

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 674 664

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 19 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

F. Arnold Polson House & Alex Polson Grounds

AND/OR COMMON

Polson Park and Museum

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1611 Riverside Avenue (Highway 101)

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hoquiam

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd-Donald Bonker

STATE

Washington 98550

CODE

53

COUNTY

Grays Harbor

CODE

027

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

---DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

---STRUCTURE

---SITE

---OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

---PRIVATE

---BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

---IN PROCESS

---BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

---UNOCCUPIED

---WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

---YES: UNRESTRICTED

---NO

**PRESENT USE**

---AGRICULTURE

---COMMERCIAL

---EDUCATIONAL

---ENTERTAINMENT

---GOVERNMENT

---INDUSTRIAL

---MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

---PRIVATE RESIDENCE

---RELIGIOUS

---SCIENTIFIC

---TRANSPORTATION

---OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Hoquiam

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Hoquiam

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98550

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Grays Harbor County Auditor

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Montesano

STATE

Washington 98563

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The F. Arnold Polson House is located at the north end of the front portion of the original Alex Polson Homestead in Hoquiam. The Colonial Revival House faces southeast toward the open expanse of the lawn and gardens, most of which are part of the original grounds. The property fronts on Riverside Avenue, a major highway which runs along the Hoquiam River.

The Alex Polson House, built in the 1890's, was razed in 1939 after his death, but its foundation is still in place. Remains of an early pool and gazebo are also on the property. The grounds contain many turn of the century native and exotic trees and shrubs planted by the senior Polson to enhance his estate. In the Springtime, the hillside still displays flowers of many of the original rhododendrons and azaleas.

The existing building was constructed in 1923 as a home for F. Arnold Polson, son of the original pioneers. It was given to the younger Polson and his new wife by his bachelor uncle, Robert Polson, as a wedding gift:

The home was designed by Arthur Loveless, a well known Seattle architect. The two story structure is of nearly symmetrical Colonial design. The main body of the building is rectangular. Shallower wings extend from both ends. A one and one-half story garage wing extends further from the northeast end. Centered on the lower level is a simple classical porte cochere with steps leading up to the main entrance. On either side of the entrance are two large multi-paned double hung windows with arched surrounds and "keystones".

The house was built entirely of wood from Polson-owned mills. Until recently, the foundation consisted of large 12 x 12 timbers resting on tilted double pilings which were driven into the alluvial soil. Concrete supporting piers have now replaced the rotted upper portions of the pilings.

The roof is covered with 24 inch Royal red cedar shingles. A layer of fireproof asphaltic concrete shingles was added in the 1930's, leaving the original shingles in place. The exterior walls are still covered with the original shingles.

The Polson family owned the Eureka Lumber and Shingle Mill and only the very finest lumber was used in the construction. Skilled carpenters in the employ of the company under the direction of Master Builder Ben Brunstad completed the house.

There are 26 rooms and an immense attic. The structure contains 6500 square feet.

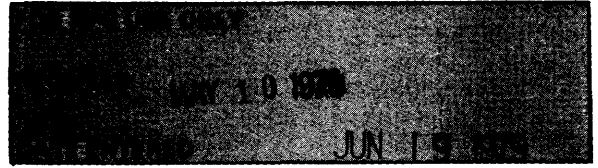
Throughout the house, floors are hemlock which runs from wall to wall without break. Boards in the living room are 30 feet in length. The flooring is in almost new condition.

The entrance hallway features a sweeping staircase with a curving mahogany banister and a tall mullioned window at the landing. An open elevator in the staircase opening once carried people to the second floor. The original elevator is scheduled to be returned in the future.

There are four fireplaces located one each in the living room, den, master bedroom suite, and guest suite. All have Italian tile facing and feature stripes at the openings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

All bathrooms contain the original fixtures which are the large pedestal lavatory type.

The original oil furnace located in the garage wing is still in operation. Its underground storage tank is a huge oil tank car from one of the Polson's logging operations.

The home and property was given to the City of Hoquiam by Mrs. F. Arnold Polson in June of 1976. The same month the Polson Park and Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

In the restoration work largely completed, the wallpaper is in keeping with the designs used at the time of construction, a stripe in the living room, pastoral scene for the hallway and flocked paper in the dining room.

The City Park Department is in charge of yard maintenance and volunteer help continues to improve and maintain the building.

In addition the Grays Harbor Rose Society has planted the Burnt Rose Memorial Rose Garden and plan to enlarge it.

The Grays Harbor Rhododendron Society is in charge of landscaping the grounds around the museum proper.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Arthur Loveless, Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The F. Arnold Polson House is associated with one of the most prominent early lumbering families in western Washington. The 1923 house, which is located next to the site of the elder Polson's residence, was designed by one of Seattle's most respected architects of the period. Although its Colonial design is simple, features such as its 24 inch Royal red cedar roofing and cedar shingle siding, its 30 foot long continuous hemlock flooring, and timber on double piling foundation, make it a unique architectural landmark in Hoquiam.

Edward and Harriett Campbell platted what is known as Campbell's Addition to the City of Hoquiam about 1880. The plat was not officially accepted and recorded until 1891 but many lots were sold based on the unrecorded plat. Riverside Avenue was the main throughfare on this plat and on it were located many of the homes of pioneer Hoquiam families, including Alex and Ella Polson. Polson was always known as Alex rather than Alexander. The area was beautified with native and exotic trees and shrubs and it soon became a showplace of the area. Some Redwoods were planted about 1900. Rhododendrons and azaleas were planted on the hillside. When Alex Polson died in 1939 his widow had their home razed rather than allowing anyone else to live in it.

Earlier, by various conveyances, Alex and Ella Polson had acquired the adjoining lots and in 1923 they conveyed several lots to their son and daughter-in-law, F. Arnold and Priscilla Polson. At that time the present home was constructed.

Alex Polson was born to Scottish parents in Nova Scotia in 1853. He made his way west and eventually settled in the Grays Harbor area.

In 1884 he established the Polson Logging Company in Hoquiam which he controlled jointly with his brother Robert after 1886. It became one of the largest logging companies in the world. Eventually the company was sold in the 1950's to Rayonier Inc., the predecessor of ITT-Rayonier, the present owner of most former Polson interests.

Alex Polson was an innovator in logging methods. He brought the first steel felling-saw and steel wedges into the territory. He also built the first log-driving splash dam in Western Washington near Willipa Bay and another shortly thereafter across the Chehalis River in Hoquiam.

He was associated with many other timber related firms in Grays Harbor including Eureka Lumber and Shingle Company where he served as vice-president with his brother, Robert, as president. Polson was Hoquiam's first tax assessor serving from 1884-1886. He also served one term as a state senator from 1907-1911. He pushed for investigation of graft in government and worked for the institution of prohibition. He was instrumental in withdrawing twenty sections of school timber land from sale ensuring income for the state school fund. He was also a member of the commission which planned the state capitol and other buildings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.9

QUADRANGLE NAME Hogiam

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 0 4 3 3 1 4 0 5 2 0 2 9 6 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property measures 340 feet by 245 feet. It includes lots 3,4,5, and 6 of Block 82; lots 1,2,3,8,9 and 10 of Block 83 and portions of vacated 17th Street, C Street and an alley between Riverside Avenue and C Street in Campbell's Corrected Plat of the Town of Hogiam.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Polson Park and Museum, Edited by Stephen A. Mathison

ORGANIZATION

Polson Park and Museum Historical Society

DATE

January 2, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1611 Riverside Avenue

TELEPHONE

(206) 533-5862

CITY OR TOWN

Hogiam

STATE

Washington 98550

## 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

Jessie M. Welch 5/2/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6.17.79

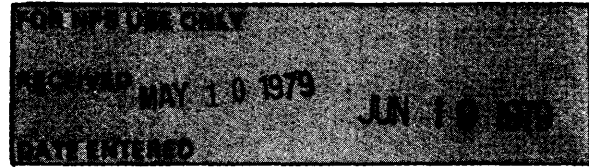
ATTEST: [Signature]

DATE June 18, 1979

CREEDE REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

He and his wife Ella had two sons who both carried on in the lumbering business in Grays Harbor County and a daughter: Franklyn Arnold who owned the subject property, Charles Stewart, and Kathryn Dorothy.

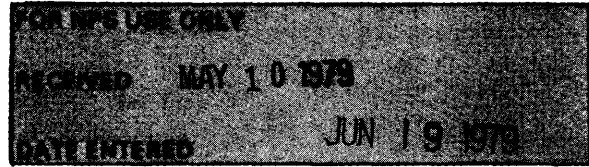
Arthur Loveless practiced architecture in Seattle and western Washington from 1910 until 1934. He studied architecture at Columbia University but never received an undergraduate degree. He is especially noted for his English Tudor "Country" homes but also worked extensively in the Georgian and Colonial styles. His residences are noted for their spacious rooms, their large mullioned windows which give a light open quality, and their close orientation to exterior gardens. These are all features evident at the F. Arnold Polson House.

His best known work is the Loveless Studio Building apartments and shops, 711 Broadway, a Seattle Landmark and A.I.A. award winner. He also designed the Gate Lodge at the University of Washington Arboretum, The University Repertory Playhouse (Glenn Hughes Theatre), and two fraternities at the University.

His numerous homes, some in collaboration with Clayton Wilson, include that of Alexander Pantages at 117 36th Avenue East; the Sparkman House, 620 West Howe; his own home, now the Fred Hutchinson House, 7126 55th Avenue South; all in Seattle and the Dempsey Cottage on American Lake in Tacoma.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

Grays Harbor County Records, County Courthouse, Montesano, Washington.

Hunt, Herbert. Washington West of the Cascades VII  
Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co. 1917 pp 132-136, pp. 252-255.

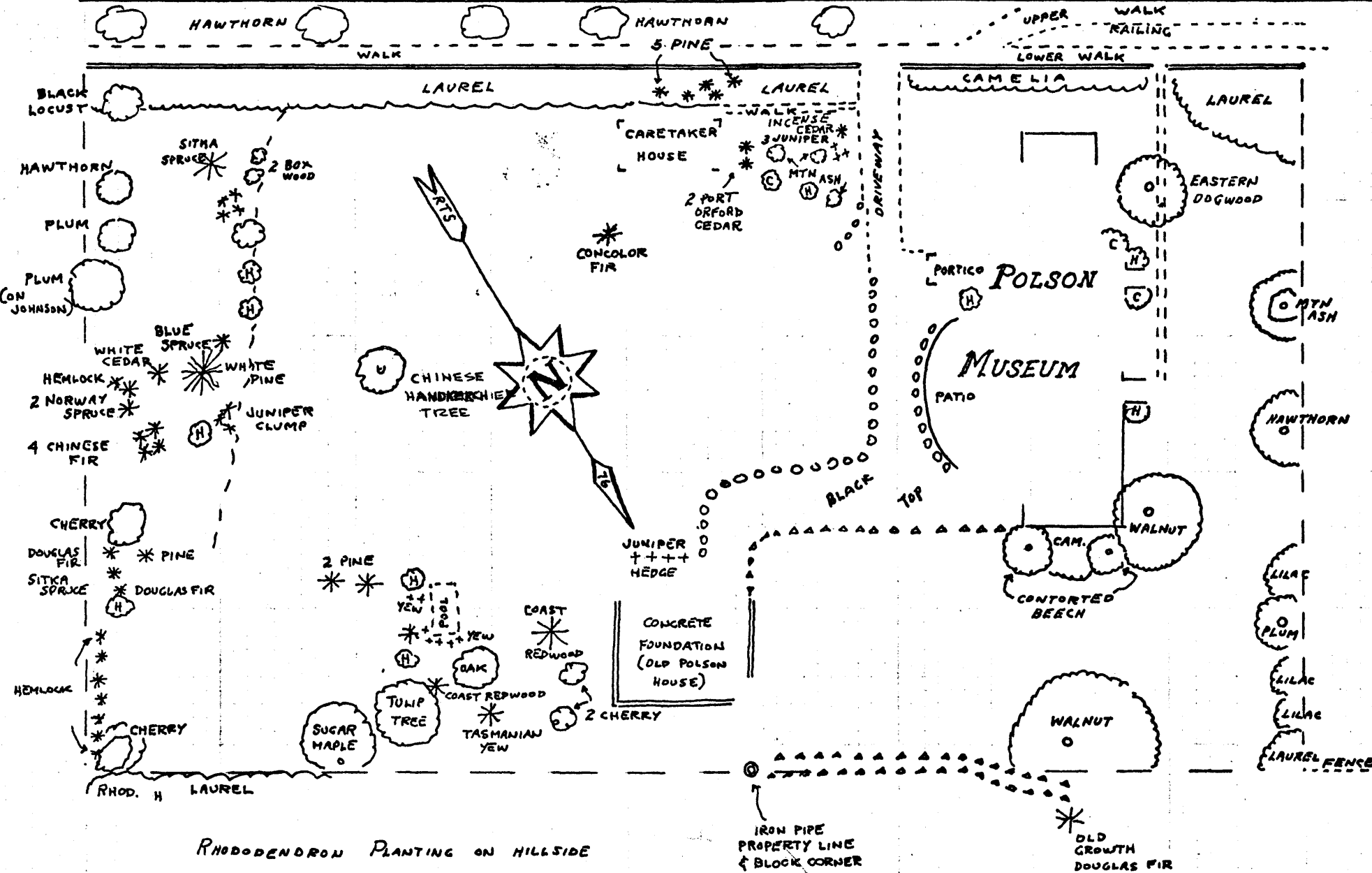
Huston, Barbara. "Loveless Houses: Romance Returns to Fashion"  
Seattle Post Intelligencer. December 3, 1978 Section E pp. 1 & 3.

"Jubilee Represents 50 Years Achievement to Alex Polson",  
Grays Harbor Washingtonian, Hoquiam. August 6, 1939.

"Obituary" Aberdeen World. September 8, 1939 pp. 1-2.

Prosser, William F. History of the Puget Sound Country V.I. New York:  
Lewis Publishing Co. 1903 pp. 346-347.

# RIVERSIDE AVENUE



RHODOENDRON PLANTING ON HILLSIDE

## PLAN OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE AFTER PRELIMINARY CLEANUP

### POLSON MUSEUM AND PARK

SCALE ONE INCH EQUALS FORTY FEET ±

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1979  
NATIONAL REGISTER

#### LEGEND

- — — — — PROPERTY LINE
- ===== WALLS
- ▲▲▲▲ ROCKERY
- HEDGE
- (H) HOLLY
- (C) CAMELIA
- ==== WALKS
- BROADLEAF
- \* CONIFERS