

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000230 Date Listed: 4/5/89

Daniel Whitmore House	Stanislaus	CA
Property Name	County	State

NA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Bruce J. Nobla Jr.
Signature of the Keeper

4/5/89
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

No property ownership category has been indicated in section 3 of the nomination form. The proper ownership category for this property is public-local. The home is owned by the city of Ceres. This information was provided by Cynthia Howse of the California Office of Historic Preservation during a 4/5/89 telephone conversation.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 21 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 Whitmore, Daniel, Home

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2928 Fifth Street

not for publication

city, town Ceres

vicinity

state California code CA county Stanislaus code 099 zip code 95307

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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 *Anthony Guallini*

Date 2/14/89

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:) _____

Druce J. Noble, Jr.

4/5/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling

Work in progress

Government/post office

Social/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Italianate

foundation Wood

walls Wood

roof Shingle

other Terra cotta chimneys, glass
windows, wood siding, wooden
porches, concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Daniel Whitmore Home, built in 1870, is located one block from downtown Ceres. The residence and its detached garage occupy a 60' x 120' lot located in the middle of a block of mostly single family residences. The home is a two-story structure with a basic L-shaped plan. The house is characterized by a mixture of Victorian and Italianate features such as a medium-pitch gable roof, a symmetrical facade, cut-away bay windows, front porch with a flat roof supported by decorated columns, and several triangular pedimented windows. Except for the kitchen and covered porch located in the back of the house, and probably added in the late 1920's, the house has remained basically unchanged since first built. In addition, a two-story bay window may have been originally located on the north facade. Other additions to the house occurred during the early forties and consisted of a cement slab and exterior staircase as well as a detached two-car garage. The interior of the house has also been altered in some degree with the addition of sections of plywood, bathrooms and paneling resulting in additional rooms.

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE, ITS LOCATION, AND NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURAL

This 1870 house, the first house built in Ceres, is one of the Victorian style with Italianate propensities typical of that era. The two-story redwood frame residence has a single story extension at the rear. The basic floor plan of the two-story portion of the house is L-shaped. A medium pitch gable roof is composition shingle. The eaves on both the west and north facades are enclosed in a box cornice with returns. The house is centered in a 60' x 120' lot in the middle of the block.

The flat roof over the half-porch shelters the main entrance which is located off-center on the west facade. The porch is supported by a single square post at the front corner. There are curve brackets on both sides. The single leaf wood panel door has been replaced with a simple door with a glass pane in the upper half. Above the door is a transom, a recessed pair of panels, and a projecting cornice supported by a pair of scrolled brackets.

See continuation sheet

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In the first floor of the house, the west facade has a slant single story bay containing three double-hung sash windows with plain moulding around them. The roof of the bay is a low pitch tent and there are recessed panels beneath the windows. Immediately above the bay is a pair of four pane over four pane double-hung sash windows. A slight projecting triangular moulded pediment caps the two story window. Narrow end boards define the corners of the house. There is a second story plain double-hung sash window above the entry porch on the north facade.

In the north facade, there is a question whether the house originally had a two story bay as shown in the 1881 sketch. The previous owner, who was in the house for 50 years, had seen no evidence that the bay was ever there. It is thought the sketch to be artistic license. The square bay has a window on the east and the west and two windows on the north. The window on the second story matches exactly the window on the west facade, and thought to be as originally built. A porch extends to the rear, but not for the full length of the house. The porch is supported by five classical porch supports. There is a four pane over four pane double-hung sash window and a door, that leads into the dining room, with glass in its upper two-thirds.

The kitchen and a lean-to covered porch are believed to have been added on the back of the house in the 1920's. When the second owner moved in, August, 1936, both rooms were in place. There are two screened windows on the north, six on the east, and two on the south. There is also a screen door on the east. The back porch is covered with a flat roof. There are slight eaves, with box overhang without brackets. Simple concrete steps lead into the back porch.

The main features of the south facade include two four-pane double-hung sash windows which are in the lower section of the two-story house and one single-pane double sash in the second story. An added cement slab holds the exterior staircase frame. The staircase was added in 1944 and led to an added door which replaced a window at the top. The staircase has been demolished and only the frame remains. A minor state of deterioration is becoming visible in the exterior of the second story of the house.

There are two terra-cotta chimneys, one in the two story section, and one projecting from the kitchen on the north. The house is sheathed in redwood ship-lap siding.

The interior of the house is composed of four bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, parlor, living - dining room, back covered porch, and an exterior porch.

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The house interior has been generally altered throughout with carpeting and wallpaper, as well as curtains, cabinets, fixtures and restroom facilities. The interior ceilings and walls are composed of mainly plaster. A six-inch pane wanes coat with chair rail is located throughout the house.

In the entry hall, a single-pane door that leads to the parlor was added probably in the 1930's. Plywood boards have been more recently added between the separation wall of the parlor and the entry hall.

A single four-over-three sash door with simple mouldings separates the entryway hall from the living-dining room. The living room, otherwise dark, is lighted by four double-sash windows located in the living room bay. An open passageway connects the living room and dining room. Original pine cabinets are located in the dining room. A four-over-four double hung sash door connects the living room with the porch.

The front parlor is connected with the living room by an original low threshold door. The room's walls have been covered by a 12 inch acoustic celutex panels. There is also cardboard paneling on the southern wall, however, the original walls are still visible underneath the panels.

The parlor is connected to a small bedroom which was probably created by the addition of a wall in the early 1930's. There is a single pane door which replaced an original window and leads to the cement slab under the exterior staircase frame. A four-pane double-hung sash window was also added at the time.

The bedroom connects to a bathroom which may have been the original kitchen. The bathroom contains a bathtub and 1940's wall tiles, porcelain sink and commode as well as cabinets.

There is a single-pane door separating the bathroom from the kitchen. The kitchen also connects to the living room. In the kitchen, probably added in the 1920's or early 1930's, there are six inch wall and ceiling pine panels. Cabinets have been added following the motive of the original cabinets located in the dining room. Linoleum floor covering have also been added as well as a window over the sink. The sink itself is also an addition from the 1940's.

The covered back porch has been heavily modified. The plywood floor has been covered by linoleum. Most of the windows are screened, and a fiberglass shower has been installed. New cabinets have also been added and there are washer hook-ups. The porch connects with the kitchen by an open passageway with oak thresholds.

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A fifteen step staircase, located at the entryway, has walnut banister hand-railing, turned balusters, and octagonal newel. The mostly original staircase has a center run carpet from the 1920's. The staircase connects to the three bedroom upstairs. The three bedrooms have retained their original state and components. The bathroom, however, has been modified in many ways, from the addition of marlite style paneling to the installation of commode and sink. The bedroom on the southern portion of the house connects to the exterior staircase by an added door. There is also low entryway into the unfinished attic of the house.

The two-car garage and shop (18' x 36') located in the rear of the property, was built in 1942 and is accessible from both the front entrance and from the alley. The garages' roof is medium pitch, composition shingle. There are slight eaves with open overhangs. There is a projection in the southern portion of the garage. The projection has a very low pitch roof, and there is a screened chicken coop with flat roof at the southeast corner. There are two windows and a simple frame door on the east facade of the garage. On the north facade there are two simple double-sash windows and a screened window. One six pane over six pane double-sash window is located on the west facade facing the alley. A simple screened window is located on the southern facade over the garage extension.

The house is surrounded by lawns, bushes, and trees. In the northwest corner of the property stands a 100 year old cottonwood. The back of the house is shaded by a centenary Modesto Ash. Other mature trees around the property include a black walnut and a cherry tree. Grape vines as well as different fruit trees (orange, peach) and various bulb flowers are locate in the garden at the back of the house.

Compared to other buildings from the area located in the general vicinity, the Whitmore Home has remained basically unchanged and therefore retained its architectural integrity.

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)

Exploration/settlement
Agriculture
Politics/government
Transportation
Architectural

Period of Significance

1870 - 1893

Significant Dates

1870

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Whitmore, Daniel

Architect/Builder

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

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The historical significance of this 1870 home is based mainly on its association with the settlement of the Central San Joaquin Valley and the resulting development of a rich agricultural heritage. The builder of the home, Daniel Whitmore, was a pioneer who traveled west from Michigan in 1854, and arrived in the area in 1867. In 1870, Whitmore built his home, the first one in the town of Ceres, in what would become the center of a temperance town. Daniel Whitmore was the major force in shaping the community of Ceres. Whitmore was the main landowner and gave away parcels for those who were willing to follow his temperance movement. The town grew in importance as agriculture flourished, and became an important center for railroad transportation. Whitmore gained more influence because of his involvement in many areas, from his position as postmaster for 19 years, to owner of an important ferry across the Tuolumne River as well as being the major landowner in the region. The Daniel Whitmore Home was the focal point of the community in its first decade. The Daniel Whitmore Home is significant for its Victorian style with Italianate features which is unique in the community.

SETTLEMENT

In 1854, Daniel Whitmore and his family headed west in a wagon train from Michigan. In 1867, Whitmore settled just south of the Tuolumne River and founded the town of Ceres. In January 1870, Mr. Whitmore completed the "Daniel Whitmore Home". On January 3, 1871, he and his family moved into their new residence. Shortly thereafter, Whitmore began developing the town of Ceres as a prohibition town. He filed the first plot map of the village on February 20, 1875. Each alternate lot was given to anyone who would build and occupy it, but having a temperance clause "prohibiting the manufacture, sale of, or giving away of any kind of intoxicating liquors" thereon and with a penalty attached for violation. Being the founder of Ceres, he became one of the most influential men in the area.

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AGRICULTURE

When Whitmore first arrived, he found the area to be highly productive. Whitmore was the first person to try growing grain in the area instead of using the land for grazing. In addition, Whitmore was the first person to realize the potential of the land for irrigation and began selling smaller portions to be developed as irrigated land. Whitmore eventually owned up to 9,000 acres of prime land in this area alone. Whitmore called the little settlement Ceres, after the Greek Goddess of Agriculture, because the grain crop all through his large acreage was so abundant during the first winter (1867-1868). The area became the center of a vast grain (wheat, barley) growing region due to Whitmore's influence. Whitmore also owned the first grist mill, built in 1881, and the first grain warehouse built in 1872, and built several more as well, serving an area located within a 17 mile radius.

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Although Whitmore did not hold any formal governmental post, except for being the town's first postmaster for 19 years, his importance is indisputable in the political and economic development of the town. Whitmore owned most of the land where the town later developed. He gave land away, but at the same time, conditioned ownership of the land to only Caucasians who supported his temperance movement. Whitmore was not directly involved in politics, however, because of his position as the largest landowner and "provider" of land to those who followed his views, Daniel Whitmore implicitly shaped the policies and government of Ceres. Whitmore's influence is still embedded in the community today, and his deeply religious and temperate beliefs are still strongly supported by several groups. Whitmore's house served as the town's first post office from 1871 to 1875, with Whitmore acting as postmaster for 19 years. For the first two years, Whitmore and his sons traveled to Modesto to bring the mail into town. Whitmore's home was used as a meeting place for many civic, social, and religious groups. For the first 10 years of Ceres, the home became the focal point for several activities. In 1880, the first public hall was built, but the Daniel Whitmore Home still remained a landmark for the community. Whitmore was also the force behind economic development for the area. He started the first water works project and infrastructure in the community in 1874, built several warehouses and constructed the first grist mill in order to retain more of the grain profits within the town. Whitmore also donated the land for the first City park (Whitmore Park), and for the Ceres Cemetery (1879). Both of these, the park and the cemetery, are still used by the community.

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Whitmore was also influential in the area of transportation. Early in the 1870's, he purchased the Maze Ferry on the Tuolumne River. As the town grew, the ferry increased its importance. In 1872, the Southern Pacific Railroad built a bridge across the Tuolumne River, and Ceres became a flag stop. The ferry, however, continued to be a very important method of transportation across the Tuolumne, and Whitmore kept offering very competitive rates that in turn benefited the community. The ferry was the connection point between the road built parallel to the railroad tracks, south from Modesto to Turlock. In 1871, the road became a public highway and eventually developed to what is known today as U.S. Highway 99. In 1884, Whitmore discontinued the operation of the ferry shortly after the county built a public bridge. In 1874, the first train depot was built by Whitmore in order to take advantage of the railroad. Shortly after, the first railroad station was built and Ceres became a scheduled stop. During the 1880's, many warehouses had been built, several of them by Whitmore. Ceres became a very important stop along the Southern Pacific Railroad, mainly because of its warehousing capacity and the large amounts of grain grown in the area.

ARCHITECTURAL

Most of the properties in the early days of Ceres were associated at one point in time with Daniel Whitmore. Besides building many warehouses, Whitmore was involved in the moving of the first schoolhouse (1874) in the town and the construction of the first church, the Baptist Church (1882). The architectural importance of the Daniel Whitmore Home is based on its unique design within the community. Although very few homes in Ceres were built with Italianate features, the Daniel Whitmore Home is the only surviving structure of the time that shows the decorative, curved brackets, medium pitched roof, and pedimented rectangular windows. Because of these features, the Daniel Whitmore Home stands in contrast against the most popular national folk structures in the area.

Daniel Whitmore lived the rest of his life in the Daniel Whitmore Home. He died in 1893 at the age of 77. Daniel's son, Clinton Whitmore, carried on the family tradition of a temperance town. He followed his father's footsteps and became a leader of the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Branch, L.C. History of Stanislaus County 1881. The Lewis Publishing Company, 1892.
- Brotherton, J.I. Annals of Stanislaus County, Vol. I. Western Tanager Press, 1892.
- Ceres Reunion Association Proceedings of the First Annual Reunion of Residents and Ex-Residents of Ceres. Oakdale Graphic Print, 1895.
- Goodsell, Fred F. John Service. Pioneer. The Lewis Publishing Company, 1945.
- Tinkham, Geo. H. History of Stanislaus County, California. L.A. Historic Record, 1921.
- Fowler, C. and Jorgensen, R. Town of Ceres on the Line of the Central Pacific Railroad. 1985.

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

Acreage of property 0.165

UTM References

A 1 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Assessor's Parcel No. 127-17-35. Lot 12 of Block 35 of the City of Ceres. Dimensions of the Property are 60' x 120'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are the recognized legally recorded limits of the subject property. The subject parcel encompasses all the significant resources historically associated with the property and are self-contained in Lot 12 of Block 35 of the City of Ceres. Map filed in the Office of the Recorder, Stanislaus County, California, on March 29, 1927, Volume 11 of Maps at Page 1.

See continuation sheet

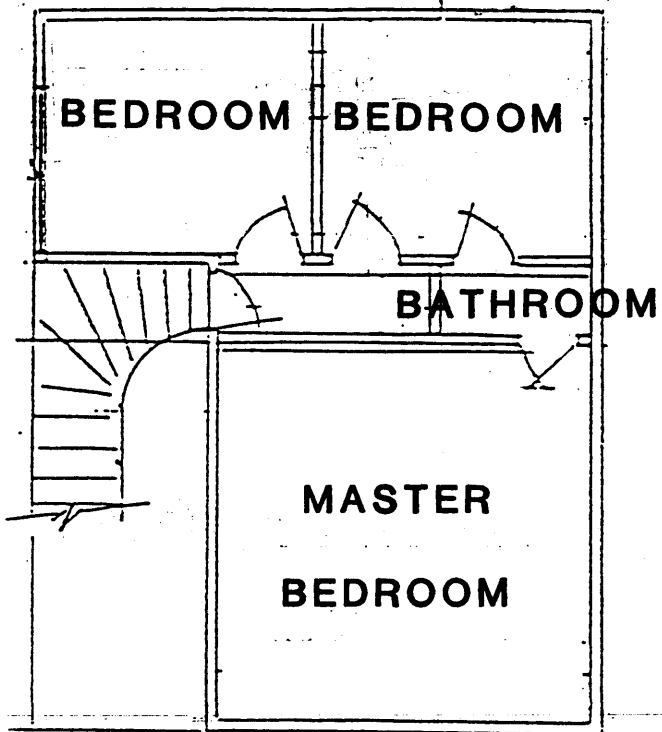
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Jorgensen, Caryl Fowler/James G. Marshall, City Manager
 organization Soroptimist Int'l, Ceres/City of Ceres date August 30, 1988
 street & number P.O. Box 217 telephone (209) 538-5774
 city or town Ceres state CA zip code 95307-021

DANIEL WHITMORE HOME

CERES. CALIFORNIA

5540 SQ.FT.



FLOOR PLAN
SECOND FLOOR

BACKPORCH

KITCHEN

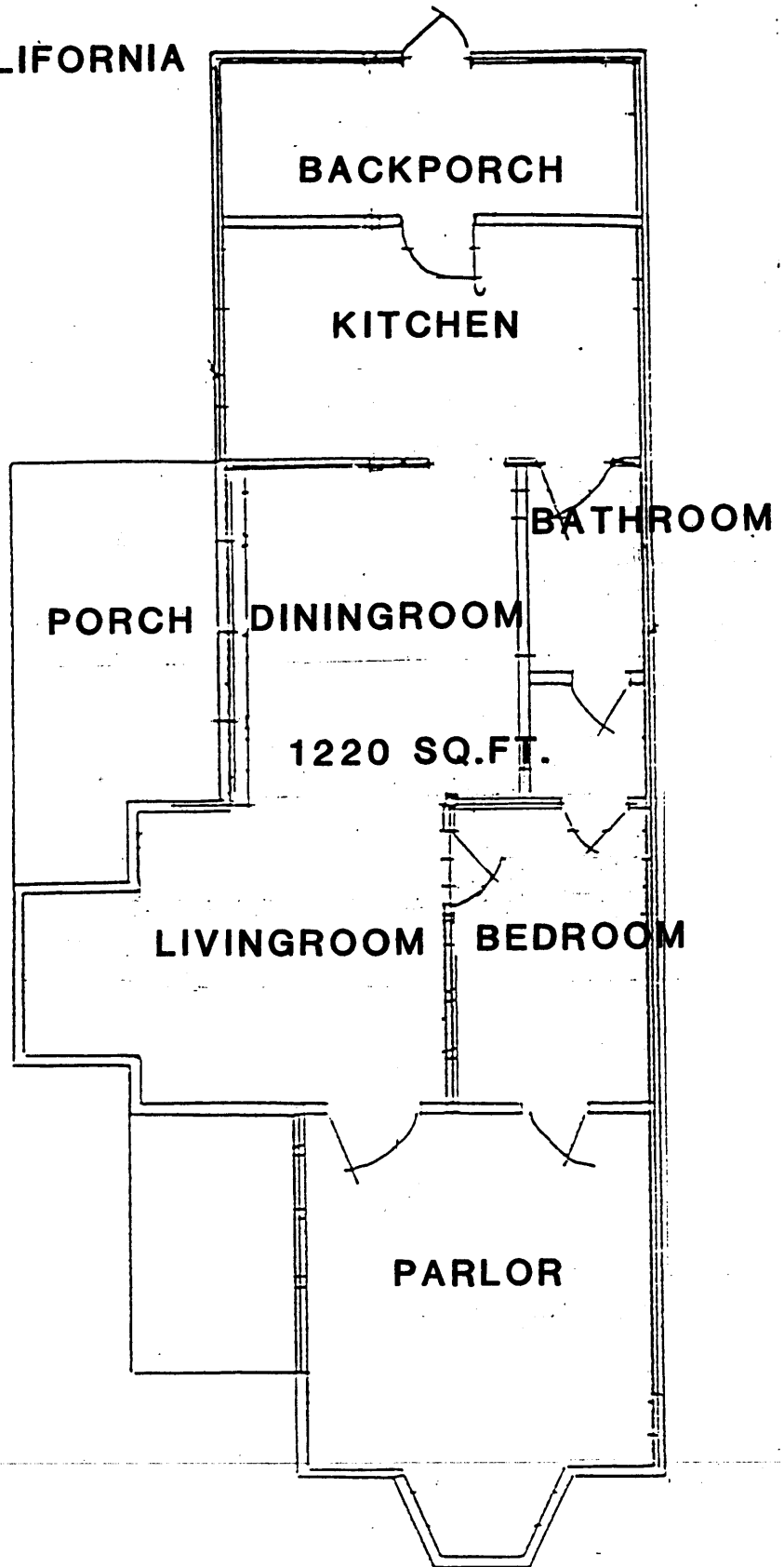
BATHROOM

PORCH DININGROOM

1220 SQ.FT.

LIVINGROOM BEDROOM

PARLOR

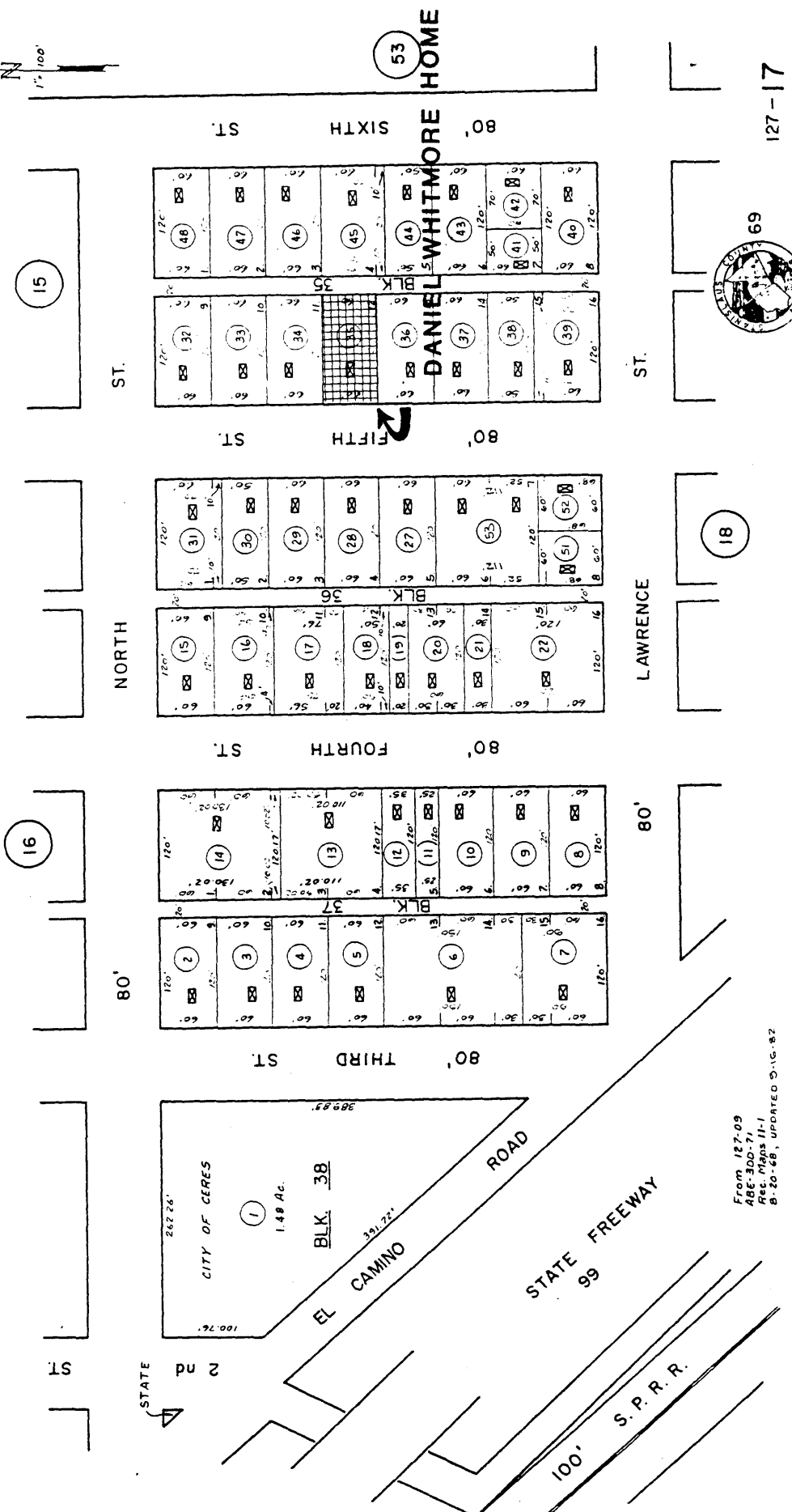
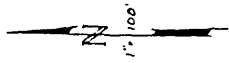


FLOOR PLAN
FIRST FLOOR

CITY OF CERES - BLKS. 35 - 38

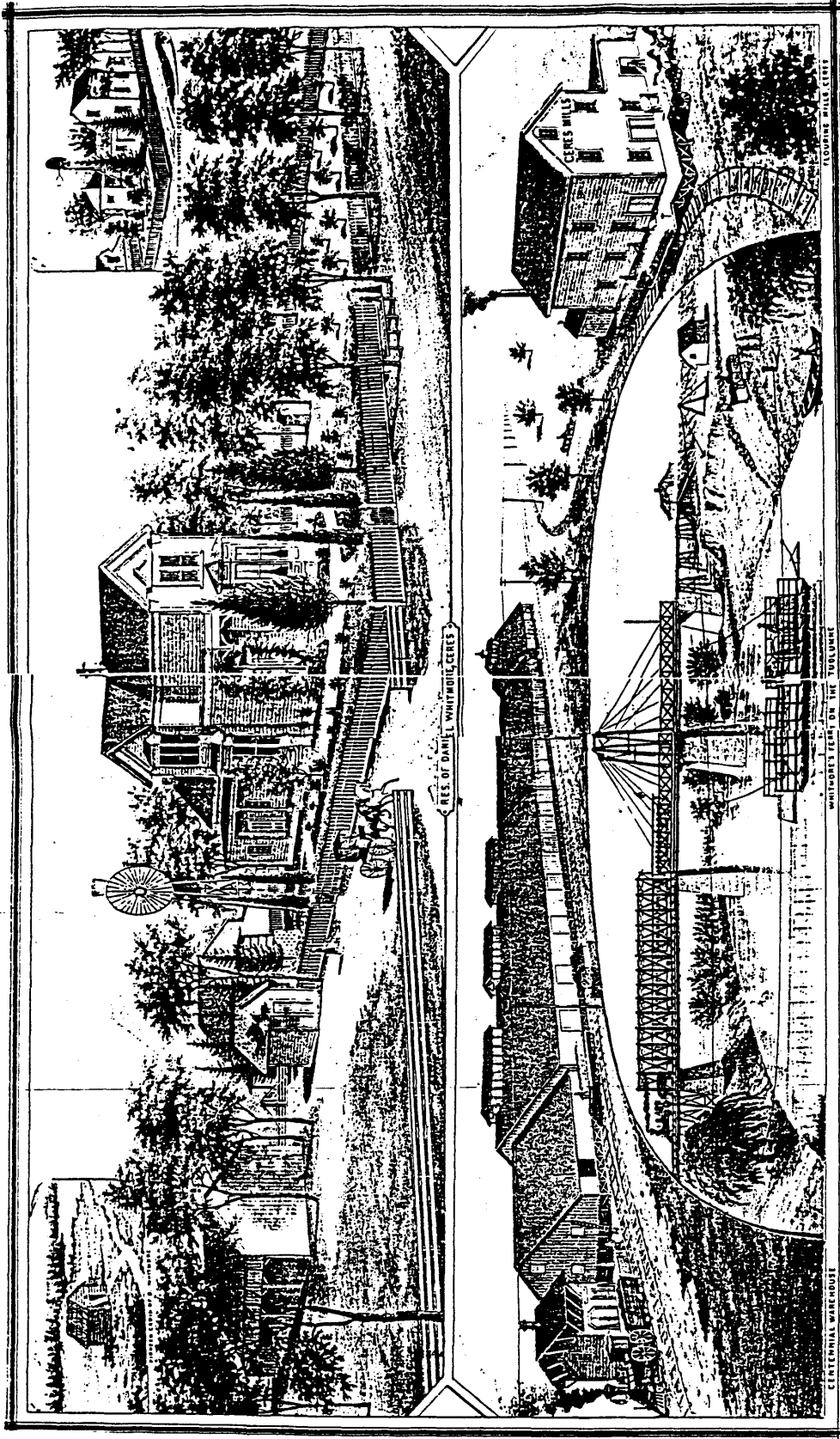
CERES, CALIFORNIA

THIS MAP FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY



From 127-09
 ABC-300-71
 Res. Maps II-1
 8-20-68, UPDATED 0-1-68-87

CERES. CALIFORNIA



RESIDENCE & PROPERTY OF DANIEL WHITMORE, STANISLAUS CO. CAL.

SOURCE: HISTORY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY, 1881, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1892
Branch, L. C.