

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received AUG 8 1984
date entered SEP 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic Cherry, Peter L., House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 836 15th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input 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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chopping

street & number 836 15th Street

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number 749 Commercial Street

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Astoria Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Astoria Historic Buildings and Sites Commission

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Peter Lacy Cherry House, constructed c. 1882, was designed in the Italianate style by an unknown architect. The building's major elevations retain a high degree of integrity, although there have been a number of alterations to the interior and rear elevation.

On land sloping to the north and oriented to the west, the house is situated on a basically rectangular site comprising a portion of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 21, Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, and is further described as Tax Lot 6300, located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian.

In typical Italianate fashion, the narrow end of the basically rectangular mass serves as the front elevation. A square, two-story bay projects from the facade on the northwest corner and is modestly decorated with applied boards and jig-sawn panels. Windows on this feature are narrow, single and paired one-over-one, double-hung sash windows, and are similar to all other original windows on the remaining elevation.

An intermediate cornice on the squared bay continues to the south and delineates the entry porch, which is supported by square, stylized columns with jig-sawn brackets. The porch railings on the entry and porch roof, as well as those on the south projecting bay are not original.

An upper cornice consisting of blank frieze, dentil course and wide projecting eave, encircles the house below the low-pitched hip roof.

The house is of balloon-frame construction over channel siding. It rests on a full basement originally walled in brick but now mostly in concrete. The current owners uncovered three intact cisterns during the major 1966 renovation to the house.

On the north elevation, single and paired windows have been replaced by large single pane picture windows which employ cornice moldings similar to others found on the house's windows, and which may have been re-used from those frames removed in the remodeling.

On the east elevation, an extensive cantilevered deck serves as a carport. It is detailed with dentils and a railing similar to all others on the house. On the upper level is a squarish office space addition, sheathed in narrow weatherboards, and topped by a hipped roof.

The interior of the house has been restored although many parts of it date to the post-1966 remodeling. A west facing entry hall is graced by an original curved oak stair, under which is an enclosed stairway to the cellar. Rooms generally have twelve foot ceilings and the woodwork and doors are of cedar.

The living room is on the north and west side of the house with the big bay windows providing western lighting. This room is reached by a doorway from the entry hall. There is a small-welled fireplace on the east wall with the original iron and brickwork still intact, although it has been converted to use as gas log instead of the original coal. It is probable that the living room was originally divided in two because the remains of a dividing partition can be seen. There are sliding doors leading into the dining room, and a large modern kitchen sweeps across the east end of the house with access to the outside.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet PETER LACY CHERRY HOUSE Item number 7 Page 2

On the second floor, the stairway sweeps upward, ending at a railed landing lit by the two high narrow windows visible over the front porch. A big bedroom is in the northwest corner and corresponds to the west facing window bay. To the east, there are two bathrooms, one opening into this bedroom and the other into the den at the rear. This den or family room is modern with a natural wood finish and is a beautiful room, but it does not fit in with the older parts of the house. There is an office mentioned before which opens into this family room on the east end. And between the den and the stairway landing is another bedroom with two one-over-one sash windows opening it up to the south.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1882 (approximate) **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The residence of British consular agent Peter L. Cherry, located at 836 15th Street in Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, was constructed c. 1882 in the Italianate style. The house is locally significant under Criterion "b" for its associations with Peter Cherry, who for many years represented the interests of the United Kingdom in the Astoria area. The property also is a locally distinctive example of Italianate architecture and meets eligibility Criterion "c."

Peter Lacy Cherry was born at Arcot, India, on February 2, 1848, and went to England at the age of six where he was educated. Mr. Cherry returned to India as a young man and entered the British Civil Service. Attacks of jungle fever forced him to withdraw from the Service and he subsequently joined the British army, serving in Australia and New Zealand, and was in the field during the Maori War of 1868.

He arrived in Astoria in 1871 aboard the old barkentine Jane A. Falkenberg and shortly thereafter took charge of the old Farmers' Dock and after this was a bookkeeper for Kinney's cannery. He then became a partner in Cherry, Huxford and Company, a firm with maritime interests, and maintained his partnership until 1877.

In 1882, Peter Lacy Cherry was appointed to the British Consular Agency, a position he held until his death. He also served as the local representative of Lloyds of London and was actively involved in the salvage efforts or negotiations over British shipwrecks along the Oregon and Washington coasts. The wreck of the Peter Iredale in 1906 was one of these.

In 1877, he married Helen S. Rogers, and the couple had four sons; George, Edward, Harry, and Philip, all of whom are well-known in the history of Astoria.

The actual date of construction of the Peter L. Cherry house is unknown. The historic designation sign outside gives the date as 1877, but most historians feel that the house dates from the middle-Eighties, probably 1882.

The Cherry House shortly became the headquarters for the small but exclusive group of British expatriots who had made Astoria their home. Peter L. Cherry led the group and was elected president of the British Benevolent Society in 1885, and was elected president of the group formed locally to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, for which a massive banquet and celebration was held at the once-famous Flavel Hotel.

Peter L. Cherry remained British to the core and was famous for dressing for dinner, and for his formal decorated attire which he wore at the appropriate functions. Local legends still tell about the recipes he brought from India and kept secret through the years, although he willingly shared the finished culinary delight.

Another tradition Peter Cherry became famous for was his firing of an old cannon whenever a ship arrived in port. The cannon was salvaged from a wrecked ship and was kept in his front yard.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daily Astorian August 19, September 19, 1877
August 25, 1878
November 21, 1882
November 17, 1966

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger T. Tetlow - Historian and Writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society date February 11, 1984

street & number 1832 Exchange Street telephone (503) 325-4083

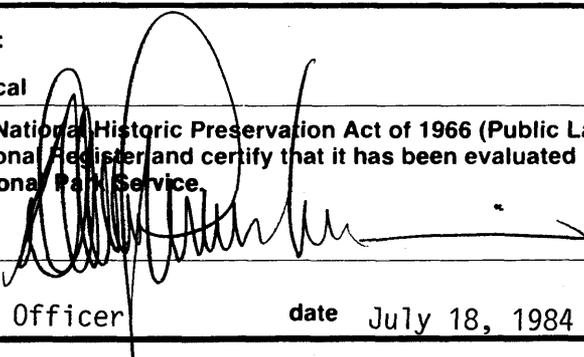
city or town Astoria state Oregon 97103

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 18, 1984

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

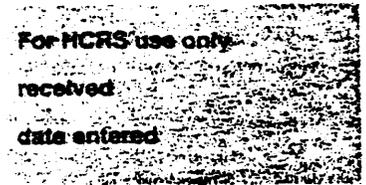
 Keener of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 9-7-84

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 PETER LACY CHERRY HOUSE Item number 8 Page 2

At the time the Cherry House was built, the lot it was built on was much larger than it is today, taking in the entire corner of the block running from Irving Avenue on the south to Grand Avenue on the north. He installed an English formal garden around the house and many of the trees and shrubs from this garden still survive. A part of this property was sold later to his son Ted who built a house on it.

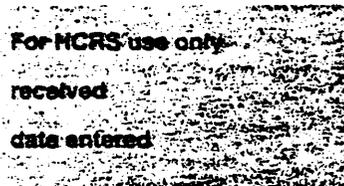
Peter Lacy Cherry died at the age of 60 in 1908 and his ashes were cast into the ocean at his request. The family continued to live in the house for a number of years, but after that it had a succession of different owners, losing much of its charm and beauty in the process. It is said that one owner during the Prohibition days kept a hidden still in the old brick cellar. But finally the house was vacated, gradually deteriorating with age and weather damage.

In 1966, the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chopping, bought the old, now-dilapidated house and began the long, and tedious process of restoring it to its former beauty. Mr. Chopping served as mayor of Astoria from 1975 to 1982. After many years of hard work and expense, the house was completed and today sits high on the hill above 15th Street looking much as it must have looked back in the 1880s when Peter L. Cherry entertained the local British expatriots and toasted Queen Victoria.

The Peter L. Cherry House is an integral part of the history of Astoria, Oregon, and because of the prominence of its owner, and the part he played in the development of Astoria, it well deserves a place in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet PETER L. CHERRY HOUSE

Item number

9

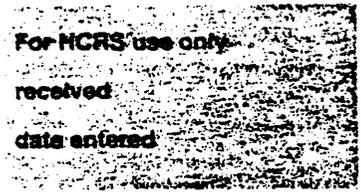
Page 1

Daily Morning Astorian June 6, 1885
January 14, 1896
June 23, 1897

Astoria Daily Budget December 5, 1894
May 5-7, 1897
June 23, 1897
July 10, 1908
July 7, 1909

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

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



Continuation sheet PETER L. CHERRY HOUSE **Item number** 10 **Page** 1

The Peter L. Cherry House occupies a portion of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 21, Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian, otherwise known as Tax Lot 6300.

Beginning at a point which is the northwest corner of Lot 7, Block 21, Shively's Addition; thence easterly 100 feet to the northeastern corner of Lot 8, Block 21; thence southerly 69 feet; thence westerly 32 feet; thence southerly 6 feet; thence westerly 68 feet; thence northerly 75 feet to the point of beginning, the whole comprising less than one acre.