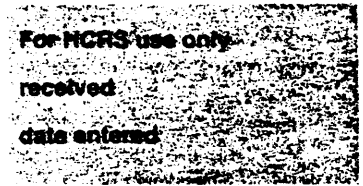
After the death of Louis in 1937, Laura Harlow sold the property to Lee and Mabel Evans in 1938. Mabel Evans was the town's piano teacher, historian and the first girl born in the newly-platted town of Troutdale in 1890. Lee Evans was a local woodcutter, bus driver and jack-of-all-trades. After Mabel Evans' death, the City of Troutdale bought the property in 1979 turning it over to the Troutdale Historical Society for maintenance and restoration. The society purchased the house from the city in 1982. While the city maintains the property around the house as a park, the society maintains the home as a furnished historic house museum. Among the furnishings are many Harlow family heirlooms.

The once expansive farm of the Harlow family has been reduced to 1.4 acres. The remaining Harlow House is the last remnant of the farm Captain John Harlow started in Troutdale over 100 years ago. The old family residence to the north of the present building burned in the 1930s. The rest of the farm buildings gradually deteriorated until they collapsed by natural means or were torn down because they became eye sores. At one time the Harlows owned the entire tract of land the city was platted on. Gradually they sold off this latter portion as merchants and residents were encouraged to come to the growing community. The fact that Troutdale exists at all is largely due to Captain John Harlow and his family's efforts to help the area grow and improve.

The Harlow House is the last vestige of this tradition.

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Gresham Outlook, Oct. 8, 1920, Dec. 23, 1930, 3 articles by Laura Harlow, Dec. 1941.

Oregonian, Jan. 25, 1925, May 15, 1880, June 11, 1881, Jan. 19, 1924.

Multnomah County Department of Records & Department of Taxation.

The Oregon Native Son, Vol. 1, No. 11, April 1900.

The Parkrose Enterprise, Sept. 5, 1951, p. 4.

Harlow, Allen Ginger

"Captain John Harlow," manuscript, August 8, 1981.

Lampman, Ben Hur

1946 The Coming of the Pond Fishes. Portland: Burfords & Mort, Publishers.

History of the Bench and Bar of Oregon. Portland: Historical Publishing CO, 1910.

Beaver State Herald, August 24, 1906.

Harlow, Fay, interview, March 25, 1983.

Evans, Jack, interview, March 25, 1983.

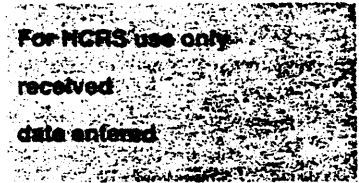
Oregon Journal, August 20, 1937, p. 4, November 7, 1924, p. 1.

West Shore Magazine, May, 1882.

Troutdale City Council Minutes, 1913-1935

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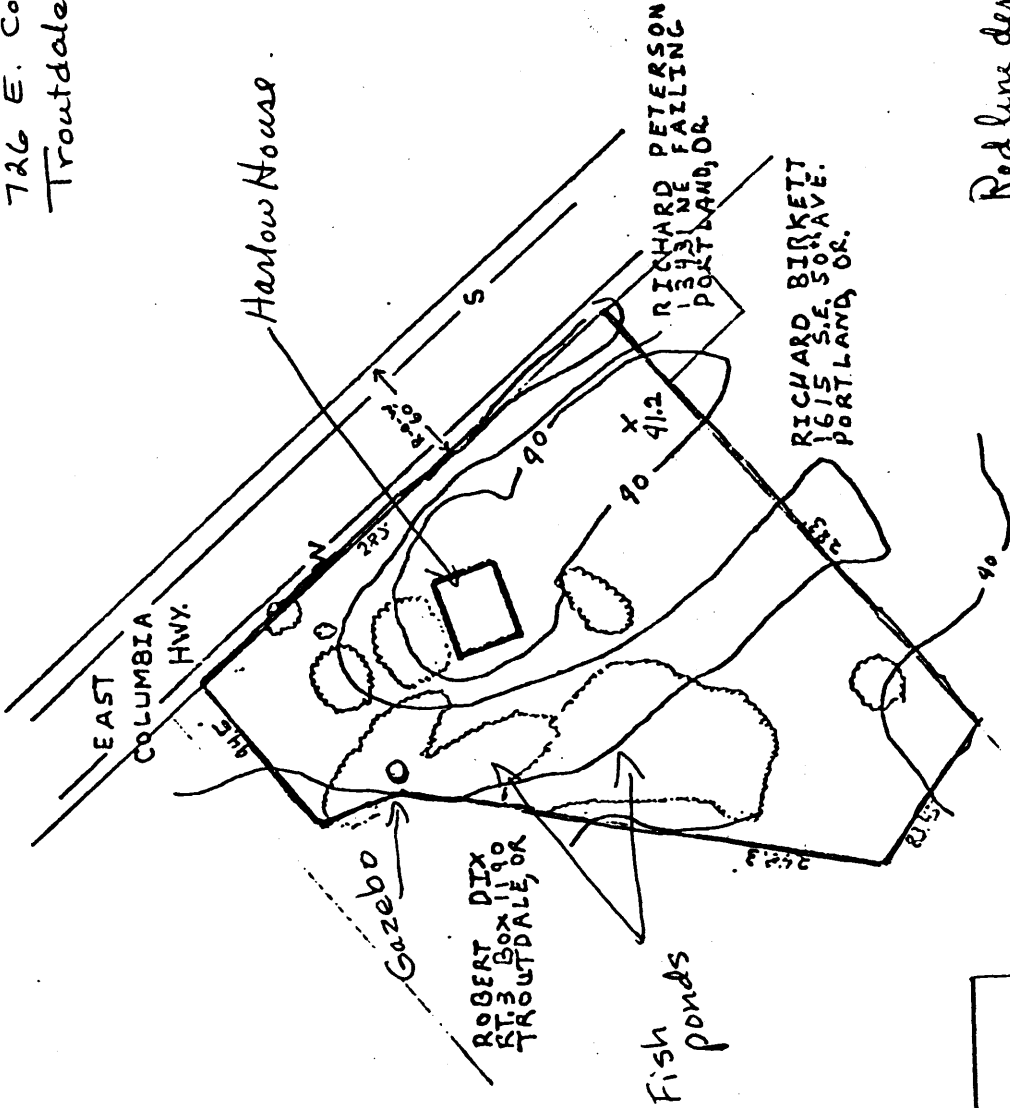
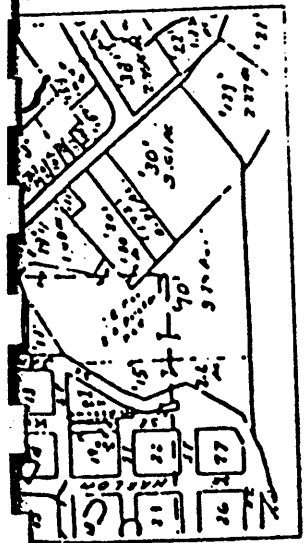
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A tract of land in Section 25, Township 1 North, Range 3 East of the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon, described as follows: BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of Block 28, First Addition to Troutdale, Multnomah County, Oregon; thence north 33°58' East 600.0 feet, more or less, to an old railroad coupling link; thence North 50°04' East 150.0 feet to an iron stake being the true point of beginning of the tract to be herein described; thence from the above described true point of beginning North 50°04' East 266.8 feet to an iron stake in the Westerly side line of the County Road now known as the Crown Point Highway; thence North 39°18' West along the Westerly side line of said highway 288.55 feet to an iron stake; thence South 58°09' West 98.5 feet to an iron stake; thence South 39°10' East 62.2 feet to an iron stake; thence South 10°17' West 248.3 feet to an iron stake; thence South 53°16' East 83.45 feet to the place of beginning.

Harlow House
 726 E. Columbia
 Troutdale, Oregon



Harlow House

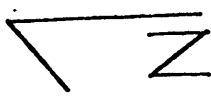
EAST COLUMBIA HWY.

ROBERT DIX
 RT. 3 BOX 1190
 TROUTDALE, OR

Fish Ponds

RICHARD PETERSON
 13431 NE FALLING
 PORTLAND, OR

RICHARD BIRKETT
 1615 S.E. 50th AVE.
 PORTLAND, OR



Red line denotes
 property boundary

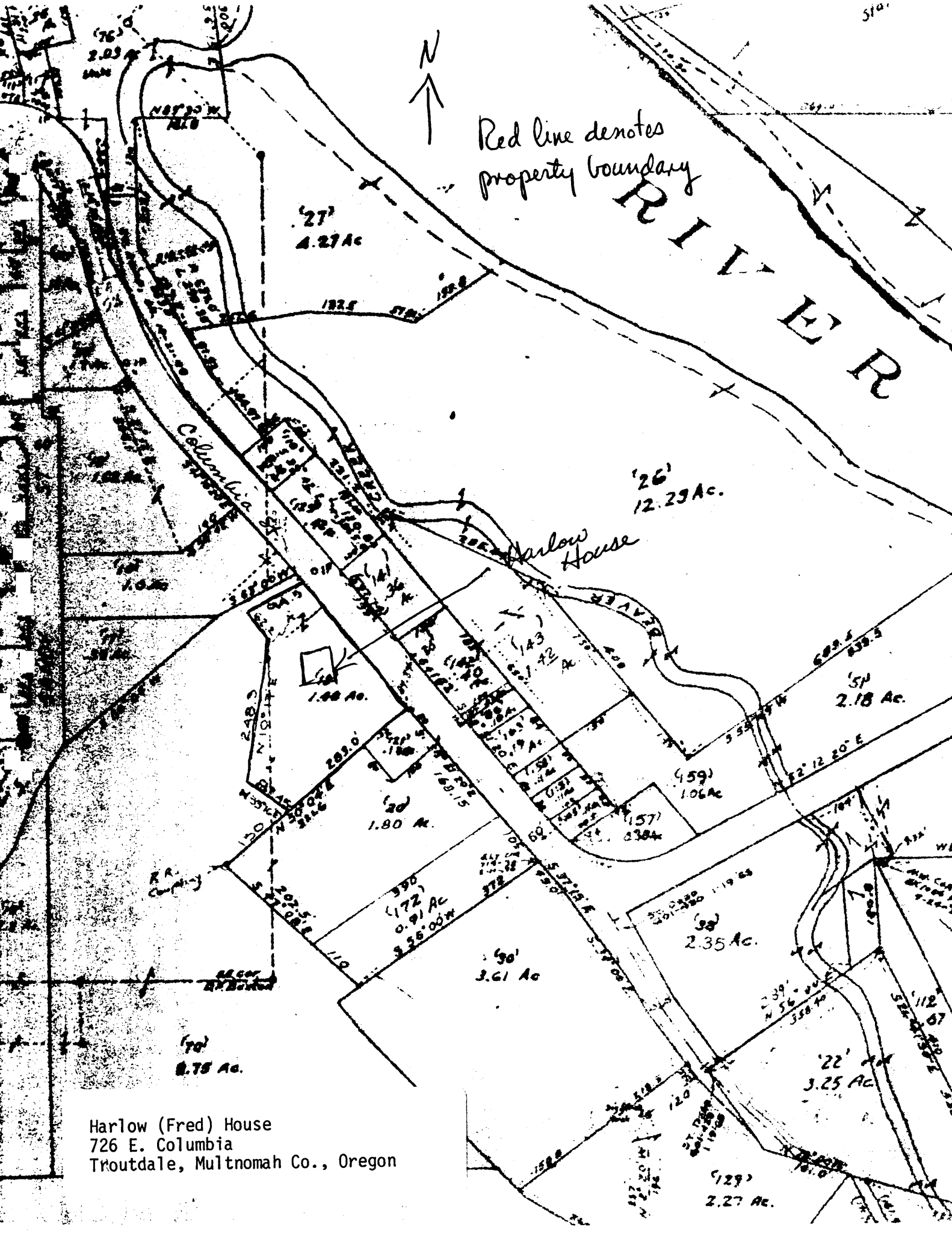
MINOR PARTITION
 TAX LOT 19, SECTION 25, T1N, R3E, W.M.
 SCALE: 1"=100' DATE: 5/21/79
 PROPERTY OWNER: B&M EVANS
 DESIGNER: JEFF DAVIS PH. No: 665-5175
 SURVEYOR: DATE:

Harlow (Fred) House
 726 E. Columbia
 Troutdale, Multnomah Co., Oregon



Red line denotes property boundary

RIVER



Harlow (Fred) House
726 E. Columbia
Troutdale, Multnomah Co., Oregon