

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 18 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Elizabeth Hospital (Old)
other names/site number St. Elizabeth Nursing Home
St. Elizabeth Towers

2. Location

street & number 2365 Fourth Street N/A not for publication
city, town Baker N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Baker code 001 zip code 97814

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official *[Signature]* January 9, 1989
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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] Entered in the National Register 2/21/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care/Hospital

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century

Revivals/Jacobethan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone; volcanic tuff

walls Stone; volcanic tuff

roof Metal tile; asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Old St. Elizabeth Hospital, located at Fourth and Madison streets in Baker, Oregon, was constructed of quarry-faced, coursed tuff indigenous to the area. Construction commenced in 1912 and was completed about 1915. Three stories in height on a high basement and H-shaped in plan, the hospital expresses on exterior elevations the conventional, stacked, double-loaded corridor configuration which so typified institutional buildings of the period. It measures 163 x 140 feet in its ground plan. The hospital was designed by Baker architect Michael P. White and detailed in the Jacobethan style.

Seattle, Washington architect Phillip Baillargeon appears to have adapted the plans and supervised construction. An unrealized aspect of White's original plan was a balancing north wing which would have made the major entrance pavilion the central volume of a symmetrical composition extending a frontage of 252 feet on Fourth Street. Instead, a three-story addition was erected at the rear end of the entrance wing in 1921. The building is oriented to the east, the legs of the H on an east-west axis. The graded site was excavated for a basement provided with a perimeter window well which is retained with quarry-faced ashlar having a dressed stone coping.

Among exterior features which gave the hospital its Jacobethan flavor were the parapet gables of the major entrance block, the three-story polygonal bay of the central section, and paired, double-hung windows which gave the effect of mullioned fenestration. During a hospital remodeling of 1962, original wood sash were replaced with aluminum windows, but the strong central mullions remain in place, and thus the division of window openings is consistent with the medieval spirit. As is characteristic of eclectic architecture, the medieval elements were mixed with other stylistic embellishments such as a Classical Tuscan portico and Baroque gable niches. Contrasting effectively with the quarry-faced ashlar of the facade are smooth-dressed spandrel panels, coping and string courses. A cross surmounts the parapet gable of the north entry pavilion.

A distinctive, intact feature of the interior is the third story chapel with its plaster vaulted ceiling and tripartite organization of choir gallery, sanctuary and sacristy. Window openings of the chapel sanctuary, in north and south faces of the projecting entrance pavilion, have round arch heads. The only other deviation from the general use of trabeated fenestration is a Diocletian window in the face of the grand double staircase serving the main entrance. A third story picture window in the north face of the south pavilion is a modification of later years to provide more natural light to the surgical room.

See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

In its historic period, the building exterior was distinguished by decorative wrought iron balconies at the corridor exits. Those on the south face remain. During the remodeling of 1962, the corridor exit doors were replaced, and fire escapes were added in place of balconies on all but the south face. In the current rehabilitation for condominiums the fire escapes have been removed and the non-historic doors replaced with assemblies which re-establish a formal division of the openings. Wrought iron balconies echoing the scale and spirit of the originals have been returned to east and north elevations. The former service entrance on the south elevation has been adapted as a passenger vehicle entrance.

For the most part, corridor floor, wall and ceiling finishes were altered after the historic period, and are being replaced in the rehabilitation, but the hospital's essential spatial organization will remain intact as the building is converted to its new use.

In the mid 1980s it had been contemplated by the Sisters of St. Francis to renovate the old hospital they had adapted as a nursing home to meet a new level of health care. However, the old building proved to be inefficient for the purpose, and nursing home facilities were constructed as an addition to the relocated hospital in northwest Baker, and occupied in 1987. It was at this time the stained glass windows in the third story chapel were transferred to the new health care center.

After the Roman Catholic diocesan see withdrew from Baker, plans were made for the old hospital's demolition. These plans were deferred as the State of Oregon evaluated the building as a potential prison site. The building was determined ineligible as a prison facility, and the hospital administration again considered demolition.

A local investor negotiated for the building with the intent of developing condominiums. Title to the property passed from the Sisters of St. Francis to the current owner in 1988.

As a concession to the new use for the property, a detached single-story storage and carport building of frame construction was erected at the extreme west, or rear edge of the nominated parcel. The structure extends nearly the full length of the block, running north to south, and takes a U-shaped configuration into adjoining Tax Lot 7800. The carport structure is an entirely separate and non-contributing feature of the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Health/medicine

Period of Significance

1912-1932

Significant Dates

1915

1921

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect(s): Michael P. White, Baker

Phillip A. Baillargeon, Seattle.

Builder: L. Monterastelli, Pendleton

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The old St. Elizabeth Hospital, located at Fourth and Madison streets in Baker, Oregon, is proposed for nomination under Criterion C as a locally distinctive example of architecture in the Jacobethan style and one of a group of prominent civic and religious buildings constructed of tuff during Baker's principal era of upbuilding. Baker was a diocesan headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church beginning in 1903. St. Francis Cathedral and rectory are among the local landmarks constructed of the indigenous volcanic rock, as are City Hall, the Baker County Courthouse, the Carnegie Library, and Elks Temple.

The hospital meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the ministries of Roman Catholic Church orders locally. Among the most prominent of these was the hospital maintained by the Sisters of St. Francis from 1897 onward. When the Sisters' new St. Elizabeth Hospital opened in 1915, it was the largest and best-equipped medical facility in the district. It held that distinction to the present day, keeping pace with community growth by expansion, the first in 1921, and again in 1940 when a separate building of concrete construction was added to the northwest corner of the block to house the nursing school and convent. In 1970 the Sisters of the Order of St. Francis built a modern, single-level community hospital elsewhere in the city, and old St. Elizabeth's was converted to use as a nursing home operated under the Sisters' auspices. In 1987 the diocesan seat was removed from Baker, and the hospital/nursing home was vacated. The current owner is rehabilitating the building for condominiums.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia entered the missionary field in the West in 1885 upon opening an academy at Baker City, Oregon. Their school filled the gap left by closure in the preceding year of the academy which had been established by the Sisters of the Holy Names in 1875.

In 1897 the Sisters of St. Francis opened a two and one-half story hospital building in the Stick Style at Second and Church streets in Baker. It was superseded by the subject building in 1915 and is no longer extant.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Original floor plans and principal elevation drawing for St. Elizabeth Hospital by M. P. White, Architect, Baker, Oregon. Undated.

Scrapbook, Sisters of St. Francis, containing newspaper clippings, ephemera, 1898 articles of incorporation, etc.

Sister M. Daniel Therese, O.S.F., compiler, "Brief sketch of the history of St. Elizabeth Hospital from 1897 to 1977 in observance of the 80th anniversary of St. Elizabeth Hospital," November 19, 1977.

"Impressive Ceremony Marks Laying of the Corner Stone," Baker Weekly Herald (August 1, 1912).

"National Hospital Week," Baker Democrat-Herald (May 7, 1960).

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.47 acres Baker, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 17, Township 9S, Range 40E, Willamette Meridian, in Baker County, Oregon and is more particularly described as Baker County Tax Lots 7700 and 7800 at siad location, Baker County Assessor's Map. Ref. No. 9 40 17DB.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The nominated property is comprised of Tax Lot 7700, an area of 1.24 acres containing the site historically occupied by St. Elizabeth Hospital from 1915 onward, and includes Tax Lot 7800, an area of 0.23 acres, which is occupied by a portion of the carport structure for the St. Elizabeth Towers condominium development, a non-contributing feature. The latter is included to prevent the boundary from dividing a building. Tax Lot 7701, on which the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing was built in 1940, is under separate ownership and is not included in the nominated area. See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allan Mitchell, Architect (with editorial assistance of Elisabeth Potter)
organization N/A date October, 1988
street & number 1620 "D" Street telephone (503) 523-7135
city or town Baker state Oregon zip code 97814

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The cornerstone of the new hospital building, designed for durability in fire-resistant brick and indigenous stone, was laid on July 28, 1912 with solemn ceremony. The significance of the event to the local populace was indicated by a crowd of some 1,000 onlookers made up not only of Baker people, but delegations from La Grande, Huntington and other neighboring towns. The prevailing tone of the occasion, as reported in local papers, was one of pride that the citizenry would be afforded well-equipped modern hospital facility. The Most Reverend C. J. O'Reilly, Diocesan Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, declared the hospital would stand "as a monument to Christian charity," a principle for which the Church had always stood, and to which the holy order, the Sisters of St. Francis, was dedicated. Town dignitaries also participated in the exercises.

It appears that while the plans and drawings for the hospital were prepared by architect Michael P. White of Baker City, the architect who supervised construction was Phillip Baillargeon of Seattle, Washington, whose designing engineer was R. C. Heath. It is not known what working relationship the local architect may have had with the Puget Sound men, or whether Baillargeon and Heath may have stepped in to take over the work, but, in any event, it was Baillargeon who assumed the honor of participating in the cornerstone laying ceremony and whose comings and goings were reported in the Baker Weekly Herald. The construction contract was let to L. Monterastelli, a Pendleton contractor, whose low bid was \$68,320. Interior work was done under a separate contract.

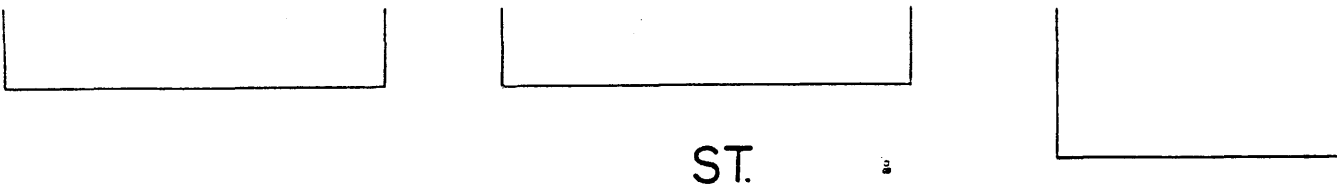
St. Elizabeth Hospital was a unique charitable institution in Baker and environs. At the time of its founding in 1897, many of its patients were miners who had been attracted to the gold regions of the Blue Mountains. The miners' hospital expenses were covered by an early form of health insurance based on a contribution of one dollar per year.

In the articles of incorporation, set forth in 1898, the hospital founders declared among their purposes the formation of a training school for nurses. The nursing school was operated from 1911 to 1949 and was the only school of its kind between Boise, Idaho and Pendleton. In the few years before the new hospital was opened, the school was conducted in the lecture room of St. Francis Academy. Local doctors presented the lectures initially. To encourage enrollment in the three-year course, students were given an allowance on an increasing scale based on the length of their training. While fringe benefits were provided, students furnished their own books and uniforms. Between 1914, when the first nurses completed their training, and 1949, the school produced 262 graduates. After the peak enrollment years of the Second World War, the school was consolidated with the St. Anthony School of Nursing in Pendleton.

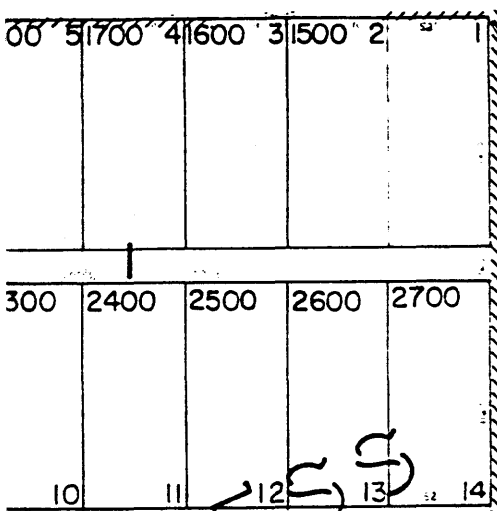
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On its completion in 1915, St. Elizabeth Hospital had a capacity of 50 beds. The capacity was increased to 72 upon construction of the north rear wing in 1921. It is reported that as early as 1910 the annual total of patients treated at the hospital had exceeded 400, and it was this volume of patient care which was a prime factor in the Sisters' decision to build the new facility. Historically, the hospital provided a significant payroll to local residents. By 1960, the hospital employed 85 to 90 persons, including not only those concerned with patient care--the physicians and nurses, but also janitors, engineers, clerical workers, cooks, technicians, and housekeepers. For many years before 1970 it was the only approved and accredited hospital in Baker. Achievement of accreditation from the United States College of Surgeons in 1932 is the signal event which marked the end of the historic period of significance for purposes of this nomination. The laundry section of the hospital, built in 1941, was indicative of the self-sufficiency which the hospital attained in its later years. The laundry supported a sky-walk which connected the hospital to the Sisters' freestanding nursing school and convent, which occupied the northwest corner of the block from 1940 onward. The former nursing school is now an alcohol and drug treatment center. It is under separate ownership and is not included in the parcel proposed for nomination. The single-story laundry wing was razed in 1988.

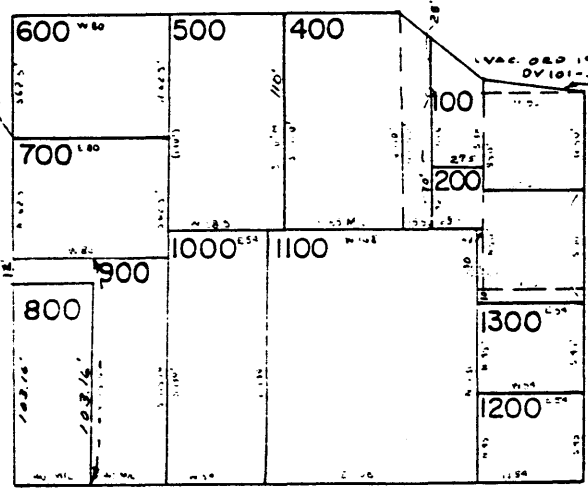
To meet modern standards, the Sisters of St. Francis undertook a building program once again in 1969. In 1970 the new, \$2 million-dollar St. Elizabeth Hospital, spreading in one story over an acre of land on Pocahontas Road near its intersection with Highway 30 north of Baker, was opened with an adjoining convent building. The masonry building of 1912-1915 is significant to Baker as a symbol of the origins of the community's primary health care institution. It was at the old St. Elizabeth's that the hospital housed the only Oregon training school for nurses east of Pendleton and evolved as a major local industry. Architecturally, the hospital embodies the promise of the institution in the years between the World Wars. Its quarry-faced coursed ashlar elevations, detailed in a late medieval period style, are dignified and imposing. The building was a suitable complement to the array of monumental buildings raised in the diocesan see of the Roman Catholic Church.



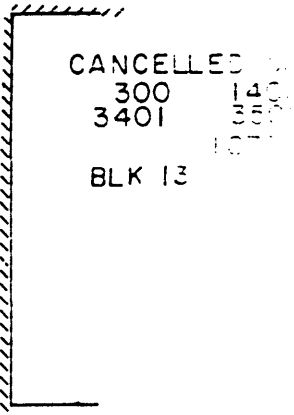
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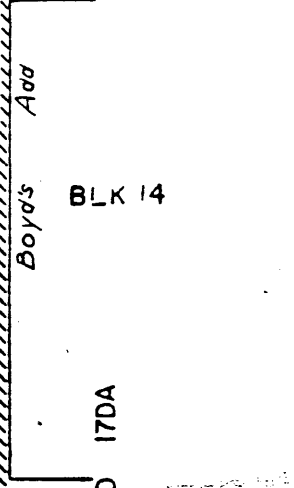
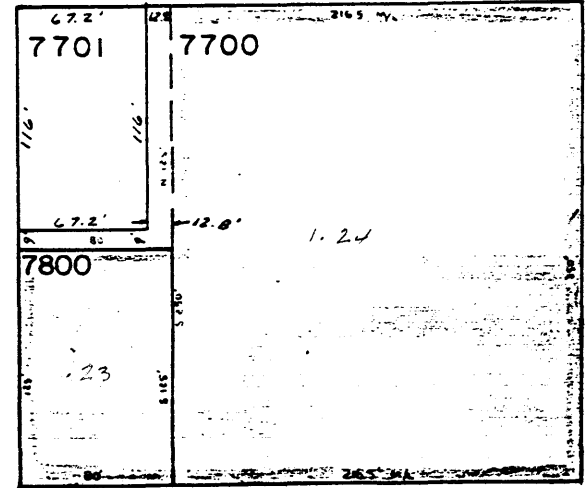
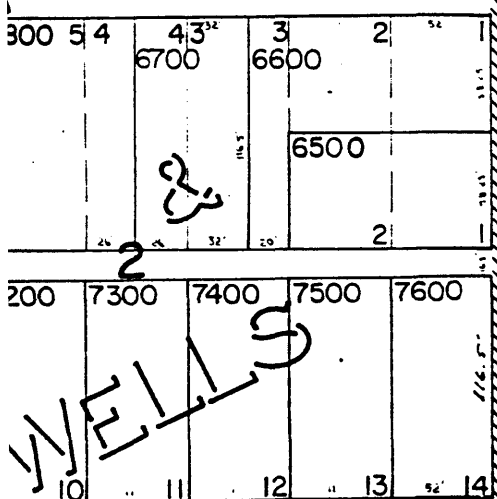
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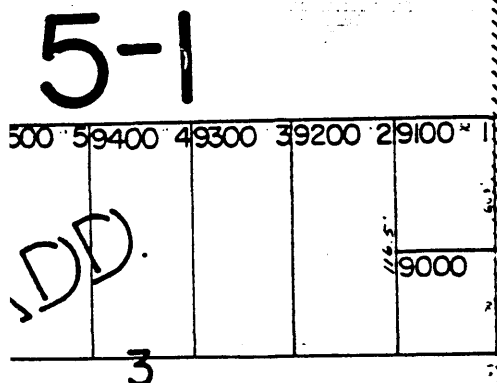
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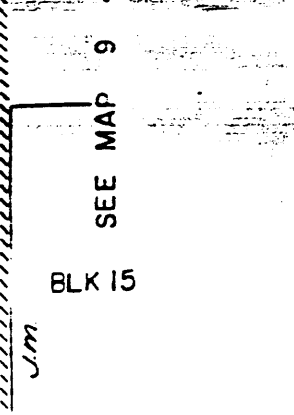
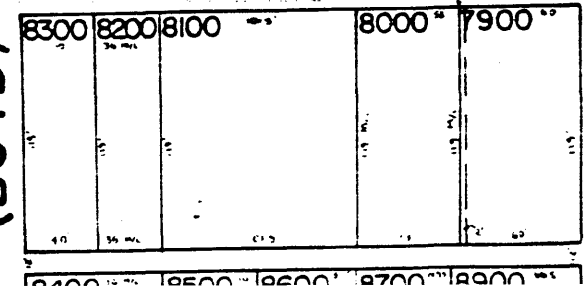
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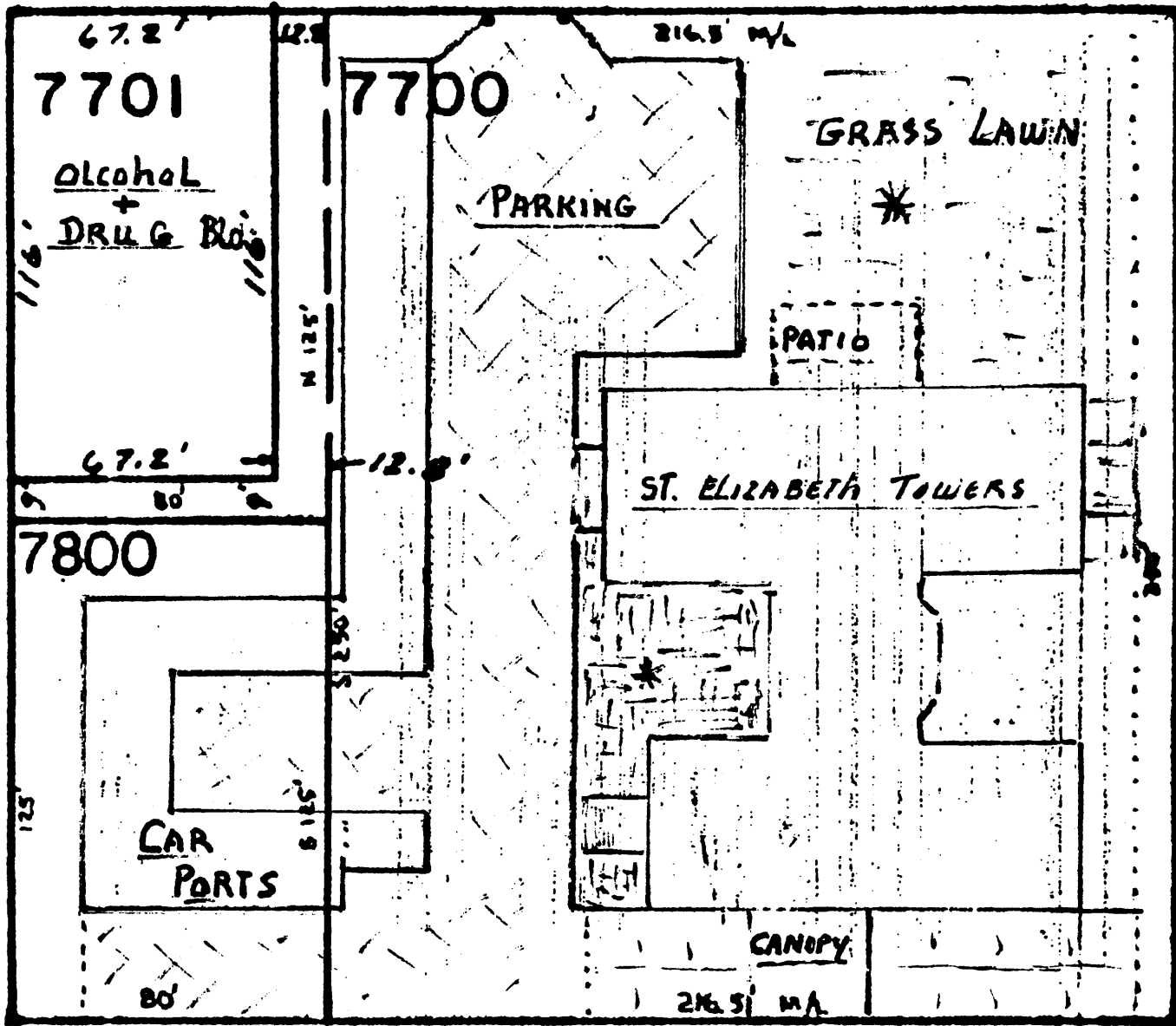
40' MA

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TAX Lot 7700

TAX Lot 7800