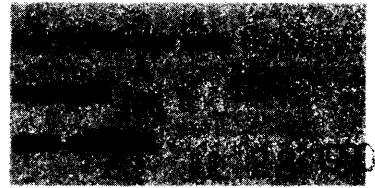


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Orin Jordan House

historic Orin Jordan House

and/or common Old Jordan House, Whitaker Home

2. Location

street & number 8310 South Comstock Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Whittier ___ vicinity of congressional district 33Rd

state California code 06 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Vita A. Garrett

street & number 12621 Oakthorn

city, town La Mirada ___ vicinity of state California 90638

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Hall of Records

street & number 200 N. Spring Street

city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Listed as "8310 Comstock"
Whittier Historical Society has this property been determined eligible? yes ___ no

date 1976 ___ federal ___ state county local

depository for survey records Rio Hondo College Library, 3600 S. Workman Mill Rd.

city, town Whittier state California 90601

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1926
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 8310 S. Comstock Avenue in the southern outskirts of Whittier, California, approximately 1 mile from the city center. The original Orin Jordan House was a 9-room, two-story ell-shaped dwelling of wood frame construction. 29 feet-9 inches wide by 38 feet long of two bay width with five rooms and pantry on ground floor and 4 rooms on the upper. (see alterations)

Exterior remains the same, original design with little influence of the Victorian period, only ornamentations being alternating rows of round and pointed thick wood shingles in the gable areas of the pitched roof and scroll work beneath the roof peaks on front and side. Brackets are evenly spaced beneath the boxed eaves. Rectangular windows are in centers of both upper and lower rooms. Front porch, with roofed balcony, has two panelled entrance doors with square glass windows, one into parlor, the other into living room. Back porch is enclosed, with entrances into kitchen and sunroom.

Interior woodwork is original and of simple design. Sliding double doors close off parlor from living room. Home was heated by stove in living room with the chimney rising up the inside wall through roof near ridge. Kitchen chimney has been capped beneath roof. Pantry off kitchen has original cabinets with curved flour bins beneath work area. Built-in china closet in dining room has pass-through to kitchen. Stairway is enclosed on east wall of living room and has entrance doors to both living room and dining room, also to North sideporch.

Structurally, the house was altered in 1918 with the addition of a glass windowed sunroom, 12 feet-10 inches long and 14 feet-3 inches wide, on the northeast rear adjoining the dining room. It is an intricate portion of the house. Dining room and sunroom are single story bonded to the house with a hipped roof. Also installed was the water supply, upper bath in a small room at the top of the stairs, and lower bath in a walled off portion of the pantry as evidenced by plumbing on exterior of south side. With the conversion of the upper room to a bath the number of rooms remains the same.

In 1926, the house was moved intact from original site on Whittier Blvd., approximately 300 feet southwest to the present Comstock Avenue location. New location was still on the Jordan farm and did not affect the structural integrity of the house.

Additional alterations were made, ca 1930's, by the enclosure of the front porch balcony and construction of a north side porch, each with a lean-to roof. These structures could easily be removed without damage to the house. A two-car garage was also constructed, date unknown, at the southeast rear of the lot.

All of the porches on the property were restored and rehabilitated to the original form. In addition, the French doors leading from the dining room to the side porch were re-installed in their original manner.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888-1890 **Builder/Architect** Orin Jordan and hired carpenter

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Orin Jordan House, built 1890, is significant in its association with the early development of Whittier and the citrus culture and citrus packing industry of the Whittier area. The wood frame house is an example of the expert craftsmanship as employed by Jordan and one hired carpenter. As a representative of the fast disappearing late 1880's farm and small town house it is unique on the large lot surrounded by commercial buildings and dwellings of a later period. It is the only house of this age in the immediate vicinity. Although uptown Whittier has other old houses, very few are of this date.

Orin Jordan, a Kansas wheat farmer, was one of the early settlers of Whittier, arriving in 1888 with his family one year after the townsite was laid out. Of modest means, he purchased 24 acres on the south side of the County Road (later changed to Whittier Blvd.) between present day Greenleaf Avenue and Comstock Avenue and planted oranges and walnuts on most of the property. First built was a small barn in which the family resided until the house was completed. Recognizing the new and growing interest of orange culture in Southern California he entered into a partnership with a Ed Bacon to contract with later arriving farmers in the planting of citrus groves. Many of the first orange groves of the Whittier area were planted by this partnership. The packing house industry followed; Jordan was noted connected with this.

In 1926, the house was moved intact approximately 300 feet southwest on the farm to its present Comstock Avenue location. This move represents the continuing growth of Whittier, the original site on Whittier Blvd., being developed for business buildings. Balance of the farm was later subdivided for both business and residential uses.

Architecturally, the Jordan house, with its ornate gables and roof lines, retains all the grace and character of the original construction. The roof over the front porch balcony and the north side porch could readily be removed without injury to the house. Window trim and doorway trim are simple and clean in appearance. The new composition roof is compatible. The only major exterior repairs needed is the replacement of a sill timber at the northwest corner and placement of a new 8 inch concrete block foundation under the entire building as per existing codes. Entire house, inside and out, has been cleaned and repainted. With the exceptions of patching cracked plaster areas on ceilings and painting of woodwork, and the roofed balcony and side porch, the house retains original materials and character.

In 1928, the house was sold to Lee and Lassie Whitaker who remained, as residents until 1979.

In the 1973 Whittier Greenleaf Redevelopment study the house was potentially

(Continued on Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Background material from Walter Wood, 11508 E. Beverly Dr., Whittier, Ca 90601
 Interviews in 1979, August 24, August 27, and August 30.
 Pearce, Phyllis-- Whittier Historical Society
 Radford, Claire-- FOUNDERS AND FRIENDS Rio Hondo College Community Servi
 Rummel, Mary Ann-- 1977

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .265 Acre **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** 1: 24000
 Quadrangle name Whittier **UTM NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 7.5 Minutes

A	<u>11</u>	<u>404560</u>	<u>31751811210</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

City lot #53, Tract 6104, City of Whittier, California
 Rectangular lot 83 ft. wide, 140 ft long. Beginning at center of Comstock
 at Alley, east 140', south 83', west 140' north 83' on Comstock back to alley.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title C.W. "Bob" Camp, La Mirada Historian
 organization _____ date November 16, 1979
 street & number 14512 Jalon Road telephone 714 521 2746
 city or town La Mirada state California 90638

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 K. M. Green

title S-170 date 5/27/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____
 Date: 5-27-80

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 3 1980
DATE ENTERED JUL 28 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

endangered, until purchase was made by Vita Garrett in 1979.

The house will be occupied by the Developmentally Handicapped of the Whittier area. Their organization is applying for a Federal grant-in-aid to acquire the property and have entered into a long term lease June 1, 1980.

Orin Jordan Family Background:

Orin Leland Jordan was born near Hollowell, Maine, July 20, 1847. From Maine the family moved to Iowa where Orin met Eliza Kratzer (born November 11, 1849). On November 22, 1870 the two were married and soon after put all possessions in a covered wagon and moved on to Kansas where Orin had filed on a land claim in Greenwood County. Here the family, which would grow with six children, lived for 18 years on the land used for wheat farming. Jordan learned of the new townsite of Whittier from his brother-in-law, William Briggs. After making a trip to the area he returned home, sold the farm and in 1888 rented a freight car for the trip to Whittier. Family lived in the freight car along with their possessions and two milk cows.

A seventh child was born to the Jordans in Whittier.

(Walter Wood, listed in Major Bibliographical References, is a grandson of the Jordans).

①

WEST BOUNDARY COMSTOCK AVENUE

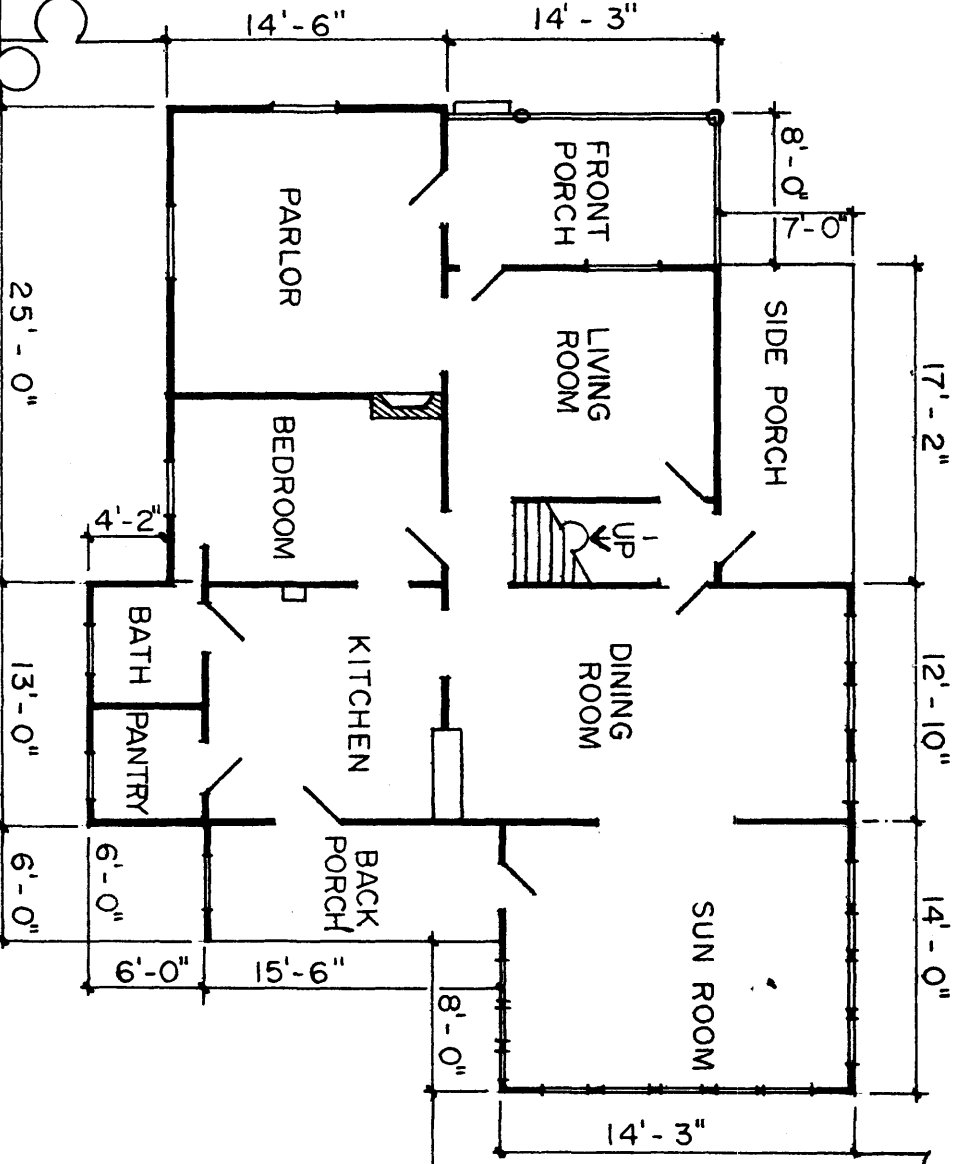
83'-0"
CENTER OF ALLEY

NORTH BOUNDARY ALLEY (COMMONLY CALLED OAK ALLEY)
140'-0" TO CENTER OF STREET

52'-8"
TO CURB

12'-8"
DRIVE WAY

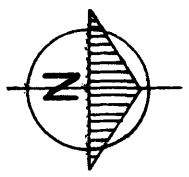
SOUTH BOUNDARY



30'-6" TO ALLEY LINE

35'-4"

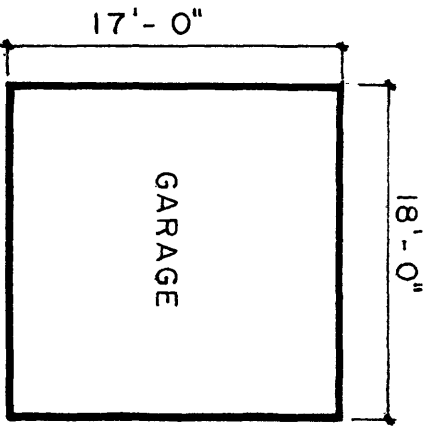
EAST BOUNDARY



ORIN JORDAN HOUSE
BUILT 1890

GROUND FLOOR PLAN
8310 SO. COMSTOCK
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

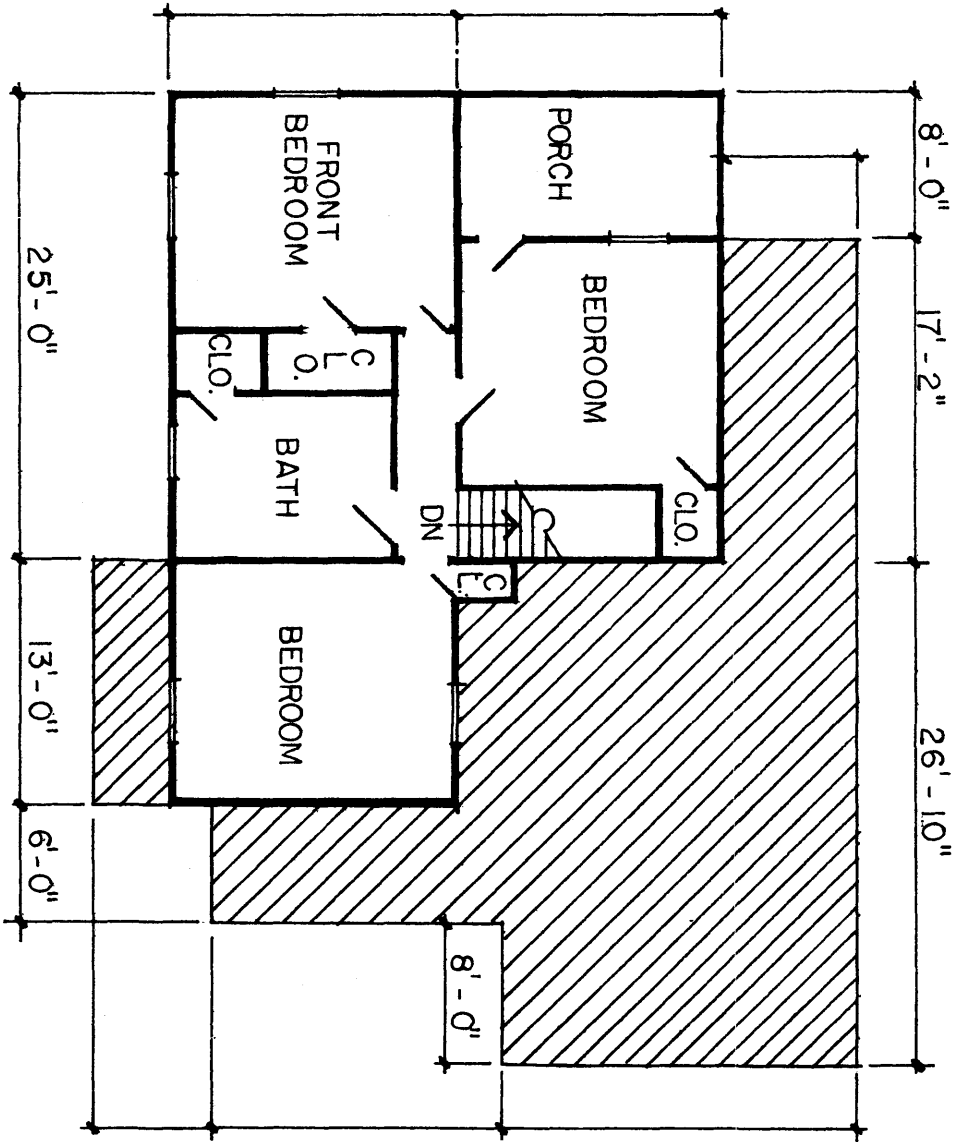
SCALE: 1" = 10'-0"



WEST BOUNDARY

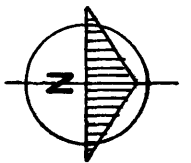
COMSTOCK AVENUE

NORTH BOUNDARY ALLEY



SOUTH BOUNDARY

EAST BOUNDARY



ORIN JORDAN HOUSE
BUILT 1890
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 8310 SO. COMSTOCK
 WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

SCALE: 1" = 10' - 0"