

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

MAR 19 1982

## 1. Name

historic Gagen-Sherlock House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1906 Cherry Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Port Townsend \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 3rd - Don Bonker

state Washington code 053 county Jefferson code 031

## 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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input 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 David R. and Alice V. Etheridge

street & number 1906 Cherry Street

city, town Port Townsend \_\_\_ vicinity of state Washington 98368

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Port Townsend state Washington 98368

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Washington State Cultural  
Resource Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Olympia state Washington 98504

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gagen-Sherlock House in Port Townsend, Washington, sits atop Morgan Hill, one of the highest elevations in town. The house commands an impressive view to the west across the fields and forests of Happy Valley and beyond to the Olympic Mountains and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Situated on the northeast corner of Cherry and "S" Streets, the property includes a small orchard to the north of the house.

The Gagen-Sherlock residence is a two-story, frame structure built upon a brick foundation with fieldstone footings. Its cross-gable roof configuration incorporates three polygonal bay windows, each two-stories in height. The house is faced with shiplap siding and its fenestration consists of simple one-over-one light, double-hung sash. In addition to its prominent bay windows and emphasis on verticality, the house includes other elements characteristic of the Queen Anne style such as milled brackets and decorative panels, imbricated shinglework and moulded chimney caps.

Balancing the bay window of the front or Cherry Street elevation is an entry porch which was constructed circa 1925 to replace the original verandah. Judging from several early photographs with partial background views of the house and from existing physical evidence, the original porch wrapped around to the south elevation and featured decorative square posts, brackets, and latticework railings. The porch was reached by a broad flight of steps on the Cherry Street elevation, and directly above, access to the porch roof was provided by a door from the upstairs hall which remains in place today. The present-day porch is much simpler in design consisting of a concrete foundation, shingled substructure and railings, square posts and gable roof. The porch steps now occur on the south side of the house.

The only additional changes visible on the exterior of the house have taken place in the rear on the kitchen extension. A shed or porch added in the 1940's on the north side of the kitchen has been removed, but the current owners are expanding the kitchen to include an area equivalent to the former porch. The house is almost bare of paint and apparently has been so for nearly fifty years. Traces of the original color scheme still survive and suggest an all-over buff tone with a reddish-brown trim color. An interesting stencil reading "Fort Worden, Washington" remains on the south elevation near the outside door to the music room. All houses in Port Townsend that housed military personnel during World War II were, according to local tradition, required to display this marking. Should any sudden need to assemble all personnel at the fort have occurred, a runner could then have easily identified all the appropriate dwellings.

The interior of the Gagen-Sherlock House includes a parlor, dining room, music room, and kitchen wing, as well as three upstairs bedrooms and a maid's room with back stairs to the kitchen. A first floor bath was installed in the pantry area adjacent to the kitchen at an early but uncertain date. In the 1940's a rear exterior staircase and entrance were constructed to provide access to rental rooms upstairs, and the maid's room was partitioned to provide corridor access to that entrance. The exterior staircase has since been removed and the current owners are converting the maid's room to a full upstairs bath.

The interior trim, flooring, doors, surrounds, hardware, and walls are intact. The floors are fir, some of which have been painted and others varnished. The surrounds all feature milled bullseye motifs at the corners. Cast iron hardware with decorative detailing remains

## 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 checked="" 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 circa 1890

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gagen-Sherlock House is a little altered example of a fashionable Queen Anne style dwelling built in 1890 at the height of Port Townsend's prosperity. The house lies outside the boundary of the city's established Historic District, but is nonetheless the equal of most District homes in its craftsmanship, detailing and degree of integrity. Little is known of John Gagen - his stay in Port Townsend was evidently brief. His mark was made, however, in various business interests which contributed to the city's general development in the boom and bust years prior to the Panic of 1893.

The land on which the Gagen-Sherlock House was built had once belonged to F.W. Pettygrove, one of Port Townsend's most influential developers. Pettygrove left Lots 5 and 7 of Block 3 in Pettygrove Park to his wife in 1887. She in turn sold these parcels to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Sophia Pettygrove McIntyre, as her own separate estate for the consideration of \$1 and "love" in 1889. In July of 1890, John Gagen purchased the lots for the sum of \$1,100 from Capt. James and Mrs. McIntyre. Gagen constructed the present house on this newly acquired site in the same year as a gift for his sister Mary Elizabeth, wife of Charles Benjamin Sherlock, and her family. The house became known locally as the Sherlock House, and it was occupied by the Sherlock Family until the property was sold in the early 1960's. Gagen himself apparently never lived in the house which he had financed.

John and Mary Elizabeth Gagen were two of twelve Gagen Family children originally from Baltimore, Maryland. When their parents died of "black measles," the children were taken in and raised by the eldest sister, Ann. The brood moved to Kansas and Missouri in the 1870's. Mary Elizabeth, and perhaps others of the family, moved westward and lived some years in Pendleton, Oregon and Fairhaven, Washington, before settling in Port Townsend. Brother John's route to Port Townsend is unknown. He is first listed in the City Directory of 1890, the year in which he purchased the property on Cherry Street. According to family history, John was successfully engaged in land speculation. One of his investments was the Gagen Hotel located on San Juan Avenue at the edge of town. The Sherlocks managed the hotel until it was destroyed by fire. Gagen also served as manager of the Port Townsend Street Railway, Light and Power Company, incorporated in 1890. Despite prominent backing, the Company's operations were irregular and short-lived, and service disappeared entirely by 1895. The extent of Gagen's own involvement in this venture is uncertain. Gagen himself is not listed in the City Directory of 1897. Although the Sherlocks continued to reside in their house on the hill until well into the 20th century, John left Port Townsend after the "crash" and returned to Oregon where he invested in bottling works.

The Gagen-Sherlock House contributes strongly to Port Townsend's substantial collection of late 19th century dwellings. With the exception of the 1920's remodeling of the front porch, the exterior of the Queen Anne style house is virtually intact. Doors, sash, shingle-work and decorative millwork have remained untouched. Although traces of early paint are detectable, the house has not received a new exterior coat of paint in over fifty years.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jackson, Ruth, local historian, Interview, Spring, 1980.  
Jefferson County Assessor's files.  
Jefferson County Historical Museum, Interview with Carol Yandell, Asst. Director, Sept. 1980.  
McCurdy, Richard, local historian, Interview, Spring, 1980.  
Port Townsend Morning Leader

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one  
Quadrangle name Port Townsend North Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>517250</u>	<u>5330540</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Lots 5 and 7, Block 3, Pettygrove's Park Addition to the City of Port Townsend, Washington.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title F.K. Lentz, editor Based on research provided by the current owners.

organization Office of Archaeology and Hist. Pres. date August, 1980

street & number 111 West 21st Avenue telephone (206) 753-4011

city or town Olympia state Washington, 98504

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title Jacob E. Thom date 2/1/82

For HCRS use only

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

Melvin Byers Entered in the National Register date 3/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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in place. The walls retain much of their original plaster finish, and some ceiling medallions are still in place. There are unusual curved corners in the entrance hall, music room, and upstairs hallway. Each of the three bay windows on both floors are fitted with a decorative spandrel that drops approximately 18 inches below ceiling height and is finished on either end with an ogee bracket and modillion-like ornament below.

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The weathered patina of exposed wood emphasizes the contrasting texture and lines of the siding, shingles, and ornament. The interior of the structure, because it retains so much of its original fabric, also cries out for attention after many years of benign neglect. The current owners have begun a careful and conservative restoration, the most ambitious aspect of which will be replication of the original wrap-around covered verandah. In time, the Gagen-Sherlock House will resume its role as one of Port Townsend's many excellent specimens of Victoriana.

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Scoones, Bernice Sherlock, granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Gagen, Interviews, Spring and September, 1980.

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic GAGEN-SHERLOCK HOUSE

and/or Common SHERLOCK HOUSE

2. LOCATION

Street & Number  
1906 Cherry Street

UTM References:

Zone 10 Easting 517250  
Northing 5230540

- not for publication

City, Town  
Port Townsend

- vicinity of

State  
Washington

County  
Jefferson

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both

Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress

Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government  
industrial military museum park private residence  
religious scientific transportation other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name David Etheridge

Street & Number  
1906 Cherry Street

City, Town  
Port Townsend - vicinity of

State  
Washington 98368

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Register Nomination Form

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title  
Katheryn Krafft and Shirley Courtois

Organization

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Date  
November 1984

Street & Number  
4021 E. Highland Drive

Telephone  
(206) 3259346

City or Town  
Seattle

State  
Washington

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Condition:      excellent      good      fair      deteriorated      ruins      unexposed  
Circle one:      unaltered                      altered  
Circle one:      original site              moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance  
attach photo

The Gagen-Sherlock House sits atop Morgan Hill, one of the highest elevations in town, and commands an impressive view to the west across the fields of Happy Valley. It is a two-story, wood frame structure built upon a brick foundation with fieldstone footings. Its characteristically asymmetrical massing includes three polygonal bay windows, each two stories in height. The exterior is faced with shiplap siding, and fenestration consists of simple one-over-one light, double-hung sash. In addition to its prominent bay windows and emphasis on verticality, the house includes other elements characteristic of the Queen Anne style such as milled brackets and decorative panels, imbricated shinglework and moulded chimney caps. The present entry porch, consisting of a concrete foundation, shingled sub-structure and railings, square posts and gable roof, was constructed about 1925 to replace the original verandah.

(see continuation sheet)

Verbal boundary description:      Pettygrove Park  
Addition, Block 3, Lot 5-7.

Acreage: Less than an acre.

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Specific dates	1890	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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a. History The land on which the Gagen-Sherlock House was built had once belonged to F.W. Pettygrove, one of Port Townsend's founders. Pettygrove left the property to his wife upon his death in 1887, and she in turn sold it to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Sophia Pettygrove McIntyre in 1889. In July of 1890, John Gagen purchaed the lots and constructed the house in the same year as a gift for his sister Mary Elizabeth, wife of Charles Benjamin Sherlock, and her family. The house became known locally as the Sherlock House, and it was occupied by the Sherlock family until the property was sold in the early 1960s. Gagen himself apparently never lived in the house which he had financed. ✓

John and Mary Elizabeth Gagen were two of twelve Gagen family children originally from Baltimore, Maryland. (see continuation sheet)

b. Evaluation of Significance The Gagen-Sherlock House is a little altered example of a fashionable Queen Anne style dwelling built in 1890 at the height of Port Townsend's prosperity. It is the equal of most Historic District homes in its craftsmanship, detailing and degree of integrity. Although little is known of John Gagen, he did make his mark in various business interests which contributed to the city's general developemnt during the boom period. ✓

The Gagen-Sherlock House is already listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places.

CONTINUATION SHEET  
SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

## 7. DISCRIPTION (continued)

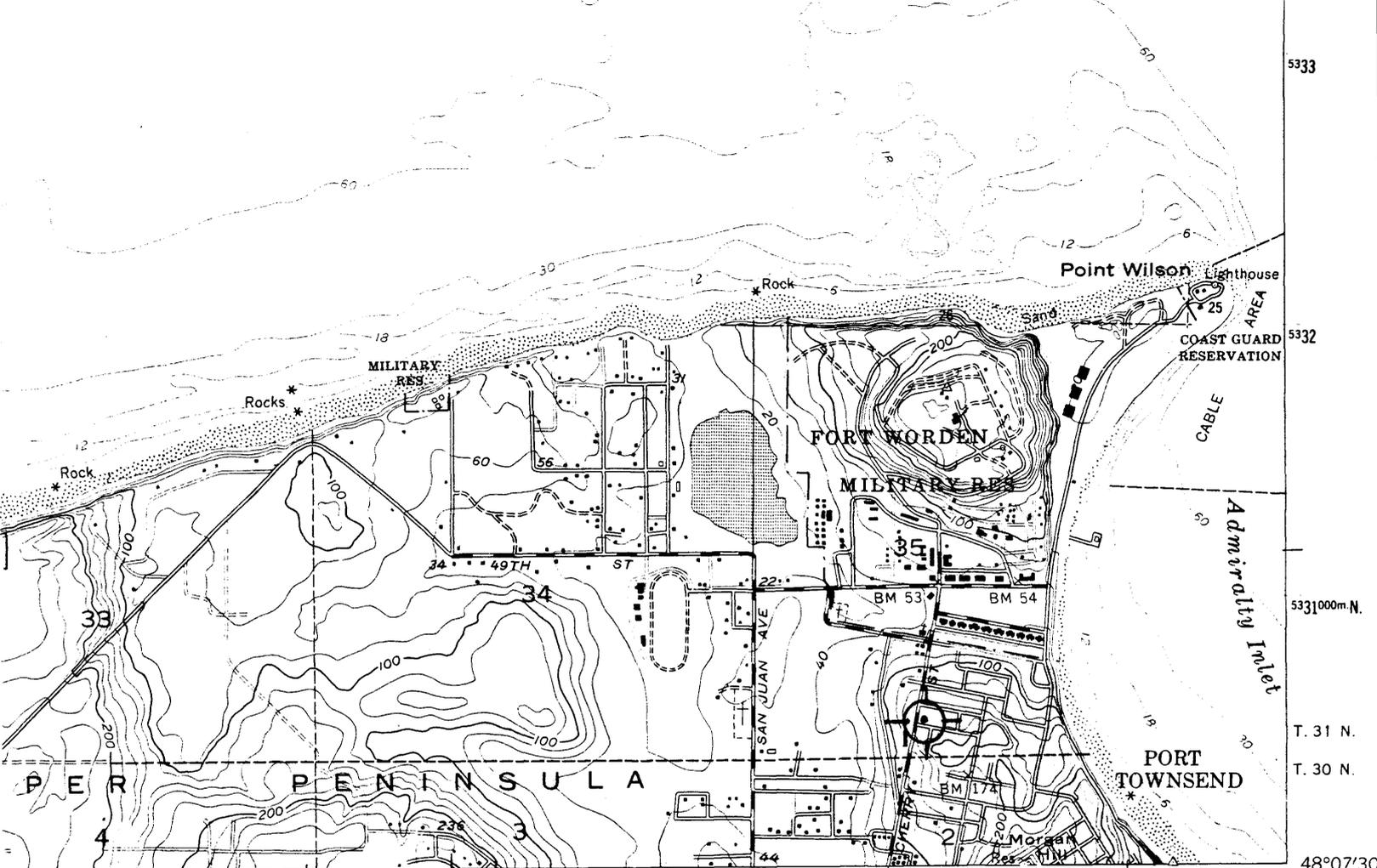
The interior trim, flooring, doors, surrounds, hardware, and walls are intact. The floors are fir, some of which have been painted and others varnished. The window and door surrounds all feature milled bullseye cornerblocks. Cast iron hardware with decorative detailing remain in place. The walls retain much of their original plaster finish, and some ceiling medallions are still in place. ✓

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

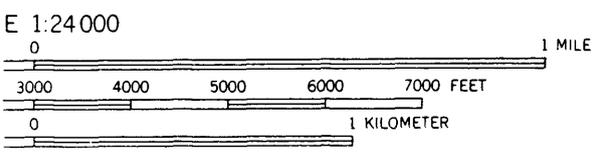
## a. History

When their parents died, the children were raised by the eldest sister, Ann, who moved the family to Kansas and Missouri in the 1870s. Mary Elizabeth, and perhaps others of the family, moved westward and lived some years in Pendleton, Oregon and Fairhaven, Washington, before settling in Port Townsend. Brother John's route to Port Townsend is unknown. According to family history, John was successfully engaged in land speculation. One of his investments was the Gagen Hotel located on San Juan Avenue at the edge of town. The Sherlocks managed the hotel until it was destroyed by fire. Gagen also served as manager of the Port Townsend Street Railway, Light and Power Company, incorporated in 1890. He apparently left Port Townsend when the local economy collapsed and returned to Oregon where he invested in a bottling works. ✓

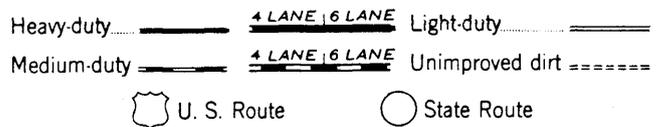
E 517250  
N 5230540



INSIDE SOUTH) R. 1 W. 515 47'30" 516 PORT TOWNSEND PO 1.3 MI. INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1975 518000m.E. 122°45' 48°07'30" T. 31 N. T. 30 N. 5331000m.N.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION



INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER  
 DASHED LINE IS APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PORT TOWNSEND NORTH, WASH.

N 4807.5—W12245/7.5

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FEDERAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1953  
 PHOTOREVISED 1973  
 GPO: 1981 O-318-848-000-1  
 AMS 1480 III NE—SERIES V891

(NORTH 1:480 11 S)