

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 14 1984
date entered JUN 14 1984

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

1. Name

historic Mathews, Nelson and Margret, House
and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 231 East Pearl Street ~~Street~~ N/A not for publication
city, town Coburg N/A vicinity of Fourth congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Lane code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fred and Mary Constant
street & number 231 East Pearl Street
city, town Coburg N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lane County Courthouse
street & number 125 East Eight Street
city, town Eugene state Oregon

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Heritage Committee Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date May, 1980 federal state county local
depository for survey records Coburg City Hall
city, town Coburg state Oregon 97401

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mathews House stands as the best example of Coburg's finest and most prolific father/son housebuilding duo, Archibald and Earl Simmons. Situated prominently on the county road at Coburg's east gateway and overlooking the mid-town site of the Southern Pacific Depot, this two story vernacular residence shows combined influences of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman Bungalow styles. It was built by the father/son team of Archibald and Earl Simmons for Nelson N. and Margret Mathews.

Deed records show that Margret Mathews purchased the site, then known as Delaney's Barnyard, in the fall of 1903 from Casandria E. G. Delaney. The five bedroom, one bath residence containing 1154 square feet downstairs and 1096 feet upstairs first appears in the tax records of 1905. The upstairs contained three bedrooms and a bathroom, while the downstairs had two bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, parlour and an entryway with stair case and landing. The house remains primarily unchanged to date.

The Mathews House fronts Pearl Street on Lot 6, Block 4 of Delaney's Addition, and is oriented to the north. It is comprised of two rectangular volumes placed at right angles to one another, forming an "L" composition. A red brick chimney from the parlour fireplace and one from the kitchen/dining room flue project from the ridge of each cedar shingled gable. The east and north facing gable ends meet in a hip and valley, while the western roof slope is interrupted by a gable added above the projecting polygonal bay window on the first floor. The rafter ends, in a style peculiar to the Simmonses in Coburg, are rounded with the roof flaring to a lower pitch at the eave, giving a slight Oriental appearance. Holes in the underside of the eaves suggest downspouts were once attached to gutters designed into the roof at these eaves.

Siding and exterior trim are consistent with other local houses of the time. Double clapboard siding is applied directly to the rough cut 2 x 4-inch balloon frame. Ten inch boards trim the gable ends and continue around the top of the siding below the protruding rafter ends. The windows, doors, and corners are trimmed with 1 x 6-inch boards. When constructed, the house had a skirt in matching double clapboards to conceal its timber supports. It was replaced with a concrete block perimeter foundation in the 1970s. Recollections of long time Coburg residents show the framing lumber to have been "hand picked" from the then bustling local Booth-Kelly Mill.

The wrap-around verandah is a prominent feature of the house, providing a grand place from which one could view both the road and the train station. It is enclosed to a height of 2 ½ feet by a wide wall, covered inside and out with double clapboards. The wall is punctured at porch floor level by tin covered wooden scuppers for drainage, and capped off with a 2 x 10-inch top, wide enough for sitting. The porch floor is 1 x 4-inch tongue and groove fir, while the ceiling is 1 x 6-inch tongue and groove fir with a single V groove pattern. The porch roof is supported by 4 x 8-inch beams resting on truncated obelisk posts.

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In 1983, when the old cedar roof was removed for replacement, it was noted, via the framing members, that this porch originally existed only as a hipped roof covering the front entrance. Former hip rafters were found to have been spliced into common rafters. Upon examination of paint and siding patterns, it was surmised that the owners and/or builders decided to embellish the structure with a wrap-around verandah, and that it was added during the course of construction of the house.

Most of the windows used are one-over-one double-hung sash. On the lower floor they are 5'9" in height while the upper floor window measure 5'0". The front door has a small fixed transom light, and the stair landing features a wood sash, lozenge-patterned, horizontally-fixed window. The parlour has a large 3'8" x 5'9" window to the porch and a bay window on the west wall. A single vertical pane pocket window which slides upward into the wall provides east light to the stair. Upstairs, under the low west eave, are small inward swinging casement pairs. Also upstairs are 5'0" tall double-hungs, while the bathroom is lit by a 2'0" x 4'0" double-hung.

Interior finishes, millwork and trim make the Mathews House exemplary for its time in the city of Coburg. The walls and ceilings, with the exception of an upstairs closet, are wood lathed and plastered, one of the first houses in town to be finished in this manner. A fireplace surrounded by a mottled brown glazed tile graces the parlour. Interior trim is from clear fir, originally varnished, then painted, and in 1983 stripped and refinished. Windows and doors are encased with 1 x 6-inch boards with a roman ogee pattern milled on the window edge. The 1 x 8-inch top pieces are finished with cap and crown moulding. Under the 5/4" sill is a bottom with a carved half round cap. The ends of these pieces are mitered with a triangular plug of the same pattern installed to complete the usually rough cut ends. The baseboard is 1 x 8-inch fir with an unusually shaped top edge; it is capped with an inverted crown moulding. Door trims utilize 5/4" fir plinth blocks at the bottoms. It is apparent that at one time the downstairs rooms also contained a picture mould. This, however, was removed over the years, and in several places this moulding was used to replace the baseboard cap strip that had been lost or damaged.

All of the interior doors are made of clear fir and are five panel in style, having two vertical panels above and below a single horizontal center panel. The two original exterior doors are similar, with a single pane of glass replacing the two upper panels. A set of pocket doors, also five panel, separates the parlor from the dining room. Upon inspection, these were found to be hung from a metal track. The dining room has a built-in fir china hutch with upper doors of glass and four lower drawers. It is lined with 1 x 4-inch tongue and groove double-beaded fir. The staircase, also constructed of fir, features a milled handrail, while the 1 x 1-inch balusters and 4 x 4-inch newels with mitered tips were undoubtedly hand-made on the site.

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The Mathews House has been altered only slightly in the past 79 years. In the early 1920s Carpus Gray added a 5 x 12-foot, 7' deep, concrete root cellar at the south end of the verandah, accessible through a hatch door in the porch floor. A two sided stairway originally existed at the interior corner of the verandah; deterioration had set in so badly that Carpus removed it in the early 1930s. He infilled the solid porch railing, matching the siding and 2 x 10-inch sill piece. Other evidences of exterior alterations include, in the early 1960s, the removal of the 2'4" x 5'9" double-hung kitchen window and replacement with a 3'8" x 4'0" double-hung window (to facilitate the addition of new kitchen cabinets). Windows matching the upper bath window were added to the south upstairs bedrooms in 1983. Also at this time, a new 10 light door with fixed transom replaced a badly deteriorated door on the south side downstairs bedroom. An entry deck was also constructed at this time. This door originally was a double-hung window. It had been replaced with a door by the Flint family in the early 1960s.

The interior is also mostly intact. The house was originally built with five bedrooms and one bath. The bath was on the second floor and contained only a clawfoot tub. Hot water was supplied from a tank located directly below in the northeast corner of the small downstairs bedroom, which is the present day bathroom. This tank was connected to the dining room wood stove. In the late 1930s Carpus Gray relocated the bathtub to this downstairs bedroom. Because of problems with vandalism to the exterior outhouse, during the next year he added a flush toilet to the same room. The original kitchen consisted of a drainboard on the east wall, with a hoosier cabinet and a wood fired cookstove containing a side mounted hot water tank on the west wall. In the northeast corner Carpus built a cooling cabinet which utilized the existing double-hung window for its venting requirements. In the early 1960s the kitchen was modernized with contemporary counters and cabinets by the Flint family, who also added a basin to the bathroom. In 1983 the large upstairs north bedroom was divided into two rooms with the addition of one interior wall and doorway to the hall. Also at this time a second doorway was added to the downstairs bathroom, connecting it to the remaining downstairs bedroom. In addition, the mantelpiece and fireplace trim were reconstructed at this time, having been removed and misplaced some years earlier. A pair of ten light doors also were installed in the 48" doorway between the parlour and entry hallway.

The southeast corner of the property also contains a structure known locally as Delaney's Barn. It predates the house, possibly by several decades. The original structure measures 16 x 32 feet, and is 1½ stories with 1 x 12-inch fir board and batt siding and a cedar shingled gabled roof. Built entirely from rought cut lumber, it has a wood floor on both levels along with several upper and lower hinged portals for access. Attached to the barn on the west side is a 19½ x 31-foot shed which was added in the early 1920s by Carpus Gray to serve as a livestock shed. It has 1 x 12-inch board and batt siding also, and originally had a dirt floor. At an unknown date a wood floor was added and the connecting wall between it and the barn was removed, making one large room inside. Carpus also added a "carport" wing on the north end of the barn in the 1930s. This was later removed and replaced with the existing 16 x 29-foot enclosed shed on this end.

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A smokehouse sits between the house and the barn on the east edge of the property. A modest 8 x 10-foot building with 1 x 8-inch pattern 105 siding and a cedar shingled gabled roof, was built by Carpus Gray in 1923. Its rough cut 2 x 4-inch fir frame is sheathed on the interior with both 1 x 6-inch and 1 x 12-inch boards. The floor has a 12 x 12-inch screened opening while the ceiling has a hinged 10 x 12-inch screened vent cut into its 1 x 12-inch board and batt surface. The ceiling still has hanging hooks which are placed 12 inches on center in a square grid pattern.

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 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 1905 **Builder/Architect** Archibald and Earl Simmons
carpenter-builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mathews House is of primary local significance to the city of Coburg. The builders, Archibald and Earl Simmons, were very influential in construction of Coburg homes from the days of early settlement to modern times. As such, the Mathews House, still on its original site, has intrinsic value as the largest and best preserved example of the Simmonses superior craftsmanship and distinctive detailing in a town of ordinary homes. Additionally, from 1920 to 1959 the house was the home of Carpus Gray, another of Coburg's prominent local citizens. Carpus built houses and furniture with Earl Simmons and was a leading merchant in this once bustling city. We feel that the house is eligible under criteria "b" and "c."

At the turn of the century, Coburg was a small town architecturally comprised of numerous simple structures which were utilitarian in nature. The vernacular Willamette Valley farmhouse, with its steeply pitched roof, basic "L" or "T" shape, use of double-hung windows, and simple trim inside and out was the most prevalent structure in the town. Often these homes were constructed by the mill worker or day laborer himself using locally available materials.

The local lumber business surged in 1900 when Booth-Kelly bought the Coburg mill. For the next decade, Coburg enjoyed prosperity. Then financial problems forced the mill to close in 1914 and the town reverted to its agricultural origins.

It was during this brief boom period that a handful of carefully detailed and finely crafted homes were constructed. The Mathews House, built by Archibald (Bud) Simmons along with his son Earl, is certainly one of these.

Little is known about the Mathews family. Nelson Mathews was born on August 7, 1847 in Iowa. Census records indicated that his father was from Ohio and his mother from Vermont. His wife, Margret A. Mathews, was also Iowa born, while both her parents were Pennsylvanians. Married in 1868, they bore five children, all of whom were still living in 1900. Their son Sam was born in Kansas in 1879, and the family moved to Oregon sometime after that. Sam and his wife Bertha are listed as living with his parents in the 1910 census. In both the 1900 and 1910 Federal Census, Nelson is listed as a day laborer, while the 1905 Military Census of Lane County has him listed as a merchant. Lane County deed records do indicated that the Mathews owned other real estate within the Coburg area.

Tax records and deed changes enable us to trace the house through its half dozen owners in 79 years time. In 1909 the Mathews sold the home to E. H. and Emma Harlacher, who owned it until August 10, 1917, when they sold it to C. E. and Julia M. Tyler. On June 21, 1920, the Tylers sold the home to Carpus and Lydia Gray. The house remained in the Gray family until May 18, 1959, when it was sold to Jack L. and Yvonne M. Flint. In 1972, Robin Stark assumed ownership and resided there until its sale to Fred and Mary Constant in 1983. The Constants presently use the home as a combination residence and business. The property is included in the downtown business district of Coburg, and has been commercially zoned since 1978.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.36

Quadrangle name Coburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	9	4	9	0	0	4	8	8	6	8	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The property nominated is a 89.5 x 180-foot city lot, fronting Pearl Street in the City of Coburg. It is Lot 6, Block 4 of Casandria E. G. Delaney's Addition to Coburg, Lane County, Oregon. The property is also described as Tax Lots 2900 and 2901.

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Hansbrough, Marvin Glover, Mrs. Wm. Guldager/Members of CHC

organization Coburg Heritage Committee date January 6, 1984

street & number PO Box 8065 telephone Mary Guldager (503) 686-8057

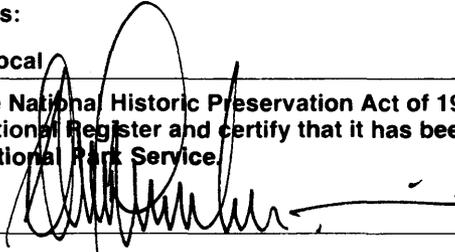
city or town Coburg state Oregon 97401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

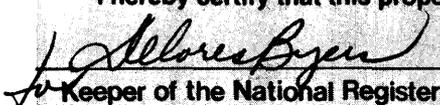
national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 1, 1984

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the National Register date 6/14/84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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Archibald Simmons, born in Jefferson County, Indiana on July 18, 1846, was brought across the plains by his father William at the age of one on the wagon train known as the Blue Bucket Expedition. Arriving in what was then Marion County in 1847, the family moved to Lane County in 1853. On September 24, 1879, Archibald married Martha Vaughan, who was the daughter of Thomas J. Vaughan, owner of one of the first four original Coburg land claims, and a charter member of the Wespoint Lodge IOOF in Coburg (April 3, 1878). Martha was born in Lane County in 1861. Archibald and Martha settled on his maternal grandparents' donation land claim. They bore 7 children, 5 of whom were still alive in 1900.

Their son Earl was born in Coburg in January, 1884. He graduated from the eighth grade in Coburg and then continued his schooling with night classes at the Eugene City College. There he studied architecture, masonry, framing, roofing and cabinet making. At the age of fourteen, Earl started working for his craftsman father Archibald. Although Earl was well accomplished at all aspects of carpentry, his forte became detailing, cabinet making and boat building.

With the retirement of Archibald, in 1909, Carpus Gray became Earl Simmons' partner, continuing the tradition of fine craftsmanship under Earl's tutelage. Having developed a strong friendship, 1911 finds Earl, his wife and child, living in the Gray household for the next year. In 1914, the Booth-Kelly Mill closed, causing mass unemployment in Coburg. During this period of local recession, Earl and Carpus freely instructed and assisted many residents, most of whom could not afford the services of a professional carpenter, to do routine maintenance on their structures. In 1920, the Gray family moved into the Mathews House, and Carpus remained there until 1959. He passed away on November 29, 1967, at the home of his daughter, Lillian, in Eugene, at the age of 88. While occupying the Mathews House, Carpus was meticulous about its upkeep and additionally incorporated the changes that are mentioned in the earlier description.

The Simmonses had considerable impact upon the evolution of construction in Coburg for 70 years. Archibald was listed as a farmer and carpenter in an 1884 biography. He continued in the building trades until his mid-sixties. Earl began working with his father soon after the turn of the century, and he continued building houses until 1959, when he was 75. Numerous structures in Coburg can be attributed to this father/son building combination. Unfortunately, due to two city fires, in 1916 and 1938, and the inevitable remodeling process, only a handful of reasonably intact Simmons structures remain within the city limits.

Innumeration in the Coburg Heritage Committee 1980 survey files, are many of these Simmons structures. The Mathews House contains features and embellishments evident in many of them. The Hugo Hallin Home, built in 1909, displays truncated obelisk porch posts, imbricated sidewall shingles, upturned eave rafters, extensive interior trim and a built in china hutch. The Goodale-Jarnigan Home, which shows 1900 Simmons remodeling touches, has truncated obelisk porch posts and upturned eave rafters on an added verandah, as well as two added polygonal bay windows. The Pennington House, c. 1910, is mostly Craftsman Bungalow in style, and exhibits the same general floor plan as two other Simmons structures in the same neighborhood.

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The Pennington House, however, shows many of the same details as the Mathews House: the same horizontal wooden sashed lozenged window, truncated obelisk porch posts, the same five panel interior doors including a set of pocket doors, matching exterior door, a polygonal bay window, as well as the same upturned rafters. In this case, the exterior siding was 1 x 6-inch horizontally applied tongue and groove material, while the skirting around the house was from the same double clapboard found on the Mathews House.

The Mathews House has unique significance to Coburg since it is the last home known to have been built jointly by Earl and Archibald Simmons. Built shortly before Archibald's retirement, this house exemplifies the experience of a master in construction, coupled with the energy and fresh ideas of his young, educated son. It is one of the largest, and certainly the best preserved, examples of their work in Coburg. As such, it is of extreme importance to the history and development of Coburg and is worthy of listing on the National Register as a building of local significance.

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- 1850 Oregon Territorial Census. End of Trail Researchers, Lebanon, Oregon, 1970.
- 1860 Federal Census of Lane County, Oregon. Genealogical Society of Oregon, 1970.
- 1870 Federal Census of Lane County, Oregon. Genealogical Society of Oregon.
- 12th Census of Population--1900, Lane County, Oregon, Volume 7.
- 1905 Military Census of Lane County, Oregon, Volumes I and II. Cottage Grove Genealogical Society, 1982.
- 13th Census of Population--1910, Lane County, Oregon.
- Walling, A. G., Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon, 1884.
- Lane County Pioneer Cemeteries, Volume II. Eugene: Lane County Historical Society, 1975.
- Nolan, Edward W., Coburg Remembered. Eugene: Lane County Historical Society, 1982.
- Lane County Deed and Assessors Records, Lane County Courthouse, Eugene, Oregon.

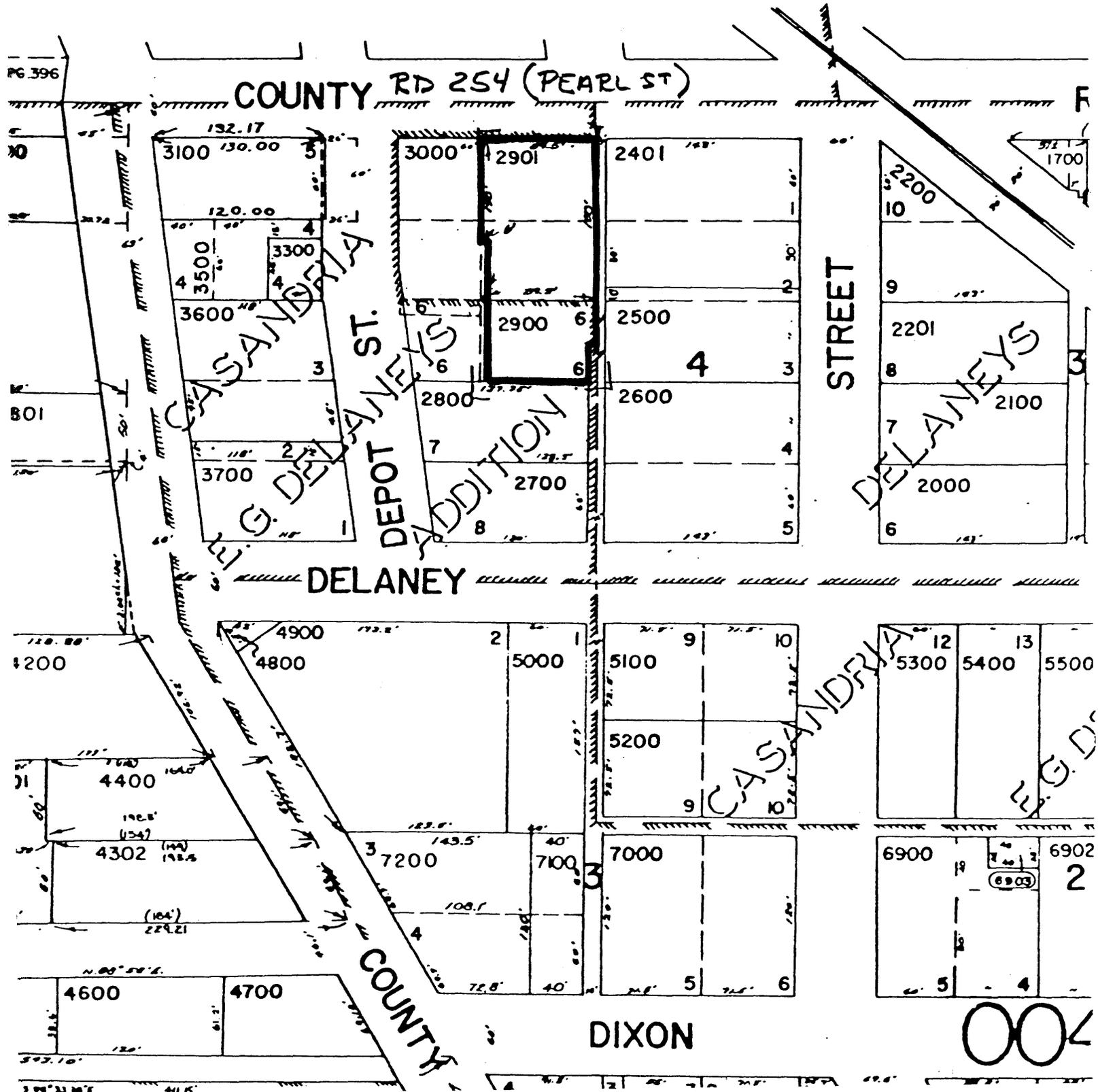
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- Oral interview with Mrs. Earl Simmons of Eugene (widow of Earl Simmons) in September, 1983, by members of the Coburg Heritage Committee.
- Oral interview with Mrs. Lucille Gray Pitkin of Coburg (daughter of Carpus Gray) in September, 1983, by members of the Coburg Heritage Committee.
- Oral interview with Mrs. Rancine Gray Coleman of Eugene (daughter of Carpus Gray) in January, 1984, by members of the Coburg Heritage Committee.
- Oral interview with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hall of Coburg in January, 1984, by members of the Coburg Heritage Committee.
- Oral interview with Mrs. Kitty Pennington of Coburg in January, 1984 by members of the Coburg Heritage Committee.

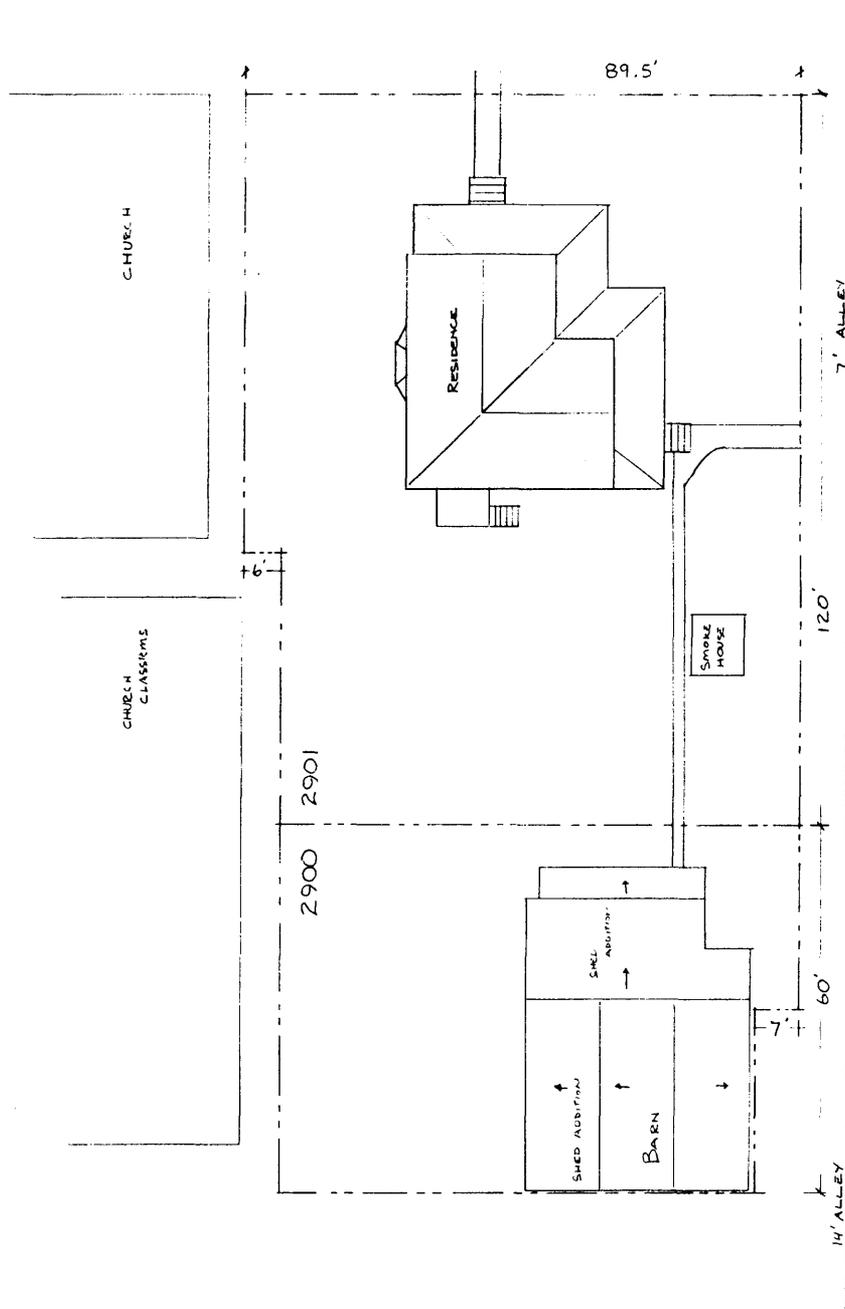
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Mathews, Nelson and Margret, House
 231 E. Pearl Street
 Coburg, Oregon
 UTM Reference:
 10/494900/4886875

See Map 16 03 33 21



COUNTY RE ZON (PEARL 21)



Plot Plan
N 1"=20'

Note: Image is reduced 64%

MATHEWS HOUSE
231 E PEARL COBURG, OR

DWG: MHW 12-15-83