

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 29 1987

date entered

SEP 10 1987

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

1. Name

historic None

and/or common Sherman Street Historic Residential District

2. Location

street & number 400 and 500 blocks of Sherman Street n/a not for publication

city, town Fort Morgan n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Morgan code 087

3. Classification

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Multiple Ownership - see attached

street & number n/a

city, town n/a n/a vicinity of state n/a

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morgan County Clerk and Recorder's Office

street & number n/a

city, town Fort Morgan state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records OAHP, Colorado Historical Society

city, town Denver state Colorado

AUG 27 1987

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The city of Fort Morgan, in the exact center of Morgan County, is the county seat with a population of 9,000 people. The Sherman Street Historic District is located on the east side of town between Beaver Street and Platte Avenue on the east side of Sherman Street. The District contains a total of eleven buildings and one structure, a pergola with an attached gazebo. The nine contributing buildings consist of four residences and five outbuildings constructed between 1886 and 1926 and one contributing structure the pergola and gazebo, constructed ca. 1914-1915. Two of the outbuildings were built outside the period of significance and are non-contributing to the District.

The District, one of the most historic and attractive neighborhoods in the city, is distinctive for its architectural variety and is unique in Fort Morgan for its spacious yards with mature trees which surround each house. These large sites extend from Sherman Street at the front of the buildings to Warner Street at the rear. These sites were part of George Warner's 160 acre tree claim, where Warner set aside parcels for residential development.

Sherman Street is a heavily traveled thoroughfare at the east end of town. Although many affluent citizens chose to build and live along Sherman Street, it was not paved until 1945. The proposed district lies between the old residential section of town and the new extensive commercial development on part of the Warner farm to the east beginning along Warner Street. This street, the first concrete street in Fort Morgan, was constructed in 1985 directly behind the district for access to the new development. It was named in memory of George Warner, the original homesteader of that area.

The four houses in the District are large two-story structures constructed of wood frame and brick and display various architectural styles. The 19th-century Warner House (1886) and the Curry House (1898) exhibit Victorian Queen Anne elements while the two 20th-century residences are characterized by styles popular in the early 1900s. The Graham House (1914) is a basic Foursquare with broad overhanging eaves while the Bloedorn House (1926) is an excellent example of the Georgian Revival style complete with a white, wooden fence and front circle drive. It is the only Georgian Revival residence in Fort Morgan.

1. The Warner House 508 Sherman Street; Victorian, Queen Anne (1886)

The property is 33,740 square feet in area. There is one contributing house and one non-contributing outbuilding on the site. This one-story house was constructed in 1886 as a typical homesteader's house located on the northwest corner of a tree claim, east of Fort Morgan. The original materials were hand formed soft brick used to construct four rooms with a stoop on the north side. Sometime around 1900 the structure was completely remodeled into a one-and-one half story Queen Anne style house which has remained relatively unaltered since that time.

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Sherman Street Historic District

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Floyd Deal  
404 Sherman Street  
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

Janet Johnson  
428 Sherman Street  
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

Dick Petrino  
440 Sherman Street  
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

Richard Reiber  
508 Sherman Street  
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

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During the 1900 remodeling, the house was enlarged by adding a new kitchen on the east, a coal shed and washroom on the south and a library with a fireplace on the north. A four bedroom, second story with an L shaped, wood shingle, gabled roof was added over the original house. A polygonal tower with a faceted roof, bracketed eaves and a low balustrade was constructed in the L above the front corner entrance. On the first story, one story bays with segmental arched windows were added to the south and west elevations at each end of the wrap-around front porch. The sloping porch roof has dentils under the eaves and is supported by Tuscan columns set on brick pedestals. The porch railing is now missing.

The windows and entry door in the original portion of the house have segmental arched tops over tall, narrow rectangular openings with double hung, one-over-one wood sash. On the second floor, the rectangular windows have wooden surrounds. The gables and tower are faced in square cut shingles.

In the interior, the important features of its Victorian period remain in good condition. The west entry door opens into a parlor room that has a fireplace with a wood mantel with pilasters and an upper bevelled mirror and shelf. This room contains an open staircase constructed with a carved newel post and stair balusters. The wood used in this room is natural maple and there is a large glass globe ceiling fixture. The bay window area in the living room is lighted by a brass base ceiling fixture from which five cut glass globes hang. Sliding panel doors separate the living room from a small library room. The doorways are trimmed with grooved trimboard and patterned wood corner blocks. Upstairs the bedrooms all have built-in window seats that extend to the walls. The tower bedroom has a built-in desk and shelves.

A new barn style garage with a gambrel roof (ca. 1980) at the rear of the property is not within the period of significance and is non-contributing.

2. Curry House 404 Sherman Street; Queen Anne (1898)

The site contains five buildings--one contributing residence, three contributing outbuildings and one non-contributing outbuilding. The total property is 68,000 square feet.

The contractor who built this house was Charles Eyser, James P. Curry's brother-in-law. In 1916, Charles Eyser was killed in a gun fight while serving as Town Marshal of Fort Morgan by a bootlegger. The two and one-half story wood framed house with

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clapboard siding has an irregular plan. The roof has the most common shape of the Queen Anne style--a hipped main roof with a flat deck crowning the hip and edged with cresting. There are gabled two-story pavilions on the west front and south side placed asymmetrically on the elevations. Two shallow dormers with clipped gable roofs augment the irregular shape of the main roof.

The west and south pavilions have three sided, one-story bay windows on the first floor with hipped roofs and flat headed one-over-one wood sash. Over the bay are double second story windows. The gables of the pavilions are faced in diamond and fishscale shingles and have small double attic windows. The flat headed one-over-one sash has been used consistently throughout with the exception of the two small rectangular windows on the west and south second story. These windows, typical of the Queen Anne style, have a fixed center pane surrounded by small panes of stained glass.

Originally the front porch entry was centered on the west facade projecting slightly out from the rest of the porch. There was a gabled roof with a sun-burst design in the gable face over the entry and turned columns at either side. Set back at the second story level was a square open porch with turned posts, railing with turned balusters, a spindle frieze, and a pyramidal roof with splayed eaves topped by a finial. A one-story front porch extended across the west facade and wrapped around the south side of the house. The hipped roof was supported by turned columns and there was a low railing with turned balusters and a spindle frieze with fan-like brackets under the eaves. This porch was enclosed in 1912 when Mr. Curry boxed in the posts, removed the gabled entry, enclosed the lower portion of the porches and put screening above. The pyramidal roof was removed in the 1950s. A 1987 restoration has returned the porch to its original appearance (see historic photo). When the renovation began, the original porch posts were found in place. Several original brackets and the wooden finial for the porch roof were found in the barn and exact duplicates were made and reinstalled. The gabled entry, the second story porch posts, the spindles for the railings and frieze and the pyramidal roof were reconstructed to match the original.

In addition to the porch, the interior was altered from time to time. In 1914, Mr. Curry built a tile fireplace with an oak mantel in the north wall of the living room. In 1950, Vera Davidson, Curry's granddaughter, remodeled and enlarged the kitchen by extending the rear wall to the east and attaching a carport. The carport was removed when the front porch was restored. A rear porch with a hipped roof supported by turned posts was built over the back door. The interior of the house was restored in 1978.

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The south front door opens into an entry hall that contains the original staircase with a carved newel post and stair balusters. The entry hall also contains a tall carved oak wall mirror. The entire stairway can be seen from the west end of the living room. There are built-in window seats in the bay windows and on each side of the fireplace. Carved wood cornice trim is found in the living room as are large sliding wood paneled pocket doors separating it from a small family sitting room. A second set of sliding doors open into a large dining room. The entire east wall of the dining room has an original built-in china cupboard or sideboard with a central bevelled glass mirror surrounded by leaded glass cabinet doors.

The doors and door and window surrounds are natural yellow pine with grooved trim boards and carved wood corner blocks. The brass doorknobs have embossed back plates. Upstairs on the second floor, there are glass transoms over the bedroom doors and brass ceiling lights with milk glass shades.

There are three contributing outbuildings at the rear of the house. A rectangular, wood framed and clapboard, one-and-one-half story barn with a gabled roof was built when the house was constructed. Diamond shape shingles decorate the gable ends and a gabled and louvered attic vent with ridge cresting is centered on the roof. A lower, gable roofed, one-story carriage house was constructed onto the south side of the barn several years after the house was completed. Both buildings are considered as a single contributing building. The large sliding entrance barn doors have heavy cross bracing. The roofs of the barn and carriage house are faced with wood shingles. The wood framed water tower and outhouse are faced with simple drop siding. Even though the exterior differs from the house it is believed these were also built at the same time. The outhouse has a side gable roof with a centrally located wood panel door. The water tower is square in shape, approximately two stories in height with walls that flare out at the bottom. The low hipped roof has flared eaves and a weather vane in the center. The door into the structure is located in the south wall where there is a broad, low window at the second story level. There are two smaller square windows on the west side, one on each story. The water tower, the only one in Fort Morgan, supplied the house with indoor running water with the help of a now demolished windmill.

The water tower and outhouse are two contributing buildings and the carriage house and attached carriage house are one contributing building. The small brick shed with a gabled roof, located at the back of the property, was built outside the period of significance in the 1960s and is non-contributing.

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3. The Graham House 428 Sherman Street; American Foursquare/Craftsman (1914)

There are two contributing buildings, the house and garage, and one contributing structure, a pergola and attached gazebo, on the 68,000 square foot site. Ralph and Olivia Graham chose the American Foursquare style with Craftsman details for the design of their home. Their architects were Stein and Westfall of Denver; William Killebrew of Fort Morgan was the contractor. The cost of this house in 1914 was \$10,628.00.

This typical two-story square plan was constructed with brick walls that were stuccoed, and it is topped with a hipped roof, gabled dormers and broad overhanging verges and eave brackets. The three part casement windows with square lights in the upper sash, and the front door with multi-squared side lights, enhance its symmetrical features. There is a bay window on the north wall of the dining room. The rear of the house has a wood framed and stucco two-story enclosed back porch.

A conspicuous focal point of the facade is the gabled entry porch supported by heavy square piers with brackets. An open porch continues around to a south entry with glass paned double doors covered by an attached pergola. In the garden there is a long pergola which connects to a gazebo at the east end. It consists of a long double row of square wood posts with overhead beams designed to support grape vines. This opens into a simple gazebo with a low hipped roof and decorative brackets. These features were constructed at the time the house was built or shortly thereafter.

This house has not been altered from its original plan and is in good condition. The front door opens into a spacious entry hall with the living room and dining room on either side of the hall. This center hall is lighted by a large, round brass base ceiling fixture from which long glass prisms hang. The staircase rises from this hall to a large landing with a window that has wall sconces with hanging glass prisms on each side. There is an elegant six-foot high fireplace with white sandstone mantel carved in Beaux-Arts style and Italian marble facing in the living room. The original ornate brass andirons with Flemish tiles accent the fireplace, as well as the large mirror above the mantel. The ten-foot ceiling in the living room has a wide wood cornice with cross beams. The walls have six embossed plaster sconces, one on each side of the front window, fireplace and rear door. The east wall has two built-in bookcases with glass paned doors. Glass multipaned double doors open from the center hall into the dining room which is lighted by a sterling silver chandelier and matching wall sconces. A butlers pantry separates the dining room from the kitchen.

The doors and woodwork throughout the house are natural walnut and the doors all have glass doorknobs. Small oak telephone boxes are placed in several rooms on each floor as part of an intercom system. The third story was a ballroom which has a hardwood

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floor and off it, a bathroom. Half of the basement was a billiard room with hardwood floors and a small fireplace. Beyond this room is the wine cellar and a bathroom.

A two car garage, constructed with brick and stucco finish, has a hipped roof. Located on the north side to the rear of the house, it was part of the original construction and is contributing to the District.

4. Bloedorn House 440 Sherman Street; Georgian Revival (1926)

There are two contributing buildings on the 34,000 square foot site, the house and the garage. The house is located at the eastern terminus of Bijou Street facing west. A wood rail fence with brick columns emphasizes the Georgian style of this house. The large site has mature plantings and there is a circular drive up to the front of the house.

A combination of various Colonial styles was used in the design by Mountjoy and Frewen, Denver architects. The Georgian style is predominant in its smooth brick exterior with decorative quoins and classic symmetrical two-story form with side gabled, moderately pitched roof, with an eyebrow dormer. The slight eave overhang is embellished with a modillioned cornice and dentils. The third floor attic has two quarter round lights in the side gable ends.

The facade of the house has masonry Federal style windows with eight-over-eight sash placed singly in symmetrical rows with louvered shutters and are topped with flat brick arches with keystones. One of the architectural elaborations is the paneled front door accented by a one-story open pediment which is supported by two Tuscan columns, and decorated with a typical elliptical fanlight and side lights. The two-story south sun room has a low wooden balustrade on the flat roof.

The interior of the house is in excellent condition and has not been altered from the original plan. The front door opens into an elegant center entry hall. There are bevelled mirror coat closet doors on each side of the front door. The entry hall and center staircase are lighted by a brass and cut glass ceiling light fixture. The ceilings in the dining room and living room on either side of the center hall, have molded cornices and brass sconces on the walls. The fireplace in the living room is a traditional style of brick trimmed with a white painted mantel and pillars on each end. Glass paneled doors open from the living room into the sun room to the south. From the sun room another set of glass double doors open onto the patio.



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The doors throughout the house are natural cherry wood with brass and glass door knobs. The third floor ballroom is one large room the length of the house with a hardwood floor.

The original two car garage, located at the north rear of the house, is constructed of brick with a gabled roof and was built at the same time as the house. Both the house and garage are contributing.

## 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"/> n/a landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** 1886-1926 **Builder/Architect** Various, see below.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sherman Street Historic District meets criteria A and C. As a group, the four residences in the district are significant for their individual architectural styles popular during the district's period of development from 1886 to 1926. The large lot sizes make this area the most unique residential section in Fort Morgan. The district was part of the original 1883, 160 acre tree claim of George Warner who subdivided it into sites for residential development. Warner, a prominent Fort Morgan pioneer, real estate promoter and developer built the first house in the district in 1836. The district is significant for its associations with other prominent Fort Morgan residents, who chose to build and live in this area, such as James P. Curry, important Fort Morgan businessman and banker; Ralph B. Graham, involved with the local and state livestock industry; and John Bloedorn, owner of Fort Morgan State Bank, the largest bank in northeast Colorado.

Fort Morgan, located 80 miles northeast of Denver, has a history of vigilance and resourcefulness in reclaiming the plains and making them into prosperous farms. In 1882 two railroads, the Union Pacific and the Burlington and Missouri, passed both north and south of the townsite respectively thus increasing the value of the area. In 1884 Abner Baker, founding father of Fort Morgan, completed the irrigation canal from the Platte River which delivered lifeblood water to the economy of the region. Meanwhile the town was platted by Baker and his associate George Warner. The spring of 1884 saw only tents and shacks, yet by the end of the year five houses and a 20 room hotel had been erected. During the first few years the town grew slowly for the idea of irrigated farming was strange to immigrants from the east.

Fort Morgan continued to grow and expand as it became an agricultural center for the region. Development along Sherman Street quickened and became a desirable place of residence for several prominent citizens. The architecture reflected in the district saw a progression in style indicative of its historical development; from a modest four room homesteader's dwelling to a large Victorian home and barn, then to the American Foursquare and the traditional Georgian styles. The unique location and lot sizes and the quality of architecture have made this an outstanding historical residential district in Fort Morgan to this day.

In the early 1880s, many pioneers obtained land and settled in the Fort Morgan area under the Homestead Act. Others such as George Warner claimed 160 acres under the Timber Culture Act (1873) in 1883. According to that Act, land could be obtained from the federal government by planting and growing timber on the western prairies. In theory, the groves of trees would reduce winds, attract increased rainfall and

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name Fort Morgan

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached.

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

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
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state		code		county		code	
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lyn Deal

organization n/a date March 10, 1987

street & number 404 Sherman Street telephone (202) 867-7928

city or town Fort Morgan state Colorado

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state   X   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 Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6-24-87

### For NPS use only

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

William B. Bushong date 9/10/87  
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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provide lumber for construction and fuel. The requirement to gain title to the 160 acres was to plant and cultivate 40 acres of trees. The acreage was amended to 10 in 1878. At the end of 10 years (later reduced to 8 years) title would be granted if the specified number of trees per acre were healthy and growing.

In 1886, Warner built a four room house on the northwest corner of the district, thus starting the domestic development along Sherman Street. In those early days Sherman Street was not only a vehicular thoroughfare, but also the route for cattle and sheep which were herded from the Burlington railroad stockyard to the outlying farms. Sherman Street remained a dirt and gravel road until 1945 when it was finally paved.

The Warner House is significant for its association with its original owner, George W. Warner, the acknowledged leading promoter and developer of Fort Morgan, Colorado. He and several friends incorporated the Fort Morgan Land and Canal Company that brought the first irrigation water to the area. He formed the Warner Loan and Investment Company with an office in the first hardware store which was also the first post office. With a fellow pioneer he founded, edited and published the Fort Morgan Times. This paper, now a daily, has been in continuous publication since September 1884. As a politician he was involved in the formation of Morgan County out of old Weld County. The first city election was held in his office as was the first organizational meeting for setting up Morgan County. He was the first clerk of the District Court and the first Justice of the Peace in Morgan County.

George Warner was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin where he was educated. He taught school for seven years before coming to Colorado. In 1881 he came to Greeley, Colorado where he participated in the construction of the Old Denver and New Orleans Railroad, as well as several irrigation projects. In 1882 he pitched his tent near the old abandoned Fort Morgan, and from this home and office, he functioned as an officer of the Morgan Canal Company, served the immigrants as notary public in filing their claims for homesteads and lots and operated a commissary which supplied the canal workers with sundries.

In 1884 the town of Fort Morgan was established. The George Warner Loan and Insurance Company expanded to include real estate and abstracts as well as loans, insurance and land management. While serving as secretary-treasurer of the Land Canal Company, President Grover Cleveland appointed him to serve as agent for the Akron Land Office.

In 1886 Warner proved up on his tree claim for 160 acres of land which he had been farming, using irrigation water from the Morgan Ditch. He loved trees and sent back to Wisconsin for maple, walnut and various fruit trees for a large orchard. It is not known if any of these trees still remain.

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In 1886, on the northwest corner of the farm, he built a small four room home for his bride, Louise Farnsworth, a lively lady with a great enjoyment of life. A growing family and prospering businesses led to several periods of remodeling and by 1900 the home was a charming Victorian style.

The Warners entertained generously and readily, formally and informally. Mr. Warner was a talented and fun-loving man, as was his entire family. He played the cello and guitar and especially enjoyed planning parties, menus, games, and play writing. The house served as a hotel for all the Republican leaders and the yard was the setting for a Chautauqua tent.

Louise Warner survived her husband by 41 years yet her home continued to be warmed by gatherings of friends and clubs, meetings, parties, a summer wedding on the south lawn, and a flooded front lawn for ice skating in the winter.

The Curry House was the home of James P. Curry whose genius in the business field had a profound effect upon the development of Fort Morgan, Colorado. In 1890 he became active in the founding, promotion, and administration of banks and loan investment companies; he became the president of the First National Bank in 1903. He took an active part in promoting and directing irrigation projects and served for 20 years as president of the Fort Morgan Irrigation District. He also served one term as Morgan County Commissioner in 1895.

Born in Valparaiso, Indiana, Curry began a westward trek in 1873 on foot driving a flock of sheep to Hays, Kansas. He came to Colorado in 1875 and by 1881 he was calling Morgan County his home. In 1888 Curry married Alma Hersindoerfer and homesteaded what became the beginning of the Curry Ranch three miles south of Fort Morgan. Eventually this was expanded from a section to a spread of 3,000 acres upon which he grazed livestock and grew feed grains, alfalfa and sugar beets.

Yet with all these involvements Curry maintained a lively interest and activity in civic affairs and in caring for and helping persons who needed his financial assistance. Curry was associated with numerous firms and businesses in the Fort Morgan area. He became a stockholder in an implement firm and a feed mill. He built a large hotel which supported a unique plumbing system and a popular dining room, and he also built a two-story bank building, both on Main Street in Fort Morgan.

In 1897 the Currys moved off their ranch into town where they built their beautiful, large Victorian home on Sherman Street in 1898. Their two acre lot was deeded to them from the Warner farm and was the first of several parcels to be carved out of

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that old timber claim. A two-story barn and carriage house were built and also a water tower that provided the first house in town with inside running water.

Their social life was centered around close friends and relations of which there were many; their entertaining was usually in small groups. The Currys were true pioneers, coming to Colorado without a formal education or capital and yet they became among the wealthiest in northeastern Colorado.

The Graham House is significant for its association with the original owners, Ralph and Olivia Graham, who chose the American Foursquare style for their home. Ralph Graham was active locally and statewide in the livestock industry. He organized the Morgan County Lamb Feeders Association, and was president of the Colorado Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association and was appointed by Colorado Governor Carr to the State Highway Board. Olivia Graham was an heiress to the fortunes of the Gilmer Lumber Company of Remig, Texas and contributed significantly to the social quality of life in Fort Morgan.

Ralph B. Graham was born at Manmouth, Illinois and was educated at St. Albains Military Academy. A cousin in Greeley who had come to Colorado earlier attracted Graham farther west from Nebraska where he was associated with the livestock industry in Omaha.

In 1904 he persuaded his parents to claim a homestead southeast of Fort Morgan. He built a house on the claim which he farmed, raising feed grains and grazing livestock. Over the years he gradually extended the operation to an 8,000 acre enterprise known as the Bijou Ranch.

In 1910 Graham married Olivia Gilmer and they built the home in 1914 on the third parcel of land purchased from the Warner farm. Olivia Graham was a gracious lady. This was totally reflected in her lifestyle and supported by her inheritance and by her husband's shrewd investments. Her refinement and gentle culture were in evidence in her home, her family, her entertaining and her gardens. With the assistance of a gardener she built a grape arbor connecting the south porch to a formal garden and a tennis court. She brought new varieties of vegetation to the area from Texas, such as the first Burr Oak trees. She also constructed kennels for raising Airedales. This only sketches Olivia Graham's contribution of new facets to life in Fort Morgan for which the town had become ready.

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The Bloedorn House is significant for its association with the original owner, John Bloedorn, who was a successful banker in Fort Morgan, Colorado. In 1919 Bloedorn and his brothers purchased the Fort Morgan State Bank which quickly became the Farmers State Bank and has become the largest financial institution in northeastern Colorado.

John Bloedorn was born one of nine children in Platte Center, Nebraska. After graduation from the School of Law at the University of Nebraska in 1912, he married Corliss White who had also been a student at Lincoln. In 1919 the Bloedorn family moved to Fort Morgan to purchase the Fort Morgan State Bank.

After a few years in Fort Morgan "J.H.", as he was affectionately known, built a handsome Georgian Revival brick home, which is the only house of this style in Fort Morgan. This 1926 home was featured in the national Country Home Magazine in 1928. The Bloedorns also built an elegant new bank building on Main Street in 1930.

For more than 40 years this delightful outgoing couple lived comfortably and opened their home and gardens to their friends. Dinner parties followed by dances in the ballroom on the third floor, literary and bridge club meetings, parties, and luncheons were frequent and all were hosted graciously and completely in this stately house.

No event or project that was good for Fort Morgan had to wait for support from this couple. In addition, Bloedorn held many offices in service clubs, sponsored numerous charity drives and was school board treasurer for 30 years. They established the Bloedorn Foundation through which are channeled education scholarships and other charitable gifts. "J.H." Bloedorn was a director of the Great Western Sugar Company for 10 years, president of the Colorado Bankers Association and he served three successive terms as director of the Denver Branch of the Federal Reserve System. All this is to name but a few of the services he rendered his town and state until his death in 1967.

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Mr. Ed Warner, Denver, Colorado, grandson, George Warner.

Mrs. Katherine Marr, Houston, Texas, niece, J. P. Curry.

Mrs. Jane Bland, Colorado Springs, Colorado, daughter, Ralph Graham.

Mrs. Sandy Rawlings, Pueblo, Colorado, daughter, Ralph Graham.

Mr. Ralph Graham, Jr., Brush, Colorado, son, Ralph Graham.

Mrs. Ruth Weber, Fort Morgan, Colorado, daughter, J. H. Bloedorn.

Miss Corrine Bloedorn, Fort Morgan, Colorado, daughter, J. H. Bloedorn.

Mrs. Matilda Peyton, Fort Morgan, Colorado, personal friend of all families.



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1. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southeast corner of the district at the corner of Beaver Avenue and Warner Street proceed north along the west side of Warner Street for 500' to the boundary between parcels 008 (Bloedorn House) and 007 (vacant lot);

Thence west along said property line for 99' to the east property line of parcel 006 (Warner House);

Thence north along said property line for 140' to the property line between parcels 006 (Warner House) and 005 (house);

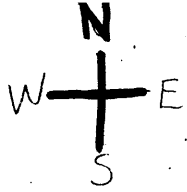
Thence west along said property line for 241' to the front property line of parcel 006 (Warner House) on the east side of Sherman Street;

Thence south along the east side of Sherman Street for 640' to the corner of Sherman Street and Beaver Avenue;

Thence east along the north side of Beaver Avenue for 340' to the corner of Warner Street, the point of beginning. (See map #3 and attached tax assessor letter.)

2. BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Sherman Street Historic District includes only the four properties discussed in the nomination which are located on parcels 006, 008, 009, 010 in the block bounded on the north by Platte Avenue; Warner Street on the east; Beaver Avenue on the south; and Sherman Street on the west. The other four parcels in the block were excluded from the district because the bank (003) and the house (005) are less than 50 years old and are not associated with the history of the district. Parcels 007 and 004 were not included because they are vacant lots. (See map #3.)



Platte Ave

JUN 29

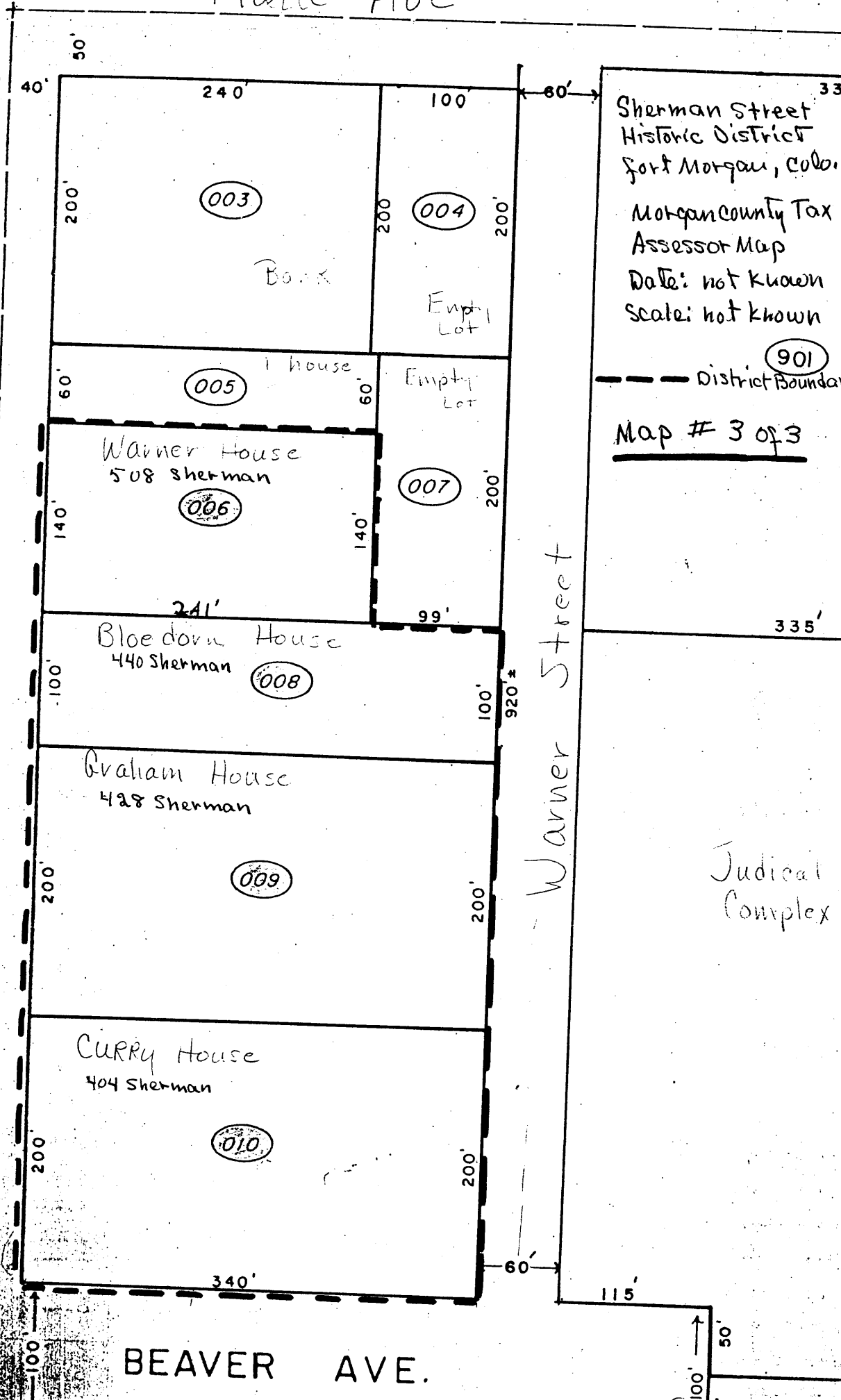
Bijou St.

Sherman St.

STREET

Warner Street

BEAVER AVE.



Sherman Street  
 Historic District  
 Fort Morgan, Colo.  
 Morgan County Tax  
 Assessor Map  
 Date: not known  
 Scale: not known

----- District Boundary (901)

Map # 3 of 3

Judicial  
 Complex

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Minimum street width  
Fort Morgan, CO  
Sketch Map  
Scale: Not Known

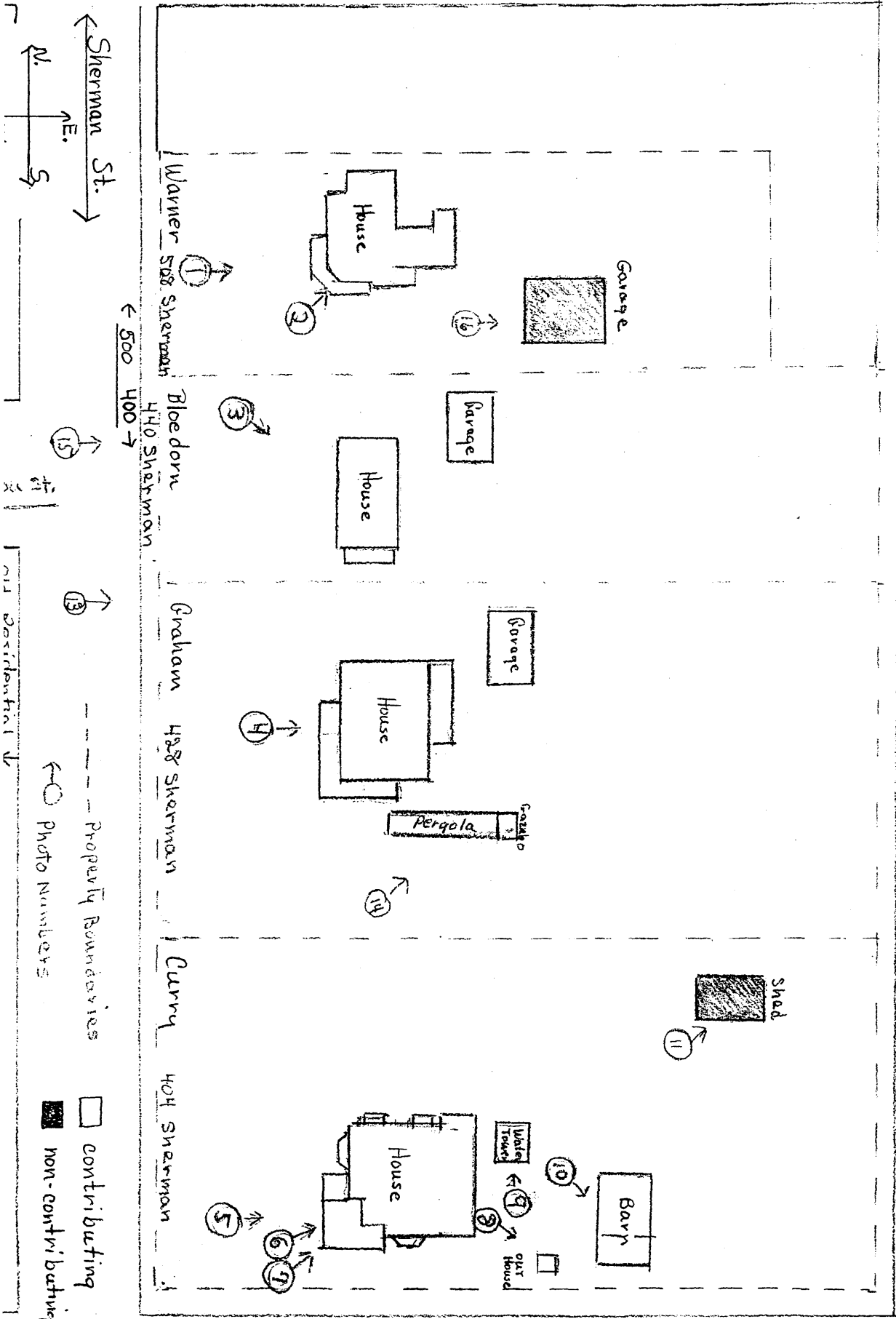
Map on p. 4

← N

← Platte Ave →

← Warner St. →

New Court House Area →



← Beaver St. →

← N