National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Nam	ie		_					
historic	Taylor, Georg	ge, Ho	ouse	(preferred)				
and/or common	Oliver, Georg	je, Ho	ouse					
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	504 SW 6th St	reet		-	-	_	not for	publication
city, town	Corvallis			_ vicinity of	congressiona	l district	First	
state	Oregon .	code	41	county	Benton		c	ode 003
3. Clas	sification)						
Category district public building(s) private structure both site		Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no		Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military		museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:		
<u>4. Own</u>	er of Prop	per	ty					
name	Barry & Brynn	Lawl	er					
street & number	504 NW 6th St	reet						
city, town	Corvallis			vicinity of		state	Oregon	97330
5. Loca	ition of Le	ega	l De	escription	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. B	enton	Count	ty Courthouse				
street & number	121 NW 4th St	reet						
city, town	Corvallis					state	0regon	97330
6. Repr	esentatio	n i	n E	xisting 9	Surveys			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
title Historic	al Buildings Su	rvev		has this pro	perty been deter	mined ele	egible?	yesX_no
date 1979								inty <u>X</u> loca
depository for su	rvey records Corva	allis	Woman	's Club				,
city, town	Corva			3 01UD		state	00000	07220
_ • ,						State	Oregon	9/33U

7. Description Condition Check one Check one _X excellent X original site deteriorated ____ unaltered _X altered

____ moved

date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

____ ruins

__ unexposed

The George Taylor House (ca. 1896-1900) and a 1940 automobile garage occupy a double lot of slightly more than a quarter of an acre in size at the NW corner of 6th Street and Tyler Avenue in Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. The immediate neighborhood is predominantly a single family residential area, but, under pressure of expansion of the central business district northward, and because of some surrounding historic land use, portions of it are zoned for commercial use. Southern Pacific Railroad tracks run down the center of 6th Street, joining the commercial core to an industrial enclave north of the Taylor House. With its vertical proportions, steeply-pitched gable roof and plain trim, the house is an intact example of the vernacular farmhouse type in the Rural Gothic tradition. It is oriented longitudinally on the corner lot and includes, in addition to the narrow, two-story main block, a single story kitchen and bathroom wing on the north and, attached to the NW corner of the wing, a carriage house which was remodeled for use as a dining area in 1979.

Site and Setting

____ good

____ fair

The legal description of house and property is as follows: NE4 SW4 Sec. 35, T. 11S, R. 5W, W.M.; Lots 1 & 2, Block 6 of Rayburn's Addition to the City of Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. The property is recorded on County Assessor's Plat Map 11 5 35CA, and is located on what might be considered the northern boundary of the City's original downtown district. 1885 Sanborn Map does not, for instance, extend so far north or west to include the property; however, it is included on the northwest boundary of the 1895 Map.)

The house faces southeast from its site on the northwest corner of 6th Street and Tyler Avenue, and is set back approximately 40 feet from the intersection. Placement of the house and a garage on a double-lot totalling slightly more than a quarter-acre provides an open area behind the house which extends some 50 feet in length and 100 feet in width. Originally the site of a barn, and later a sawdust mill operation, the area is now planted in trees, rose bushes, and shrubs. It is partially fenced and partially hedged and now serves as a vard space and vegetable garden.

The neighborhood surrounding the property is eclectic in character, ranging from residential to commercial. While still dominated by single-family dwellings, it is also beginning to feel the encroachment of the town's business district. Within just a block of the Taylor House, a number of older homes have been razed and replaced by restaurants, real estate offices, and the like. Some older homes are also being purchased, superficially restored, and converted into law offices, shops, and small business outlets.

Additionally, the property proposed for nomination, as well as the four lots bordering it to the north and portions of a seven acre school ground still farther north, are zoned commercially. The designation likely stems from the commercial "heritage" of the nominated property as well as the fact that a small, local roofing company continues to do business on the two northern-most lots.

For all its diversity, however, a significant portion of the neighborhood retains its residential character. In fact, homes on 6th and Tyler's southwest and southeast corners are included in all local inventories of historical homes (i.e., the Pinkerton House and the Evey House); and a large number of residences in a four block radius date back to the turn of the century and before. Many of these homes are being well maintained and/or restored, so that, despite the nearby intrusion of the business district, the neighborhood remains tree-lined, quiet, and residential. Even the frequent trains running the length of 6th Street (bisecting the town in fact) as they carry wood and other products between the coast and inland stations detract little from this image.

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Basic Shape and Dimensions

The floor plan is comprised of three staggered, relatively square, connected sections, with the major structural division forming the wall line between the living room and kitchen. The main living area of the house (i.e., main house) is two stories in height—the living room and one bedroom at ground level, two bedrooms and closet space above (reached via a stairwell from the kitchen). The kitchen and bathroom (originally a pantry) form the second distinct section of the house, and the attached carriage house area the third. Both sections are single-storied. Additionally, the house has a partial basement corresponding to the perimeter of kitchen and bathroom. It is made of poured concrete, and attaches to the foundation line which supports the main house. The basement is accessible only from outdoors, and may in a limited sense be termed "daylight" (i.e., a single window).

The total house provides approximately 1500 square feet of living space, with the main floor comprising approximately two-thirds of that amount. (A scaled floor plan of the house is included in appended material.) The house also has an unfinished attic space above the second-floor; it is accessible only through a crawl space, however, and cannot be considered living space.

Basic Structural Details

The house is wood-framed balloon construction covered almost exclusively by a horizontal shiplap siding. One exception is a wainscotting skirt extending to height of three feet around the south and most of the west walls; another is the wood siding on the south-facing bay window: It is one-by-four tongue-and-groove arranged in horizontal, vertical, and acute angle configurations from one section to the next.

By and large the house sits precisely at ground level on a poured concrete foundation. . . which may or may not be original (remnants of pillar-post moorings still present under the main house). The carriage house, however, rests on brick pillars, as do both the front and rear porches (though the latter is not an original element of the house). Additionally, the concrete foundation for the east and north faces of the kitchen doubles as wall space for the basement and is elevated approximately three feet above ground level.

The roof of the house is comprised of three distinct gabled sections (though two are connected). The roof over the main house is extremely steep in pitch, giving the house the appearance of standing three stories rather than two. The roof over the kitchen section connects with the roof over the carriage house section to form a trough where the rooms share a common interior wall.

According to Sanborn Map data, the house was originally roofed in wood. It was again re-roofed with wood shingles in 1941, but in 1979 was redone in a dark-toned fiberglass shingle. Original facia and wooden rain gutters remain intact along all rooflines, though extension of the shingle line during the latest re-shingling eliminated their function as rain-water collectors.

Salient Features of Exterior

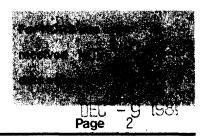
Exterior trim and molding features on the house, though all original, are generally quite plain: one-by-six board butted against board for window and door trim; more one-by-six as

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United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Aside from small arrow-tipped wood treatments below the board trim on windows, the only exterior ornamentation is to be found on the covered front porch and along the roofline of the bay window. Specifically, the front porch--which is all tongue-and-groove wood except for cement step--features turned posts as roof supports and railing members, and gingerbread trim of a pattern which has been described locally as a seagull motif. Above the bay windows, siding is set in place at 60-degree angles to the horizon; and a series of small, decorative

vertical finishing pieces for all exterior corners of the house; and one-by-ten board moldings to accent rooflines and skirt the main house and kitchen sections above the wainscotting.

The house also has two chimneys, one protruding from a center point along the peak of the main house roof, the other from a location approximately midway up the slope of the kitchen roof. Both chimneys are of brick construction (though the former is concrete-surfaced), rectangular in shape, and without ornamental character. A recently installed wood stove pipe also vents through the carriage house roof.

Subsequent Additions

brackets support the roofline.

With the exceptions of an unattached garage built during the 1940s, a six-foot extension of the west wall of the carriage house sometime between 1912 and 1927, and the reconstruction in 1979 of a small rear porch off the carriage house (using original siding and materials where possible), the house has undergone virtually no exterior alterations. No additions, at any rate. In 1977 the large swinging doors which originally provided carriage access to the carriage house were removed, the space reframed to accommodate windows and a standard-sized door, and finished off with the original siding. It is also clearly evident (and substantiated by the Sanborn Map) that at some unspecified time in the past (post-1927) a cement pad and narrow pathway was laid down in front of the carriage house entry way.

Original Internal Spatial Organization

With the exception of interior reconstruction undertaken in the carriage house, the spatial organization of the house is almost certainly unaltered. As for the carriage house, however, efforts were begun in 1979 (and completed early 1980) to utilize the original structural design (i.e., including the six-foot west wall extension) as a basis for converting at least part of the space into usable living area--whereas, in its original condition the whole room could most aptly be described as an oversized tool shed. Efforts to determine the original interior design were largely limited to guesswork based on old plumbing connections, nail holes in walls, window locations, etc. A partial floor built in the 1912-1927 period remained intact, as did all perimeter walls and roofing members. In the effort at reconstruction to duplicate the original form of the interior, however, all flooring and original stair-steps had to be replaced due to deterioration of original materials. Additionally, an attic space was built (forming a new roofline) at the intersection point between the original roof rafters and interior wall studs. And a small loft area originally providing storage space for carriage parts and kitchen items was reconstructed and "finished off" to provide additional living space.

Original Interior Finish

Alterations to the original interior appointments of the house are generally quite minimal. In the main house all plaster walls are original (though wallpaper is not), as is all

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flooring. The original plaster ceilings in the living room and upstairs bedrooms have been dry-walled over the past five years due to severe cracks and sags in the plaster, but in all instances a plaster texture has been reproduced. Ceiling fixtures operated by pull-cords also remain, though the original bare-bulbs-on-strings have been replaced by flush-mounted "period" fixtures.

With the exception of some superficial modifications made to the stairwell, all woodwork in the main house remains original—the most characteristic ornamentation being 9-inch baseboards and bulls—eye design moldings over doors and windows in the living room and main bedroom. The living room also features a tile—lined Rumsford—style fireplace and an etched glass front door which may well have been original to the house. The living room lighting fixture also dates from the early 1920s.

Modifications to the stairwell leading from the kitchen to the upstairs bedrooms include a wainscotting skirt (to emulate the original interior finish of the kitchen), appropriate molding trim to finish it off, and a single handrail. Steps, baseboard, window, and all wall and ceiling plaster finish of the stairwell are original.

With the exception of an interior kitchen door, all doors and hardware in the main house and kitchen are original. Some interior doors feature exterior locking mechanisms with porcelain door knobs, while those with insert locking mechanisms generally have embossed metal knobs with copper latches, trim, and striking plates. The main kitchen door also contains stained glass.

The kitchen interior was remodeled in 1936, largely as a result of the introduction of indoor plumbing facilities to the room. However, the skirt of wainscotting, plaster walls, all window and door trim, and the sink are undoubtedly original. The ceiling has been dry-walled (1977), the central lighting fixture replaced, and the floor re-linoleumed at least five times (over what appears to have been an original oil-cloth of sorts). However, the most significant alterations to the room are the additions of kitchen cupboards above the sink and a countertop space surrounding it and extending the length of the north wall.

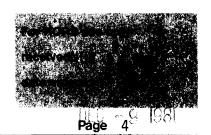
In the process of adding the countertop and cabinetry, a northfacing window also was covered over and subsequently replaced by a horizontally-aligned sliding window located directly above the kitchen sink. This window glass has since been removed by the present owner and replaced by a stained glass window conforming to a traditional Victorian-era pattern.

With the addition of the kitchen countertop, it apparently also became necessary to re-plumb and relocate the kitchen's wood stove, which originally had vented into a brick flue (long since dismantled) built into the kitchen's north wall. The re-plumbing made it necessary for the home's previous owner (George Oliver) to build a brick chimney between the wall studs separating kitchen from bathroom (west wall). In fact, a large portion of this chimney forms a corner of the bathroom.

The bathroom is situated to the west of the kitchen, and, until the time plumbing was introduced to the house, served as a pantry. The room's original shape and interior finish

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remained virtually unchanged by the conversion; specifically, walls and ceilings are constructed from horizontally-sectioned lengths of fir tongue-and-groove. A toilet, tub, sink, and small wall-supported cabinet were the only additions to the room. In fact, the most significant alteration involves a deletion: an external door which once led into the pantry and down five cement steps to the basement. From outside the house (west wall) the sealed door is still visible, but from the inside, the entry way has been covered with tongue-and-groove siding. And the former site of the basement steps is now covered by the bathtub.

As mentioned above, the carriage house is the one room of the home to have been appreciably reconstructed. From all available empirical evidence it seems reasonable to assume that the original finish and function of the room could best be termed "barn-like." In all likelihood, the original version (i.e., pre-1927) might have had no windows; certainly there were no interior walls (nor were there until this past year). A double-door suitable in size to provide carriage access was most likely the sole external entrance; and from the (bare) ground level a climb of five steps was necessary to reach the level of the interior kitchen door and/or a crude wooden floor (deck) covering approximately half the floor space of the room (the remaining half--the northern half--remaining open). At one time this interior "porch" space was plumbed for a wash sink and water trough, and lined with small shelves probably used for food storage.

Endeavoring to maintain both the exterior and interior structural shape and dimensions of the carriage house, the present owners began a restoration/reconstruction project in 1979 to make the space livable while still preserving, at least in part, its original function and character. The result is that, beyond and beneath the aforementioned northern boundary of the interior "porch," the carriage house space remains in its original condition: dirt floor, unfinished walls, and all. The remainder of the space, however, has been reconstructed in a style and manner consistent with the design, character, and detail of the rest of the house. The room now doubles as a dining room and office.

Briefly, the floor space is split-level, mimicing the two-tier effect of the original, except that it is enclosed to provide separation from the "outside effect" of the ground-level storage area. A wainscoting skirt and one-by-six window and door trim repeat the detail work of the kitchen, and the linoleum is also the same. The interior walls, while of drywall, emulate the appearance of plaster. The ceiling is of tongue-and-groove, just as is the bathroom. All windows and doors are consistent in size and location with the "originals" (i.e., post-1927). And all glass work, though with one possible exception not original to the house, is in antique stained glass. In short, every reasonable effort was made to render the carriage house remodeling compatible with the house.

Energy Retrofit

Appended to the nomination form is an article taken from the Fall 1978 edition of Energy & Alternatives Magazine in which the energy retrofit of the house is detailed. By way of summary, however, the transformation from energy-drainer to energy-saver went like this: The attic crawl space of each roof section was blanketed with fiberglass batts and then supplemented yet further with fiberglass loose-fill to develop an insulation R-Factor

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just slightly below new housing standards. Between the floor joists under the entire house more fiberglass batts were secured in place; and on the dirt floor of the crawl space a plastic vapor barrier was laid in order to prevent moisture accumulation and leaching of cold air from the ground. The entire house was then fitted with relatively unobtrusive, though permanent, external storm windows and doors; and all window and door openings were further weatherized with caulking compound or thin felt strips.

Indoors, all major window spaces in the house were equipped with retractable drapes backed with an insulative barrier, and all windows were fitted with window shades to help keep winter heat in and summer heat out. And outdoors, deciduous trees were planted nearby the house in order to (eventually) provide summer shade, yet permit winter sunlight.

And last, but by no means least, the home's two chimneys were cleaned out, repaired, and subsequently "plugged" into efficient wood stoves which have since provided well above 90% of all the space heat necessary to maintain comfort. (Note: One stove has since been moved from the kitchen area to carriage house.)

These energy "modifications" demonstrate with each passing utility bill that an old house or building with ten-foot ceilings, excessive window space, poor site location, and almost total absence of energy-conserving design characteristics need not be an impractical anachronism in an era of energy consciousness. Perhaps even more importantly, such modifications can be accomplished without the slightest disruption to the framework, the living space, or even the aesthetic quality (the narrow storm window frames being the only visible indication of the retrofit).

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799X 1800-1899 1900-	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture —X architecture — art —X commerce — communications		social/ humanitarian ohy theater
Specific dates	ca. 1896	Builder/Architect Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house at 504 NW 6th Street in Corvallis, Oregon, is a two-story vernacular farmhouse in the Rural Gothic tradition. It is believed to have been built between 1896 and 1900 as the residence of Corvallis Creamery Company partner George Taylor, and it doubled as an office and retail outlet for the creamery, which was located directly across 6th Street. The property remained in Taylor family hands until 1936. The current owner acquired it in 1975 and undertook repair and weatherization work and interior remodeling of the carriage house. The house is significant to Corvallis as a rare, intact vernacular farmhouse standing within present city limits. With its elongated vertical proportions, steeply-pitched gable roof, single-story polygonal bay, shiplap siding, and plain trim, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of its vernacular type. It possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the historic Corvallis Creamery Company operated by George Taylor from 1896 through the early years of the 20th century.

The house is one of the few older buildings in Corvallis which has not been divided into apartments, converted into a shop front, added to, subtracted from, or in any noticeable respect "updated." Especially in its interior, where remodeling and modernizing of such rooms as kitchen and bath are practically inevitable, the house retains most all of its original features: certainly its original shape; practically all of its original woodwork, doors, trim, and ornamentation; even many of its fixtures. And even with the introduction of plumbing and remodeling of the carriage house interior, the house retains its integrity.

County Assessor's records trace the property history to 1893, at which time the land, originally deeded to J.W. Rayburn, was incorporated into Rayburn's Addition to the City of Corvallis. The Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map for 1895 depicts a house and barn on the exact location of the present structure, but it is unlikely that the development is in any way related to the existing structure, which is unmistakenly depicted on the 1912 Sanborn Map.

Reviews of tax and census records for the period 1895-1900 also provide few clues. Twice during the span the property title was in litigation in Benton County Circuit Court as a result of debts incurred by Rayburn family. Record of any tax payment for three of these five years is totally absent. Indeed, even ownership is somewhat questionable: mortgage records indicating one owner, but County Assessor's records another for the same period of time. Additionally, fluctuations in taxes assessed for property "improvements" were both so low and so seemingly random as to provide no tangible help in dating the structure.

From information both verifiable and empirical, however, it seems most reasonable to date construction between 1896 and 1900. In 1896 the Corvallis Creamery Company was incorporated and began business directly across the street from the property proposed for nomination. One of the five partners who owned and operated the business, long-time Benton County farmer George Taylor took title to the nominated property in June of 1900. According to two lifelong residents of the neighborhood, the Taylor House served as the "retail outlet" or

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

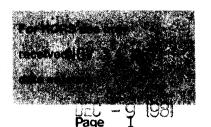
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10. Geographical E	{ Data	No. of the second secon	
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Verbal boundary description and justif Lots 1 & 2 of Block 6, Rayburn's Map No. 11-5-35-CA.	ication Addition to the pla	at of Corvallis	, Benton County, Orego
List all states and counties for proper	ties overlapping state or	county boundarie	S
state co	ode county		code
state co	ode county		code
11. Form Prepared	Ву		
name/title Barry Lawler			
organization		date Octobe	er 24, 1980
street & number 504 NW 6th Street		telephone (503)	752-3756
city or town Corvallis		state Oregoi	n 97330
12. State Historic	Preservation		ertification
The evaluated significance of this property v	y /		
As the designated State Historic Preservation 665), I hereby nominate this property for incaccording to the criteria and procedures set	lusion in the National Regis	ter and certify that it	has been evaluated
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	. July Hu	Medo-	
title Deputy State Historic Presen	vation Officer	date	June 12, 1981
For HCRS use only Thereby certify that this property is in	cluded in the National Regis Entered : Wattonal		12/4/81
Keeper of the National Register Attest: Chief of Registration		date	

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"business office" for the dairy. Clifford Francisco, a great grandson of a former owner of the property, remembers the house and dairy operation "right around the turn of the century." (He was raised in a house located less than 50 yards to the west.) Another neighbor, the late Walter Weusterfield, recounted on several occasions how he used to accompany his father on trips to the dairy-house shortly after moving to Corvallis. (The Weusterfield House was built by Walter's father in 1904.)

Architectural data on the Taylor House is also quite scant. One school of thought is that the house was simply built by Taylor. And on the basis of numerous inconsistencies and irregularities in the spacing and placement of structural members, it is easy to support the thesis that construction and design were less-than-professional. On the other hand, a local builder by the name of McConnell was responsible for the construction of may of the homes in the neighborhood around the turn of the century, and at least one neighbor contends that it was McConnell who built the house. In any event, it remained in the Taylor family long after the demise of the business--until 1936 in fact, at which time it was sold to George Oliver, a local businessman who used the house as a family residence and the adjoining land as a mill site and distribution center for his Oliver Fuel Supply Company, which specialized in fire wood and sawdust.

George Oliver operated his business on the property--with the house again serving as the "office"--until the early 1960s, at which time retired and turned the enterprise over to one of his sons, who subsequently moved its location to another part of town (and continues to manage it today). Oliver and his wife continued to live in the house until 1975, at which time it was purchased and occupied by the present owners.

The house still retains its identity as a single-family dwelling, and by almost any standard of evaluation its general condition can be rated "very good" to "excellent." In the five years the present owners have occupied the house, a great deal of time and effort has been devoted to preservation and restoration—the primary aim being to make it livable without sacrifice of its original structural and aesthetic character. In short, though the house had been victim of years of neglect (1975 property tax value placed at about \$400), it had not been altered, remodeled, or structurally damaged to the extent that restoration was unfeasible.

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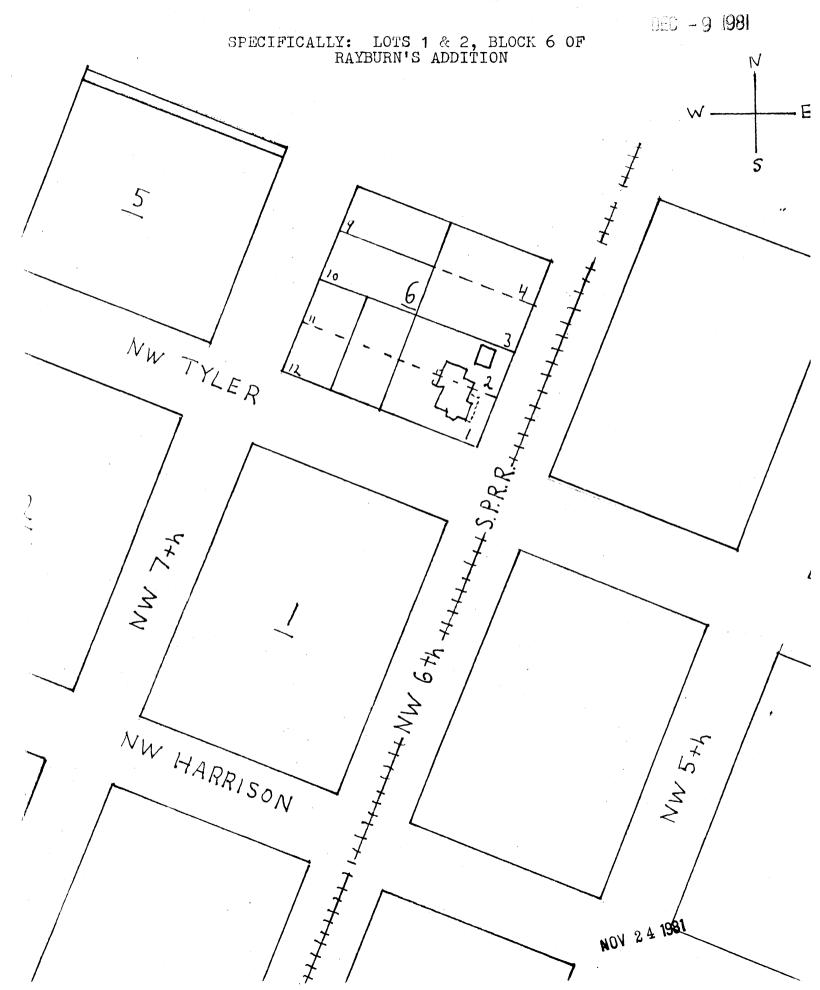
Bibliographical References

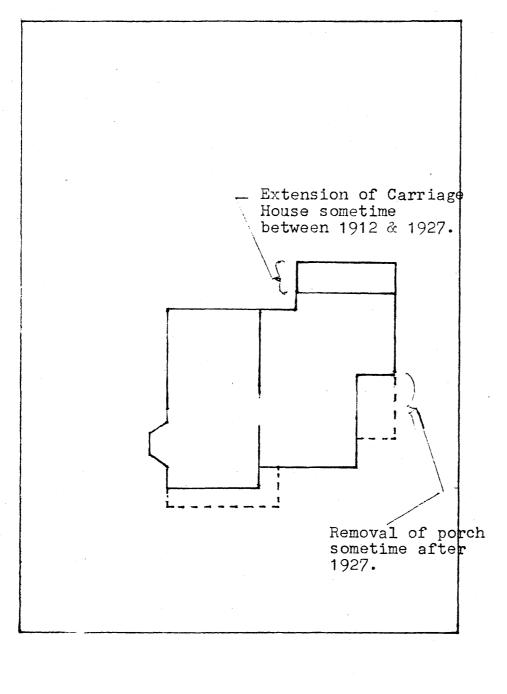
- Benton County Deed & Mortgage Records. Archives, Benton County Courthouse. Book 1, p. 93; Book A, p. 513; Book N, p. 533; Book C, p. 106; Book 37, p. 359; Book 9, p. 118; Book 38, p. 8; Book 31, p. 638.
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- Francisco, Clifford. 529 NW 7th Street, Corvallis, Oregon. Lifelong neighborhood resident and great-grandson of a former owner of the land in question. Conversation, August 26, 1980.
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- Record(s) of Incorporation of Benton County. Archives, Benton County Courthouse. Information re: incorporation and ownership of Corvallis Creamery Company (June, 1896). Book 1, p. 56.
- Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps. Oregon State University Map Room. 1895 Map, p. 4; 1912 Map, p.4; 1927 Map, p. 12.
- Weusterfield, Walter (deceased). 506 NW 7th Street. Former neighbor and long-time resident. Conversations, 1976-77.

COPY OF A PORTION OF BENTON COUNTY PLAT MAP

11 5 35 CA

FOR THE CITY OF CORVALLIS.

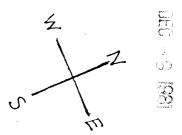




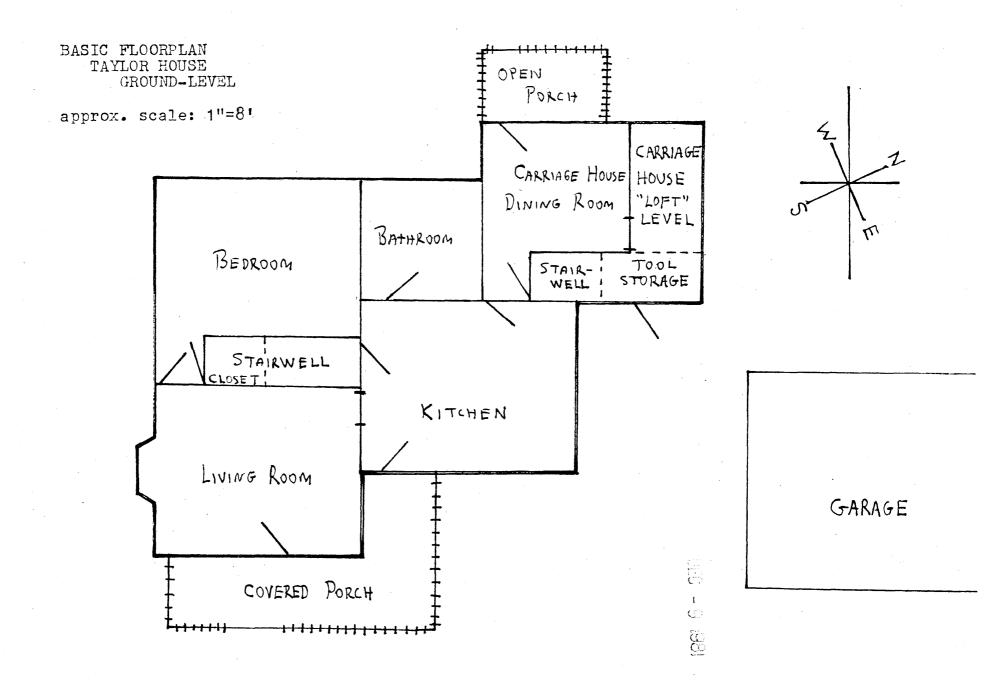
COMPOSITE VIEW OF TAYLOR HOUSE BASED ON SANBORN-PERRIS FIRE INSURANCE MAPS OF CORVALLIS FOR 1912 AND 1927.

approx. scale: 1"=16'

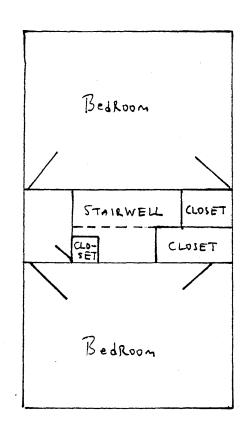


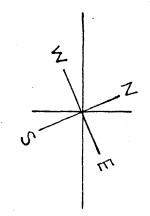


NW 6TH STREET



BASIC FLOORPLAN TAYLOR HOUSE SECOND-STORY







SI 6 - 0 JU