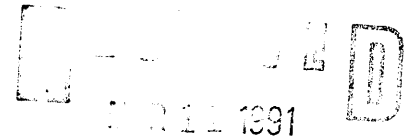


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Stoltz House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 405 S.W. First Street

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Park City

vicinity: n/a

state: Montana code: MT county: Stillwater code: 095 zip code: 59063

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Maudie Shep Signature of certifying official 3-1-91 Date

MT SHPC 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**

✓ entered in the National Register Helene Byer 4/16/91
 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 of Keeper Date

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic/single dwelling

Current: Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Neo-Classical Revival
Other: Vernacular

Materials: foundation: Stone
walls: Weatherboard, shingle
roof: Asphalt

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Stoltz House is a wood framed residence which combines elements of Neo-Classical architecture with Vernacular design. The plan is a simple 1½-story rectangular block with a single story rear wing. The main block has a gable roof of moderate pitch set parallel to the street; the rear wing has a gable roof running perpendicular from the main block. The house exhibits a high retention of historic integrity; unless otherwise noted, features described are original.

The design of the building is basically symmetrical, with a full porch across the front facade, capped by a series of three steeply-pitched gabled dormers which comprise the upper level and dominate the main view on the north elevation. Small, hipped appendages emphasize the junctures of these gables and the return ends of the main roof gable. The porch is covered with a projecting hipped roof, supported on wooden Doric columns, with a plain entablature and a projecting cornice. A turned spindle balustrade dresses the front of the porch, which retains the original wooden floor. Original screening which enclosed the porch has been removed.

The main entrance is centrally placed under the front porch. It includes a single wooden door ornamented with scrollwork and an upper window light, and a rectangular transom above. In placement and uniformity, the rhythms of fenestration contribute to the overall symmetry of the house. Fenestration generally employs standard-sized, double hung, 1-over-1, wooden sash windows; the main floor windows on the front and east side are wider, 1-over-1 sash units. A shallow, polygonal bay projects from the east side of the building, illuminating the living room. The bay includes narrower 1-over-1 side windows, flanking a wider 1-over-1 central unit.

The main entrance opens into a small entry from which a central stairway leads to the second floor. The interior of the main block is basically arranged on a four-square plan, with living areas on the main floor and bedrooms upstairs. The wing off the rear houses the kitchen and a bath. The interior trim throughout the house is of dark fir, doors are paneled and window and door heads are corniced.

The house is sided with narrow lapped wooden siding, and finished in the gable ends with scalloped shingling. The building sets on its original cut, rusticated stone foundation. On the west side, this has been reinforced with concrete.

A hip-roofed wrap-around porch is located on the rear northwest corner of the house. During the 1970s, this was enclosed and sided with incompatible pressboard siding. In addition, window banding, concrete steps with a wrought iron railing, and concrete foundation have been added. Elsewhere, concrete was used underneath the front porch for reinforcement, and the skirting and steps were replaced with pressboard siding. In addition, two of the upstairs window units were replaced with fixed glass during this era.

The house sets on a large lot landscaped with mature trees. These include some of the oldest remaining fruit trees in the Yellowstone Valley.

Presently, the historic integrity of this house is extremely well preserved. The enclosure of the back porch was not sympathetic with the building's original design, and obscured what was originally an important element of the design. However, the exterior views on the north, east and west elevations continue to convey the building's historic appearance, and the interior is unchanged in design and function.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Commerce
Exploration/Settlement

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1906-1940

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1906

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Stoltz, Fred G.

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

The Stoltz House, now the oldest residence remaining in Park City, Montana, is significant under Criterion A, for its associations with community expansion that occurred during the first decade of the 20th century. The house further gains significance under Criterion C, as a well-preserved local example of early 20th century vernacular architecture with Neo-Classical influences.

Park City was born when the Northern Pacific Railroad built its line into Montana in 1882. The town was settled by a colony from Wisconsin on a section of donated railroad land and a station was established there. Park City was to serve as a trading and distribution center along the rail line for the surrounding rural communities. By 1885, 13 businesses operated there. However, the Northern Pacific chose nearby Laurel as the site of the railroad yards and shops, and the town of Park City soon began to flounder. Most of the settlers with the Wisconsin colony dispersed and left the area. Through the remaining years of the century, businesses and settlement in Park City stagnated.

It was not until after 1900 that the town of Park City began to truly flourish. Sugar beets introduced into the area in 1906 and the impact of the homesteading movement in central Montana gave the agricultural community a boost. Dryland farmers looked hopefully to a bright future in the Yellowstone Valley, planting everything from grains and sugar beets, to fruit orchards. The population expanded, and new businesses and services opened. Incorporation of a local bank in 1907, and numerous new businesses and residences marked the community's escalating growth. By 1909, the Laurel Sentinel noted that the population had grown to 300, and that "many neat cottages and substantial business blocks have been erected." Numbered among these was the Stoltz lumber yard and the Stoltz House.

Fred G. Stoltz, the son of Prussian immigrants, spent his childhood in the states of New York and Illinois. He learned to farm as a youth. After a leg injury he worked in mines in Missouri, and then traveled to Montana during the 1880s. Stoltz worked in the mines in the Townsend vicinity, and near East Helena. His father bought the Perry Whitsett ranch at Park City in 1890, and Stoltz lived there much of the time until 1906. In 1904, he married Estella Mae Rhoads in Park City. In 1906, Stoltz purchased several lots from Z.B. Brown, and built this residence. It soon became a showplace of the community, noted by the newspaper that year as evidence that Park City was enjoying "its share of prosperity."

In 1906, Fred G. Stoltz, in partnership with his brother-in-law J.T. Sayles, bought out the lumber and coal stocked by the W.F. Lee and Company general mercantile. Stoltz carried the controlling interest in this business until it was sold to H.M. Allen Lumber Co. in 1912. Stoltz Lumber became a leading business in the community, and carried a full line of building supplies--lumber, hardware, lime, brick, cement and tools. Their ads were often illustrated with a photograph of his home, and no doubt the materials for building the house were purchased through the Stoltz Lumber Company.

Stoltz also constructed Stoltz Hall in 1909-1910 (no longer standing), which served as the original community hall, where town meetings were held and many entertainments were staged. After selling the lumber business in 1912, Stoltz opened a general merchandise and grocery store in Stoltz Hall. At the time of its opening, the business was heralded as an indicator of the steady development of the community, and the influence of Park City as a trade center for outlying rural areas. In Stoltz's words he sold "Anything Under the Sun...from needles to threshing machines." He operated this business until his retirement about 1920. Stoltz maintained his residence here at 405 Southwest First until his death in 1942.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Stoltz House

Page 1

The Stoltz House today is believed to be the oldest dwelling remaining in Park City from the settlement and expansion period of the first decade of the 20th century. The vigor of the design, the quality of craftsmanship and the ample scale of the house symbolize the early prosperity in this railroad town, and the optimism felt by businessmen, farmers and settlers alike, as the homestead movement blossomed in Montana. It further stands as a reminder of dreams that blew away like dust, as years of hard drought from 1918 into the 1920s drove dryland farmers from the area.

The design also reflects a union of vernacular building tradition and the highstyle American architectural movements of the early 20th century. The unique emphasis on the oversized gable dormers across the upper level front give the building a decidedly folk-inspired quality. Yet Neo-Classical influences are apparent in the ordered symmetry of the building and the classical porch detailing including Tuscan columns, turned porch balustrade, and the simple entablature on the cornice.

Pragmatically, the house reflects the prevalence of wood frame building in Montana towns during the early 20th century. Pre-fabricated materials employed in the house--siding, detailing, windows, doors, moldings and the like--testify to the increasing reliance upon mass-produced, high-quality building materials in Montana architecture by the turn of the century. Stoltz Lumber was instrumental in providing such materials in Park City and the surrounding rural area.

In its current state of preservation, the Stoltz House retains a high level of integrity complemented by the landscaping and mature fruit trees. These trees are among the last remaining from the 1900s-1910s when the farmers of Park City and the Upper Yellowstone boasted of their fertile fruit orchards, advertising a variety of apples, plums, prunes, crabs and peaches.

The Stoltz House today is an important local link to the history of Park City during those founding years. Visually and historically, the house stands as a reminder of the era when local farms and ranches prospered, and the railroads were vital. The Stoltz House is a reminder of the hopes and dreams for the future held by early settlers like Fred Stoltz, who transformed the town in less than two decades from a single street with two "log shacks" to a bustling young community with its sights set on the future.

9. References

- Annin, James, They Gazed on the Beartooths, Vol. II & III (1962).
- Braun, Helen, Collected Newspaper Accounts of Park City, unpublished, on file at Park City Library - pertinent entries excerpted from the Tri-County News: Apr. 19, 1906; May 21, 24, 1906; July 19, 1906; Oct. 11, 25, 1906; and the Laurel Sentinel: Nov. 1, 1906; Mar. 7, 1907; Apr. 11, 1907; Oct. 24, 1907; Feb. 27, 1908; Aug. 12, 1909; Special Edition, Aug. 1909; Nov. 18, 1909; Jan. 27, 1910; May 26, 1910; Aug. 11, 1910; Apr. 24, 1912; July 4, 1912; July 18, 1912.
- Ibid., Series of Interviews with Fred G. Stoltz, conducted Nov. 2, 1928; Feb. 24, 1930; Feb. 10, 1932; July 25, 1940; July 26, 1940; July 30, 1940; Sept. 6, 1940. On file at Park City Library.
- Ibid., A History in Items of the Garden Spot of the Yellowstone, 10 vols. Park City, Montana, 1943.
- Polk, R.L. and Co., "Polk's Livingston City Directory, including Big Timber, Park and Sweetgrass counties, Montana," 1910-11, 1912-13, 1914-15, 1916-17, 1918-19, 1922, Helena, Montana.

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: Park City Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
 12 662480 5045620

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Stoltz House is located on lots 3 and 4, Block 144, in Park City, Montana. The property lies in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, T2S, R23E.

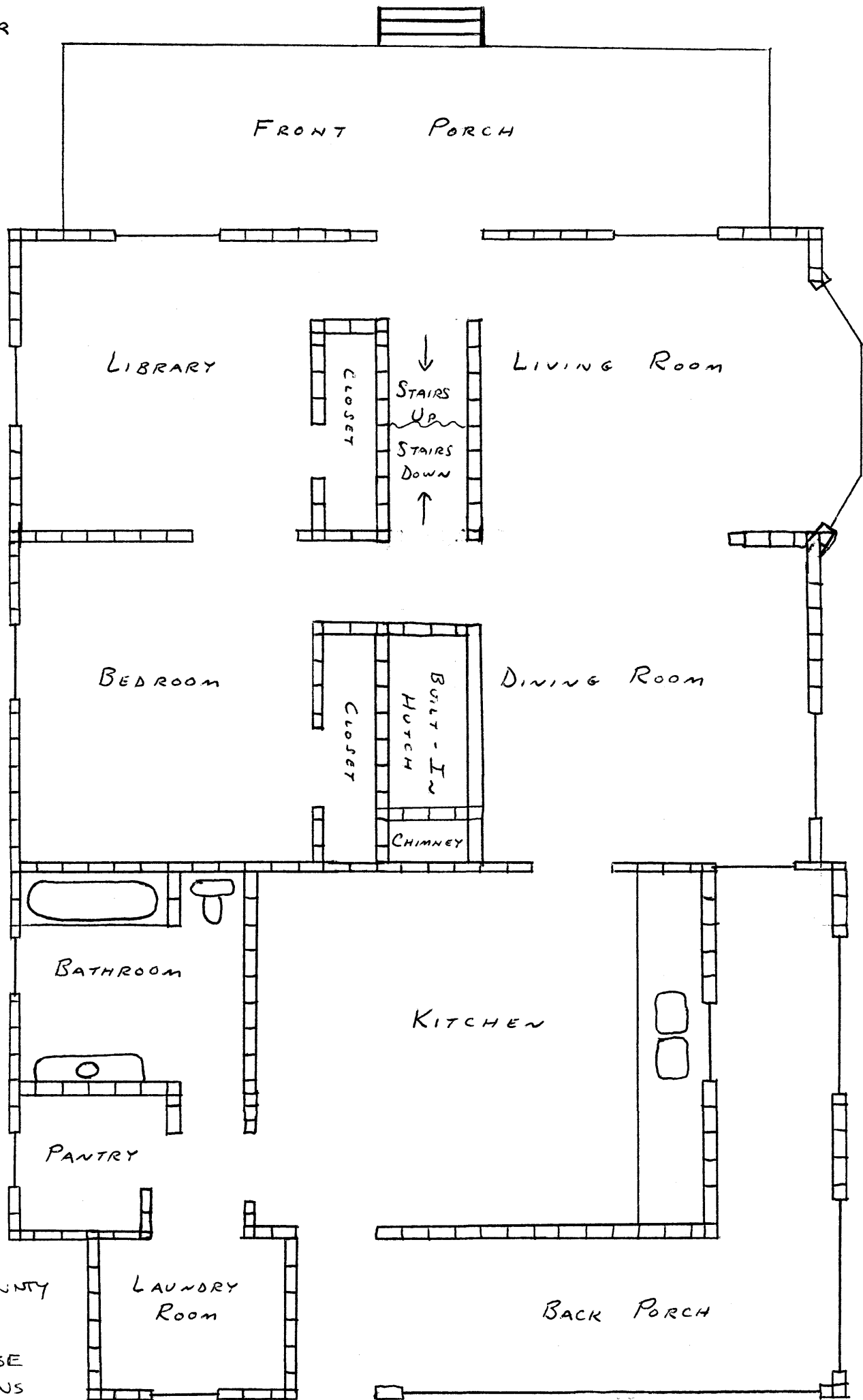
Boundary Justification:

These are the boundaries historically associated with the Stoltz House property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Chere Jiusto
Organization: State Historic Preservation Office Date: October 1990
Street & Number: 225 N. Roberts Telephone: 406/444-7715
City or Town: Helena State: Montana Zip: 59620

1ST FLOOR



FRONT PORCH

LIBRARY

CLOSET

STAIRS
UP
STAIRS
DOWN

LIVING ROOM

BED ROOM

CLOSET

BUILT-IN
HUTCH

DINING ROOM

CHIMNEY

BATHROOM

PANTRY

KITCHEN

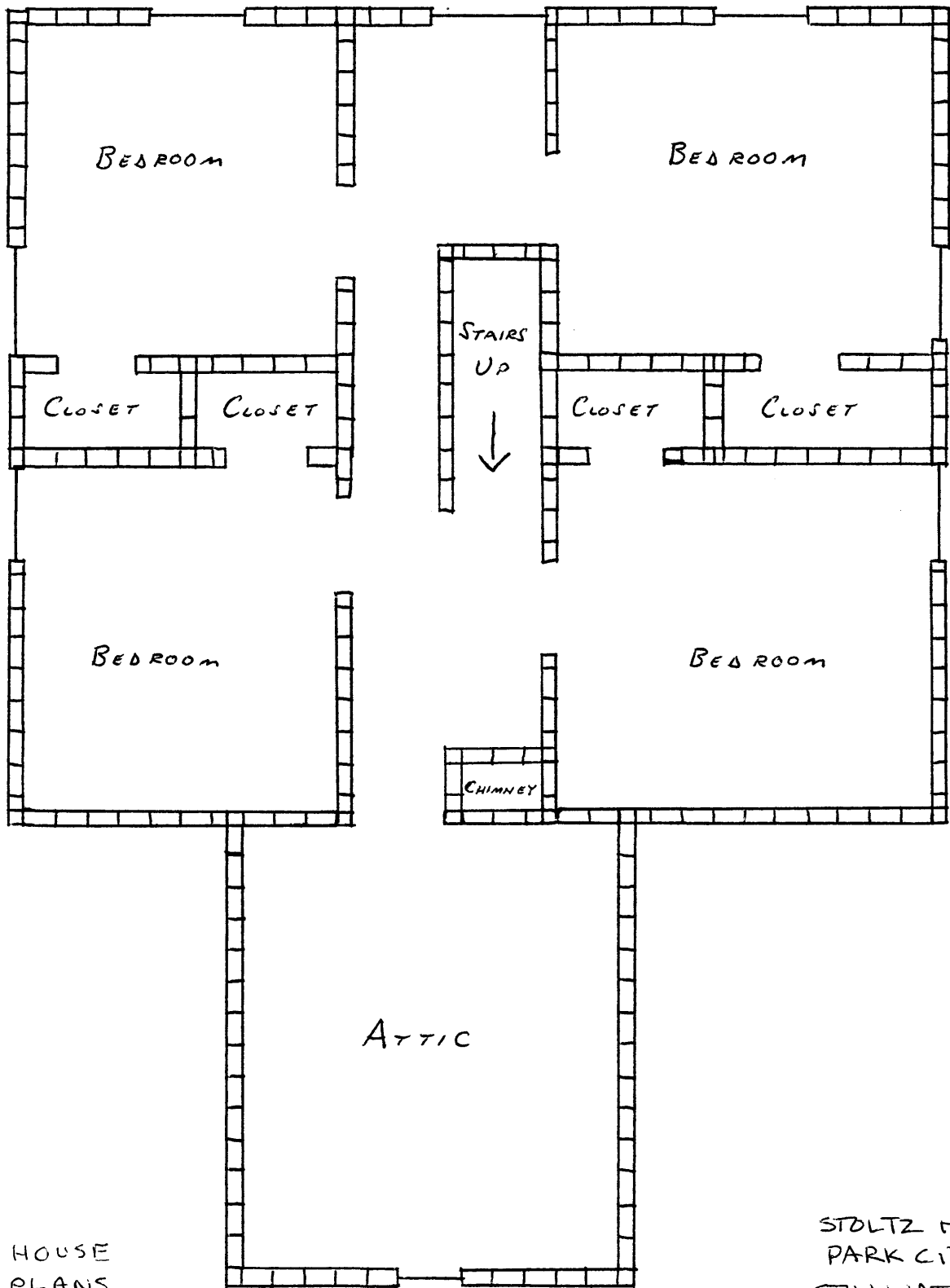
LAUNDRY
Room

BACK PORCH

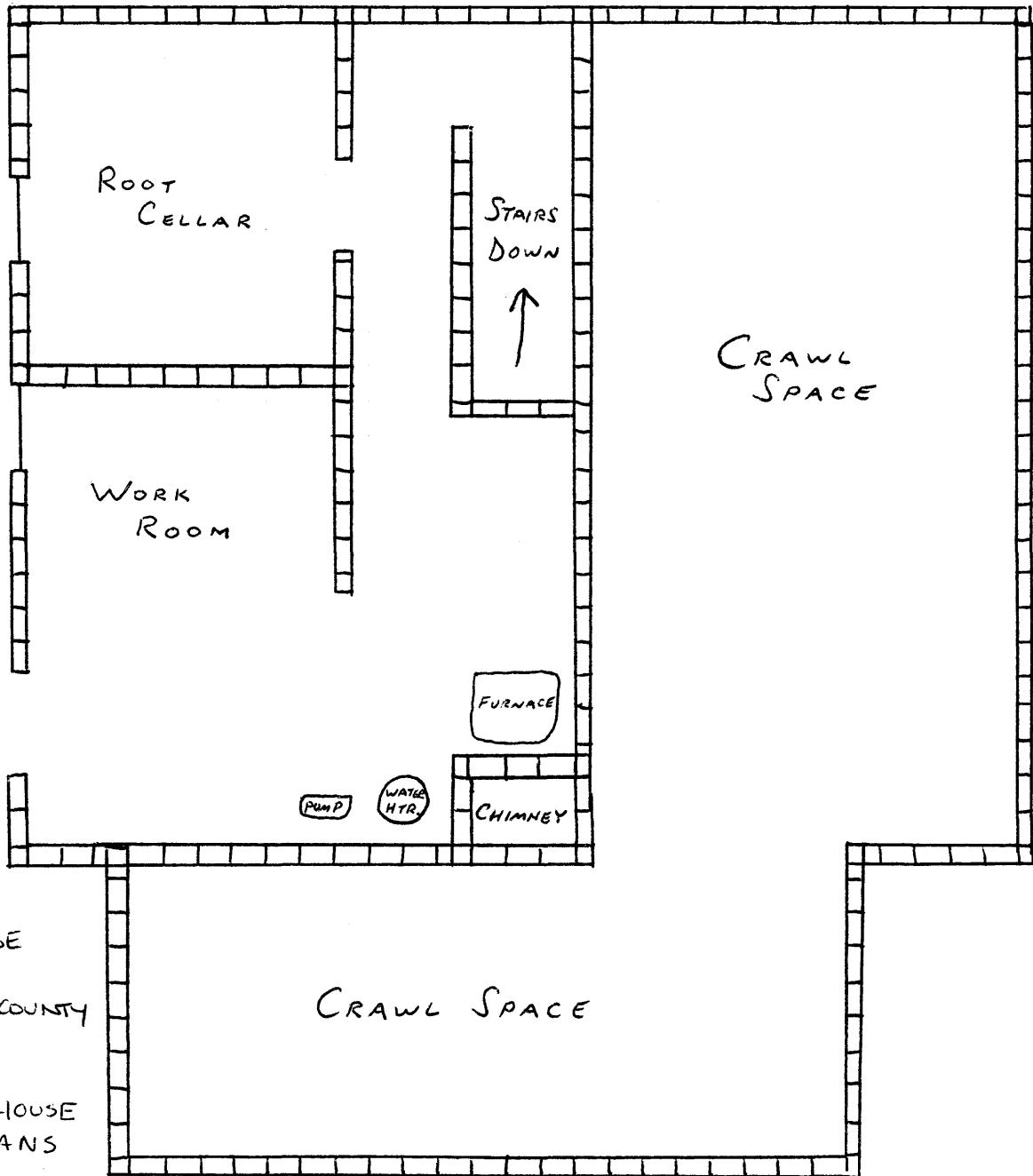
SOLTZ HOUSE
PARK CITY
STILLWATER COUNTY
MONTANA

STOLTZ HOUSE
FLOOR PLANS
NOT 1920

2ND FLOOR



BASEMENT



STOLTZ HOUSE
PARK CITY
STILLWATER COUNTY
MONTANA

STOLTZ HOUSE
FLOOR PLANS

OCT 1990