

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

MAY 16 1985

1. NAME

Historic UNKNOWN

and/or Common --

2. LOCATION

UTM References:

Zone 10 Easting 517260

Northing 5329410

- not for publication

Street & Number

503 Fir Street

City, Town

Port Townsend

- vicinity of

State

Washington

County

Jefferson

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both

Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress

Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government

industrial military museum park private residence

religious scientific transportation other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name

David L. Vane

Street & Number

503 Fir Street

City, Town

Port Townsend

State

- vicinity of

Washington 98368

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Patty Vane, owner, telephone interview, 11/7/84

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title

Katheryn Krafft and Shirley Courtois

Organization

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Date

November 1984

Street & Number

4021 E. Highland Drive

Telephone

(206) 325-9346

City or Town

Seattle

State

Washington 98112

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

This house is a fine example of a simply decorated vernacular type. It is a one and one-half story, wood frame structure on a post and pier foundation covered by board skirting. The wood shingle, gabled roof is penetrated by a central brick masonry chimney. Exterior walls are now entirely clad with weathered wood shingles. Windows are tall, narrow, one-over-one light, double-hung sash with simple surrounds. Polygonal bay windows with small brackets and hipped roofs are located on the front and side elevations. The entry porch is covered by a shed roof with a central pediment, narrow porch posts and band-sawn ornament. A one-story gable-roofed rear wing appears to be original. The major alteration to the historic building fabric is the application of now weathered wood shingle siding.

Verbal boundary description: Websters Addition,
Block 14, Lots 2 & 4

Acreage: Less than an acre.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates c. 1889-90

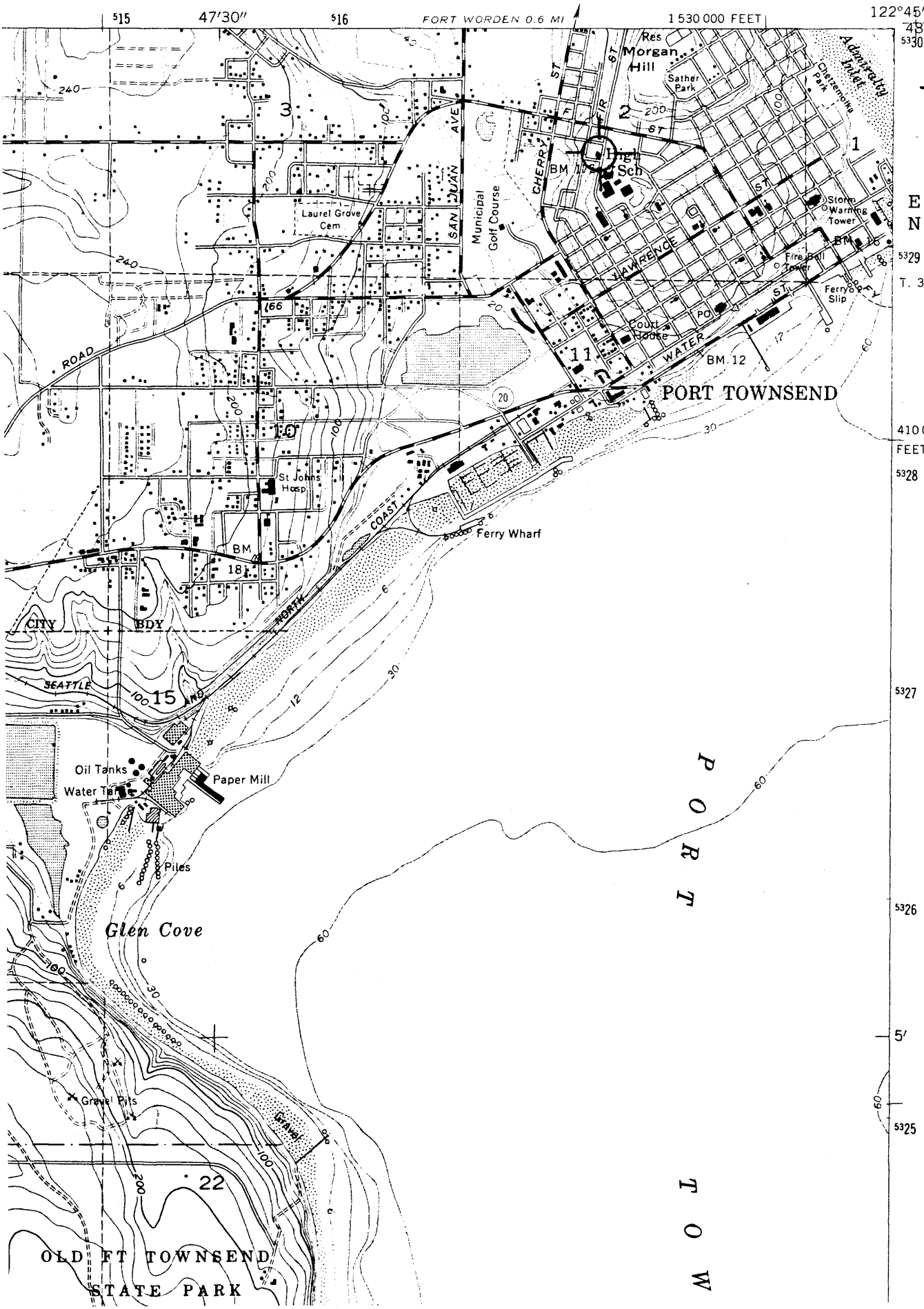
Builder/Architect Unknown

a. History This house is one of a number of modest vernacular cottages built during Port Townsend's brief boom period. Although the specifics of its origins are obscure, it is known that the two lots were purchased by Mary Ann Morrison in 1888 for \$600. A historic photograph by W.H. Wilcox, undated but probably taken in the 1890s (Jefferson County Historical Museum Collection), shows three similar houses side by side at this location. The middle house has been demolished. The northernmost house has been altered and modernized. But the southern corner house (the Morrison property) remains essentially intact except for the application of wood shingles over the original, probably drop, siding. The bay windows, entry porch and band-sawn ornament all remain.

b. Evaluation of Significance Numerous references in The Port Townsend Leader during the period 1888-90 attest to the fact that many real estate developers and small time entrepreneurs were busy erecting small inexpensive cottages, singly or in groups of two, three, four or more, in order to profit from the sudden expansion of the economy and the resultant influx of new arrivals during this period. Many of these modest dwellings still survive within the city limits. However, over time most of them have been altered by the addition of new wings or application of modern siding, modernization of windows and doors, and the removal of the minimal historic ornamentation which once graced these simple dwellings. Very few of these modest house retain their original appearance, and those that do thus become more important in the context of the urban fabric of this Victorian seaport. This house is among the few remaining which do give a strong visual indication of their original late nineteenth century character.

PORT TOWNSEND SOUTH QUADRANGLE
 WASHINGTON—JEFFERSON CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1480 II NW
 (COUPEVILLE)



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