

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 The Shaw House

and/or common The Shaw House Inn

2. Location

street & number 703 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ferndale N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state California code 06 county Humboldt code 023

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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Velna Polizzi

street & number 703 Main Street

city, town Ferndale N/A vicinity of state California 95536

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Humboldt County Courthouse

street & number 825 Fifth Street

city, town Eureka state California 95501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ferndale Historical Committee has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ferndale Historical Committee

city, town Ferndale state California 95536

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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Victorian Gothic Revival Shaw House justifies this description in both its architecture and setting. Steep gables, decorative bargeboard, tall gable finials, and lacy balustrades provide the picturesque touches to this farmhouse where the original owner enjoyed the life of a country gentleman. Nestled among trees and plantings of that bygone era and set back from Main Street behind an old board-and-wire fence, the Shaw House recalls the historic character of this small northern California community. With only minor alterations, none of which intrude upon its Gothic Revival style, the Shaw House retains a high degree of architectural and historic integrity.

* * * * *

The nominated property consists of a one-and-a-half story house with an attached, one-story apartment having a total interior space of just over 3,600 square feet. The attached shed and garage cover 1,900 square feet. The front porches and rear deck are another 700 square feet.

The house is of wood construction with clapboard siding on the main house, shiplap on the apartment and front of the shed, and board-and-batten on the side and rear of the shed. The main house was built in stages beginning in the mid-1850's and ending in 1866. The apartment was added in the 1890's, the shed may have been added or expanded about the same time, and the three-car garage was built in 1967.

The house has three sets of gables: two are parallel with the street and one extends perpendicular to the others through the center of the house. Although rear additions result in an irregular shape, the front facade is symmetrical with a central gabled pavilion flanked by recessed porches.

The pavilion has a steep, gabled roof with extended eaves decorated with a cutout bargeboard and a large wooden finial. Below the gable in the upper story is an eight-pane window with a decorated moulding topped by a triangular pediment. On the lower story is a rounded bay with five, eight-pane windows. Below each window is a recessed panel and the flat-roofed bay is topped with a lattice-work balustrade. Corner boards with little capitals and a wide frieze provide classic touches on all the gables.

Recessed on either side of the bay are identical open porches. Each porch contains an off-centered door and two, 12-pane windows. The doors have an upper pane of colored glass with wood panels below and pellet appliques. The porch posts are split and connected by a lattice-work balustrade.

More

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1854-1866 **Builder/Architect** Unknown, probably Stephen & Seth Shaw

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shaw House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture, so outstanding, in fact, that it is recognized in David Gebhard's Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California (1973) as a "perfect Victorian Gothic Revival cottage." The oldest remaining structure in Ferndale and home of the community's founder, Seth Louis Shaw, the Shaw House was identified as a contributing building in Ferndale's designation as a State Historical Landmark in 1975. With a high degree of historic integrity, the Shaw House contributes significantly to the community's heritage--a heritage officially recognized by Landmark designation and unofficially by the many people who enjoy this unique place.

* * * * *

The Shaw brothers are of some note in Humboldt County history. Natives of Vermont, Stephen William Shaw and Seth Louis Shaw, came to California during the early days of the Gold Rush, eventually making their way to San Francisco. As a member of the Laura Virginia Company, Stephen was among the first to enter Humboldt Bay in the spring of 1850, a few months after its discovery by a land party. Seth followed his brother north and they established a farm on Table Bluff at the south end of the Bay. Dry summer months and crop failure in 1852 encouraged them and another man, Willard Allen, to venture into the fern-covered Eel River valley where they built a cabin and the following spring, began extensive experimentation with various crops.

Stephen returned to San Francisco to pursue his artistic career--his works are on exhibit in the Crocker Art Gallery in Sacramento and the Oakland Art Museum and his painting of President Zachary Taylor hangs in the White House. Seth remained in the Eel River valley, beginning construction of his home in the mid 1850's. He married Isabella Armitage in San Francisco in 1857 and brought her to the little community which bears the name he gave his home--Fern Dale. Even before its completion in 1866, the house served the growing population as post office, seat of justice and "public house...for man and beast." In his capacity as Justice of the Peace, Shaw often performed marriages and the newly-wed couples were invited to stay in the upstairs bedroom. Shaw's bed is still in use in the honeymoon room of the Shaw House Inn, a bed and

9. Major Bibliographical References

Assessment Records, Humboldt State University Library, Arcata, California.
 Elliott, W.W. & Co. 1881. History of Humboldt County California. S.F.
Ferndale Enterprise, 23 Sept. 1927, Ferndale, California
 Ford, Jeannette. Personal Communication, 9/2/83, Ferndale.
 Genzoli, Andy and Betty. Personal Communication, 9/9/83, Ferndale.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.1 acres

Quadrangle name Ferndale

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	1	0
---	---	---

3	9	3	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	9	2	5	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

254' Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the NW side of Main,
 273' NE of the N corner of Shaw & Main, thence 217.34' NE, thence at right angles
 to the center of Francis Creek, thence southerly along the meander to point "E",
 then turning easterly proceeding 200', to the point of beginning. Boundaries are drawn on
 the lot lines encompassing the historic building and its grounds Assessor's parcel 31-132-1

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susie Van Kirk

organization N/A

date 22 September 1983

street & number 1162 C Street

telephone (707) 822-6066

city or town Arcata

state California 95521

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marian Mitchell-Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Pres. Officer

date 7/16/84

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the

for Delores Byrne
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

Identified as a key structure in California Registered Historical Landmark
No. 883 (Ferndale)

May 9, 1975

 x State

State Office of Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Listed in

A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California

1973 Revised 1976

Published by Peregrine Smith, Inc.
Salt Lake City and Santa Barbara

Records c/o Dr. David Gebhard
University of California
Santa Barbara, California

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Matching roof dormers on the front have steep gables decorated with bargeboard and each contains a pointed eight-pane casement with shutters which open onto the porch roofs. Open stick-work railings complete the balconies.

On the southwest side are two gables. The front one is identical to its counterpart on the northeast side. The gabled roof is decorated with the same cutout bargeboard as the front gable but the finial is smaller. The window in the upper story has twelve panes. Below is a flat-roofed rounded bay with three, two-pane windows. Colonnets decorate the moulding between the windows and terminate in scrolled brackets beneath the bay's roof. Atop the bay is a lattice-work balustrade. Below each window is a panel.

The second gable has the same cut-out bargeboard and 12-pane window in the upper story. The bay, however, is squared with four, twelve-pane windows. There are panels below the windows and a solid balustrade on the roof.

Between these two side gables the siding is flush and appears to have been the point of attachment for the earlier-constructed rear gable and the later front section.

Continuing on the southwest side and to the rear of the two gables is the one-story apartment. A side entrance is covered by a slant-roofed stoop supported by open brackets. Beside the entrance are two, four-pane windows. A gabled section at right angles contains two, four-pane windows and an altered two-pane window which appears to have been an entrance at one time. At the rear of the apartment, the original porch has been enclosed and there are five half windows, each with six panes. There is a side door with steps leading to the wooden platform which once supported the clothes reel. Beyond the enclosure on the rear wall of the apartment are two windows, one is 12-paned and the other a modern window. On the northeast side of the apartment is another twelve-pane window and an extended "cooler." The apartment door opens onto the deck and there are two more twelve-pane windows.

The deck appears to date back to near the turn-of-the-century, although the glass enclosure was added in 1970. At the rear of the house is the gable which corresponds to the front gable. This one, however, is without decoration except for the tall finial. It contains two twelve-pane double doors which open onto a balcony with the same open railing as the front porch roofs. Alterations at the rear include a skylight (1979), a metal stove chimney (1972), a small roof dormer (date unknown), and a set of double doors (1981) opening onto the deck from the kitchen. Two original sets of double doors with six large rectangular panes open onto the deck from the diningroom.

More

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

The gable-roofed shed with several mismatched, multipaned windows forms the northeast side of the deck. It extends at right angles and contains three altered windows and a door at the rear. Attached to the shed is a three-car open garage. The front of the shed contains a paneled door flanked by two, twelve-pane windows.

On the northeast side of the house are the counterparts of the two gables on the southwest side. The front gable is identical in form and decoration, however, the rear gable has no bay window. Instead, there are three, multi-paned half windows added in 1979 and an extended "cooler." A metal furnace pipe extends between the two gables where the flush siding indicates the point of attachment of the two sections as on the other side of the house.

The white-and-blue-trimmed house sits back from the street behind a wood-and-wire fence. The entrance gate leads up a long cement sidewalk which splits at the pavilion, going to the side steps of the two porches. The yard is rural in character with old plantings, orchard trees, and a variety of trees planted by the Shaw family. To the rear of the house meanders Francis Creek which the Shaw brothers followed in their first exploration of the area.

The surrounding neighborhood is a mixture of residential styles including Victorians, turn-of-the-century houses, bungalows, and newer homes. Directly across the street is the handsome Congregational Church, nearby is the community's library, and the house is only a block from the commercial district which includes many fine 19th and early 20th century buildings.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

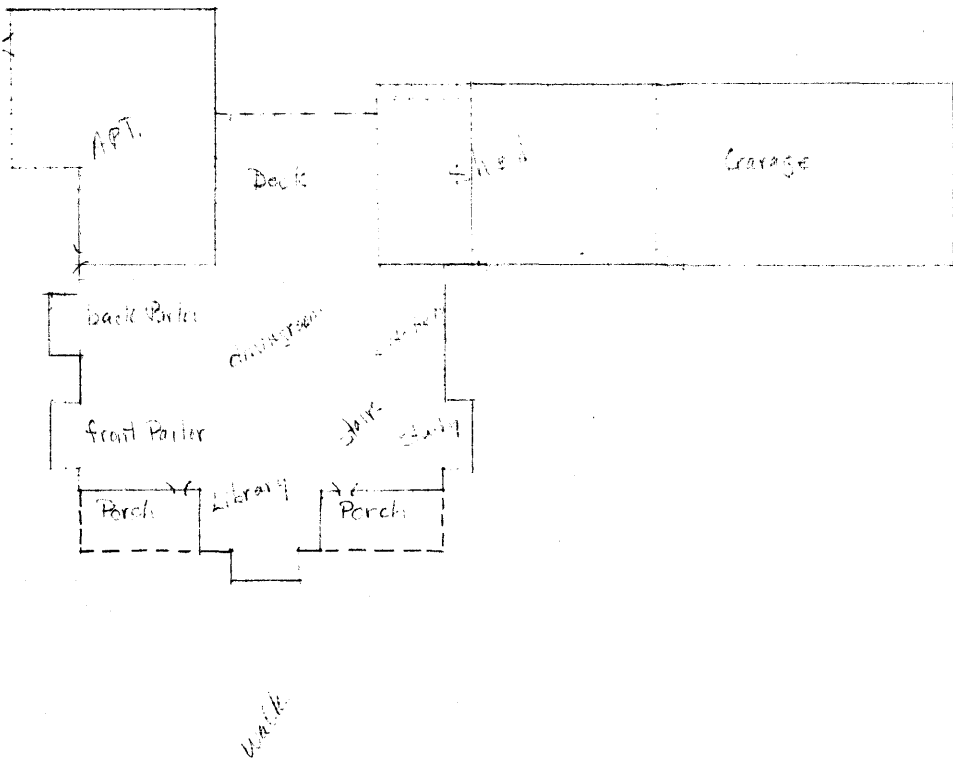
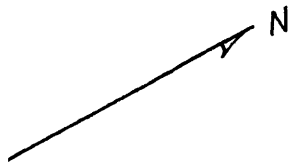
breakfast inn operated by the present owner.

Shaw farmed his bottom-land claim until his death in 1872. His only surviving child, Joseph A. Shaw, married and raised four children in the home place. The house remained in family ownership until 1967 when it was purchased by Frank and Jeannette Ford, who enjoyed it until 1979. Barbara Govine owned it for a year before selling it to the present owner in 1980.

Some original furnishings and decor are still in place in the historic Shaw House. Recent restorations have been carefully done to preserve the fine artistic qualities of the old home. Although the architect is unknown, one might assume that the artistic talents of Stephen Shaw and Seth, too, are expressed in the fine Gothic Revival architecture and lovely interior of Ferndale's founding residence. For its outstanding architecture and enduring contribution to the community's historic heritage, the Shaw House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

THE SHAW HOUSE
703 Main Street
Ferndale, Humboldt County, CA

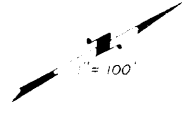


Mag = 2'
Shaw House
703 Main Street, Ferndale, CA
AP# 31-132-16

POR. SEC'S 2 & 11, T.2 N., R.2 W., H.B.&M.
CITY OF FERNDALE

THE SHAW HOUSE
703 Main Street
Ferndale, Humboldt County, CA

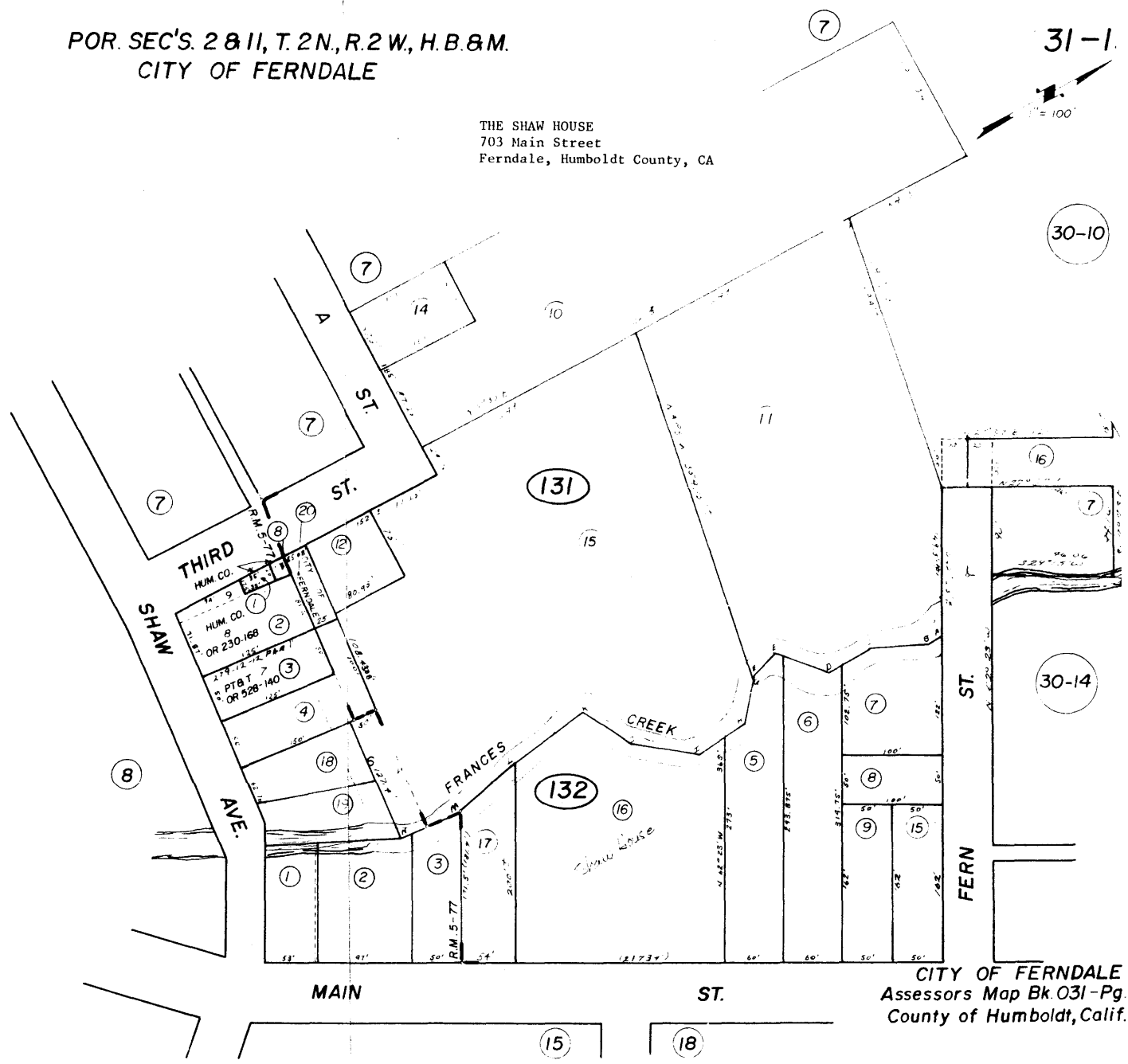
31-1



30-10

Q FRANCES CREEK

A B	S 6° 20' E	19.35'
B C	S 23° 52' W	60.15'
C D	S 2° 56' E	47.45'
D E	S 48° 20' W	58.45'
E F	S 18° 9' E	32.05'
F G	S 51° 37' E	2.60'
G H	S 51° 37' E	46.35'
H I	S 5° 44' E	57.05'
I J	S 36° 44' W	71.10'
J K	S 60° 40' W	59.70'
K L	S 9° 26' E	89.55'
L M	S 13° 35' E	76.40'
M A	S 3° 52' W	61.05'



THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD
FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY
HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSESSOR

Shaw Sub., R.M. Bk.5, Pg 77

CITY OF FERNDALE
Assessors Map Bk.031-Pg.
County of Humboldt, Calif.

56