

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **MAY 7 1986**
date entered 6-5-86

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

1. Name

historic Flavel, Captain George Conrad, House ; Number of Contributing Resources 1
and/or common Same Number of Non-Contributing Resources 0

2. Location

street & number 627 15th Street N/A not for publication
city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of First Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A 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 Florence Sherman Flavel
street & number 627 15th Street
city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse
street & number 749 Commercial Street
city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade St. SE
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain George Conrad Flavel House, built in 1901, is an imposing two and one-half story, balloon-frame residence constructed in the Colonial Revival style on the site formerly occupied by one of the earliest Astoria pioneers, James Welch. In fair condition on the exterior, the house is currently occupied by the third generation of the Flavel family and contains many original interior furnishings. The house is generally recognized as the outstanding example of Colonial Revival architecture in Astoria.

Facing east on 15th Street, the house is set back well into the 150' x 150' corner lot, which slopes slightly to the north. The parcel is legally described as Lots 1-3 of Block 17, Shively's Addition to the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

The original Fort Astoria, built in 1811, was constructed on a knoll which is today the intersection of 15th and Exchange Streets, one block to the west of the nominated property. The house is also only one block away from the site of the first post office built west of the Mississippi and one block southwest of the old Astoria City Hall, a National Register property.

Essentially L-shaped in plan, the house displays asymmetrical massing and other details reminiscent of the Queen Anne style. The residence is erected on a stone foundation set in random ashlar with beaded joints, which, on the north elevation, is exposed to reveal a number of wooden casement windows leading to the full basement.

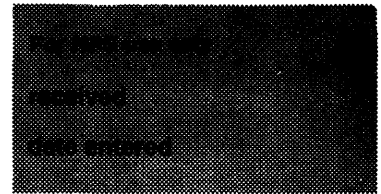
Above a wide water table, the exterior walls are covered in narrow lap siding which terminates in the broad, unadorned frieze which encircles the house. The eaves are boxed and are decorated with jig-sawn consoles resembling rafter ends, below which appears a closely-spaced dentil course. Moderately pitched and flared intersecting hipped roofs interrupted by large, centered, pedimented and hipped dormers, terminate the design. The dormers are shingled with slightly flaring corners, and are embellished with tripartite windows with diamond patterned muntins set into plain frames below a blank frieze. Two massive brick chimneys (plastered) are notable for their corbelling, paneled surfaces and, in one case, a barrel cap.

Window treatments and their disposition on exterior surfaces reflect a combination of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival design elements. There are numerous one-over-one, double-hung sash windows set into plain frames with highly textured cornice moldings. Many of these are disposed on the elevations in the typical formal Colonial Revival tradition. Others harken back to the Queen Anne, and are of varying sizes and shapes, many with diamond paned sash. They are placed asymmetrically on the elevations; often juxtaposed in a decidedly non-formal way. Of note among the latter is the window in the northwest corner elevation, which is composed of two classically modeled sash framing a curved single pane window which echoes an equally curving wooden wall and stone foundation below.

Queen Anne composition is particularly evident on the front (east) elevation. All elements are asymmetrically positioned on the exterior. These include the offset entrance with single door and single side panel framed by fluted classical

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pilasters; the over-scaled two story slant bay which is almost flush with the eaves; the Palladian-style stained glass window grouping above the entrance porch, whose scale is disproportionate to the adjacent slant bay; and other windows of varying dimension. The most elegant feature on this elevation is the classically-styled porch, supported by columns of the Ionic order. A well proportioned blank frieze and dentil course appear above the columns and the upper porch balustrade is exceptionally delicate. A much smaller two story porch is found on the south elevation.

On the interior there is a large entry hall with a staircase leading up to the second floor. At the west end of the hall is the music room. The living room runs the length of the north side of the house and at the northwest corner is the curved glass window from which can be seen the Columbia River bar far to the northwest. There is a fireplace in this room and another in the master bedroom above. In the living room, as in all of the other rooms, there are decorative classically-inspired windows and doors. All of the floors are built of fir and were designed to be carpeted.

Along the south side of the first floor is the dining room, pass pantry and kitchen. An outstanding feature of the dining room is the magnificent chandelier which originally was in the old Captain George Flavel House on 8th Street, but which was later moved to the new house. There is a leaded glass china closet here, similar to the leaded glass bookcases in the living room. In all of these rooms, the woodwork is natural wood, varnished and polished. The three doors leading from the entry hall to the living room, and music room are single sliding doors in perfect working order.

On the second floor, there are four bedrooms, each with marble wash basins. The layout on the second floor is similar to the first with each of the rooms in one corner of the house. There is a bathroom directly above the pass pantry and a half-bath on the first floor. In the attic area, there is a maid's room and a sewing room. The entire attic is floored. A back hallway with stairs lead from the basement up to the attic area. The house is heated by the original hot air furnace, once fueled by wood, but now converted to oil. There is a laundry room in the basement as well.

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 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 1901 **Builder/Architect** Joseph W. Suprenant, builder
Architect, unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The stately Colonial Revival house at 15th and Franklin Streets in Astoria, Oregon, was built in 1901 for George Conrad Flavel, son of Captain George Flavel, Astoria's pioneer bar pilot who amassed a fortune in shipping and real estate. George Conrad, a captain in his own right, assumed management of the family shipping concern in 1893 upon his father's death, and thus wielded the influence in diverse business activities, including banking, which his father commenced and his son, Harry M., would continue. While significant under National Register criterion "b" for its association with the scion of a distinguished family, the house is proposed for nomination primarily under criterion "c" as an early and unsurpassed example of residential architecture in the Colonial Revival style in the historic port at the mouth of the Columbia River. Its exceptional architectural pretension notwithstanding, no architect has been identified as the designer of the house to date. The local contractor, however, is known.

The first Flavel to arrive in Astoria was Captain George Flavel who sailed into the mouth of the Columbia in 1849 in command of the brig John Petty. He went back to California but then returned in 1850 and signed on as mate of the ancient steamer Goliath. Soon afterward he received the first river pilot's license issued in Oregon. In a few years he bought the schooner California and brought her to Astoria for use in setting up a Columbia River bar piloting service. By good management, enterprise, and devotion to duty, he soon vanquished all competition and secured full control of the bar piloting business.

Captain Flavel extended his interests in to coast-wide shipping, real estate, and other business enterprises and made a large fortune. In 1885, he built a grand High Victorian Italianate house on 8th Street in Astoria. The Flavel mansion, earlier included in the National Register of Historic Places, is now owned and maintained by the Clatsop County Historical Society as a museum.

In 1854 George Flavel married Mary Christina Boelling, by whom he had three children: George Conrad, Nellie and Katie. Neither Nellie, who died in 1933, nor Katie, who died in 1910, married but continued living in the big house on 8th Street until their deaths.

George Conrad Flavel was born in Astoria, Oregon, January 11, 1855, and attended local schools and was then sent to Oakland Military Academy in California in 1870, and was there for several years. Born with a love of the sea, he shipped out on a merchantman and advanced rapidly to second mate and captain with master's papers. However, his mother wanted him home and his father wanted him to learn the shipping business, so he reluctantly gave up the seafaring life and settled down in Astoria. He was often, however, at the office of the Flavel dock where all of the Flavel shipping business was transacted.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 110 43162160 5011146140
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The Captain George Conrad Flavel House occupies a 150 x 150 foot parcel described as Lots 1-3 of Block 17, Shively's Addition to the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger T. Tetlow

organization Contractor for City of Astoria date June 15, 1985

street & number Box 223 telephone (206) 642-3860

city or town Seaview state Washington 98644

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 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date April 22, 1986

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


Keeper of the National Register

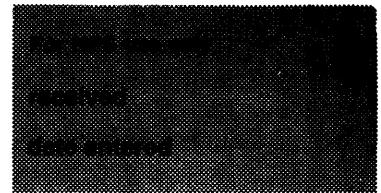
Entered in the National Register date 6/5/86

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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George Conrad Flavel married Wenona Callender in 1879. She was the daughter of M. P. Callender, manager of the Simpson Mill at Knappton. The young couple had one son, Harry M. Flavel, who was born in 1886. George Conrad Flavel became president of the Masonic Land & Building Association in 1879, and after his father's death in 1893, took over management of most of the Flavel estate.

In 1885, Conrad Boelling, grandfather of George C. Flavel, built a story and a half house at 8th and Grand for George's family. The Flavels lived there until 1901, when the Colonial Revival house at the corner of 15th and Franklin Streets was completed.

George C. apparently intended to build a new residence on Franklin Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets in 1898, but changed his mind and purchased the old Welch homestead at the southwest corner of 15th and Franklin Streets instead. Joseph W. Suprenant, a prominent local builder, was hired to construct the new house. The Flavel family moved in and have lived there for three generations. George Conrad Flavel died in 1923 at the age of 67, and Wenona Callender Flavel continued to reside in the house with her son and second daughter-in-law until her own death in 1944 at the age of 83.

Harry M. Flavel, the son of George Conrad and Wenona Flavel, attended Astoria High School, where he was captain of the school football team in 1902. He also attended Portland Academy before marrying Elizabeth A. Patrician in 1908. The couple had three children. The eldest, a boy named George Edward Flavel, was born in 1911, and the two girls Patricia and Virginia, were born in 1912 and 1914. George Edward died in 1929 at the age of 17. In 1916 Harry and Elizabeth were divorced. They had made their home in Astoria but not in the subject property.

Harry was associated with the Knappton Towboat Company when he inherited the Colonial Revival house upon the death of his father in 1923. He resumed living in his boyhood home with his second wife, Florence Sherman Flavel, whom he married in 1924. There were two children from this union: Harry, born in 1927, and Mary Louise, born in 1925. Florence Sherman Flavel has lived in the George Conrad Flavel House with Harry and Mary Louise to the present day.

Harry M. Flavel was elected president of the First National Bank of Astoria, founded by Captain George Flavel, Jacob Kamm and William Ladd. He started there in 1926 and continued in the banking business until his death in 1957. Three generations of Flavels were presidents of this bank.

Nellie Flavel, daughter of Captain George Flavel, lived in the Flavel mansion on 8th Street until her death in 1933, at which time the house was left to Patricia Flavel, eldest daughter of Harry M. Flavel by his first wife. It was Patricia who gave the mansion to Clatsop County for use as a museum upon the advice of her father, who was executor of the estate.

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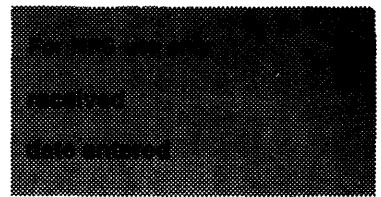
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Today, with its stately proportions, and generous corner lot, the George Conrad Flavel House at 15th and Franklin Streets remains one of the city's showplaces. Still occupied by members of the Flavel family, it is a tangible link to preceding generations of Flavels who so strongly influenced Astoria's growth and development.

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Lockley, Fred, "Captain George Flavel," History of the Columbia River Valley from
The Dalles to the Sea, Chicago: (S. J. Clarke Publishing Co.), Vol. 3, 1928,
542-551.

Flavel, George C.

Daily Morning Astorian - 12/23/1873; 2/17/1898.

Weekly Astorian - 11/11/1876.

Daily Astorian - 6/7/1879; 12/24/1879; 2/17/1898.

Astoria Daily Budget - 7/27/1901; 6/7/1901; 8/14/1901; 2/19/1923.

Flavel, Harry M.

Astoria Daily Budget - 9/1/1900; 9/17/1904; 10/10/1908; 5/6/1911; 9/7/1912;
11/6/1916.

Morning Astorian - 7/2/1922; 1/9/1929; 3/20/1929; 1/15/1930.

Astorian Budget - 5/10/1924; 6/7/1924; 4/11/1925; 11/19/1926.

21

2d

15TH 26 ST

20

DUANE

EXCHANGE

2a

518

CLINIC

515

2

27

GRAND AV

14 TH ST.

13B

13TH ST.

2b

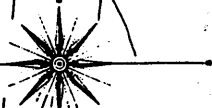
516

FRANKLIN AV.

23

2c

218



68

DUANE

EXCHANGE

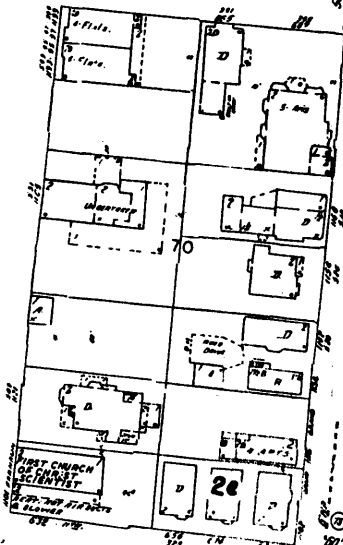
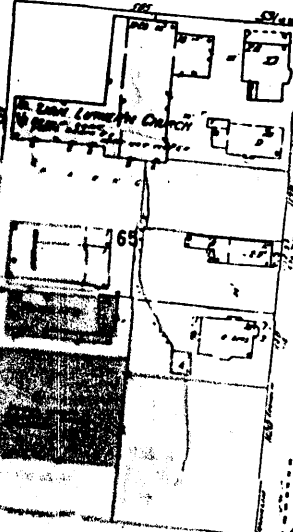
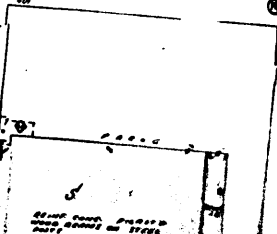
12TH ST.

Y. M. C. A. Bldg.

FRANKLIN AV.

GRAND AV.

13A



11

15 ST.

- 2. George C. Flavel House, 1901
627 15th St., Astoria OR
- 2a. Fort Astoria Park (NRHP)
- 2b. Charles Stevens House (NRHP)
- 2c. Judge C.H. Page House (NRHP)
- 2d. Site of First Post Office
west of Rockies, Local Lmk.
- 2e. D.K. Warren Rental Ensemble
1956 Astoria Sanborn Atlas

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