United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG - | 1983
date entered

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

71						
1. Nam	ie					
historic	Hafer, Edgai	· F., Ho	use			
and/or common	Perl Funera	l Home				
2. Loca	ation					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
street & number	426 West Six	# #th Stre	ete	And the second s	N/A not fo	publication
city, town	Medford		N/A vicinity of	Second Congress	sional Distri	ct
state	Oregon	code	41 county	Jackson		code 029
3. Clas	sification	1				
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being conside	on A	tatus X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress ccessible X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educations entertainm governme industrial military	al pa al pri nent rel nt sc tra	vate residence igious
4. Own	er of Pro	perty	7			
name	Uniservice C	ornens t	ion			
street & number		• •	orth Street			
city, town	Portland	TTINGSW	N/A vicinity of		state Oregon	97211
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	stry of deeds, etc.		son County Cour	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
street & number		Eight	and Oakdale S	treets		
city, town		Medfo	ord		state Oregon	97211
6. Repi	resentation	on in	Existing			
title	Statewide In Historic Pro			roperty been determi	ned eligible? _	yes <u>x</u> no
date	1983			federal	X state co	untylocal
depositøry for su	irvey records	State	e Historic Pres	ervation Office		
city, town	Salem				state Oregon S	97310

7. Description

Condition excellent deterioratedX good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unalteredX altered	Check oneX_ original site moved dateN/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Edgar F. Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home is a two-and-one-half story wood frame structure in the Colonial Revival style. The architect of the original house, completed in 1905, is unknown. Frank C. Clark executed plans for a major addition and alteration to the house around 1921. The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home is located at the edge of the central business district of Medford, Oregon. To the east, south and west are one to two-story brick or concrete commercial blocks. North of the property is an older residential neighborhood comprised of modest wood frame dwellings. The house occupies a parcel measuring 100x200-feet, being Lots 9 through 12 of Block 79 of the Original Plat of Medford.

Setting

The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home property is at the northeast corner of West Sixth and North Oakdale Streets. One block south is Medford's Main Street, historically the major east-west commercial street. Many brick, concrete and stucco faced commercial blocks constructed during the town's earliest robust periods of growth, remain standing on or near Main Street in the vicinity of the Hafer/Perl property. Several blocks, containing a public park and several old and new civic buildings, lie two - three blocks south of the nominated property. Five properties in the vicinity are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A number of modern one-story commercial buildings are directly west of the Hafer/Perl building. To the north is a neighborhood of single family, modest, wood frame dwellings, some of which have been converted to commercial use. On the adjoining lots to the north of the Hafer/Perl property stands the recent edifice of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home is located in a narrow strip of commercially zoned land with abutting residential zones to the north, south and west.

Site Description

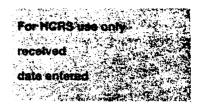
The principal facade of the Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home is oriented to the southeast and is set back from West Sixth Street approximately forty feet. Landscaping on the public street sides of the building consists of a thick, manicured lawn and carefully trimmed foundation shrubbery. Elliptical paved driveways circle by the front(south) and side(west) entrances. Two large deciduous trees, probably dating from the construction of the house stand near the Oakdale Street side of the property. A small, low, tastefully designed sign stands near the edge of the property at the Oakdale and Sixth streets intersection. A private paved parking lot with space for approximately six vehicles is at the rear of the house.

Exterior

The two-and-one-half story, wood frame Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home, sheathed with narrow horizontal clapboards, is designed in the Colonial Revival style. The building is essentially rectangular in plan with overall dimensions of approximately 80x68-feet. A hipped roof, with a single hipped-roof dormer window on each of the four roof slopes, caps the main body of the house. A cross gable projects from the west wall of the house. Composition shingles are the primary roofing material. The largest portion of the house rests on a poured concrete foundation with a full basement below ground. Two massive, rough-cut stone and mortar chimneys rise above the roofline of the house. A small, brick chimney is located in the rear half of the structure.

Windows are predominantly double-hung sash, usually with either twenty-four, or twenty, small lights, over a single pane in the lower sash.

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Small, multi-light casement windows are found in the dormer windows and sections of the rear and side walls. Horizontal, beveled glass windows are located above the main, recessed entrance and in the side vestibule.

Elements characteristic of the Colonial Revival style are profuse in the Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home. The main facade features a prominent portico with tapered, boxed Ionic columns supporting a pedimented gable. The slightly projecting portico over the side entrance, has Tuscan columns beneath a balustraded balcony. Palladian windows with intersecting tracery in the upper portion, enclose the porch, originally open and extending the full width of the main facade. Classically detailed pilasters trim window bays and building corners. A three part entablature, including cornice, frieze and architrave, exists in all sections of the principal elevations. A one-story, wood frame series of attached garages, measuring approximately 24x76-feet, extends from the rear of the building and runs along the east property line. The center section of the five vehicle-bay garages has a hipped roof similar to that of the main house. Exterior siding of the garages is identical to the horizontal clapboard siding on the house. Decorative brackets, or modillions, and dentils in the cornice also match those on the house.

Interior

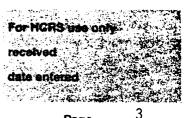
The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home has a total of twenty-two rooms, excluding halls, foyers, washrooms, small storage rooms and stairways. Interior spatial arrangement is based on a central hall plan. On the ground floor the chapel and "family room" are to the left of the main hall. To the right are the "lounge", "slumber rooms", the "display room", "trimming room" and the morgue [10]. Small storage rooms open onto a narrow hall behind the stairwell. On the second floor, four rooms east of the central hall are reserved for office and business use, while a resident apartment consisting of a living room, dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms is on the west side of the house. The half-story attic is unfinished. All stairways consist of a double run with a small landing at the half-way point. Walls and ceilings are predominantly covered with dry wall finish or plaster. Double wood flooring is convered with wall to wall carpeting. Three fireplaces feature simply designed wood mantels with ceramic tile hearths.

The woodwork throughout the house is essentially intact and displays exceptional decorative details. Newel posts at the foot and head of stairways, doors, as well as, door, window, floor and ceiling molding, are lavishly decorated with the egg and dart motif. Painted Ionic wood columns frame the opening between the front hall and the chapel. Wood boxed beams decorate the ceiling of the lounge to the east of the front hall on the ground floor. The upstairs resident apartment has unaltered, unpainted built-in cabinets, picture and floor molding and decorated wood fireplace mantel.

Alterations

The Hafer House was substantially altered, both on the exterior and the interior, around 1921, to accommodate the building's conversion to a combined funeral parlor and residence. The porch, extending across the main facade, was enclosed, and the house was enlarged along the east, alley side and rear (north) wall. Pedimented gables were introduced over the main entrance and newly created side (west) entry porch. Although

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the original interior spatial arrangement is not known or documented, changes in room sizes, and functions probably changed somewhat as a result of the 1921 alteration. Frank Clark, architect for this early alteration, clearly made every effort to have the new design and materials consistent with the original Hafer House. Old materials were reused where possible, new siding and windows matches the original, and cornice work corresponded to the old. Since the alteration of 1921, only one other alteration of note is known. In the early 1960s Robert Keeney, former partner of then deceased Frank Clark, presumably drew plans for the addition of a one-story, irregular shaped section on the side (west) wall of the structure. As in the 1921 alteration, siding, cornice lines, windows and decorative details were consistent with the existing features.

Changes in the interior spatial arrangement executed by Robert Keeney in 1964, were relatively minor and were limited to the ground floor. The greatest alteration occurred in the area of the chapel where two interior walls were cut back to expand the size of the room. At the same time the mantel of a wall chimney was removed and the hearth opening plastered over. The configuration of one room on the east side of the ground floor was slightly modified. Minimal relocation of windows and doors also took place on the west side of the ground floor in 1964.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture x architecture art commerce communications		Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature Iiteratury Indicates Indicat	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates	1905, 1921	Builder/Architect _{Origin}		
_X 1900-	communications	industry invention Builder/ArchitectOrigin	politics/government	transp other

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Frank C. Clark, 1921 alterations

The two-and-one-half story, hip-roofed Colonial Revival style house at 426 West Sixth Street at the northwest corner of the central business district in Medford, Oregon, was constructed in 1905 for Edgar F. Hafer, president and general manager of the Crater Lake Lumber Company. As originally constructed, the house had a foursquare, Craftsman quality, but with fine detailing in the classical vein. While the architect is as yet unknown, the construction date of 1905 is confirmed by newspaper reference. The Hafer House may be the oldest documented example of Colonial Revival architecture in Medford. Hafer's association with the property ended by 1917. In 1920, the house was acquired by established local undertaker John A. Perl. Perl and his son, Frank, conducted the family business at the location until 1973, at which time the Uniservice Corporation took over the operation. Thus, the Perls compiled a 53-year record of continuous family ownership and maintenance of the property. To adapt the residence to its use as a funeral parlor with living accommodations on the second floor, Perl engaged leading Medford architect Frank C. Clark, who, being well acquainted with the Colonial idiom, enclosed the front porch and added features on the east and north which were consistent with original treat-In 1964, Robert Keeney, a former associate of Clark's, carried out minor interior modifications and enlarged a polygonal bay window on the west face as a minor, tangential wing.

Evaluated under National Register criterion "c", the Hafer House is locally significant as Medford's oldest standing example of the Colonial Revival style. The style was introduced to Oregon by the Portland firm of Whidden and Lewis, whose earliest houses in the style date from the early 1890s. Evaluated under criterion "a", the house is interesting as a reflection of two periods of growth and development in Medford. Having cost \$4,000, the house is thought to have been the most expensive house constructed in the city in 1905, which year marked the beginning of explosive growth based on the orchard boom. Its enlargement and adaptation in 1921 coincided with a second surge of development in the Rogue River Valley preceding the Great Depression. The house is significant under criterion "b" for its association with Edgar F. Hafer and John A. Perl, leading businessmen of the community in the early years of the 20th century.

The year 1884 marked the legitimate conception of the village of Medford when the south-heading Oregon-California Railroad reached the present Medford townsite. Three years later, in 1887, the transportation link between Portland, Oregon and San Francisco was completed. Medford's central location in the Rogue River Valley, along with its siting along the railroad, gave impetus to the town's future establishment as a major distribution point and shipping center for the region. By 1900 Medford's population hovered around 2,000.

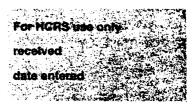
From 1900 to 1910 Medford experienced explosive growth with its population attaining one-third of its 1983 size. The valley's temperate climate, productive soil, nearby mineral and timber resources were widely publicized. The raising of pears, apples and other fruits quickly became the chief industry of the region. By the summer of 1909, 50,000 acres in the Rogue River Valley were set to fruit trees [12], and apples and pears were being

9. Major Bibliographical References

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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
		epared By			
name/title organization	Gail E. I	H. Evans		date	March, 1983
street & numbe	er PO Box 1	154		telephone	(206) 452-4934
city or town	Port Ange	eles		state	Washington 98362
12. St	ate His	storic Pres	ervation	<u>Offic</u>	er Certification
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665), I hereby raccording to the	nominate this p ne criteria and p	oric Preservation Officer for the property for inclusion in the procedures set forth by the ficer signature	or the National Hi he National Regis he National Park	Istorid Preser ter and certify Service.	vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– y that it has been evaluated
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shipped to Chicago, Montreal, New York, Boston and England where heavy demand for the valley's quality fruit yielded the highest prices [13, 14]. Known as "The Queen City of southern Oregon [15]," many energetic and aspiring men from Eastern cities were lured by the promise of the Rogue River Valley, and came to the region to pursue horticulture. Between 1900 and 1910 Medford's population leaped to nearly 9,000 inhabitants, showing a 393.5% increase in ten years. Medford led all other towns in percent increase in the United States over the same ten year period, except for Oklahoma City and Muskogee, Oklahoma [8].

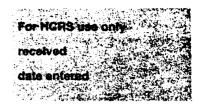
The early population boom in Medford was clearly evident in the city's rapid construction of residential and commerical structures. New business blocks were constructed along Main Street, west of the railroad tracks [16]. New residences outnumbered the old in nearly every section of the city [11]. It was during this decade of unprecedented growth that Edgar F. Hafer purchased one half of Block 79 of the original town plat of Medford [7]. The Medford Mail-Tribune for September 29, 1905, reported that construction of Hafer's new house was underway. The site had once been the property of James S. Howard, founder and first mayor of Medford. Hafer's house joined a group of fashionable new residences at the northwest edge of Medford's expanding commercial district.

"Carpenters are at work on the new home of Edgar Hafer, manager of the Iowa Lumber and Box Company. The house will be 41x42-feet in size, full two-stories high, and will contain eight rooms besides closets, baths, pantry and halls. It will be piped throughout for water, and wired for electric lights and will have every convenience available. The dwelling will cost completed fully \$4,000. The lot is an ideal one, on north J Street [Oakdale Street], and there being one half a block of ground, ample room will be had for beautifying the place. . ." [15a].

It was in 1905 that Medford's first construction boom was getting underway. Between January 1, 1905 and October 25th of the same year, 87 residences were erected. Constructed for a total cost of \$4,000, the home of Edgar Hafer was reported to be the most expensive home completed in that year. [15a].

By the mid 1910s Medford experienced a slump in growth with the advent of World War I and bad years of fruit production due to lack of water. Bonus laws offered to exservicemen to encourage home building, and the development of reliable irrigation systems on orchard property, were key factors causing a revival of building in Medford in the early and mid 1920s. In the spring of 1922, a local newspaper announced that Medford was in the "midst of the greatest building boom in its history [17]." John A. Perl purchased the Hafer property on the eve of the town's second significant surge of growth, and immediately planned a major addition and alteration of the Hafer residence [6]. Within ten years of the Perl Funeral Home alteration, several prominent commercial blocks were raised in the vicinity of the newly acquired Perl property. The construction and subsequent alteration of the original Hafer House coincided with two major periods of growth and development of the city of Medford. Today, the Hafer/Perl property is a conspicuous reminder of these two significant epochs in Medford History.

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The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home presently stands in an area of transition between Medford's commercial and civic buildings, and residential neighborhoods composed of more modest homes. Although once in a small neighborhood of palatial homes occupied by the town's business and professional leaders and socially elite, the Hafer/Perl property is one of the last remaining, grand homes in close proximity to the town's early commercial district. The exterior design, materials and surrounding landscaping of the building have been only minimally altered since the early 1920s. The integrity and age of such a building, so close to the business and civic center of town, is a distinctive feature of the property.

Unlike the palatial homes which once stood in the neighborhood, but have since succumbed to demolition, fire or relocation, several business and civic buildings dating from the 1910s and 1920s have survived to the present. Significant brick or concrete edifices that are located within three blocks of the Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home include the Hotel Medford (1910-11), the Carnegie Library (1911), the Garnett-Corey Building (1910), the Cargill Court Apartments (1910s/1932), the old Federal Building (1915), the Rosenbaum & Reames Building (1916), the Holly Theatre (1930) and the Jackson County Courthouse (1932). Five buildings in the area are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edgar F. Hafer, a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, arrived in the Rogue River Valley shortly after the turn of the century, on the eve of Medford's first building boom. Hafer was associated with establishing and managing the Medford branch of the Iowa Lumber and Box Company, headquartered in Council Bluffs [4]. Crater Lake Lumber Company evolved from the Iowa company, with Edgar Hafer serving as president and general manager [9]. Around 1910, Edgar Hafer sold his company. The name Big Pines Lumber Company was given to the new company. Over the next few years Big Pines expanded with the growth of the town, and subsequently became one of the regions leading retail lumber suppliers [21]. Although Edgar Hafer was gone from the valley by 1917, during his short tenure he established the parent company of one of the leading retail lumber companies in Medford, was a member of a Medford city council standing committee, and was an active participant in the city's more affluent social circle.

John Adam Perl played a vitally important role in the early development and long term growth of the city of Medford. Born in Canal Fulton, Ohio in 1875, John Perl, no doubt, received training in the undertaking business from his father, Peter Perl, who was, himself, an undertaker. In 1900 John Perl was licensed as an "embalmer" in the state of Illinois. John, with his wife Nellie (nee Bundy), arrived in the Rogue River Valley in 1908, and after a brief, unsuccessful venture in the orcharding business, resumed his career in embalming. Around 1912 Perl purchased the funeral business portion of the Medford Furniture and Hardware Company. For nearly twelve years John Perl operated his undertaking business in a small commercial space in downtown Medford (28 South Bartlett Street).

In 1920 John Perl purchased the vacated Hafer House, and shortly thereafter, altered the building to accommodate his embalming business on the ground floor, while adapting the upstairs floor for use as the Perl family residence. When John Perl retired in 1954, son Frank Perl, became solely responsible for the operation of the business. John and Nellie

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Perl parented three children: Aileen Perl Six, Frank and Frederick. After Nellie Perl's death in 1934, John Perl married Jean D. Watt in 1937. John Perl died in Portland, Oregon in 1959 [18, 19, 20, 25].

John A. Perl established one of the two earliest undertaking businesses in Medford. After the state of Oregon began issuing licenses to embalmers in 1921, John Perl became one of the first licensed funeral directors in Oregon [26]. Both John, and son Frank Perl, served as Jackson County coroners (John: January 1915 to January 1924; Frank: January 1933 to January 1940) [23]. John Perl was active in many civic and fraternal organizations in the Medford community [20]. For over sixty years the Perl Funeral Home operated under the unbroken ownership of a single family, setting a record for longevity for funeral business ownership in Medford [24]. In addition, the Perl Funeral Home has conducted its business on the same site for 53 years, longer than any other funeral business in Medford.

The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home is one of the best and earliest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Medford. Its formal facade organization featuring a central portico with tapered square columns with Ionic capitals, its narrow weatherboards and classically detailed corner pilasters, its full classical entablature, and its windows with many small panes in the upper sash are characteristic of the Colonial Revival style.

Although the earliest appearance of the Colonial Revival style in Oregon occurred in Portland approximately 1890, the earliest known example of this style in the more isolated, southwestern part of the state was the Chappel-Swedenburg House designed by Frank C. Clark and constructed 1904-1905 in Ashland, fifteen miles south of Medford. Completed in the same year, the Hafer House/Perl Funeral Homes is believed to be the oldest surviving example of the style in Medford.

The major alteration of about 1921, rendered by local architect Frank C. Clark, perpetuated the design characteristics of the original style. Written specifications for the building alteration clearly state that "all new work is to be a continuation of old work (and) shall be of sizes to correspond to the present old mill work [3]." Clark's introduction of Palladian windows in an enclosure of the front porch, the addition of a porch pediment and other classical detailing elaborated the Colonial theme.

Subsequent exterior and interior alterations which occurred in the early 1960s were relatively minor, and perpetuated Colonial design features and original materials. Interior changes since the early 1920s are limited to minor changes in door and window openings, minimal changes to wall partitions and ceilings in the non-public portions of the ground and second floors, and the updating of plumbing and electrical fixtures. The house has retained much of the original woodwork, particularly in the residence section of the second floor, including door, window and floor molding, fireplace mantels, newel posts, and built-in cabinetry. The Hafer House/Perl Funeral Home has retained a high degree of integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

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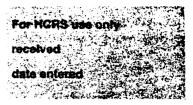
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The architect of the original Hafer House in unknown. Prominent local architect Frank C. Clark executed plans for the 1921 alteration, which provided for adaptive reuse of the building. A recently completed architectural inventory of Clark's work in the Rogue River Valley, documents over 260 extant Clark designs [1]. Although Clark was knowledgeable of, and executed designs in, a wide variety of architectural styles, he appeared to have a special skill and penchant for designing classical forms and details. Frank Chamberlain Clark was born in Greene, New York, December 27, 1872. He attended the Cooper Union in New York City for two years, and afterwards served in the offices of Arthur Curtis Longyear and Oscar S. Teale of New York, Robert Williams Gibson of New York, and reportedly for a brief period in 1896 with the prestigious firm of McKim, Mead and White. Clark came to the West Coast for a respite late in 1896, and later worked two years with Frederick Roehrig. He opened his own office in 1899 and went to Arizona to execute projects in Prescott, Tuscon and Jerome, Arizona. Clark moved to Ashland, Oregon in 1903. In the late 1930s Frank Clark joined in partnership with architect Robert Keeney (AIA). Following semi-retirement after World War II, Frank Clark died in Medford in 1957 [2].

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- 1) Atwood, Kay and Gail Evans; Frank C. Clark Inventory, 1982.
- 2) Atwood, Kay and Gail Evans; National Register nomination, Hillcrest Orchard, Medford, Oregon, 1982.
- 3) Clark, Frank C., architect, John A. Perl blueprints and building specifications, Perl Funeral Home collection, Medford, Oregon, (undated).
- 4) <u>Directory of Ashland, Medford, Jacksonville, Gold Hill and Central Point, Grants Pass, Roseburg, Drain, Oakland and Yoncalla, Portland, Oregon; R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1906.</u>
- 5) <u>Insurance Maps of Medford</u>, San Francisco/New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1898, 1907, 1911, 1954, 1960.
- 6) <u>Jackson County Assessors Record Books</u>, Volumes, 203, 204, 210, 211, <u>Jackson County Courthouse Archives</u>, Medford, Oregon.
- 7) <u>Jackson County Deed Records</u>, Volume 56, page 88.
- 8) <u>Jackson County Directory</u>, Volume I, Portland, Oregon: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1911.
- 9) <u>Jackson, Josephine and Douglas County Directory</u>, Volume II, Portland, Oregon: R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1910.
- 10) Keeney, Robert and Jeffrey Shute, Remodelling of the Perl Funeral Home, Robert Keeney collection, 1964.

Medford Daily Tribune

- 11) 17 July 1901, page 1.
- 12) 13 August 1901, page 4.
- 13) 21 August 1901, page 1.
- 14) 3 September 1909, page 1.

Medford Mail Tribune

- 15a) 29 September 1905, 25 October 1905.
- 15b) 13 November 1908, page 2.
- 16) 12 March 1909, page 1.
- 17) 9 March 1922, page 8.
- 18) 30 April 1934.
- 19) 19 January 1954.
- 20) 12 October 1959.
- 21) 2 May 1973, page 26.
- 22) Medford Telephone Directory, The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1916 and 1917.

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23) Oregon Blue Book, The, Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1915/16-1933/34.

INTERVIEWS

- 24) Richard Orr, descendant of founder of Weeks and Orr Furniture, Medford, Oregon. Telephone interview, 10 March, 1983.
- 25) Frank Perl, son of John A. Perl, Medford, Oregon. Personal interview, 15 Novmeber, 1982.
- 26) Cynthia Potter, Oregon State Board of Funeral Directors, Portland, Oregon.
 Telephone interview, 11 March, 1983.