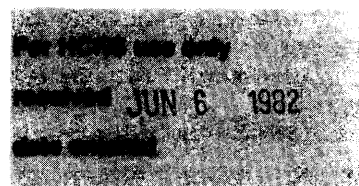


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



**1. Name**

historic THOMAS H. LEGGETT HOUSE

and/or common Thomas H. Leggett House

**2. Location**

street & number 346 W. 21st Street n/a not for publication

city, town Merced n/a vicinity of congressional district 15

state California code 06 county Merced code 047

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Robert Hays Howerton and Judith Lee Howerton

street & number 346 W. 21st Street

city, town Merced n/a vicinity of state CA 95340

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Merced County Administration Office

street & number 2222 "M" Street

city, town Merced state CA 95340

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no  
(Merced County Chamber of Commerce)

date October 21, 1977 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Merced County Historical Society, Old County Courthouse

21st and N Streets

city, town Merced state CA 95340

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

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

This one-story cottage, constructed circa 1890, is located in an older residential section of the community. It retains high integrity of design; its high integrity and elaborate millwork make it an excellent and unusual example of 19th century design in the local community. Built on a 75' x 150' lot, the house is a balloon frame, all redwood structure with horizontal V-groove channel rustic siding. The house measures 30' x 60'. The steep-pitched truncated hip roof is covered with copper shingles with a 12' x 12' widow's walk surrounded by iron cresting. There are two chimneys.

Gables project on the front and west sides of the house. They are decorated with pendants, finials, scrolled patterns, and sunbursts. The eaves are supported by corner brackets. Quarter sunbursts separated by broad vertical dividers create an elaborate frieze beneath the gables. The frieze continues around the sides with thin vertical dividers, without the sunburst motifs.

The front porch is supported by turned posts with curved brackets, spindles, and patterned railings. The railings on the porch steps have been replaced by metal bars.

Beneath the 8' double hung windows are decorative rectangular plaques. All doors have four panels; interior window and door surrounds are trimmed with casings and rosettes. The ten-inch baseboards are beaded.

The 18' x 26' living room and the 13' x 18' dining room have oak flooring. The dining room is paneled about four feet high and has a built-in china and linen closet. There is a 9' x 11' pantry off the back side of the kitchen. There are three bedrooms and two baths. One bath has been added onto the master bedroom. The original bathroom has an extra large round-cornered tub and free-standing pedestal lavatory.

The full basement is finished for living and consists of one 30' x 30' room with heavy beamed ceiling and two large storage rooms.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1890 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas H. Leggett House was built circa 1890 at a site three blocks from the courthouse in an early residential section of Merced. The single story cottage has retained high integrity of design, and is an outstanding local example of its type and period. Styling is highly eclectic, combining elements of Queen Anne, Stick and Eastlake into an eye-catching statement of late 19th century design. Of the homes built prior to 1900 in the community, it is one of only seven which still remains. It is directly associated with an important local citizen who served as Constable and as Postmaster during the early years of the community's history.

Thomas H. Leggett, a native of Warren County, New York, immigrated to California in 1858 at the age of 18. After a voyage around Cape Horn, he landed in San Francisco on September 21. He settled near Stockton where he was engaged in the livestock and ferry businesses until 1864. He relocated to La Grange, Stanislaus County, where he began a butchering business. He later operated a dairy on Mariposa Island on the San Joaquin River.

In February of 1872, Leggett became a citizen of Merced County, where he served as Peace Officer for nine years, and from 1881 to 1884, he was a deputy Sheriff. He then became Constable, and held that office until he resigned to accept the appointment as Postmaster of Merced on December 11, 1890.

Leggett bought the lot at 346 W. 21st Street for ten dollars in gold coin in April of 1889. The 1890 tax assessment records indicate \$1,000 improvements on the property, giving the probable date of the construction of the house. The house constructed by Leggett remains virtually unaltered. It is one of the finest examples of a Queen Anne Cottage in Merced County, and is one of the few surviving 19th century residences in the city of Merced. The elaborate millwork is especially noteworthy, combining spindles and sunbursts with other turned and sawn decorative elements. With its high integrity of design, it remains an exceptionally valuable statement of the community's 19th century architecture.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.26 acre

Quadrangle name Merced

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	0
---	---

7	2	3	4	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	3	1	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Building occupies its original 75' x 150' lot, described as Lot 6 and southeasterly one-half of Lot 7 in Block 109 as shown on Supplemental Map to Town of Merced, recorded March 4, 1889, in Book 2 of Maps, page 12, Merced County Records.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roberty Hays Howerton and Judith Lee Howerton (OHP Staff Revision: 4/10/82)

organization N/A

date August 10, 1981

street & number 346 W. 21st Street

telephone (209) 722-0560

city or town Merced

state CA 95340

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*K m ellm*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 26, 1982

### For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

7/8/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

American Association of University Women, Merced County's  
Heritage Homes Calendar., 1978.

Anonymous., A Memorial and Biographical History of Merced,  
Stanislaus, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties, 1892.  
pgs. 205,206., Merced College Library Micro-film.

Davidson, Marshall B., The American Heritage History of Notable  
American Houses, New York: American Heritage Publishing  
Co., Inc., 1971, pgs., 198,199.

Griffiths, Vincent., Architect 3070 "G" Street, Merced, Calif.

Maas, J. The Gingerbread Age, New York: Bramball House, 1957.  
pgs., 10,38,39,42,63,64,65.

Maas, J. The Victorian Home in America, New York: Hawthorne  
Books, Inc., 1972., pgs. 12,20,30,31,39,42,50.

Merced County Chamber of Commerce., Historic Resources Inventory  
1977., Merced County Historical Society.

Outcalt, John, History of Merced County, California with  
Biographical Review of the County, Historic Record Company,  
Los Angeles, California 1925., pgs. 282,284,285,289.

# TOWN OF MERCED

R.M. Bk. 2, Pg. 12

## POR. SEC. 19, T. 7S., R. 14E., M.D.B. & M.

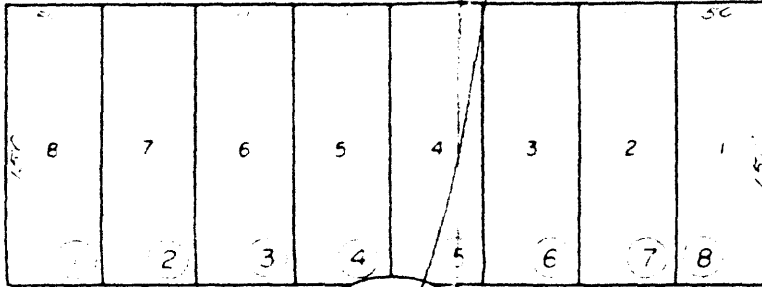
Tax A  
5

19

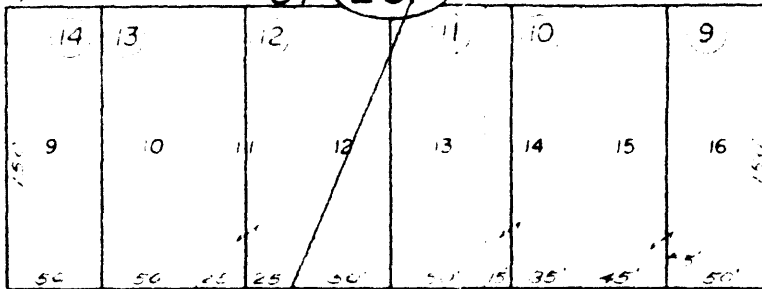
Thomas H. Leggett House  
346 W. 21st Street  
Merced, Merced County, California

22nd

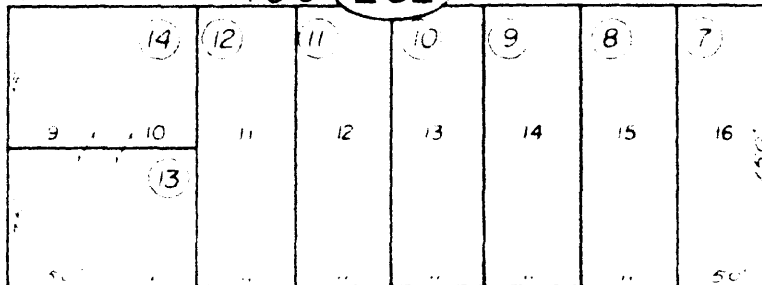
ST.



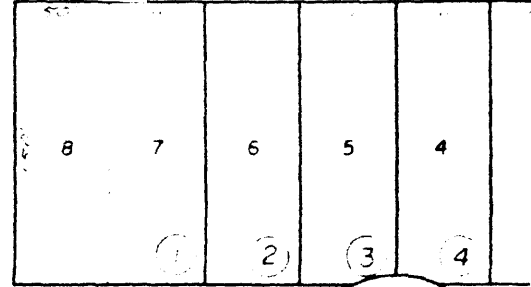
87 (281)



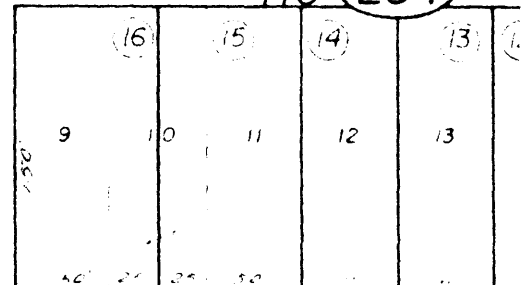
109 (282)



86 (283)



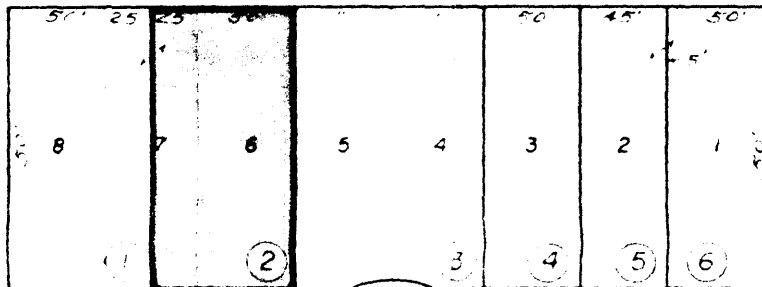
110 (284)



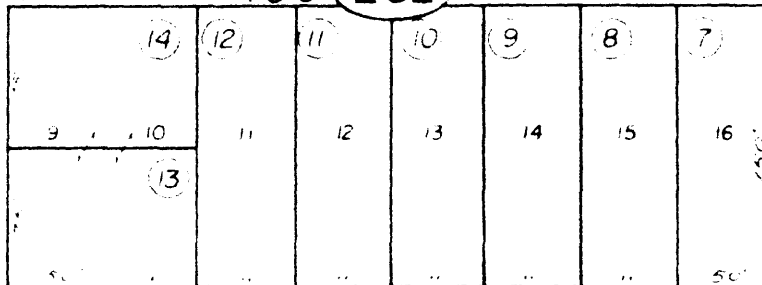
21st



80

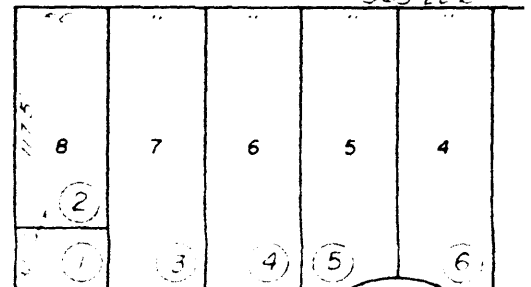


80 (286)

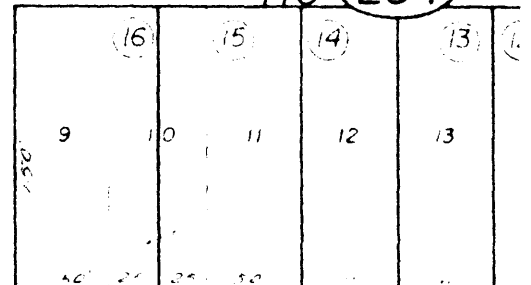


345°26'E

80



80 (288)



20th

K

80

ST.

C

Assess

Co

Bk. 31

NOTE—Assessor's Block Numbers shown in Ellipses