

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

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



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

1. Name

historic Flavel, Captain George, House and Carriage House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 441 8th Street ___ not for publication

city, town Astoria ___ vicinity of congressional district 1st

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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Clatsop County Historical Society, Inc.

street & number 441 8th Street

city, town Astoria ___ vicinity of state Oregon 97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The stately two and a half story Eastlake/Italianate house with corner observatory tower, wrap-around veranda, and gable-roofed projecting sections in the Queen Anne tradition built for bar pilot and entrepreneur George Flavel ca. 1885 in Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River occupies, with its Eastlake Style carriage house, a full city block with period plantings. Rectangular in plan, the wood frame house on high brick basement with scored, cement veneer measures 70 x 100 feet and is situated at the NE corner of the block and is oriented east to west, with the principal, or east facade fronting Eighth Street.

The main volume of the house has a hipped roof with iron cresting. Centered in east, north and south facades are gable-roofed, shallow pavilions, or projecting sections with cornice returns at the gable ends. Treatment which gives the north and south pavilions a feeling of the Queen Anne Style are imbricated shingle siding and paired double-hung windows under bold triangular arch heads in the gable ends. The uppermost story of the pavilion of the principal, or east facade is a pure borrowing from the Queen Anne Style. Instead of cornice returns, it has decorated vergeboards, fish-scale shingles, recessed double doorway under a basket-arched opening, and balconette. The largest of three cement-veneered, corbel-capped brick chimneys is cruciform in plan and breaks the roofline near the center of the south slope of the main roof. It serves the music room/parlor and diningroom fireplaces.

Also suggestive of the Queen Anne tradition are the asymmetrically-placed three story octagonal observatory tower at the northeast corner of the house which is surmounted by conical roof with variegated shingling and domed lantern, and, to a lesser degree perhaps, the veranda with its Eastlake Style uprights, railing, and bracketed and crested entablature. The latter extends the width of the front and wraps around the corner tower.

Facade organization is essentially formal, although not based on bilateral symmetry. Exterior wall finish is flush horizontal boards which closely resemble the smooth surface of certain masonry finishes. Elongated, double-hung windows with one over one lights are grouped in pairs under bracketed hood moldings and tabernacle frames decorated with stylized carved and incised ornament typical of the Eastlake Style. Exterior walls are further articulated with corner boards decorated in the Eastlake Style, a ground story belt cornice, incised spandrel panels above second story openings, and an elaborate entablature made up of a frieze of fish scale shingles, a course of dentils, and a bracketed cornice.

The exceptional feature of the north facade is the entrance to the rear stairhall which has a temple-fronted surround. At the base of the south pavilion is the single-story polygonal window bay which lights the diningroom. On the west face is a single-story service wing, and the whole of the rear elevation is less elaborately finished.

Externally, the only losses are those of an Eastlake Style wood perimeter fence, some of the roof ridge cresting, and the weathervane which once surmounted the lantern of the northeast corner observatory tower. Original color treatment was not white, as at present, but consisted of a solid body color with contrasting darker trim.

A wood frame, gable-roofed carriage house, T-shaped in plan, is situated at the southwest corner of the block, with the bar of the T fronting Seventh Street. It has one and a half stories above street grade, and a basement on the lower slope. The entire exterior is sided with wood: the basement with vertical tongue and groove siding; the main story with horizontal shiplap; and the attic with board and batten siding with a saw-tooth finish at the base. Gable ends have solid brackets and vergeboard decoration. The interior of the

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carriage house has been remodeled for office use by the Clatsop County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

First and second story floor plans are bisected by a central longitudinal hall. A cross stairhall is at the rear of the house. The house originally had two bedrooms and a bathroom in the attic story, interior walls of which were unfinished boards. These were for servants. On the second story are five bedrooms, a linen room, and bathroom. On the main floor are the livingroom, parlor, music room, dining room, and, toward the rear or west end of the house, the kitchen and pantries. A bathroom on the main floor was removed in order to install a stairwell to the basement--which originally had a dirt floor and is now concrete--in the 1950s.

There are two stairs leading to the second story. The main stairway in the northwest corner of the house has two straight flights with landing lighted by generous window openings. The service stairs in the southeast corner of the house is a geometric stair. A winding staircase of 47 steps in the observatory tower gives access to the lantern. The kitchen has been remodeled slightly by the insertion of lower ceiling, a bathroom, and installation of modern cooking facilities. The house was converted to electricity from gas heat during the time the house was occupied by the Flavel family. Few of the gas fixtures remain.

Outstanding features of the interior are: six Eastlake Style chimneypieces of imported hardwoods with ceramic tile surrounds and mirrored overmantels, elaborate door and window trim and paneled wainscoting in the Eastlake Style, louvered interior shutters, sliding double doors between ground story rooms, the elaborate main staircase, chased hardware, and parqueted hardwood floors in the principal rooms of the ground story. Interior wall finish is plaster. Hall floors have been overlaid with linoleum since the house was opened to the public.

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

Specific dates c. 1885 **Builder/Architect** C.W. Leick, Draftsman-Architect (attributed)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The substantial, 2½-story Eastlake/Italianate house with certain Queen Anne features built for master mariner Captain George Flavel in Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River c. 1885 is one of the most widely-known and best-preserved of the state's grand residential properties of the later 19th century. It and a carriage house in the Eastlake tradition occupy a full city block with period plantings immediately south of the Clatsop County Courthouse at the west end of Astoria's central business district. Most of the large-scale houses of the late Victorian period erected in downtown Portland and Salem have long since been supplanted by commercial development and, in the case of the capital city, by rebuilding of the statehouse and a mall. This leading example of the remaining high-style late Victorian houses has been open to the public as an historical house museum since 1951. It is significant also for its association with a prominent figure in Astoria history, Columbia River bar pilot and entrepreneur, George Flavel (1824-1893).

Flavel, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, first came to the northern Pacific Coast via the California gold fields in 1849. While serving as mate and pilot on the steamship Goldhunter in 1850, he was given the first branch license ever issued to a Columbia River pilot by the Territorial government. Leaving the Goldhunter, he bought the schooner California in San Francisco and brought her north to put her on the bar in opposition to the Mary Taylor, then running as a pilot boat. By good management he soon succeeded in securing full control of the bar pilotage. He returned from a legendary career at sea in 1858. Thereafter, until 1869, he operated a successful tug, pilotage and wharf business. Until 1887, when he retired, he continued in the bar towing and pilotage business. Flavel amassed a fortune rapidly by investing income from his piloting and towage operations in real estate and other ventures. He was the promoter and president of the First National Bank of Astoria. The Flavel Land and Development Company, in 1892, laid ill-fated plans for a railroad terminus two miles southeast of Hammond in Clatsop County with the object of rivaling Astoria. The ghost townsite bears Flavel's name, but was the project of his son, George C. Flavel. It was eventually assimilated by the community of Warrenton in 1918.

Captain Flavel occupied his house on 8th Street in Astoria until his demise in 1893. Thereafter, the house was occupied by Flavel's widow--daughter of Conrad Boelling, Astoria pioneer of 1847--and his descendants until the death of his oldest daughter, Nellie Flavel, in 1933. As executor of estate, Flavel's grandson, Harry Melville Flavel, arranged that Miss Nellie's young grandniece and heir, Patricia Jean Flavel, deeded the property to Clatsop County for public use. Owing to general financial woes, Clatsop County was unable to make use of the gift until the Second World War, at which time the house was occupied by the Red Cross. In 1951 the County deeded the property to the Clatsop County Historical Society for museum use. As a consequence of its not being used intensively in the 20-year interval, the house was handed over in a remarkably unaltered state. The only alterations to date are superficial and unobtrusive.

On the basis of original drawings and plans in private ownership in Portland, and other sources, the design of the house has been attributed to Carl W. Leick, Portland draftsman and assistant supervisor of the US Lighthouse Engineer's Office. Leick is reputed to have designed residences for lighthouse personnel up and down the coast.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America, Thomas Vaughan and Virginia Guest Ferriday, editors. Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974, Vol. 1, pp. 293-294.
 History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea, Fred Lockley. Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Co., 1928, Vol. 3, pp 542-551.

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property slightly less than one (200x200')
 Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 0	4 3 5 6 4 0	5 1 1 5 4 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

UTM NOT IDENTIFIED

D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 through 8, inclusive, Block 41, McClure's Addition, Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel C. Robertson, Curator
 organization Clatsop County Historical Museum date January 9, 1980
 street & number 441 8th Street telephone 503/325-2203
 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*
 title Deputy SHPO date September 24, 1980

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
[Signature] date 11-28-80
 Keeper of the National Register
[Signature] date 11/26/80
 Chief of Registration

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Miller, Emma Gene. Clatsop County, Oregon (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1958).
 Corning, Howard McKinley, ed. Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1954), p. 85.
 McArthur, Lewis A. Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), p. 276. Flavel Townsite.
 Lewis and Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest, E.W. Wright, editor. Lewis & Dryden Printing Company, 1895, pp. 26-27.
 Portland City Directories 1888-1920. Information pertaining to C.W. Leick, Draftsman.
 Letter pertaining to C.W. Leick by Claude Asquith to Portland Oregonian (undated?), Manuscript Collection, Oregon Historical Society, Portland.
 Original drawings for Captain George Flavel House (signed and dated?), possession of Ben Milligan, Portland.