

1040

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 13 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Eldridge, Kersey C., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 675 Monmouth Street N/A not for publication
city, town Independence N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Polk code 053 zip code 97351

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *[Signature]* Date May 25, 1988
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] Entered in the National Register 7-14-88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century American Movements/
Bungalow

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood/weatherboardshingleroof asphalt/composition shingleother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Craftsman Style Eldridge Residence was constructed in 1914. The builder and architect are unknown. The residence is in excellent condition, retaining integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Originally constructed as a single family residence, it was converted to apartments during World War II. The building was restored to its original use during the 1970's and remains a single family residence to the present. A small guest house, constructed some time after 1925, is located to the southeast of the house and is included in the nominated parcel.

The house is prominently sited on the southeast corner of Monmouth and 7th Streets. It faces north onto Monmouth Street, a heavily trafficked right-of-way between Independence and the adjacent community of Monmouth. The surrounding residential area consists of numerous historic homes dating to the turn of the century and early decades of the 20th century, as well as a number of post-World War II houses. Across 7th Street to the west is a small, two-story Vernacular house constructed c. 1900; across Monmouth Street to the north is a post-World War II residence; and catty-corner from the Eldridge Residence is a striking Victorian-era house. An alley abuts the property on the east. Across the alley is a post-World War II residence.

Exterior

The Eldridge Residence is a large two-story building of frame construction. It has a full daylight basement and poured concrete foundation. The hip roof, with multiple projecting gables, has deep eaves with large decorative brackets and exposed rafters. It is covered with composition shingles. Walls are sheathed in lap siding at the first floor and shingles at the second floor. A beltcourse wraps around the second story floorline separating the two different wall coverings. There is a watertable at the first story floorline below which the concrete walls of the basement are exposed.

There is a projecting, gabled porch on the facade, slightly offset to the east, or to the left as viewed from Monmouth Street. The roof of the porch is supported by two groups of three columns each, which rest on large brick pedestals. The bracket and rafter treatment found in the main roof is repeated in the porch. The porch stoop is wood as are the seven steps which rise from the walkway. The entrance is fitted with a glass-paneled door with sidelights. Stained glass in both the door and sidelights is highly ornate consisting of stylized, geometric

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

floral patterns. The same pattern is repeated in windows located on the south elevation, at the stairway landing to the second story. A prominent brick, exterior chimney exists just to the right of the porch.

Windows are primarily wide, six-over-one double-hung sash with simple surrounds. Each of the second story windows on the facade has a flower box supported by large brackets echoing those at the eaves of the roof and the porch.

There is a small porte cochere and paved circular drive on the west elevation of the house. The porte cochere is too small to accommodate modern vehicles, so a carport was built. The porte cochere has a hip roof with the same rafter and bracket treatment as the main roof. The house is accessed through two doors on the west elevation: a French door and a single leaf wooden door.

The carport, constructed c. 1975, is attached to the house at the south elevation. The only other alterations to the exterior of the building are the enclosures of two small sun porches, one on the first floor and the other on the second floor, at the southwest corner of the house.

Interior

The spatial arrangement of the Eldridge House remains intact as built. The first floor of the building consists of six rooms: living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, den, and bath, all of which are loosely grouped around a central stair and hall. There are two large bedrooms, two small bedrooms, a sitting room, and a bath on the second story. The basement consists of a large recreation room, referred to as the "billiard" room and two smaller, unfinished rooms.

Dark-stained Honduras mahogany is found in a number of rooms throughout the house, finding expression in tall paneled wainscoting with plate rails; various types of built-in furniture, so characteristic of the Craftsman style; and heavy, deep ceiling beams in the den, foyer, kitchen, and living room. French doors separate the entry hall from both the den and the living room, and the living room from the dining room. The prominent stairway has a dark-stained rectangular newel

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

post with simple square balusters. A landing between the first and second floor provides an elegant setting for the stained glass windows mentioned above.

Fireplaces in the billiard room and living room directly above are quite similar, of dark tile with prominent wood mantels and surrounds. There are hardwood floors throughout the house, with the exception of the kitchen, baths, and two rooms in the basement, which have been carpeted. Many of the original Craftsman light fixtures remain intact as does other hardware such as doorknobs. The only major alteration to the interior of the house was the kitchen remodel, c. 1975, which included replacement of the original floor, cabinets, counters, and sink.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

1914

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The large, two-story frame house at the SE corner of Monmouth and Seventh streets in Independence, Oregon is among the prominent features along the main east-west thoroughfare in the small agriculture-based town. Built in 1915 for Kersey Eldridge, prosperous dairyman, it meets National Register Criterion C as, clearly, the largest and best-designed Craftsman bungalow in Independence. The architect is unknown.

The two-story house is chiefly characterized by a multiplicity of low-pitched gables with prodigious eave overhangs supported on outriggers and knee brace brackets. It is noteworthy for its having retained its original bracketed window planter boxes on the upper facade. Exterior elevations are clad in the traditional hierarchical arrangement of horizontal siding on the ground story and shingle siding above, and they display a variety of porches and projections from the basic wall plane. Double-hung windows have six panes in the upper sash.

The interior is finished with woodwork and features of noteworthy quality, including beveled and colored glass front door and sidelight panels, ceramic tile fireplace surrounds, and dark Honduras mahogany boxed ceiling beams, wainscoting and built-in cabinetry, all in the Arts and Crafts tradition.

Kersey Eldridge was the successful proprietor of the Independence Creamery, which provided the city a base industry from 1899 to the plant's closure in 1948. Eldridge, however, retired from his business in 1922 and moved to Portland, having occupied his comfortable house on Monmouth Street a comparatively brief span of eight years.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Illustrated. Chicago: Chapman and Co., 1903.
City of Independence Historic Resource Inventory, 1985.
Newton, Sidney. Early History of Independence, Oregon. Independence: Sidney Newton, 1971.
TICOR Title Company Records. Dallas, Oregon.
Fraleay, Geanne (current owner). Interview, June 2, 1987. Independence, Oregon.
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1925.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one Monmouth, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 1,0 4,8,4,8,3,0 4,9,6,6,2,2,0
 Zone Easting Northing
 C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing
 D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated area is located in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28, Township 8S, Range 4W, Willamette Meridian, in Polk County, Oregon. It is legally described as Lot 8 and the northerly 50 feet of Lot 7 of Block 1, Patterson's Addition to the Plat of Independence. It is otherwise described as Tax Lot 6800, Polk County Assessor's Map Reference No.8 4 28BB.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The nominated area encompasses the entire 166 x 148.5' parcel historically developed by Kersey C. Eldridge for residential purposes in 1914. The sole contributing feature of the property is the commodious bungalow built for Kersey. The small guest house built at the rear of the property after the historic period of significance is not counted as a contributing feature.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Lou Newberg, with assistance of Julie Koler
 organization N/A date August 1987
 street & number 887 Monmouth Street telephone (503) 838-3280
 city or town Independence state Oregon zip code 97351

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

As the outstanding example of Craftsman architecture in the greater Independence-Monmouth area, the house is distinguished by its large size, refined craftsmanship and certain remarkable details, inside and out, which are characteristic of the style. There are numerous examples of Bungalow architecture in the area, many of which exhibit some Craftsman-inspired details; however, they neither approximate the size nor display the exuberant detail of the Eldridge House. They were not, therefore, considered for comparative analysis. The Eldridge House is reminiscent of the very large and lavish bungalows designed by Charles and Henry Greene in Pasadena and elsewhere in Southern California. It is possible that the Eldridges, who traveled throughout California on business, may have chosen this style because they were familiar with the work of Greene and Greene.

The mass of the house is nearly rectangular in plan, with a low-pitched hip roof with projecting gables. Particularly prominent are the deep, overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, purlins, and decorative brackets. This treatment is repeated at the front porch, porte cochere, and window boxes that are supported by large brackets. The horizontal composition of the building, in combination with the deep eaves and mature foundation plantings, give the house an earth-hugging quality, as if it may have sprouted one day after a particularly heavy rainfall. The house and its setting certainly form a "harmonious whole," consistent with the Craftsman philosophy.

Other exterior features characteristic of the style are the large brick chimney, shingled wall surface, window boxes, sunrooms, and prominent porch with columns supported by raised posts.

The interior of the house features a wide range of Craftsman

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

built-in furniture, deep ceiling beams, wainscoting and stairs all in dark-stained Honduras mahogany, as well as many original light fixtures. The kitchen is the only room which has been considerably altered. Portions of the wainscoting in the library have been replaced; however, care was taken to maintain a character consistent with the original wainscot.

Although the builder and architect of the Eldridge House are unknown their master craftsmanship is everywhere apparent in this fine residence.

Hailed by locals as "the end of the Oregon Trail," the town of Independence, Oregon reflects the development of similar riverside communities throughout the Willamette Valley: early focus on the Willamette river as a vital transportation link to the outside world, followed by a boom period associated with the coming of the railroad in the 1880's. The decade of the 1880's was particularly fruitful for the community of Independence: it heralded the beginning of an important new industry, which over the next four decades would greatly enrich the city's coffers. Between the years 1890 and 1940, the cultivation of hops was the town's largest industry. In late August and September of each year, thousands of individuals descended on the town and environs to help harvest the crop. Many people prospered and grew wealthy as a result of the lush crops grown in the area. The population of the town burgeoned during this period, numerous buildings were constructed to accommodate the growing population, and many new service-oriented businesses were established.

Among those who came and prospered was Kersey C. Eldridge, the original owner of subject house. Eldridge was born in Lawrence, Kansas in 1863. He worked for awhile in the dry goods business in New York, later returning to Kansas to work with his father in the mining business. In 1886 he went to work as a salesman for a large grocery firm, traveling throughout the western states in that capacity. Five years later he settled near Ogden, Utah where he first engaged in the creamery business. Reportedly quite successful there, he turned his sights to Oregon, moving there in 1891. Eldridge went first to Newberg, Oregon approximately 35 miles north of Independence, where he operated a creamery for a short period prior to moving to Independence in 1899. According to an article in the January 11, 1935 edition of the Independence Enterprise, Eldridge moved his creamery operation to Independence at the urging of the Independence Board of Trade which had guaranteed Eldridge 300 milk cows, and \$350 to pay for his moving expenses.

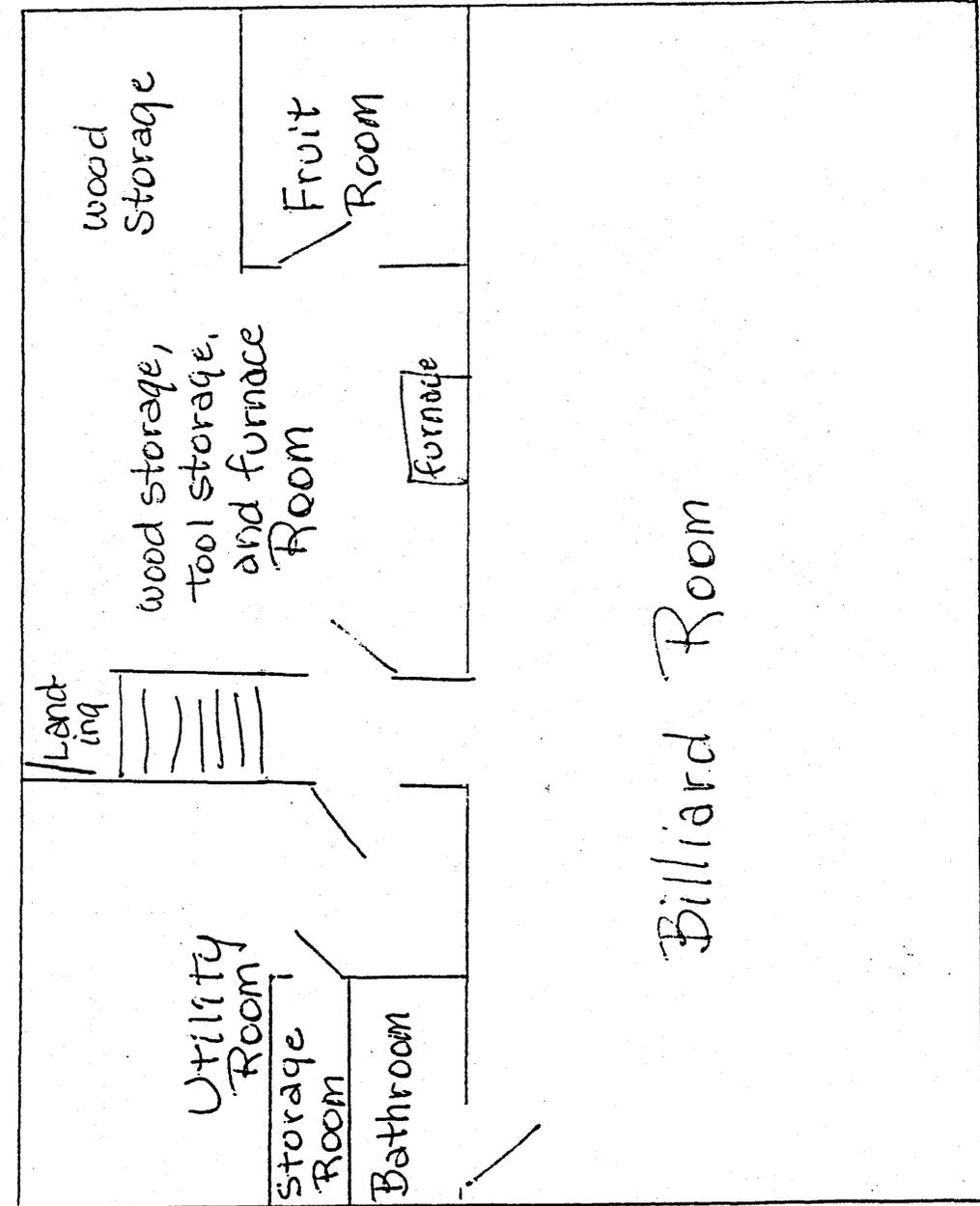
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

The Independence Creamery prospered, and four years after it was established, Eldridge opened a second plant, in conjunction with the first. It was located in the town of Jefferson, Oregon in Marion County. In 1903 the Independence Creamery had a capacity of 25,000 gallons of milk and 1,000 pounds of butter a day--reportedly an extensive operation by the standards of the day. At this writing, company records or other information regarding the output of the creamery, its businesses practices, employment record, and so forth are not known to exist. It was, however, the first, and only creamery to operate in the community. And it is known to have supplied dairy products to communities up and down the Oregon Coast as well as throughout Polk County.

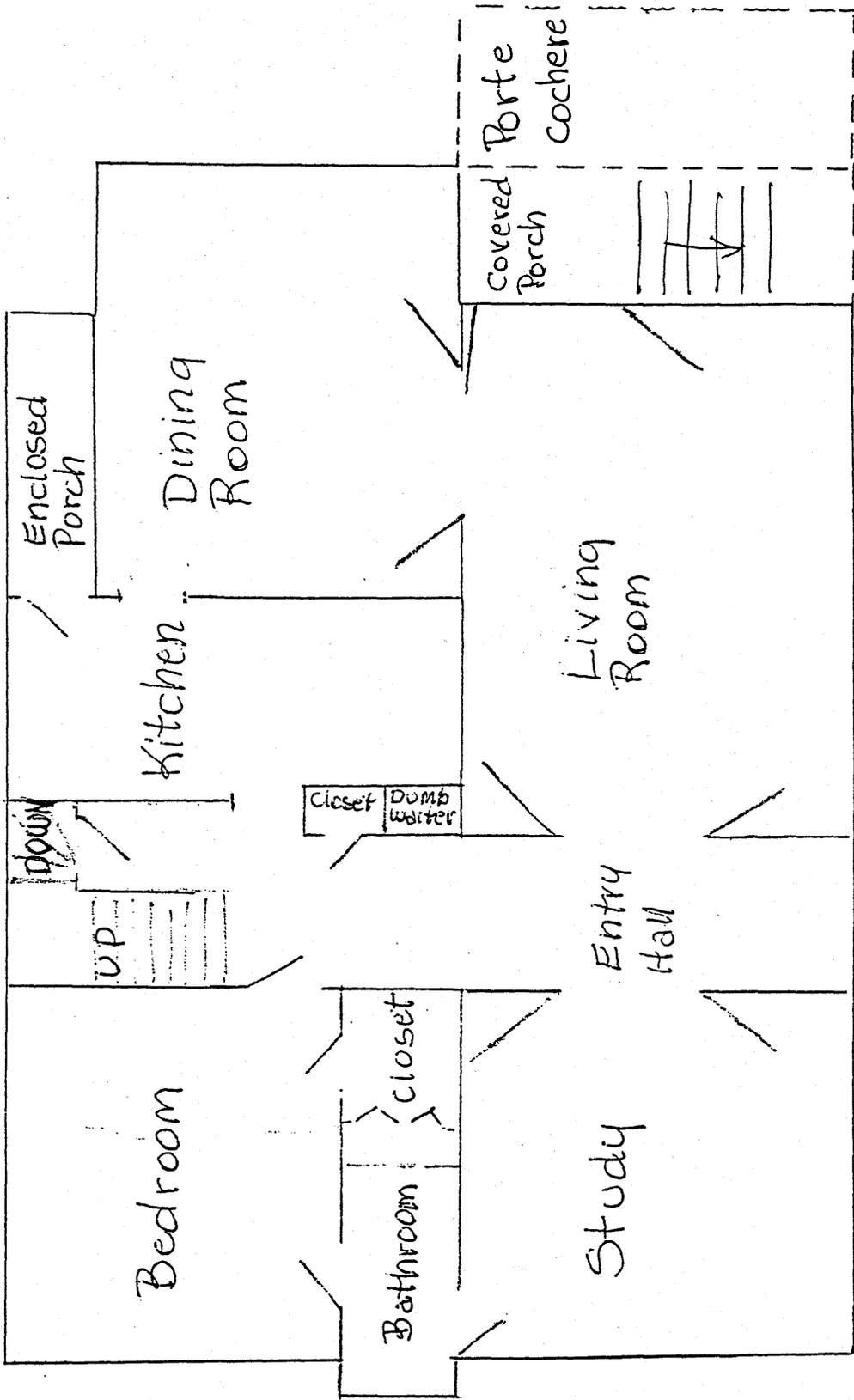
Eldridge operated the creamery until his retirement in 1922, after which he moved to Portland. The creamery continued to operate until 1948. It was located on the east side of Main Street near its intersection with Monmouth Street. The building was destroyed by fire in 1952. Sid Newton, a long-time Independence resident and former employee of the creamery, writes that "For over twenty years this creamery was one of the best on the Pacific Coast. Cream was shipped in from Northern California, British Columbia and Idaho." He goes on to state that, "In 1915, Mr. Eldridge won first prize for his butter at the World's Fair in San Francisco, California," and, perhaps more importantly, "Mr. Eldridge always gave generous samples of all the flavors of ice cream to his employees to eat whenever they wished."



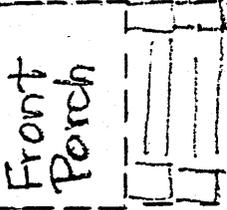
Daylight Basement

Kersey C & Ruth A Eldridge house
675 Monmouth Street
Independence, Polk County, Oregon
1997

Carport

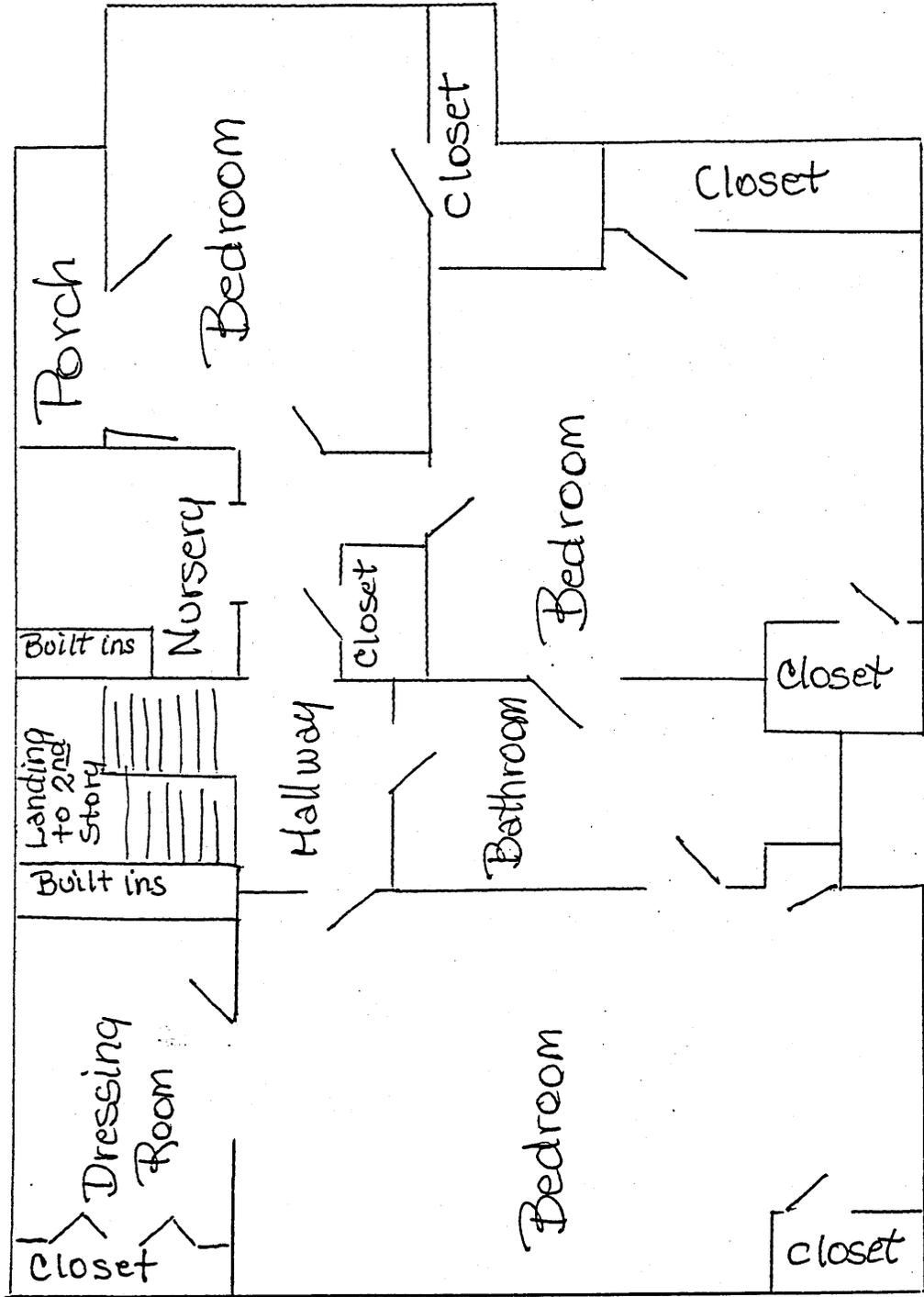


First Floor



Front Porch

Kersey C & Ruth A Eldridge house
 675 Monmouth Street
 Independence, Polk County, Oregon
 1987



Kersey C & Ruth A Eldridge house
675 Monmouth Street
Independence, Polk County, Oregon
1987

Second Floor