

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

0124

JAN 27 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 Thompson, Clark, House
other names/site number "Midmount"
"Cragmont"

2. Location

street & number 22 NW Cragmont N/A not for publication
city, town Cascade Locks N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97014

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	_____ 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	_____ 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 23, 1989
Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
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] *[Stamp]* 3/2/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Shingle Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood; shingle

roof Asphalt; composition shingle

other Glass

Brick porch piers

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Located in Section 12, Township 2, North, Range 7 East of the Willamette Meridian, Cragmont sits on a terrace overlooking the Columbia River, immediately east of downtown Cascade Locks. The house was constructed in 1906 by architect, P.M. Hall-Lewis. He was commissioned by Jessie Thompson and Clark Thompson, vice-president and supervisor of the Wind River Lumber Company in Cascade Locks. Their home was originally built with 25 rooms to accommodate their large family. The integrity of the exterior of the house is retained almost in its entirety.

EXTERIOR

The house is rectangular in plan with an open porch that spans 39 feet across the front elevation. It is a 2 1/2 story residence with a partial basement constructed with concrete. The basement measures 500 square feet and the ground floor mass encompasses 3,458.25 square feet.

The moderately pitched, side gable roof has a dominant front facing off-set cross gable with a gambrel roof. The 2 story extension to the west of the main mass supports a hipped roof. The entire roof is covered with composition asphalt shingles. According to historic photos, wood shingles were originally used. The side gable portion of the roof supports 2 shed dormers each, both in the front and back elevations. The dormers to the west of the gambrel cross gable have a row of five windows with 12 lights each. To the east of the cross gable, the shed dormers have only one window, again with 12 lights. A brick chimney is located immediately to the east of the north facing cross gable. Another brick chimney is attached to the front of the north elevation, west of the front veranda. Eave returns are found at each side gable end and at the cross gable.

All of the windows are original, with the exception of one, which is located on the west elevation and was added when the house was adapted for apartments in 1951. All windows are surrounded by a

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simple flat trim. Most of the original windows on the ground floor of the house are either 9/1 double hung sash measuring 35 by 62 inches, or 12/1 double hung sash windows measuring 42 by 62 inches. Both have curved window stops. In addition to the first floor windows described, the second floor includes a single sash 8 light window. On the third floor, 8/1 double hung sash windows are found in all 4 gable ends. Already mentioned, the shed dormer windows are 12 light single sash windows, of which there are 12.

The ground floor is covered with 10 inch ship lap siding, and wood shingles were used to clad the rest of the structure. Separating the ground floor from the second floor, as well as the two siding types, is an 11 inch wood, horizontal band extending around the perimeter of the house.

The front or north elevation is made up of the projecting mass of the cross gable, the porch, and the brick exterior chimney. Four brick piers bearing 6 inch by 8 inch square wood posts support the slightly pitched porch roof. The outside piers support 4 posts, and 2 posts rest on the inner piers. Originally there were 3 brick piers. Exposed roof beams project outward beneath the porch roof. From underneath the porch, brick steps lead up to the front entrance, which was shifted east 5 feet 7 inches from its original location. Set into the upper section of the front door is a 36 inch by 48 inch pane of beveled glass. A lower panel contains tiles, which appear to be a later addition.

On the west elevation, a large single sash picture window with 6 lights is flanked by 2 single sash windows with 12 lights each. The center window is new and replaced 2 of the smaller 12 light windows.

The south elevation consists of 3 entrances and a balcony. The 2 western most doors are hooded by small entry, gabled porches. The porch associated with the center door has a pedimented gable. Below the second floor balcony is the entrance into the original kitchen. A wood shed once extended out from the kitchen. The rear chimney was removed.

INTERIOR

The interior of Cragmont reflects the essence of the Arts and Crafts style. The commonly associated attributes are found in the Cragmont house; the stained board and batten wainscoting, exposed beams,

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wood floors, stained, simple 9 1/2 inch base boards, and built in furniture. An example of the latter is the window seat against the north wall in the original dining room.

Clark and Jessie Thompson designed the 25 room house to include a library, study, living room, dining room, 10 bedrooms, 10 fireplaces, and 4 bathrooms, along with a nursery, school room, and play area on the third floor. Douglas fir floor boards were used throughout the main living areas. The walls are made of lath and plaster. Decorative detailing was kept to a minimum. The window surrounds are simple and are capped with a molded crown, stained to match the rest of the interior woodwork on the first floor.

In 1951, the house was adapted into apartments after having been used for years as a hotel and boarding house.¹ Despite the adaptation, the house still maintains most of its original character.

The formal entrance to the house, located on the north elevation, enters into a hallway and faces a staircase leading up to the second floor. According to Molly McNab, the youngest daughter of Clark and Jessie Thompson, the relationship between the staircase rises and treads were carefully designed for easier climbing. Originally, the entrance-way opened into the living room. When the house was subdivided into apartments, a wall was constructed dividing the living room into approximately 1/3 of its original size. The living room wainscotting was reused on the entrance hall walls. The remaining portions of what was originally the living room became 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, and hallway leading into the library. The original library, now used as an apartment living room, retains the original Douglas fir floor, stained base boards, ceiling beams, and corner posts. All the woodwork was produced from Douglas fir obtained from the Wind River Mill. The fireplace was refaced with tile, however, the Douglas fir mantel was not altered. The rear guest bedroom to the south of the apartment living room was remodeled into a kitchen.

To the east of the front entrance way is the former dining room, which now serves as a living room for a second downstairs apartment. This room remains the same as it was when first occupied by the Thompsons. The walls are finished with stained Douglas fir wainscotting, measuring 42 inches from the floor. The room features a fireplace and a built-in bench located against the north wall and below the windows. While the mantel has not changed, the fireplace face was retiled. Adjoining this room to the east is the former

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study, now utilized as a bedroom. The room retains its wooden floors, woodwork and fireplace. A doorway on the south wall accesses the original kitchen. To the east of the kitchen is the former servants' dining area, now used as a bedroom. From this room, a second set of stairs accessed the second floor. They have since been closed off.

The second floor is now occupied by 3 apartments. The floor plan is very similar to the original. There were 7 bedrooms, a school room, nursery, various rooms for storage, and 2 bathrooms. The nursery is currently used as an apartment bedroom, and two bedrooms have been remodeled into kitchens. The master bedroom and school room fireplaces are still intact, although both have been refaced, one with brick, and the other with tile. Each of the bedrooms, except the two remodeled into kitchens, are exactly as they were when the house was first built. The floors are all Douglas fir with 9 1/2 inch baseboards. One bedroom contains a built-in wardrobe, with double 4 panel doors with recess panels, and 2 drawers beneath the doors. The walls in this same room are finished with the original wallpaper.

The third floor contains two bedrooms which were occupied by the servants, a bathroom, storage areas, and an extensive play area.

ARCHITECT

Paul Milton Hall-Lewis was the architect commissioned by Clark and Jessie Thompson to build their home. At the time of the commission, he was working in Hood River. Hall-Lewis has made a small, yet notable contribution to Oregon's architectural heritage.

Hall-Lewis began his practice in New York City. He remained there from 1896 until 1899. He then migrated west to San Francisco for a year before moving to Portland, Oregon. He did not practice architecture in Oregon until 1904. Once in Oregon, Hall-Lewis did not remain in one community permanently; he continued to move from city to city. From 1905 until 1909, he practiced in Hood River, then moved to Marshfield (Coos Bay) where he did not practice for 2 years. He resumed architecture in Coquille in 1912, where he designed Coquille's city hall. After 3 years he returned to northern Oregon and settled in The Dalles, employed as the District Engineer for the State Highway Department.² His movement afterwards is not clear, except that he returned to Portland for a while, but also lived in Seaside.

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He designed both residential and commercial properties. Examples of his work include the Hood River High school, located on Pleasant View Avenue, the store and lodge building for Hood River I.O.O.F at 4th and Oak Street, and the St. Francis Hotel, on 11th and Main in Portland. He also designed the Wind River Inn in Wind River, Washington.

CONDITION AND FUTURE WORK

The house is virtually unchanged in its exterior elevations. When "Midmount," or "Cragmont" was remodeled for apartment use in 1945, none of the original interior walls was removed. Rather, spatial reconfiguration was accomplished by the insertion of new partitions. On the second floor, three apartments were created by the blocking of hallways and moving doorways. On the ground floor, the east end of the house was utilized as an apartment without alteration. The livingroom was incorporated into an apartment at the west end. It was partitioned to form an entry hallway and two bedrooms. The staircase is intact, as are ceiling beams and original finishes.

The most significant interior alteration was removal of the livingroom chimneypiece and corresponding fireplaces on the second and third floors. The library chimneypiece remains. The ground story bathroom was relocated, and original plumbing was incorporated.

The present owner, feeling that such a large building needing costly repairs must be income-producing, plans to adapt the house as a bed and breakfast inn. Non-historic partitions in the livingroom will be removed, and the rest of the ground floor will be restored to its original spatial configuration, the whole of which will serve as the owner's private residence. The second floor will be used as an eight-room hotel, and the third floor will be used as a hostel to accommodate the many recreation-seekers in the Columbia River Gorge. The porch on the north elevation, overlooking the river, has in recent years been adapted for use as a carport. It will be restored to its original function and appearance. On the south elevation, a missing balcony will be reconstructed. Fenestration in the west end already has been restored. The four-bay window bank lighting the library block was in later years altered with a picture window in the center. The non-historic window has been removed, and the central pair of 12-pane windows reinstated.

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

Period of Significance
1906-1907

Significant Dates
1907

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
P.M. Hall-Lewis

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Carr, Bill. "A history of the Bridal Veil Lumbering Company," USDA Forest Service, Pacific NW Region, Mt. Hood National Forest, 1983.

Cascade Locks Museum, Wind River Exhibit, Cascade Locks, Oregon. July, 1988.

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed. Dictionary of Oregon History, Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956.

Interview Jean Bradford, Cascade Locks, Oregon, June 1988.

Interview Fay Nelson, Cascade Locks, August 1988.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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 0.84 Bonneville Dam, Washington-Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 110 5181701010 51051821710
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 12, Township 2N, Range 7E, Willamette Meridian, in Cascade Locks, Hood River County, Oregon. It is identified as Tax Lot 600 at said location, and is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an iron pipe that is 779.4 feet South and 389.2 feet West of the Northeast corner of Section 12, Township 2N, Range 7E of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Hood River, State of Oregon; thence south 54 degrees 27' West of (continued)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is comprised of the historic estate house occupied by Clark Thompson from 1907 onward and the immediate grounds of slightly less than one acre making up the full extent of Tax Lot 600.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Elsesser
 organization N/A date August, 1988
 street & number 3645 SE Yamhill telephone (503) 236-0918
 city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97214

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The Clark Thompson estate, originally entitled "Midmount" upon its completion in 1907 and subsequently more commonly known as "Cragmont," overlooks the Columbia River in Cascade Locks, Oregon. It is noteworthy both as an example of Shingle Style architecture and as the residence of prominent Hood River County lumberman Clark Thompson. It is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as a well-preserved and singular example of its style in the town of Cascade Locks.

There are now few buildings in Oregon which compare with the rambling, shingle-sided country seats fashionable among the gentry on the East Coast before the turn of the century. "Midmount" was designed in close cooperation with the Clarks by P. M. Hall-Lewis, a Hood River architect who had commenced his practice in New York, and it is a fair reflection of its eastern archetypes. The Shingle Style was an amalgamation of Queen Anne stylistic character and Colonial period touches usually in a linear configuration intended either as the focal point of extensive gardens or rugged coastal settings. The Clark House displays many of the hallmarks of the style. In addition to its variegated siding are the gambrel roofed sections, oriel windows, window sash with many small panes, massive outside chimneys, shed dormers, and subsidiary wings and porches which taper into the landscape. The interiors of such houses are characteristically finished in the Arts and Crafts tradition, frequently rather lavishly. In its living room chimney piece, "Midmount" embodied the country seat look poised between high style and a somewhat studied "Early American" simplicity.

In 1901, Clark Thompson, an engineer by training, arrived in the Columbia Gorge with his wife, the daughter of a Wisconsin lumberman who had invested in the Wind River Lumber Company. At his father-in-law's request, Thompson took charge of the company. He is credited with having designed the first fully electrified mill on the Northern Pacific Coast. The Wind River Mill burned in 1906, just as construction of the house was underway. The house was occupied by its original owners ten years before ill health forced Mr. Thompson to retire to California. In the 1920s Mrs. Thompson leased the property which was adapted for use as a lodge and boarding house. At one time, the place was advertised as "Cascade Lodge." During the 1930s, the place became a dormitory for the work force constructing Bonneville Dam (1835-1938). After the property was sold by Mrs. Thompson in 1945, the surrounding acreage was subdivided and the house was converted to apartments. The present owner plans a reversal of some of the improvements of the apartment house era, such as removal of non-historic partitions in the ground story interior.

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Cragmont, located in Cascade Locks, Oregon qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C. Cragmont, built for prominent lumberman Clark Thompson, was constructed in 1906-1907 by architect P.M. Hall Lewis. The house is an excellent example of Shingle style architecture in Cascade Locks and it is the only example of this style within the community. The architect designed structure is unusual in a town where the majority of residential properties are simple 3 to 4 room, single story cottages built to provide housing for those working in the local mills, and on Columbia River associated projects. With its massive size and distinctive architecture, it has over the years, stood out as a local landmark.

Cragmont has many characteristics of the Shingle style with its gambrel cross gable, the emphasis on the horizontal with the use of the dormers and simple front porch, simple massing, the absence of ornate detailing, the multi-pane windows and the use of shingles to finish the exterior. The colonial influence that is sometimes apparent in Shingle style architecture is evidenced at Cragmont by the front facing cross gable with a gambrel roof. The exterior of Cragmont looks essentially as it did when first built.

The Shingle style never achieved the popularity in the Northwest as it did on the eastern seaboard. It evolved from the Queen Anne, but the New England colonial precedents influenced the development of the style. Following the Centennial, architects were reexamining colonial architecture.³ According to John Calvin Stevens, an architect who had practiced in Portland, Maine in the 19th century, the "old Colonial style based on the Classic Orders, is particularly adapted to domestic work".⁴ However, this particular architectural style was not widely adapted as vernacular housing. Instead it

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became popular with the wealthy. The firm of McKim, Mead and White was the leading proponent of the Shingle style and many of the best examples of their work are in the resort areas of Newport, Cape Cod and Long Island. Perhaps Hall-Lewis was influenced by this style during his early practice in New York City.

CASCADE LOCKS HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The town of Cascade Locks is easily characterized as a boom town community. In terms of the town's historic development, it's economic survival largely depended upon industry related to the intermittent commercial improvement of the Columbia River. However, it was the lumber mills and fishing industry that provided a relatively stable and continuous source of employment for the permanent residents. One of the earliest businesses in Cascade Locks was a waterpower sawmill built by John Thompson in the early 1860's on the Moody tract. At the turn of the century, one of the larger mills in Hood River County was the Wind River Lumber Company located in Cascade Locks.⁵

Because of the Cascade Rapids, the locality where the town of Cascade Locks developed was an important spot for portage. Prior to the construction of the locks and canals, the 4.5 mile rapids presented a major obstacle to navigating the Columbia River. It was a stopping point for Lewis and Clark when they had camped in the vicinity of the current marine park. A portage road was constructed in 1856 in order to avoid the Cascade Rapids. This road was very steep and eventually a 5 mile portage railroad along the banks of the river became the favored route. It was on this portage railroad that the Oregon Steam Navigation Company (OSN) introduced Oregon's first steam locomotive as a replacement for mules.⁶

As commerce grew between Portland and the Oregon hinterlands, it was obvious that a more efficient means of transportation needed to be developed. The discovery that the Columbia Plateau environment was favorable for large scale dry land wheat farming accelerated this interest. Portland commerce could only benefit from any river transportation improvements. In addition, the Oregon Steam Navigation Company monopolized the traffic flow along the Columbia and by 1880 controlled 26 vessels and 20 miles of portage railroad.⁷ There was concern on the part of many citizens, including members of congress, over this monopoly. Construction of a canal in Cascade Locks (The town of Cascade Locks did not receive its appellation

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until after construction of the canal and locks.) was viewed as a viable solution and would open the river to competitive navigation.

The Army Corps of Engineers began its first survey of the river in 1874 and in 1876, Congress appropriated \$90,000 for the final planning and initial construction of the Cascades Canal. It was not until 1896 that the locks and canal were open for use, but they were not officially completed until 1914.¹⁰

During the construction of the locks and canal, and later with the development of Bonneville Dam, transient workers comprised the majority of the Cascade Locks population. Many Saloons and inns sprung up to support the workers. In some respects, the community may have resembled a shanty town with housing dominated by tents and shacks. Before completion of the Cascade Locks, the area was often referred to as "Whiskey Flat".¹¹

In the early 20th century the prominent businesses consisted of a few inns, restaurants, and a mill. Included among the businesses was the Wind River Lumber Company and store. There were few substantial structures with the exception of a few downtown commercial buildings and the residence of the superintendent of the canal. The Thompson residence likely stood out for both it's size and quality, especially in a community where most of the homes, built to support those working on the locks and later the dam, had no more than 3 to 4 rooms.

During the construction of the locks and canal, the community had grown from its original settlement of Native American families and a few white settlers to a boom town inhabited by roughly 300 to 500 people.¹² The next population boom occurred when building began on Bonneville Dam. During the 1930's the population grew to about 5,000.¹³ As before, the bulk of the population consisted of those employed by the government to work on the construction of the dam. By 1938 the water behind the dam flooded the locks. The government canal and grounds, with the 3 lock tender houses, used from 1895 to 1938, still stand and have been designated a National Historic Site.

In 1934 the town suffered a setback when a young prankster ignited fireworks downtown during the 4th of July celebration causing \$60,000 worth of damage. Fourteen restaurants and 4 hotels were lost to fire.¹⁴ Later, during the era of urban renewal in the mid 1960's, many of the older buildings were razed.

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Beginning in the early 1900's, Cascade Locks became known to Portland residents as an ideal summer resort. This was due, in part, to the stunning beauty of the Columbia River Gorge, and perhaps later to its accessibility to motorists via the Historic Columbia Gorge Highway which passed through the center of town. When a 4 lane section of the Columbia River Highway was later built around Cascade Locks, the town was once again quiet.

Due to both the 1934 fire and urban renewal, Cragmont is the only turn of the century building of its size, architectural style, and integrity still standing in Cascade Locks. The majority of the residential properties are small single story cottages.

WIND RIVER LUMBER

In 1898, a group of men from the midwest invested in timber claims on the Washington side of the Columbia, and then established the Wind River Lumber Company in Cascade Locks. One of the investors was Sam Hyde, Clark Thompson's father in-law. In 1901, Clark Thompson came out to Oregon to inspect the company. Shortly after, he moved to Oregon and became vice-president and supervisor of the lumber company.¹³

The mill burned in 1906, but was quickly rebuilt in 1907 using a design developed by Clark Thompson. His design proved to be the first fully electric powered mill on the west coast.¹⁴ At its peak, it employed 75 men and cut an average of 80,000 feet of lumber a day.¹⁵

The headquarter's for the mill included a company store, advertised in the city directory as selling general merchandise. With its temple style porch and columns, it was described as one that "dominates early 20th century Cascade Locks" and according to one inhabitant, it was "where everybody was supposed to shop."¹⁶

Due to poor health, Thompson sold Wind River to the Bridal Veil Company in 1916 for \$1,500,000. Included in the sale were the buildings, equipment and timber stands. The mill ceased operating in 1925, and the machinery was sold to the Alaska Jack Company. In 1928 all remaining structures were razed.

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HISTORY OF CRAGMONT

Clark Thompson was a prominent and respected lumberman in the Northwest. He and his wife, Jessie, moved to Oregon in 1901 from LaCross, Wisconsin. His father in-law, Sam Hyde, invested in the Wind River Lumber Company and wanted Clark to look into the affairs of the company. His brother, Helmus Wells Clark, already lived in Oregon and was a Judge in the Juvenile Court in Eugene. Another brother, Mortimore, moved to Oregon after 1906 and worked for the Wind River Lumber Company. Clark Thompson worked as supervisor and vice-president of Wind River Lumber Company for almost 17 years. He was a well known lumberman, and belonged to an organization known as the Lumberman's Group, and served as a delegate to the National Irrigation Congress held in 1901 in Spokane, Washington. By training, he was an engineer and was responsible for numerous successful projects in the midwest, as well as designing the first fully electrified mill (Wind River) on the Northwest coast.

Jessie and Clark Thompson initially designed their home themselves. They began planning their new home in 1903, but construction did not commence until 1906. They wanted a house large enough to accommodate a family of 10. When the Thompsons passed on their plans to P.M. Hall-Lewis, an architect who at the time practiced in Hood River, he allegedly exclaimed "you don't want 10 bedrooms", but they insisted they did, along with 4 bathrooms, and 10 fireplaces. In addition to the bedrooms, the second floor was to have a nursery and school room because the children were to be taught at home. P.M. Hall-Lewis was chosen because the Thompsons were concerned that if a Portland based architect was hired, the architect would be too far away to be actively involved with the construction.¹⁷

As vice-president and superintendent of the Wind River Lumber Company in Cascade Locks, Clark was able to hand pick the lumber for finishing the interior. Unfortunately, the Wind River Mill burned in 1906 along with the lumber initially selected for the Thompson home.

To the Thompson family, their new home became known as Midmount, because "it was in the midst of the mountains."¹⁸ The setting included 9 acres overlooking the Columbia River. Jessie Thompson took it upon herself to landscape the property with varieties of fruit and nut trees, flowers, hedges, and vegetable gardens. One writer for the Oregonian was quite taken by her experimental crop, Dasheen, a tropical tuber very similar to the

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common potato. In conclusion, the author observed that the "roses, flowers, and lawn blend so harmoniously with the practical features of the place as to show the wonderful possibilities and attractions of 'our highway' (Columbia Gorge)".¹⁹

The Thompson residence is remembered as lively and always entertaining house guests. Thompson supported a local baseball team. It is likely that it was a company team and they would convene at the Thompson's house either before or after each game.

Unfortunately, the Thompson's stay in Cascade Locks was short-lived. In 1917 Clark Thompson became very ill and the family moved to California for his health. He died shortly thereafter. Jessie attempted to sell Midmount in the early 1920's. Although she advertised the house as a country home on the Columbia River highway suitable for a hotel or inn, the sale was not successful. She then leased out the building until 1945. After a period of vacancy in the 1920's, the house was adapted as a lodge and at other times as a boarding house. The lodge, under the management of a Mrs. Harriet Richards, was advertised as Cascade Lodge. Through the years, the house became known in the community as Cragmont. Jessie Thompson would not allow the house to be referred to as Midmount. In the 1930's, Cragmont was a popular spot for dances and parties. Some still remember the festive events.²⁰

During the construction of Bonneville Dam, Cascade Locks was literally flooded with workers who had no place to sleep. Cragmont caught the eye of those working on the project. Evidently, during the project Cragmont was filled to the brim. There were three shifts, and apparently the beds were continuously occupied. As one man got up to go to work, another took his place in the bed.²¹

In 1945, Mrs. Thompson sold Cragmont to local businessmen, G.E. Manchester and C. W. Amoth. Cragmont was left vacant for several years except for occasional use by various groups. Manchester later partitioned the property surrounding Cragmont into building lots, reducing the acreage from 9 to the current .8. In 1951, the 3,458.25 square foot house was adapted into 5 apartment houses.

After Manchester's death in 1962, his widow, Frances, sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Fitzpatrick, who continued to rent out the apartments. After her death in 1987, Cragmont was sold to the current owner, Jean Bradford, granddaughter of G.E. Manchester.

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END NOTES

¹Interview Jean Bradford, Cascade Locks, Oregon, June 1986.

²Oregon Board of Architect Examiners, Salem, Oregon.

³Leland Roth, A Concise History of American Architecture, (New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1979), p. 259.

⁴Examples of American Domestic Architecture, quoted in Vincent J. Scully, Jr., The Shingle and The Stick Style, rev. ed., (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971), p. 117.

⁵"Majesty of Columbia at Cascades and Locks Built in 1882 Interest," The Oregonian, 7 May 1916.

⁶Hood River County Sun, 7 July, 1941.

⁷William Willingham, "Engineering the Cascades Canal and Locks 1876-1896." Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol 88, No. 3 (Fall 1987):230.

⁸Ibid.

⁹National Register Nomination, Cascade Locks, Hood River County, Oregon.

¹⁰"Majesty of Columbia at Cascades and Locks Built in 1882 Interest," The Oregonian.

¹¹Oregon Journal, 23 January, 1963.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Jessie Hyde Thompson, "Days Before Yesterday," Personal Journal, March 1953.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵"Majesty of Columbia at Cascades and Locks Built in 1882 Interest," The Oregonian.

¹⁶Interview Alice Tomkins Fee: Growing Up on the Cascade Locks "Reservation." Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol 88, No. 3 (Fall 1987):230.

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¹⁷Jessie Hyde Thompson, "Days Before Yesterday." Personal Journal, 1953.

¹⁸Molly Thompson (MacNab), "Autobiography", English class assignment, 1928.

¹⁹"Little Farm on Columbia Highway Near Cascades Responds to Scientific Labor," The Sunday Oregonian, 13 May 1917.

²⁰Interview Fay Nelson, Cascade Locks, Oregon, August 1988.

²¹Ibid.

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Interview Molly MacNab (Thompson), Cascade Locks, July, 1988.

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distance of 71.5 feet; thence North 64 degrees 13' West a distance of 30.3 feet to a steel axle; thence North 58 degrees 13' West a distance of 92.0 feet, more or less, to the Southerly lot corner common to lots 8 and 9, Block 1, AMENDED PLAT OF CRAGMONT ADDITION to Cascade Locks, Oregon; thence South 65 degrees 19' West along the Southerly line of lots 6, 7 and 8 a distance of 140.0 feet; thence South 24 degrees 41' East a distance of 90.40 feet; thence South 39 degrees 26' East a distance of 150.1 feet; thence North 48 degrees 24' East a distance of 119.8 feet; thence North 66 degrees 47' East a distance of 20.0 feet to the most Southerly corner of that tract conveyed by Deed Book 58, page 159; thence North 13 degrees 46' West a distance of 127.0 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

ALSO: Beginning at the most Southeasterly corner of Lot 9, Block 1 CRAGMONT AMENDED ADDITION to Cascade Locks, Oregon, located in the Northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 2 North, Range 7 East of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Hood River, State of Oregon; thence 28 degrees 12' East a distance of 76.69 feet to the most Northerly corner of that certain tract of land conveyed to G. E. Manchester and Francis L. Manchester, by Deed recorded February 26, 1958 in Book 61, page 527, Deed Records of Hood River County, Oregon; thence North 58 degrees 13' West a distance of 92 feet, more or less, to the corner common to Lots 8 and 9, in said Block 1, Cragmont Amended Addition; thence North 65 degrees 19' East, along the Southerly line of said Lot 9 a distance of 50 feet to the point of beginning.

O.W.R. & N.

Order No. 1003

2

201
1.56 AC

801
1.59 AC.

600
0.84 AC.

800
0.01 AC.

400
0.50 AC.

700
0.18 AC.

401
0.20 AC.

202
0.15 AC.

500
0.23 AC.

502
0.22 AC.

2400
0.20 AC.

2402
0.23 AC.

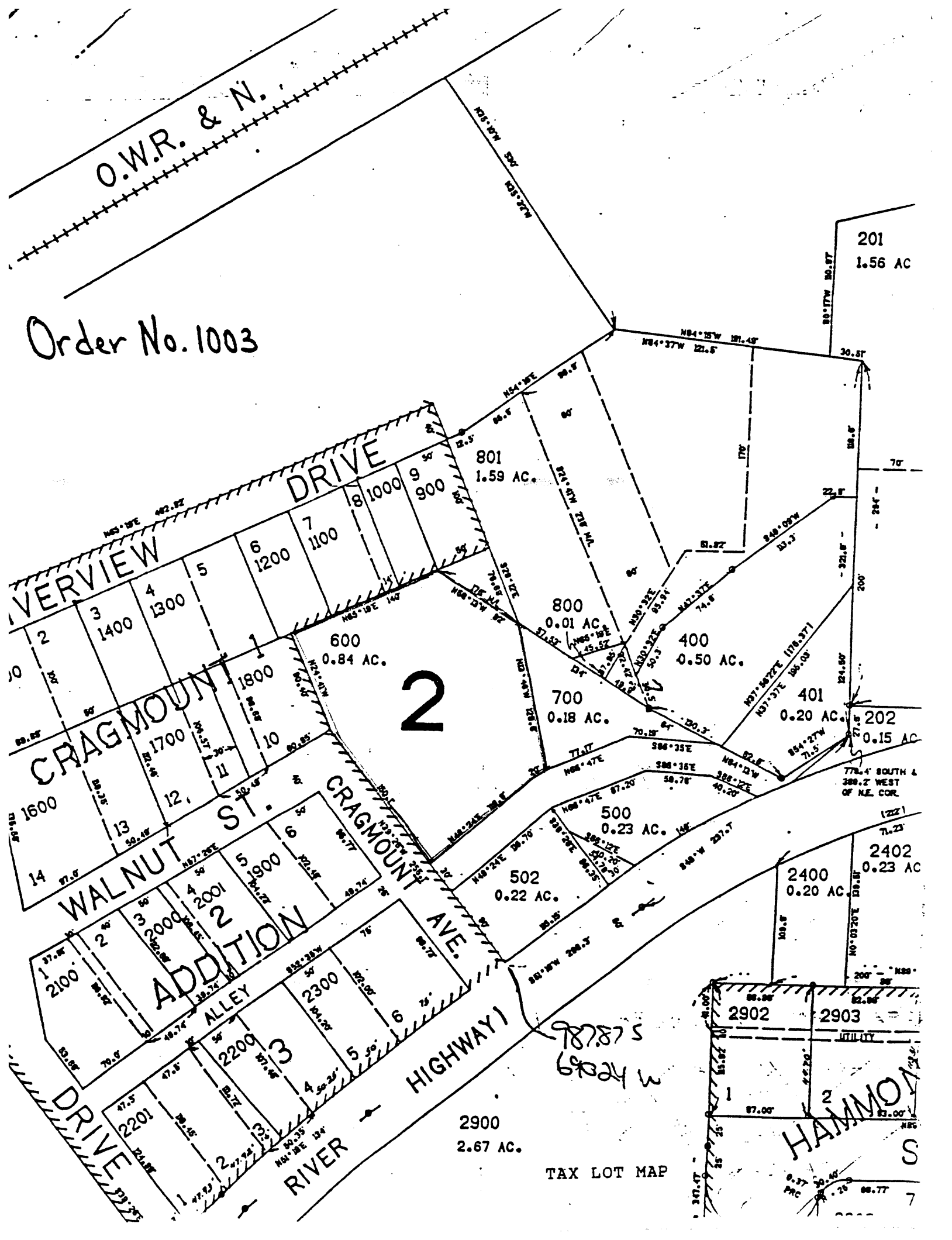
2900
2.67 AC.

2902

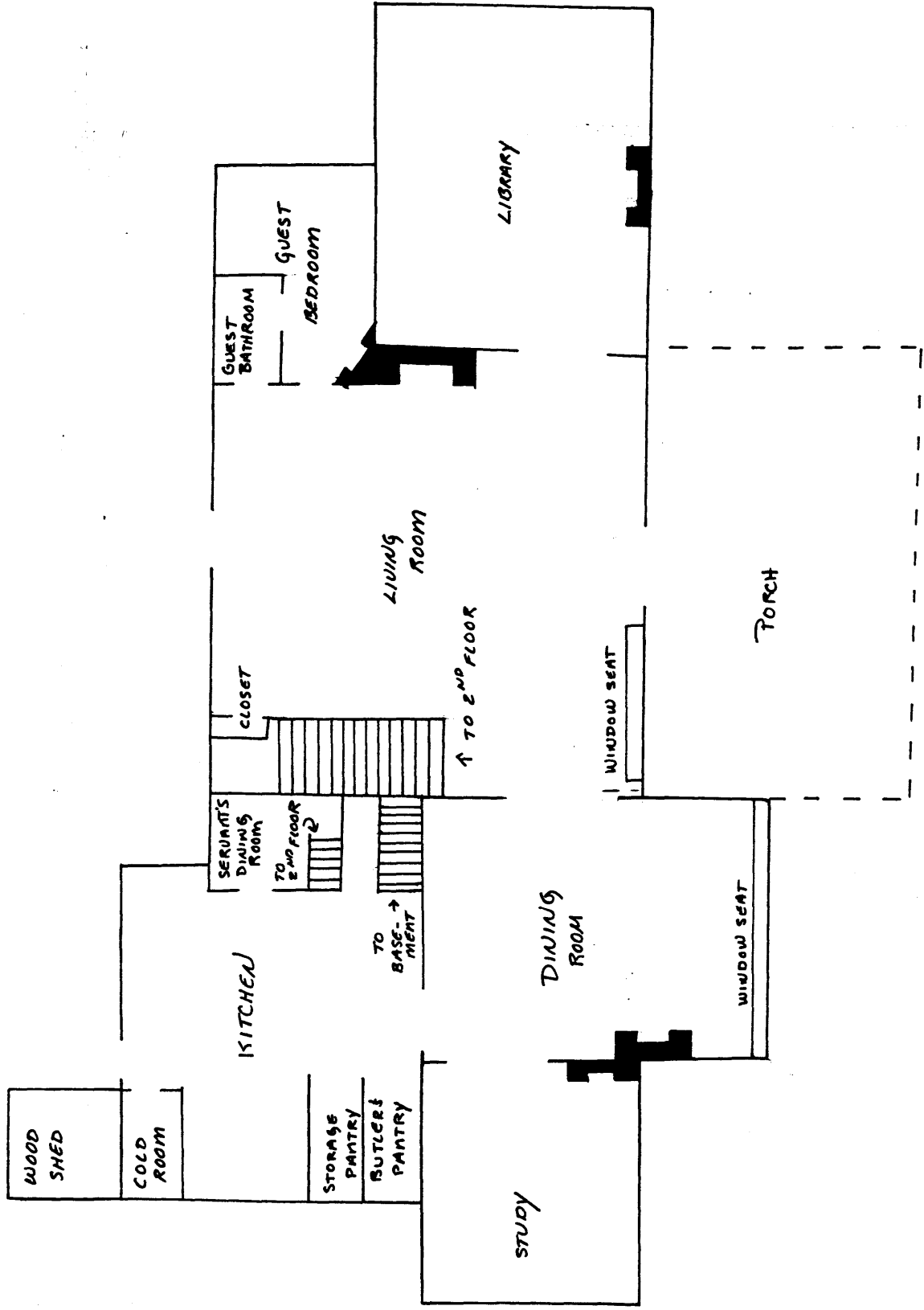
2903

TAX LOT MAP

HAMMON

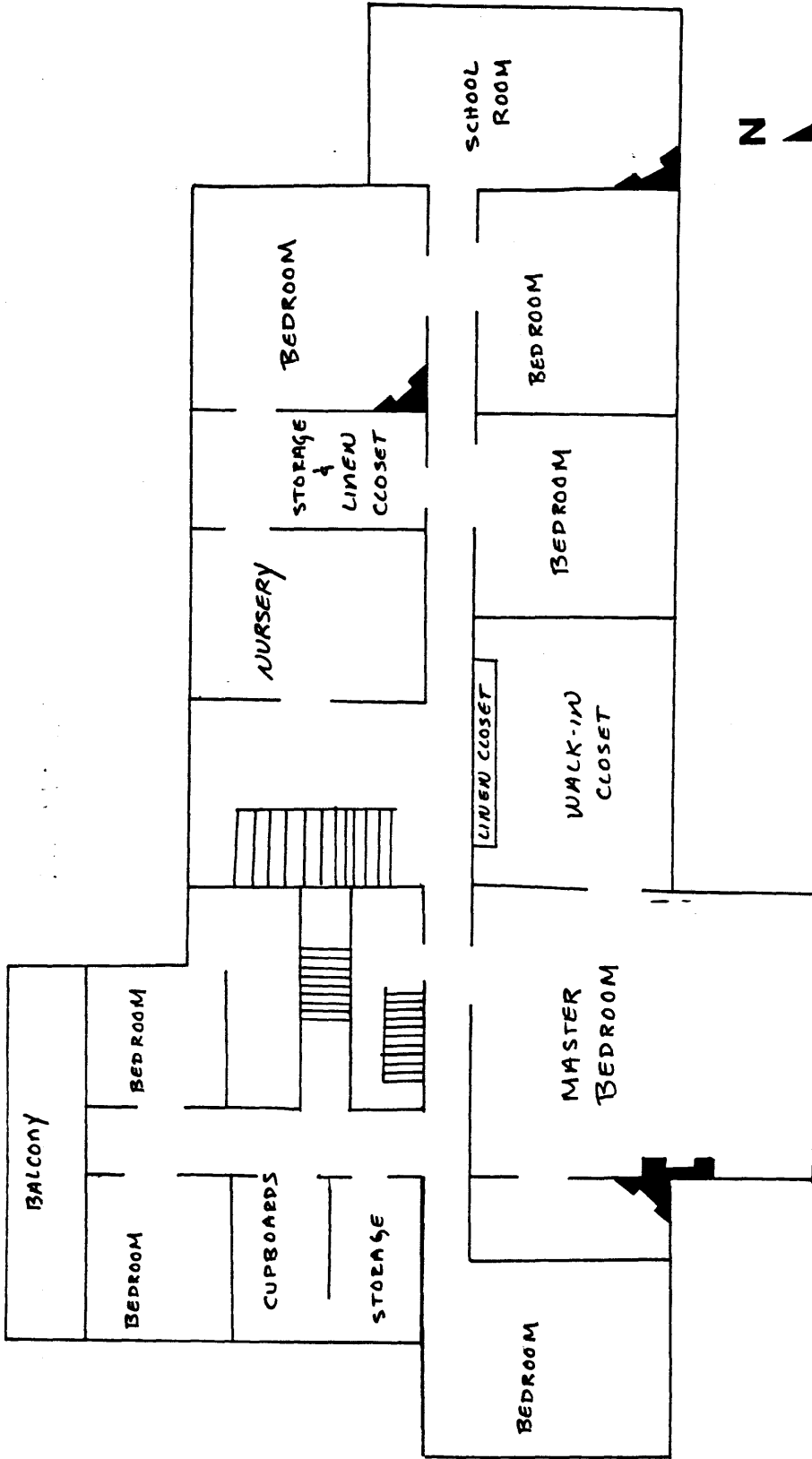


"MIDMOUNT" FIRST FLOOR
 AS REMEMBERED BY MOLLY THOMPSON MACNAB
 1906



Ground Story
 Interior plan not drawn to scale

"MIDMOUNT" SECOND FLOOR
 AS REMEMBERED BY MOLLY THOMPSON MACNAB
 1906



Second Story
 Interior plan not drawn to scale