

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 01000828

Date Listed: 8/8/2001

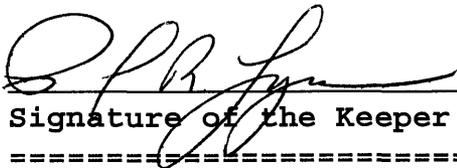
Nicolai-Cake-Olson House
Property Name

Multnomah
County

OR
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

8/8/01
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: 1905-1927.

[This extended period best documents the evolutionary changes to the residence by subsequent owners, reflecting the continued popularity of the Craftsman Style aesthetic during the historic period.]

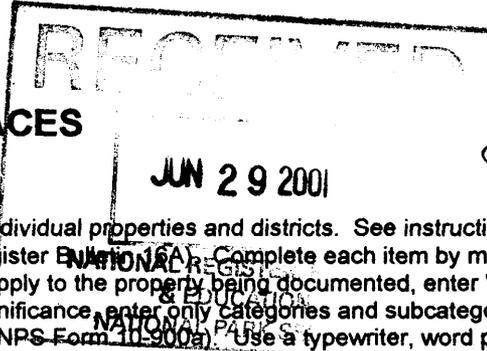
These revisions were confirmed with Nancy Niedernhofer of the OR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 68). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House

other names/site number 673 Hancock Street (old address)

2. Location

street & number 1903 NE Hancock Street not for publication

city or town Portland vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hamrick June 20, 2001
Signature of certifying official /Deputy SHPO Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

4. 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 of Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 8/8/01

Nicolai-Cake House
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
Contributing Noncontributing
_____ _____ buildings
_____ _____ sites
_____ _____ structures
_____ _____ objects
1 0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

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)
Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements:
Craftsman
(Arts and Crafts Movement: Arts and Crafts)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Stucco

roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved (Attributed) significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1905-1906

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Schacht, Emil, Architect (Attributed)

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Nicolai-Cake-Olson House
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 527705 5042415
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy McFeeters-Krone, Architectural History Consultant

organization _____ date November 28, 2000

street & number 1831 NE Thompson Street telephone (503) 493-1926

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97212

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jim Heuer & Robert Mercer

street & number 1903 NE Hancock Street telephone (503) 284-8481

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97212

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House is located on a terraced corner lot at 1903 NE Hancock Street in the historic Portland neighborhood of Irvington. Built in 1905-1906, it represents a very early Arts and Crafts style house designed by the prominent Portland Architect Emil Schacht. The house is a two-and-one-half-story, wood frame building on a concrete foundation with a side gable roof. The exterior is asymmetrical and exhibits the simplicity of form and the lack of ornamentation that is typical of the American craftsman style. It is clad in stucco over the original wood shingles. The interior of the house has an asymmetrical, open floor plan and is beautifully detailed with fir woodwork in the Craftsman style. Both the exterior and the interior of the house retain a high degree of historic integrity, and have had few changes that do not date to the historic period.

The house can be attributed to Emil Schacht through drawings found in the Cachot Therkelsen Collection at the University of Oregon (24). These plans are not for the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House, but for another house designed by Schacht on speculation and built in the Willamette Heights neighborhood (1727 NW Aspen Street). The plans show a house essentially identical to the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House, only in mirror image. It is likely that Nicolai bought the plans from Schacht, and altered them slightly. The original house built from these plans still stands, but has been so altered that it is virtually unrecognizable both inside and out, and retains no historic integrity.

Setting

The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Hancock Street and Nineteenth Avenue in the well preserved city neighborhood of Irvington. The house faces south on a terraced lot containing mature foundation plantings. It is set back approximately 25 feet from Hancock Street, and approximately ten feet from Nineteenth Avenue. The rear (north) yard is enclosed by a recently built stucco wall designed to match the house.

The surrounding neighborhood is characterized by stately historic homes surrounded by mature deciduous trees. The land in the neighborhood is generally level, and the streets are arranged in an orderly grid pattern lined with trees. The average lot size in the neighborhood is 50 feet (frontage) by 100 feet. Most residences in the neighborhood are single-family, with some duplexes and small apartment buildings scattered throughout. The southern portion of the neighborhood, between Broadway and Tillamook Streets, suffered in the 1960s from the unfortunate demolition of many beautiful homes and the building of architecturally unremarkable 2-story apartment complexes.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 2

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Exterior

1903 NE Hancock Street is a two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame building set on a concrete foundation. It has an essentially rectangular footprint, approximately 40 feet by 30 feet, with the primary elevation facing south. The entire house is sheathed in stucco, which was applied in 1927 over the original wood shingles. All windows are divided-light wood casements with narrow, molded frames. A low-pitched, gabled roof with wide, bracketed eaves faces the side. A single stucco covered brick interior chimney rises from the gable peak.

The primary (south) elevation is asymmetrical, with the single-story entrance porch covering only the western half of the elevation. This porch has two simple, Doric half-columns supported by stucco piers set on a concrete foundation. The solid knee wall railing is stucco capped with mottled red brick. Entry to the porch is gained from stairs on its east side. The front door has two vertical panels on the lower half and a Tudor arch window on the upper half. The porch is covered by a shed roof with wide, open eaves exposing jigsawn rafter tails. The sides of the shed roof are enclosed by substantial decorative lattice. To the west of the entrance porch is a ribbon of four, eight-light casement windows.

The second-story of the primary elevation is marked by two symmetrically set, rectangular bays. The western bay terminates in the porch roof, but the eastern bay is supported by block modillions. Each bay contains a pair of six-light casement windows.

The west elevation faces Nineteenth Avenue. It is marked by a large, one-story bay on the southern half of the elevation which contains a ribbon of three divided-light casement windows. This bay is the exterior expression of the inglenook. It is capped by a shed roof with open eaves, jigsawn rafter tails and exaggerated brackets on the sides. The northern half of the first-story is marked by two pairs of eight-light casement windows. The second story contains two pairs of symmetrically placed, eight-light casement windows flanking two small, single, six-light casements. The attic story contains a pair of horizontal, six-light casements. On the basement level of this elevation is a one-car garage, added in 1946, which replaced an older detached garage (3). The basement garage projects approximately two feet from the plane of the main wall, and has a hipped roof. A basement level entrance is located to the south of the garage door.

The east elevation is approximately ten feet from the property line. It has an asymmetrical layout of casement windows with no bays breaking the plane of the wall. The most notable feature of this elevation is the service porch, which is recessed within the main block of the house. The porch has plain posts with simple brackets. Originally enclosed to 3/4 height with only lattice, it is now enclosed with a stucco balustrade and glass, although the original lattice is still visible within the walls. The door to the service porch opens to the north.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 3

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The rear, north elevation is marked by a two-story ell on its eastern half. As originally built, this ell, which contains a large butler's pantry, was one-story, with a flat roof and parapet, used as a balcony (24). In 1927, most of the balcony was enclosed to enlarge the smallest bedroom (3). According to the building permit, this addition was meant to be used as a sleeping porch. This addition, approximately six by ten feet, has a shallow pitch shed roof which rises above the plane of the primary roof. This roofline is detailed exactly like the original primary roof, with jigsawn rafter tails and exaggerated brackets. This suggests that the details removed from the primary roof were retained and used to detail the roof of this small addition. The enclosed second floor of the ell has small square casement windows on all three sides, as are often seen on sleeping porches. A small section of the original balcony, with its parapet, is still extant and accessible through the door on the stair landing.

The western half of the north elevation has a small, windowless bay with a shed roof, and a multiple-light glazed rear door opening onto a rear deck.

The roof of the house is sheathed in composition shingles. The wide overhanging eaves are open, exposing simple but decorative rafter tails. These rafter tails, which are simpler than those on the porch and bays of the house, are in contrast to the exaggerated brackets which support the open eaves on the gabled endwalls. The house plans call for a centered, shed roof dormer on the primary elevation of the house. This element was never constructed on this house.

Interior

The interior of the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House retains a high degree of historic integrity in both organization and features. This state of preservation can be attributed to the long history of ownership by the Fred G. Olson family, who lived in the house from 1927-1967. The Olsons are responsible for most of the alterations that have been made to the house, which were done in 1927, when they moved in (3).

The house contains approximately 2200 square feet of living space, on two stories, with an unfinished basement and attic. The main entrance of the house opens into a vestibule containing a built-in wardrobe closet with paired, mirrored doors. This wardrobe replaced a built-in seat, and while it does not look out of place, its moldings do not match those in the rest of the house. The date of this alteration is not known, but it was most likely 1927, when the bulk of the alterations were made.

The vestibule opens to the southeast corner of the living room. This room has an open feeling, with 8.5 foot ceilings and large, divided-light casement windows. It is laid out asymmetrically, as is the entire house, a characteristic of the picturesque Arts and Crafts style, and a favorite convention of Schacht's. The floors are oak. The walls are smooth plaster, but ghosts on the window frames indicate that the walls of

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 4

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

the living room and the vestibule had a wood wainscot with plaster panels, as indicated in the original plans. The existing woodwork, all dark stained fir, primarily flat grain, consists of a wide crown molding at the ceiling and simple, wide baseboards. The crown molding is not original, but the original crown molding does still exist within the inglenook. The original molding is less substantial than the existing living room molding, and has a straight, craftsman profile. The windows, all divided-light casements, have flat casing and a simple Craftsman crown and sill detail. The massive fireplace is set in the northeast corner of the room. On the plans, this fireplace is set at an angle in the corner of the room, with an exterior chimney. As built in this house, the fireplace is set square to the walls, with an interior chimney that brings its mass into the room. The fireplace's size, plain pale red brick construction, and simple wide mantle shelf give it an almost severe appearance and provide an anchor for the east end of this large room.

The west end of the living room contains a built-in bookcase and a beautifully detailed inglenook. Inglenooks were commonly constructed around fireplaces, but this one was built around a ribbon of three large casement windows. The expanse of dark wood, and the slightly lower ceiling of the nook, gives the space a cozy, intimate feeling. Although inglenooks typically are symmetrical and contain built-in seats, the original plans for this house specify one seat and one bookcase. The seat was removed, probably during renovations in 1927, and replaced with a cabinet. A leaded art glass window is located over this cabinet. The Inglenook is framed by large, tapered posts supporting a wide frieze. The frieze is also supported by unusual angular brackets, which give the smaller side openings almost the look of a Tudor arch. Schacht used these simple brackets in a number of his designs, both on the interiors and exteriors, as late as 1925. Between the posts and the walls, a 3/4 panel encloses the space of the inglenook. This panel is constructed of flat pieces of fir detailed with a large double-dovetail, a common decorative elements in the Arts and Crafts style, and a feature Schacht used in several of his designs, including the Hahn House.

The greatest alteration of the living room is the staircase. As it exists currently, it terminates in two steps extending from a doorway and landing hall to the west of the fireplace. The original plans indicate that this enclosed landing would have extended into the living room and turned to the west before commencing with the final two steps. This landing would have been enclosed by a paneled half wall, which would have minimized the importance of the stairs. As they exist now, it is possible to look directly into the stair hall and up the main flight of stairs from the living room.

The dining room is accessed through three part, divided-light, folding French doors. This entrance originally had ordinary paired French doors, but was widened by nine inches in 1927 (3). This room has a beamed ceiling and 3/4 paneled walls. The paneling is composed of wide fir boards with chamfered edges. Originally this paneling was capped with a bracketed plate rail, which has been removed and replaced with a plain flush rail. A built-in sideboard holds drawers and glass front cabinets on the north wall. In the northwest corner is a divided-light door leading to the back terrace.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 5

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

In the northeast corner of the dining room is a door to the former "butlery", as it was called on original plans (24). This room, once a sizeable pantry lined with built-in cabinets and shelves, is now used as a breakfast room. The walls are unpainted fir paneling, recently liberated of many layers of wallpaper by the current owners. The walls show the ghosts of the original shelves and cabinetry, and one of the cupboards remains. The casement window is a 1927 replacement of the smaller original casement window (3). The floors are maple.

The kitchen has been altered but retains many original features. A set of cabinetry with a base of drawers and large wall mounted upper cabinets is original. The base is topped by a pebbled terrazzo-like material. The upper cabinets have curved support brackets at either end and a wide, pointed arch cut into the bottom edge. The sink base cabinets also appear to be original, and were used as a model for the rest of the cabinets in the room. The windows are square divided-light casements.

The refrigerator is located on the enclosed service porch which exits from the northeast corner of the house. This service porch, recessed within the main mass of the house, originally was partially enclosed with lattice walls. It has plain posts and brackets which match those on the inglenook. A small toilet room, added in 1954, is also located on this back porch (3).

Two stairs from the kitchen access the stair landing and the living room. Although the original plans called for a pocket door between the kitchen and the stair hall, the existing swinging door is original (it has been removed and is in storage in the basement). The staircase is a single boxed run. At the top of the stairs is a divided-light door leading to what remains of the original second-floor balcony. The floors on the second floor are oak, and the woodwork has a painted finish. The second floor hallway is elegantly accented by the balustrade enclosing the stairs. This balustrade is composed of narrow boards placed on edge to form a delicate, furniture-like screen, topped by a molded rail.

The second-story contains three bedrooms, although the original plans called for four. The master bedroom spans the entire front of the house, where two bedrooms were meant to have been. This bedroom contains a massive brick fireplace similar to that on the first story. The plans do not call for a fireplace on the second-floor, and it would have taken up too much space in the planned smaller room. Two rectangular bays look out towards the front of the house, and there are two closets. A recently added master bathroom occupies the western part of this space.

The second bedroom is located in the northwest corner of the second-story. It retains its original form and detailing. The smallest bedroom, in the northeast corner, has been enlarged by the enclosure of a portion of the original open balcony in 1927. This addition has a low ceiling, and is enclosed on three sides by square, divided-light casement windows. The building permit issued when the room was enlarged indicates that it was used as a sleeping porch (3).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 6

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The small original bathroom, located in the center of the east wall of the second story, has been recently renovated. Its original appearance is not known, but renovations determined that the original window in the room was about twice the current size. The bathroom now contains modern tile and fixtures.

Major Alterations

The majority of the alterations which have been made to the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House appear to have been done in 1927 by Fred and Minnie Olson, according to building permits dating to that year (3).

The exterior stucco was probably applied in 1927, although there is no permit recorded for this. Another exterior alteration dating to 1927 is the small addition to the northeast bedroom. Part of the second-story balcony on the rear of the house was enclosed to create a larger room, which the building permit indicates was to be used as a sleeping porch (3). The exterior detailing of the addition, including roof brackets and rafter tails on the shed roof, match exactly those on the rest of the house. This suggests that these elements may have been reused when they were removed to raise the roof for the addition. The basement garage was added in 1946, replacing an earlier detached garage.

Inside the house, moderate alterations have been made to the living room and dining room. The paneling in the living room, detailed on the original plans, has been removed. Ghosts are visible on the window and door frames. The crown molding in the living room is a replacement, although the original crown molding is still extant in the inglenook. The plate rail in the dining room has also been removed, and replaced with a plain flat rail. The landing of the staircase, and the original paneled balustrade that extended into the living room, have been removed and replaced with two small steps. The dates of these alterations are unknown, but they may have been made concurrently with the enlargement of the doorway from the living room to the dining room, which occurred in 1927, according to building permits (3).

The butlery has lost most of its original cabinetry and shelves over the years, and has been used as a breakfast nook, rather than a pantry, since at least 1927, when the window was enlarged from two-by-three feet to four-by-four feet.

The kitchen retains a degree of integrity, but has been modernized in recent years. Some original cabinets exist, and new cabinets were built to match them. No date is recorded for the enclosure of the service porch, but the toilet room on the porch was added in 1954 (3).

The original bathroom on the second-story has been recently renovated and contains no original features. The master bathroom is also a recent addition.

The current owners of the house are committed to its preservation and the retention of its historic features. They plan some renovations but intend to respect the historic qualities and fabric of the house and restore some of the original features of the house which have been altered.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 1

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House meets significance criterion C, as a fine example of a very early Portland Arts and Crafts style residence, and a well-preserved example of the work of Emil Schacht, a master architect. The period of significance is 1905-1906, the dates of construction.

The Arts and Crafts Movement

The American Arts and Crafts Movement evolved from the English precedent, which began about 1850 in response to industrialization and the cheap and flimsy goods put out by factories which placed no value on workers (2). John Ruskin, the first proponent of the Arts and Crafts principles, promoted the ideals of medieval architecture and craft guilds. The movement was based on the idea that good workmanship, simple designs, and the pleasure of hand work were valuable (2). At first, the Arts and Crafts philosophy was manifested in furniture and home furnishings. Eventually Ruskin's ideas were adopted and developed by William Morris and Philip Webb, who adapted the High Victorian Gothic into a simpler, more organic style based on English cottages and farm houses (12). This simplified, vernacular architectural style was carried over the Atlantic and popularized by Gustav Stickley, who spread his ideas across the nation through his magazine *The Craftsman*. Although the English Arts and Crafts style evolved into the distinctly American Craftsman style, there were regional variations, from half-timbered designs in the northeast, to the Prairie School of the Midwest, to the distinctive bungalow forms developed by Greene and Greene and Bernard Maybeck in California (12). These differences illustrate the variety which was possible while still adhering to the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement. Emil Schacht was just one of the architects who were influenced by the Craftsman philosophy, which he utilized in many of his designs, and which is exemplified in the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House.

Emil Schacht

Emil Furchtegott Schacht was born in 1854 in Sommerland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. (Some accounts list Denmark as Schacht's country of origin because this region of Germany was under Danish rule at the time of his birth.) His parents were Jakob, a prominent farmer, and Emilie (Bergman) Schacht. Emil Schacht attended the Polytechnic School of Copenhagen and graduated from the Polytechnic School in Hanover. He may have attended the University of Heidelberg where his brother Franz was a professor of philosophy and ethics (22).

Schacht emigrated to New York at the age of 20. He worked as a draftsman for six years, from 1874 to 1880, before returning to Germany for three years, where he married Auguste Trier. He returned to the United States in 1883 after a land dispute with the German government. He first went to Omaha, Nebraska, before moving to Portland in late 1883. His wife and three children arrived from Germany the following year (22).

Schacht opened an architectural practice in the First National Bank Building by 1885. He closed that office a year later and worked out of his home until 1890, when he opened a new office in the Portland Savings

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 2

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Bank Building. Schacht built his practice by making himself available to a broad clientele. He built his family home at the edge of the prestigious King's Hill neighborhood (733 SW Vista, still standing), and joined numerous fraternal and service organizations, as well as architectural associations. He had a summer home on the Washington coast, giving him access to commissions in the coastal communities of Oregon and Washington. He constructed a wide variety of buildings, from simple wood frame stores, hotels and speculative houses, to large homes, public buildings, office and commercial buildings, warehouses and industrial buildings.

Little is known of Schacht's work prior to 1900. He built a vacation cottage for his family in Seaview, Washington in 1895, and the North Pacific Brewery in Astoria in 1896. Schacht's work after 1900 is better documented. Typically, Schacht's buildings exemplified the styles that were prevalent at the time of their design, from Queen Anne to Shingle and Colonial Revival. After 1905, his residential buildings were primarily of two styles, Colonial Revival or Craftsman. His non-residential buildings include the Astoria City Hall in 1904, and the Gearhart Hotel and nearby Natatorium in 1907. In Portland, he designed the Oriental Exhibits Building at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, the Lennox Hotel (1906), Swetland Building (1907), Maegly-Tichner Building (1910), and the Portland Police Headquarters, completed in 1912. Schacht's final project was the Mayer building, designed in 1925 in collaboration with his son, Martin, and Harold P. Bergen (22).

The bulk of Emil Schacht's known works fall in the period of 1905-1915. From 1905-1909, his office was located in the Commercial Block, at SW Oak Street and Fifth Avenue. In 1906, he moved his office to the Commonwealth Building on SW Sixth and Burnside, where he worked until his death in 1926. As documented in the *Pacific Building Real Estate and Financial Record* and *Pacific Builder and Engineer*, Schacht was one of the busiest architects in Portland between 1905 and 1913.

Schacht's prominence in Portland is supported by his participation in the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition, the single largest impetus for development in Portland in the early 20th century. The leading architects of the city were invited to draw lots for the major buildings of the fair. Schacht designed the Oriental Exhibits Building, a classical building with Corinthian details.

In conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Schacht designed six speculative houses in Willamette Heights, a neighborhood being developed at the time by Lewis Russell and Percy Blyth. The neighborhood was visible in the hills overlooking the fairgrounds, and its success can be directly linked to the Exposition. Schacht received many individual commissions for houses in the Willamette Heights neighborhood and elsewhere in Portland through his participation in this speculative project.

The six houses Schacht designed in the Willamette Heights neighborhood are among the earliest Arts and Crafts style houses constructed in Portland, at a time when the style was in its infancy. The Russell and

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 3

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Blyth houses exhibited two forms of the Arts and Crafts style, one based on the historical European tradition, and one distinctly American form influenced by Gustav Stickley and his publication *The Craftsman*. The European influenced form is the more picturesque, asymmetrical form, typically having half-timbering in the gable-ends of the roof and diamond-pane windows. The American form was more austere, with little extraneous detailing and no historical reference. Of these two forms, the picturesque European model was the more popular.

The American Craftsman style houses that Schacht designed for Willamette Heights exemplified the ideals espoused by Gustav Stickley, including simple form and massing and the use of natural materials. Though restrained in ornamentation, the exterior was made beautiful by the expression of the functionality of the design elements, including the wide eaves, exposed rafter tails, oversized brackets, and shingled surfaces. Craftsman style interiors also emphasized functional beauty, a backlash against the machine produced ornamentation so pervasive in the Victorian era. Floor plans were open, without a formal front hall or other underused space. Use and comfort prevailed over ostentatious expressions of status. Space was saved with built in bookcases, cabinetry, and seats (2). The fireplace was prominently placed, sometimes within an inglenook, both symbolically and actually the center of home life. As always, fine wood and craftsmanship was emphasized.

Schacht was obviously influenced by Stickley and other Arts and Crafts promoters when he designed the Russell and Blyth houses in Willamette Heights. The Arts and Crafts ideals were being promoted in Portland newspapers at the time with articles about Craftsman furniture, and with the serialization (in *The Oregonian*) of the book *The Simple Life*, by Charles Wagner, which advocated studied simplification of all aspects of life. The American Craftsman style houses, most notably #14, the design used for the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House, were obviously designed with "the simple life" in mind. Formality and symmetry was eschewed. Unused spaces were eliminated. The beauty of natural materials and functional objects was emphasized in the design, both inside and out.

Variations of the six designs Schacht produced for Russell and Blyth were the basis of many of Schacht's residential commissions thereafter. In Willamette Heights alone, more than a dozen houses were designed by Schacht (13). One of the six original designs for Russell and Blyth, constructed at 1727 NW Aspen Avenue, was used for the Nicolai-Cake-Olson house at 1903 NE Hancock Street, with only slight modifications.

Emil Schacht's architectural practice thrived in the years following the Lewis and Clark Exposition. He continued to accept a variety of commissions through 1911, when his office focused on public commissions for several years. During this period, Schacht produced a fire station at SE 33rd and Francis Streets, and the Portland Police Headquarters, located at SW Second and Oak Streets. The Police Headquarters Building was the most visible and important commission of Schacht's career.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 4

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

By 1915, Emil Schacht's career was in decline. He was 61, there was a recession in Portland, and the onset of World War I adversely affected German-born Americans. His commissions were few and consisted primarily of small commercial and industrial buildings and residences. Schacht continued to use his favorite architectural styles, Colonial Revival and Craftsman, in his designs during this period.

In 1920, Emil Schacht had only three commissions listed in *Pacific Builder and Engineer*. His last project, the Mayer Building, was designed by Schacht with his son, Martin, and Harold P. Bergen, in 1925. Emil Schacht collapsed and died on March 4, 1926, while he was inspecting the construction of the Mayer Building. His obituary appeared on the front page of the *Oregonian*. He was eulogized as a "well known Portland architect" and "prominent figure in building circles."

Development of Irvington

The land on which the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House is located was part of the first development directly associated with the Irving family, for which Irvington is named. The subdivision was laid out in 1882, and named John Irving's First Addition to East Portland. Because it was platted earlier than the rest of Irvington, the blocks in this area are wider from east to west than from north to south, which is not the case in the rest of the neighborhood (20).

Although lots were available as early as 1882, and much of the Irvington neighborhood was laid out by 1887, lot sales were slow, and few houses were constructed before the turn of the century. The developers of the neighborhood tried many schemes to entice new residents. A streetcar line was constructed, as well as sidewalks and paved roads, and restrictions were placed on deeds. These covenants prohibited the sale or manufacture of liquor; the use of property for business, including livery stables, shops, factories, laundries or foundries; the occupation of any house by Chinese, other than servants; building within 25 feet of the street; and the construction of a building that cost less than \$2500 (20). These strict regulations, which were carried on deeds until 1916, and thereafter continued by tradition, limited the area to the upper class. Lot sales did increase somewhat as a result of these schemes, although the bank panic of 1893 and the economic depression that followed again reduced sales to almost nothing through these years.

It was not until after 1900 that sales picked up again, and not until 1905, when the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exhibition spurred a building boom, that Irvington was more fully developed. The area of John Irving's First Addition to East Portland, being one of the first areas opened up to development, was completely built out more quickly than some of the other areas of the neighborhood to the north and east (20).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 5

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Schacht Houses in Irvington

Schacht was a prolific architect, most notably during the period of 1905-1913, which corresponds with the busiest period of development in the Irvington neighborhood. Portland in general was experiencing an unprecedented development boom, as a result of the success of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exhibition in 1905.

The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House is the earliest known surviving Schacht house in Irvington, built in 1905-1906. It is also the second-oldest Arts and Crafts style house in Irvington, exceeded in age only by the F. Doernbecher House (architect unknown), located at 2323 NE Tillamook Street, which was built in 1903 (17). The Doernbecher House, however, exhibits more English Arts and Crafts influence rather than the true American Craftsman form, which was not popularized by *The Craftsman* until a few years later.

There are few Craftsman style houses anywhere in Portland which predate the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House. Indeed, Gustav Stickley's *The Craftsman* had only begun publishing in 1901, and his ideas were just beginning to sweep the country. Architecture was not even addressed in *The Craftsman* until 1903, about the time that Harvey Ellis joined the publication. Stickley promoted the idea of abandoning historic precedents in architecture in favor of natural, organic, uniquely American designs. He encouraged abandoning applied ornament, instead relying on the function of simple forms, natural materials, and highly skilled craftsmanship to provide beauty (25). Emil Schacht, apparently an early devotee of the Craftsman ideal, appears to be something of a pioneer of the style in Portland, beginning with his six speculative designs for Russell and Blyth in Willamette Heights, the design of which date to 1904 (the Nicolai-Cake-Olson House was built from the same plan as Schacht's Russell and Blyth house #14). From that point on, the Arts and Crafts style appears to have influenced the great bulk of Schacht's residential work, matched only by his continued favor of the Colonial Revival style (22).

In the Irvington neighborhood, other possible (but not confirmed) Schacht houses include 2239 NE 19th Avenue, a Craftsman foursquare, built in 1908 (20); the E.G. Gordon House, 1731 NE 16th Avenue, a Craftsman bungalow built in 1908 (19); the S.G. Lawson House, 1526 NE Schuyler Street, a Craftsman bungalow built in 1908 (19); and the Tandy D. Hunt House, 2338 NE 18th Avenue, a Craftsman foursquare built in 1910 (20). Three houses in the neighborhood were designed by Schacht but have been demolished. They were the Floyd Zimmerman House, Multnomah Street, a large foursquare, built in 1905-1906 (1); the Dr. George Peters House, 23rd Avenue and Broadway, believed to be the first eastside bungalow when it was built in 1906 (19); and the L.J. Wentworth House, on Hancock Street between 21st and 22nd Avenues, a Colonial Revival house built in 1911 (22).

Outside Irvington, but in the north or northeast neighborhoods, there are three other known Schacht houses, the Peter Jeppesen House, 4107 N Albina Avenue, a Craftsman bungalow built in 1909-1910; the

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 6

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

William J. Zimmerman House, 2210 NE Weidler Street, a Craftsman foursquare built in 1908 (19); and the Frank G. Arata House, 3401 NE Couch Street, a Colonial Revival house built in 1917 (22). Of these, the Peter Jeppesen House is the only one currently listed on the National Register (23). There are very likely other houses in north and northeast Portland which were designed by Schacht but have yet to be identified as such.

The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House is unique among these Schacht Houses in that it exhibits neither the bungalow or the foursquare form, but instead has an asymmetrical facade and an open floor plan. Although it is built from plans that were used previously for a house in Willamette Heights, that house has been so altered as to have lost its historic value. The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House exemplified many of the ideals promoted by Gustav Stickley, including abundant windows, minimum ornamentation, an avoidance of halls and passageways, and the emphasis of natural materials, simple forms, and craftsmanship.

The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House Chain of Title

Ferdinand A. Fischer purchased lots 7 and 8 of Block 19 of John Irving's Addition to East Portland from the subdivision developer for \$3300 in August 1892. The southern portions of lots 7 and 8 of Block 19 were sold by Caroline Fisher to Harry T. Nicolai on September 23, 1905, for the sum \$2575. Nicolai built on the property almost immediately, and the house was completed by early 1906, when Nicolai was listed as living at 673 Hancock (the old address of the subject house).

Harry T. Nicolai was born in Portland, Oregon on February 24, 1881, the son of Theodore Nicolai, a prominent lumberman. Harry Nicolai followed his father, Theo, into the family business, and by 1905 was managing the Nicolai Brothers Co. planing mill, located on NW Davis Street. In 1910, Harry T. Nicolai established his own company, the Nicolai Door Manufacturing Company, which had its plant on Columbia Boulevard. The plant occupied 14 acres and had its own private railroad switches, accommodating thirty cars at once. This business, which made house and garage doors out of Douglas fir, was extremely successful. Its annual output was 1.5 million doors, amounting to over three million dollars a year. The business employed more than 500 men, and shipped to every state as well as internationally. Branch offices were located in Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles (10).

It is likely that Nicolai built the house basically on speculation, living in it only until it was sold. He lived in it for only one year before selling it to Christopher D. and Edith A. Bruun on January 11, 1907, for \$7600 (18). Bruun, the Secretary and Treasurer of Blake-McFall Co., a wholesale paper company, and a real estate investor, owned the house for only a few months (5). He sold it on September 6, 1907, to Justus M. Strowbridge, who lived nearby at 1915 NE 21st Avenue (old address: 405 NE 21st), and apparently never moved into the house. It is probable that he bought it for his daughter and son-in-law, Mabel E. and Harry M. Cake, who very likely lived in the house from the time it was purchased by Strowbridge in 1907. Title passed to Mabel E. Cake on June 15, 1911, as a gift (18).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 7

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Harry M. Cake was born in Fostoria, Ohio on April 13, 1857. He attended law school in Cincinnati, Ohio, before moving to Portland in 1883. He was admitted to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1885, and commenced a solo practice until 1886, when he formed a partnership with his brother, William M. Cake. He married Mabel E. Strowbridge in 1902. In 1908, he received the Republican nomination for the United States Senate, but was defeated in the general election by George E. Chamberlain (13). Cake was a founding member and the first president of the Portland Commercial Club, which, during his tenure (1900-1906), was instrumental in the success of the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905 (14). The Cakes owned 1903 NE Hancock until 1920. Cake died in Los Angeles on December 2, 1930, after being struck by a car (14).

The Cakes sold the house, and lot 8, but not lot 7, to Georgia G. Mulkey, a widow who worked for the Portland Realty Company, on October 29, 1920, for the sum of \$8500 (18). The Cakes retained lot 7 until 1925.

Mulkey sold the house on April 26, 1925 to Frederick Lee and Minnie A. Olson. Fred L. Olson was born September 5, 1867, near Florence, Nebraska, while traveling to Oregon on a wagon train. His mother died when he was only a year old, and his childhood was dominated by poverty and heavy farm work. His father sent him away from home at the age of 10 because he could not afford to care for him. Although he only attended school sporadically in Portland, he graduated from Law School at Oregon University and was admitted to the bar in 1894. He was elected Justice of the Peace for the East Portland District in 1906, and the Portland District in 1908 (7). Olson was unsuccessful in 1913 when he made a bid for the Portland Municipal Court bench, but succeeded in 1926 (9). In 1930, Olson was accused of drawing a gun on another judge in his chambers, and incident both sides denied (16). The occasion seemed to foretell a somewhat scandalous future for Olson, who was generally shunned by the judiciary in his later years on the bench as unpredictable and crotchety (9). He occupied the bench until 1950, when he retired at the age of 82 after being beaten easily by John F. Gantenbein. Fred Olson died in 1953. Minnie A. Olson, an accomplished voice teacher who maintained a studio at the Fine Arts Building in Portland, continued to live in the house at 1903 NE Hancock Street until her death in 1967. By all accounts the Olsons loved their house, and after making some changes in 1927, maintained it in largely original condition. Minnie Olson can be credited with resisting attempts by developers to purchase her home and demolish it in favor of the cheap apartment buildings that were being built around her in the 1960s.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 9 Page 1

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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- (8) Keeler, Charles. The Simple Home. Charles Keeler, Berkley, California, 1904.
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- (10) Lockley, Fred, The History of the Columbia River Valley, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1928.
- (11) McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.
- (12) McMath, George A. *Henry Hahn House National Register Nomination*. 1993.
- (13) *Mishap Fatal to Harry M. Cake*. The Oregon Daily Journal, December 3, 1930.
- (14) *Obituary of Harry M. Cake*. The Oregonian, December 8, 1930, p. 11.
- (15) Photographic Business and Professional Directory. American Publishing Company, Portland, Oregon, 1916.
- (16) *Principals Deny Gun has Part in Judges' Wrangle*. The Oregon Journal, July 1, 1930, p. 2.
- (17) Roos, Roy E. *Early Arts & Crafts Houses in Portland*, report for Jim Heuer and Robert Mercer, August 18, 2000.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 9 Page 2

Property Name Nicolai-Cake-Olson House County and State Multnomah, Oregon

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

- (18) Roos, Roy E. *Historical Outline of the Harry T. Nicolai House*, report for Jim Heuer and Robert Mercer, February 10, 2000.
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- (20) Roos, Roy E. The History and Development of Portland's Irvington Neighborhood. Roy E. Roos, Portland, 1997.
- (21) Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- (22) Sackett, Patricia Lynn, A Partial Inventory of the Work of Emil Schacht: Architect in Portland, Oregon from 1885-1926. Masters Thesis, University of Oregon, Eugene, 1990.
- (23) Sackett, Patricia Lynn, *Peter Jeppesen House National Register Nomination*, 1987.
- (24) Schacht, Emil. *Plan of House No. 14. Willamette Hts. For Russell & Blyth*. Cachot Therkelsen Collection. Special Collections, Knight Library, University of Oregon, Eugene.
- (25) Stickley, Gustav, ed. Craftsman Bungalows: 59 Homes from The Craftsman (reprint). Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1988.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

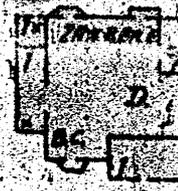
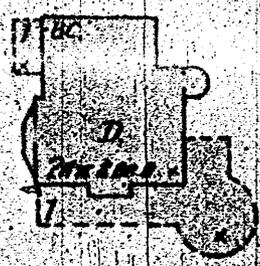
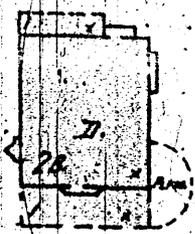
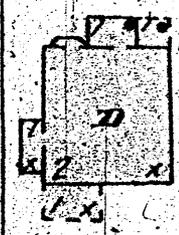
1903 NE Hancock Street is located on the southern 100 feet of Lot 8, Block 19 of John Irving's First Addition to East Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. The parcel is 50 feet by 100 feet.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the entire urban tax lot, and is the legally recorded boundary for 1903 NE Hancock Street.

19th St

2023



573

(A. 2023)
583

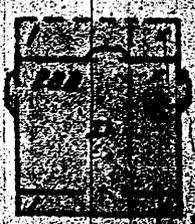
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Hancock St 60 ft wide

572

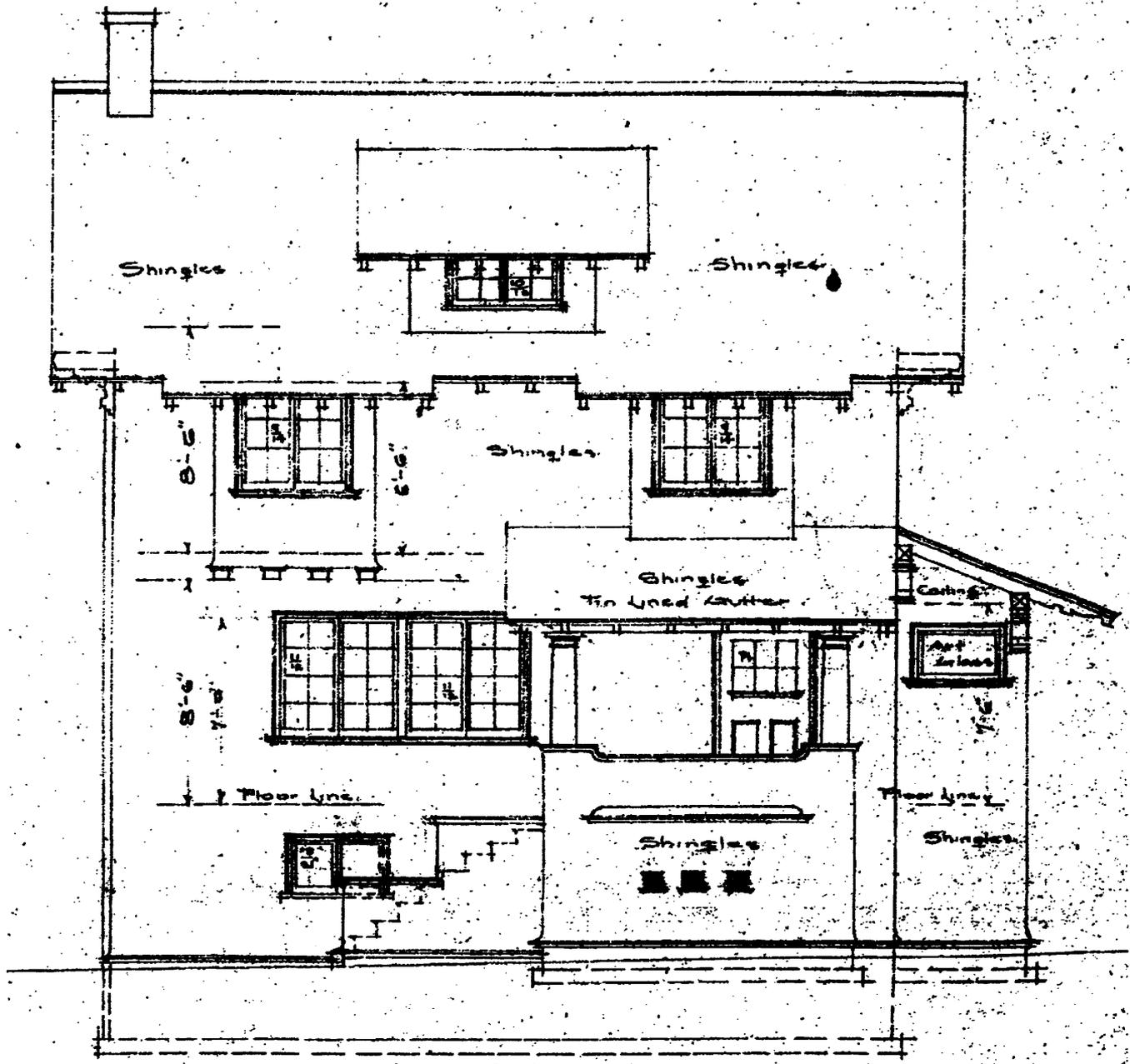
580

(A. 2023)



2025

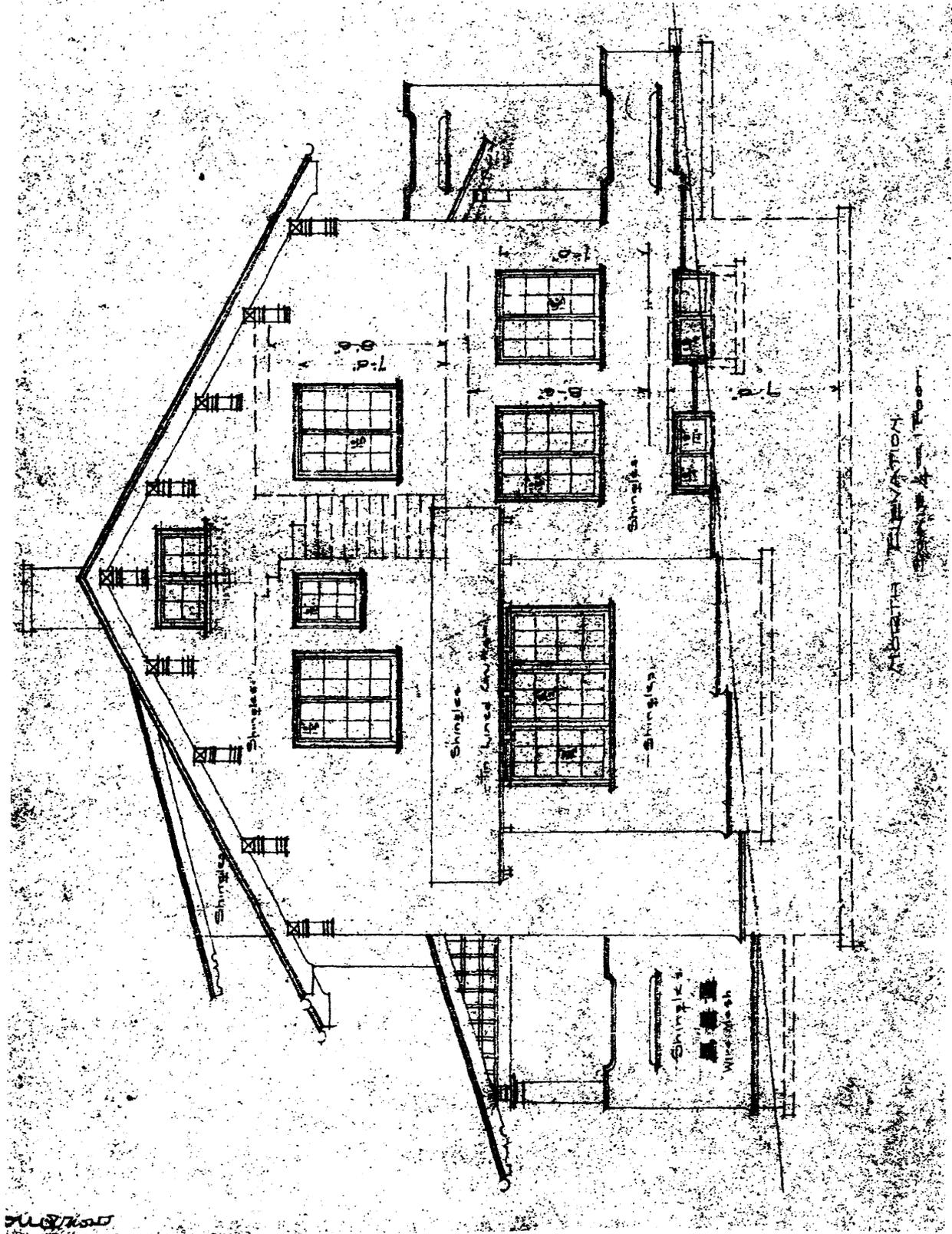
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Portland, 1908
V. 2 East Portland & Albina



FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4" = 1 FOOT

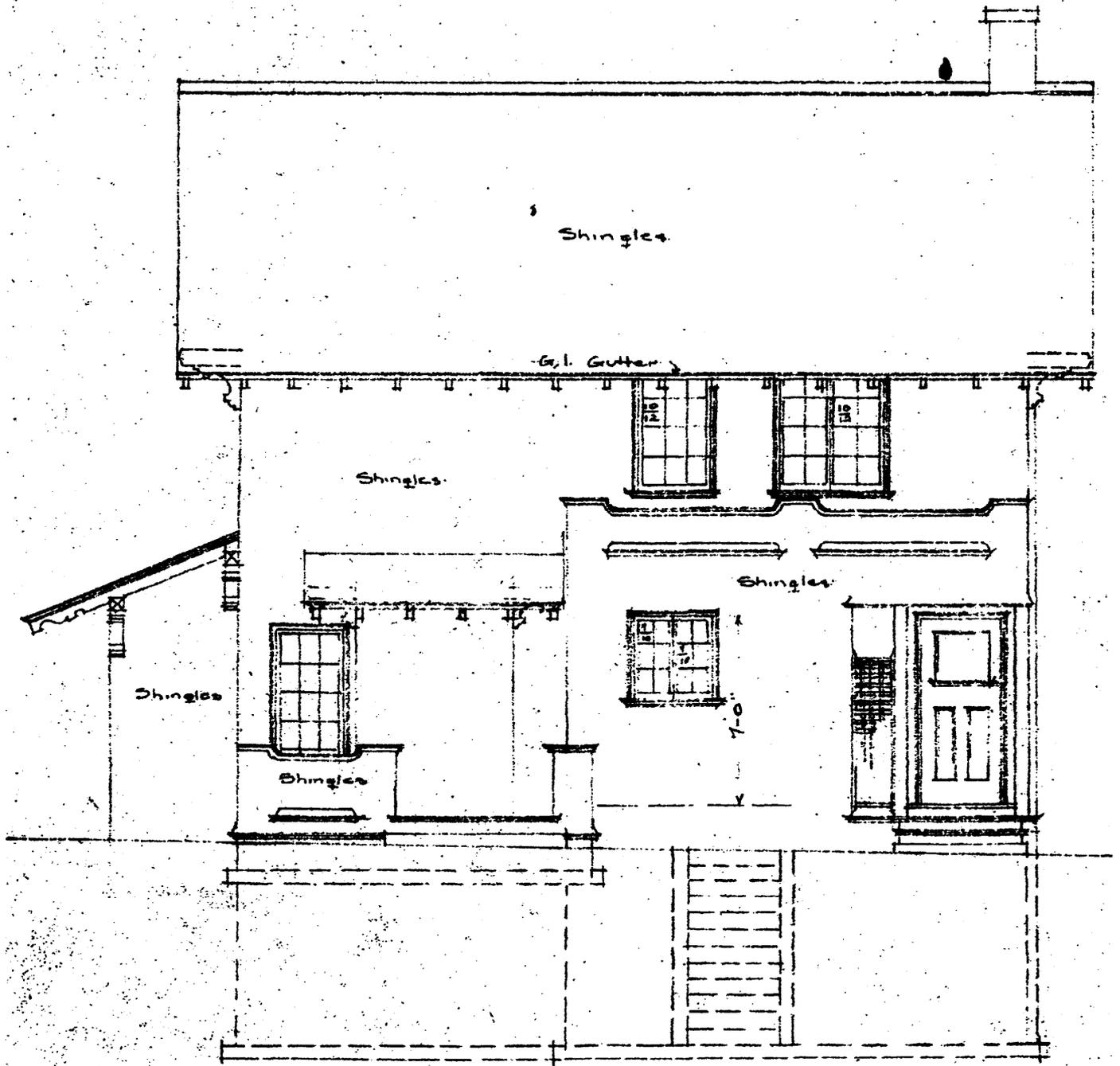
Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
Emil Schacht, Architect
scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, south elevation)



Plan of House #14, Willamette Falls, for Russell and Blyth
Emil Schacht, Architect
scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, west elevation)

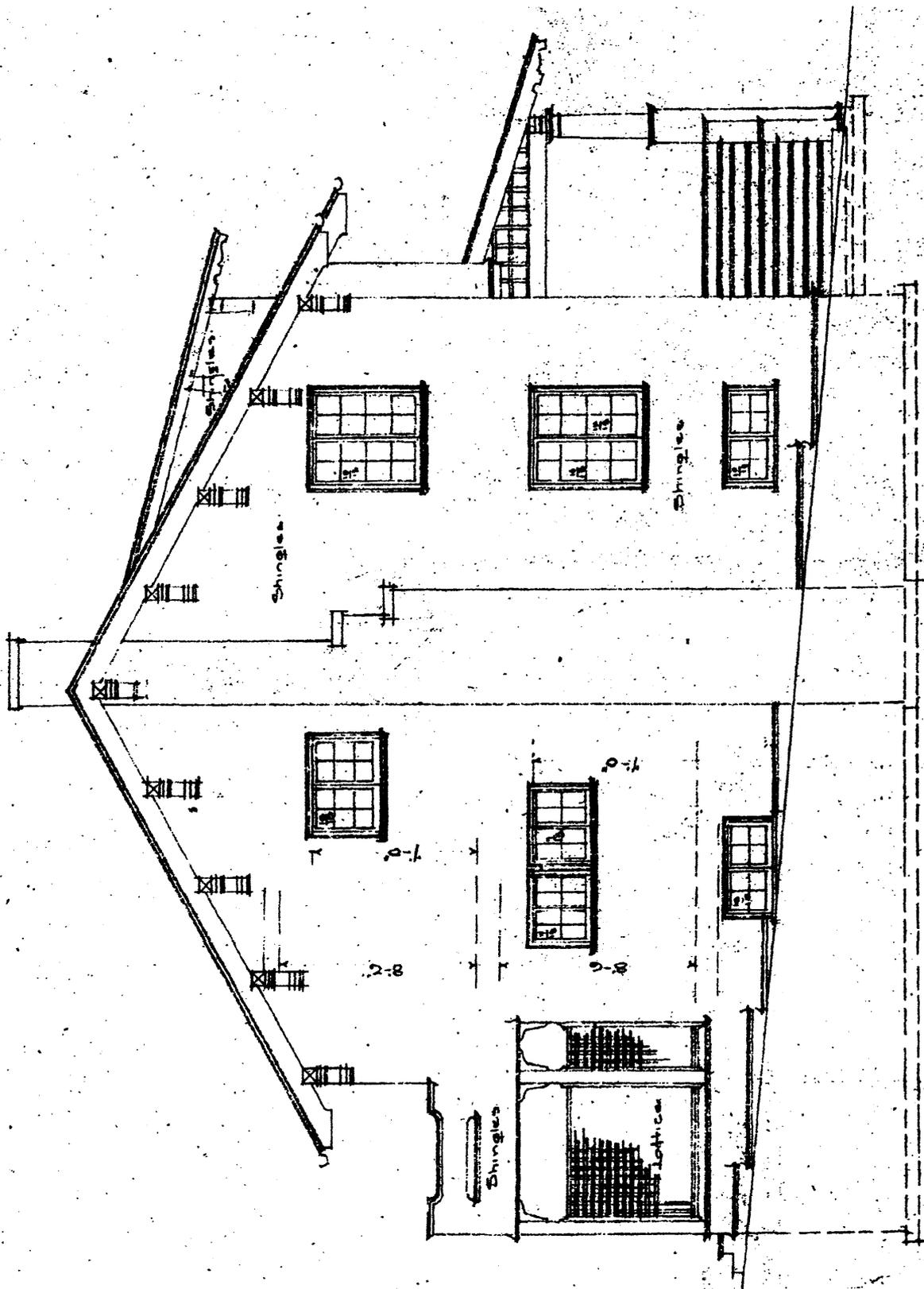


WEST ELEVATION

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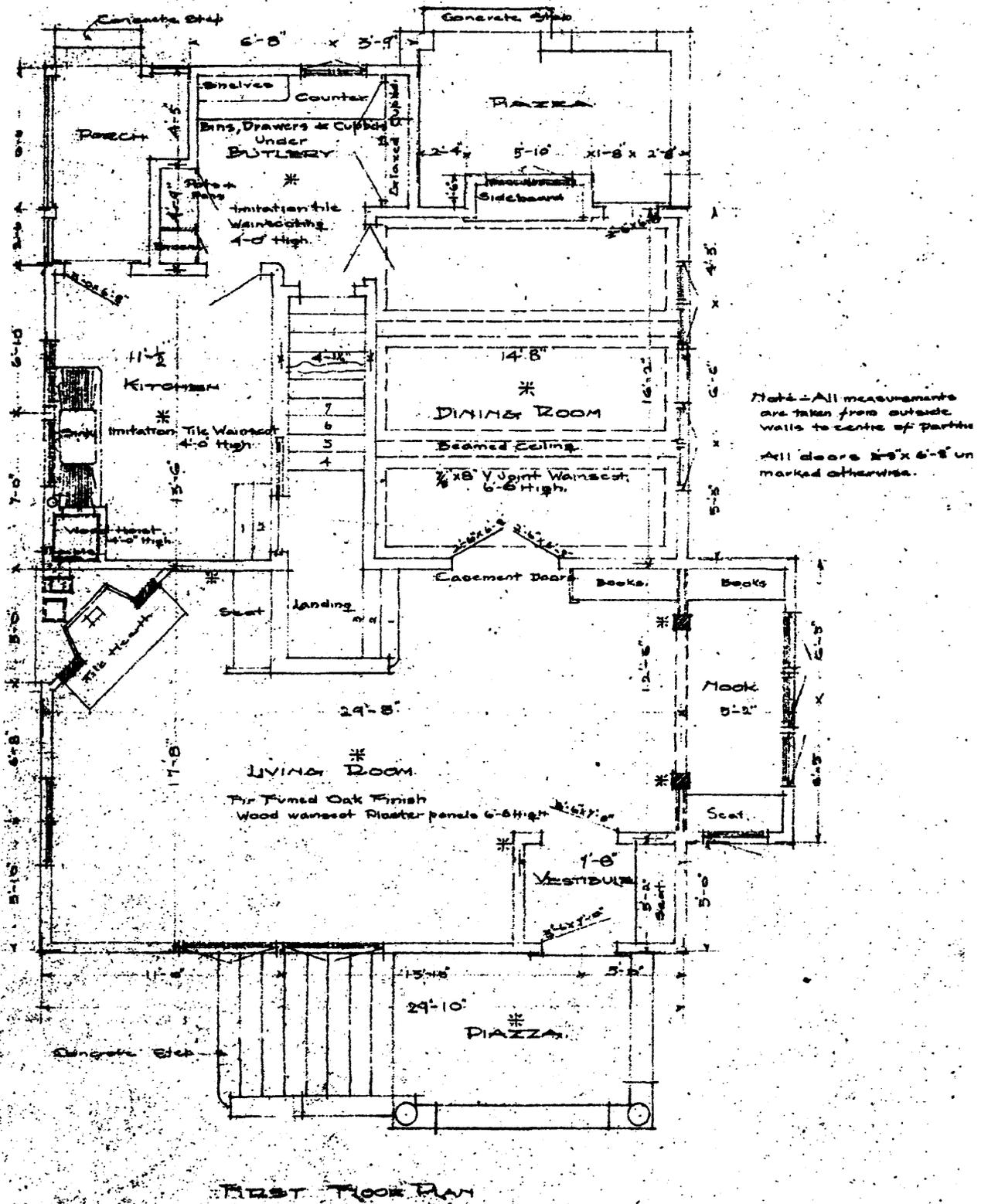
Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
 Emil Schacht, Architect
 scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, north elevation)



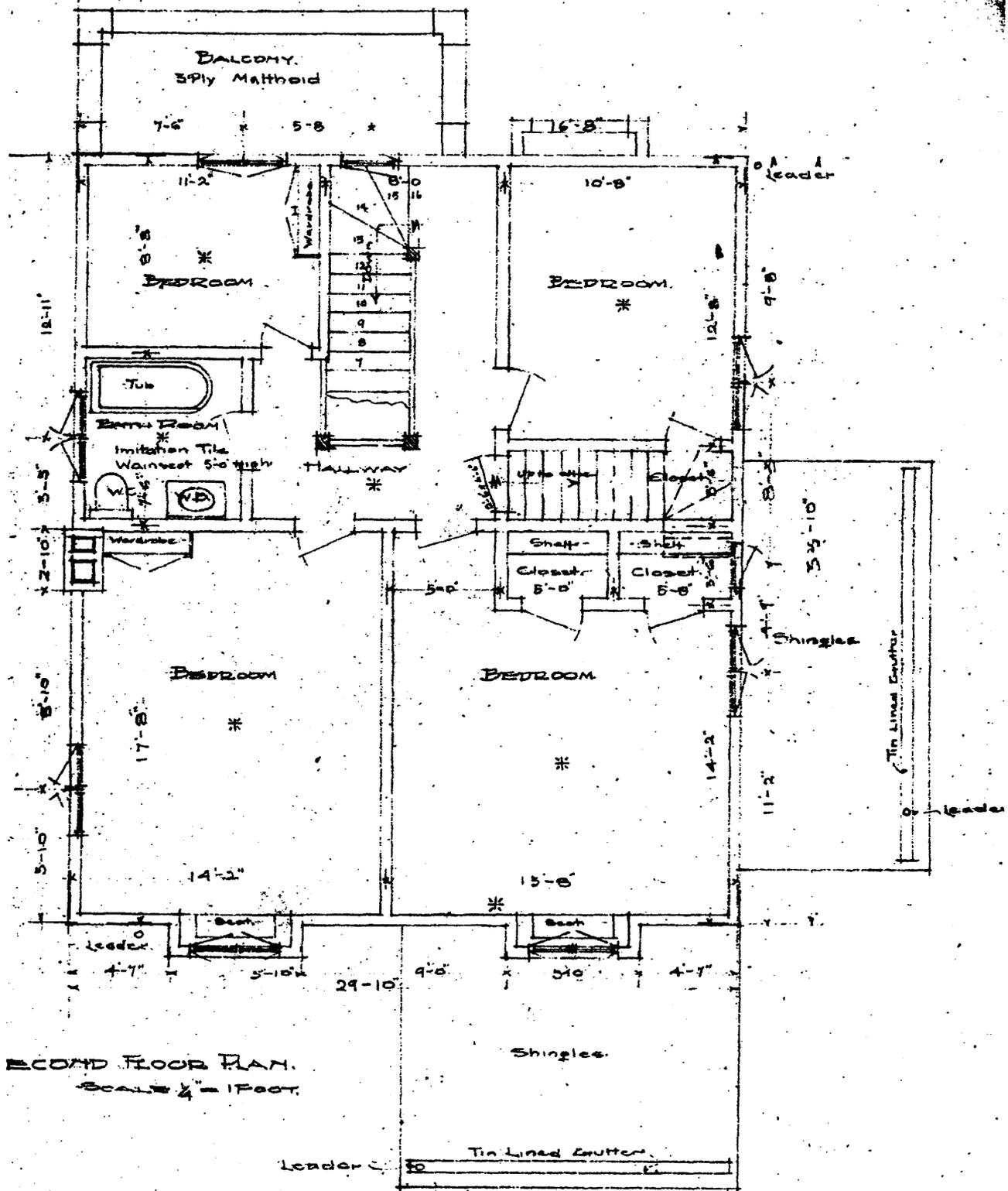
Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
Emil Schacht, Architect
scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, east elevation)



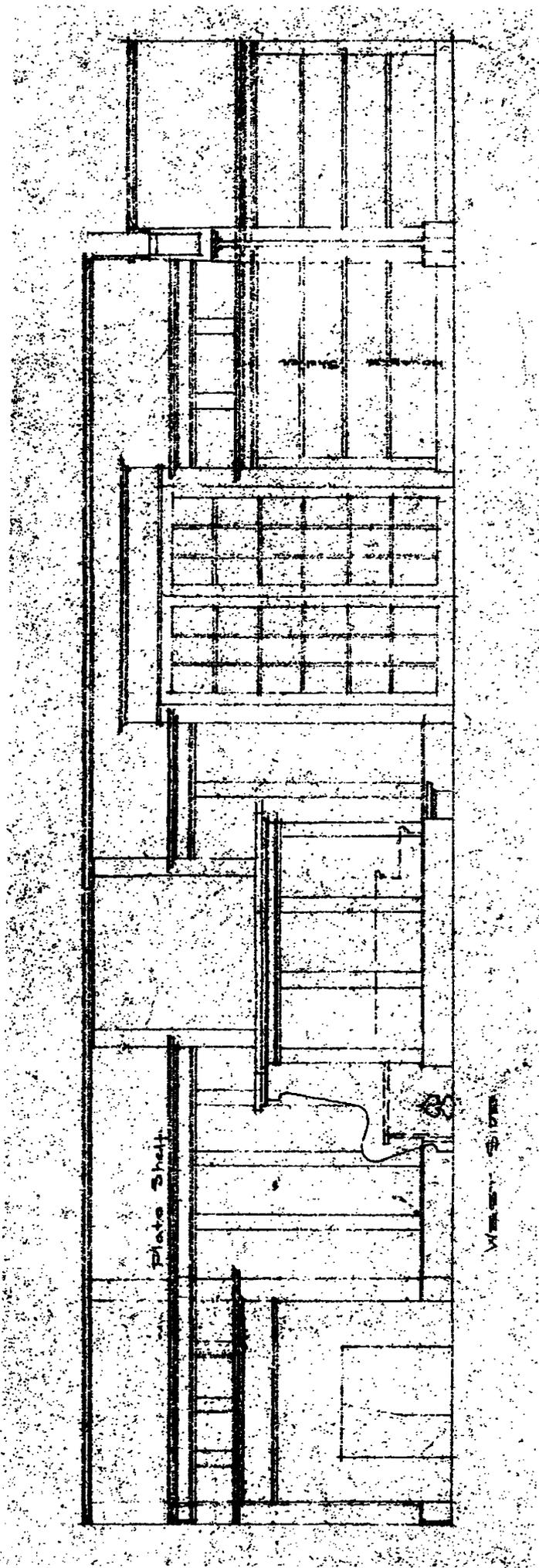
Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blythe
 Emil Schacht, Architect
 scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, first floor plan)



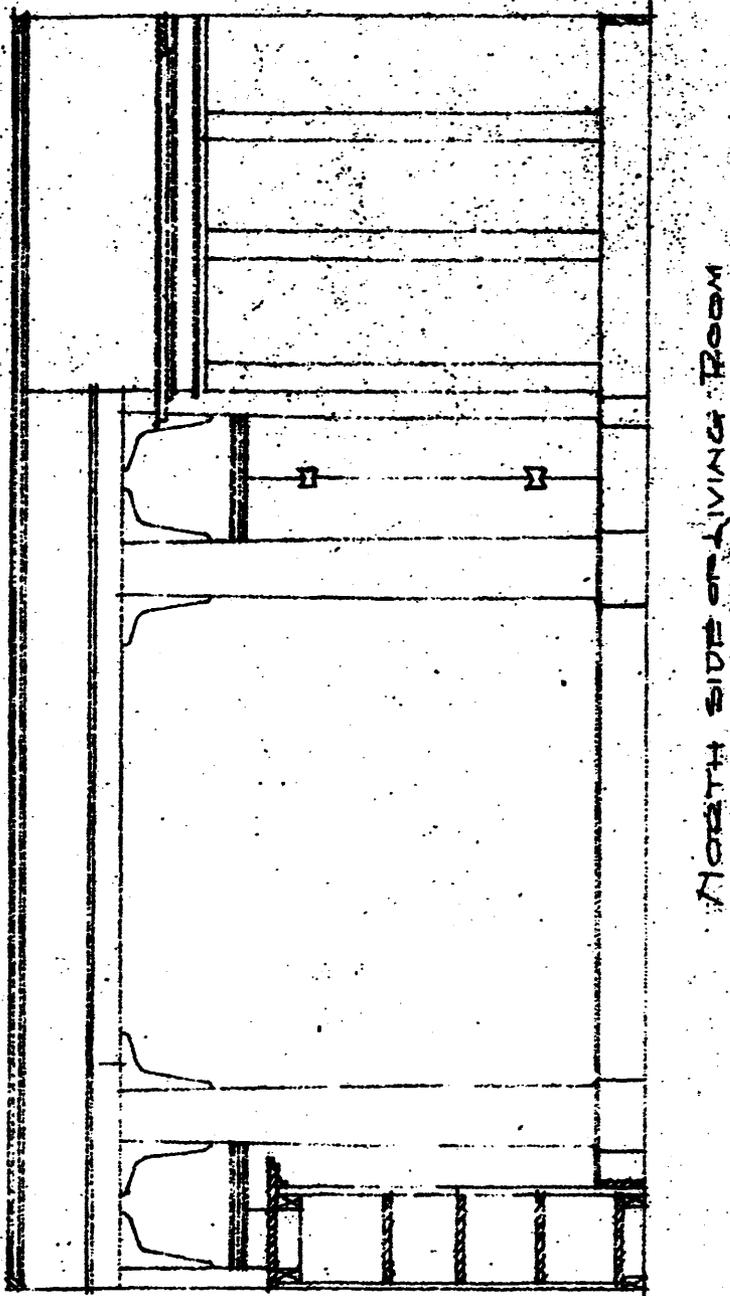
Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
 Emil Schacht, Architect
 scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, second floor plan)



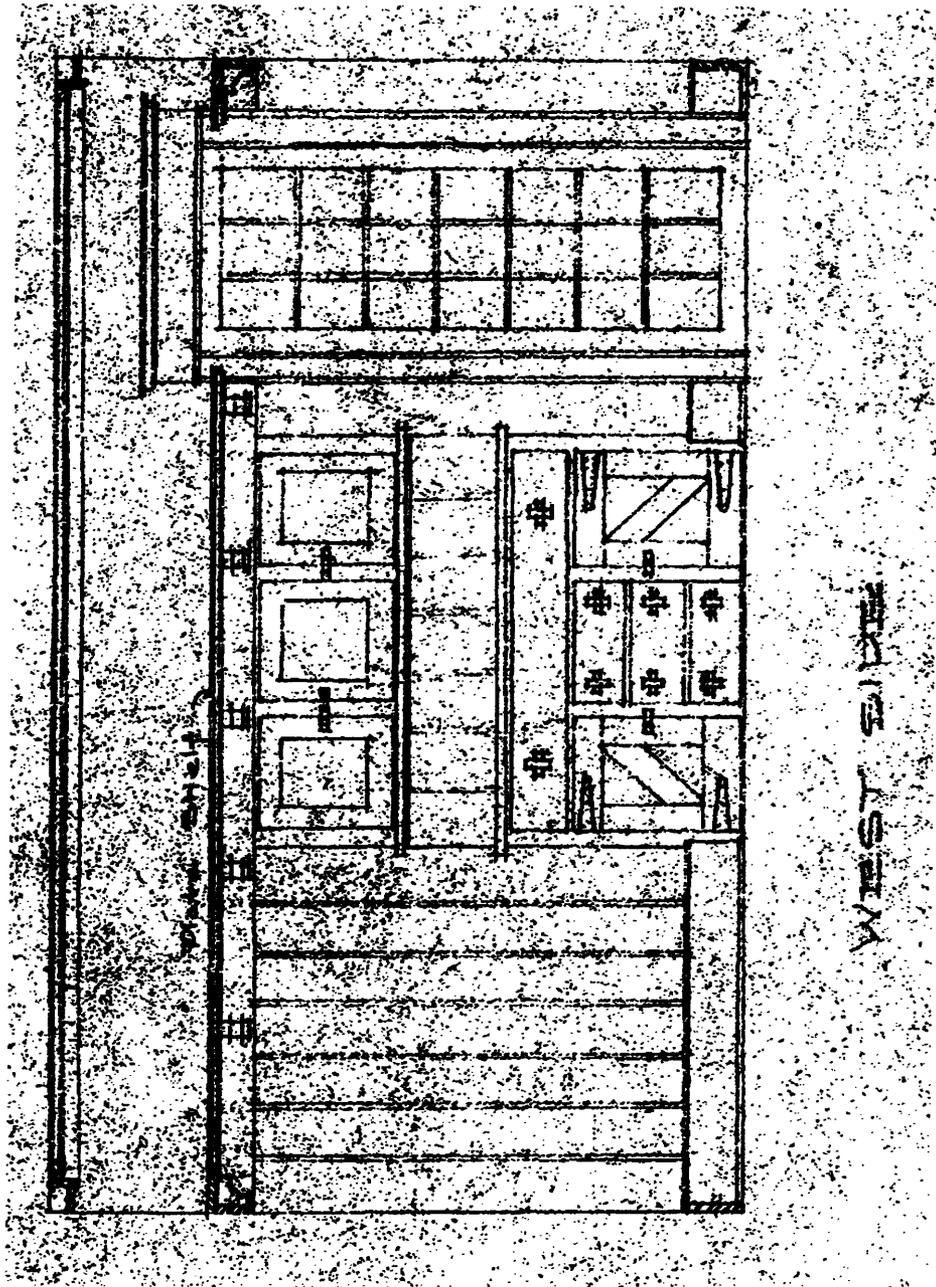
Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
Emil Schacht, Architect
scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, north side of living room)



Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
Emil Schacht, Architect
scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, west side of living room)



Plan of House #14, Willamette Hts., for Russell and Blyth
Emil Schacht, Architect
scale not accurate

(Nicolai-Cake House, north side of dining room)

**NICOLAI CAKE HOUSE,
PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH CO., OREGON**

PHOTO RECORD

PHOTOGRAPHER: Bruce Beaton

NEGATIVES HELD BY: James Heuer and Robert Mercer
1903 NE Hancock Street
Portland, Oregon 97212

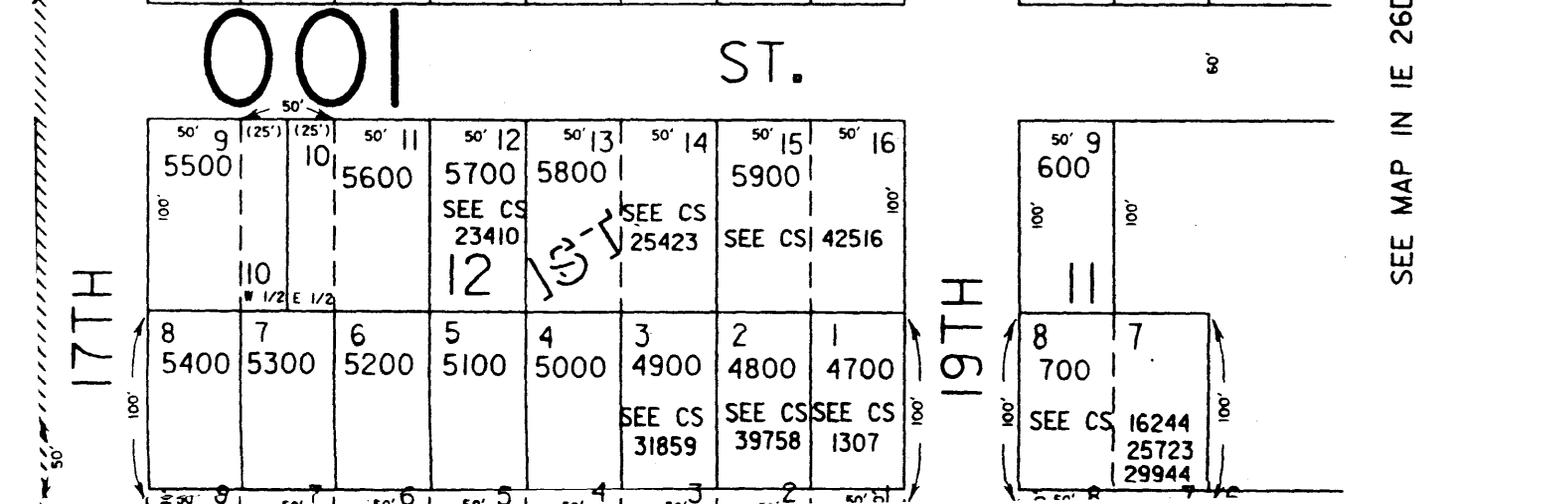
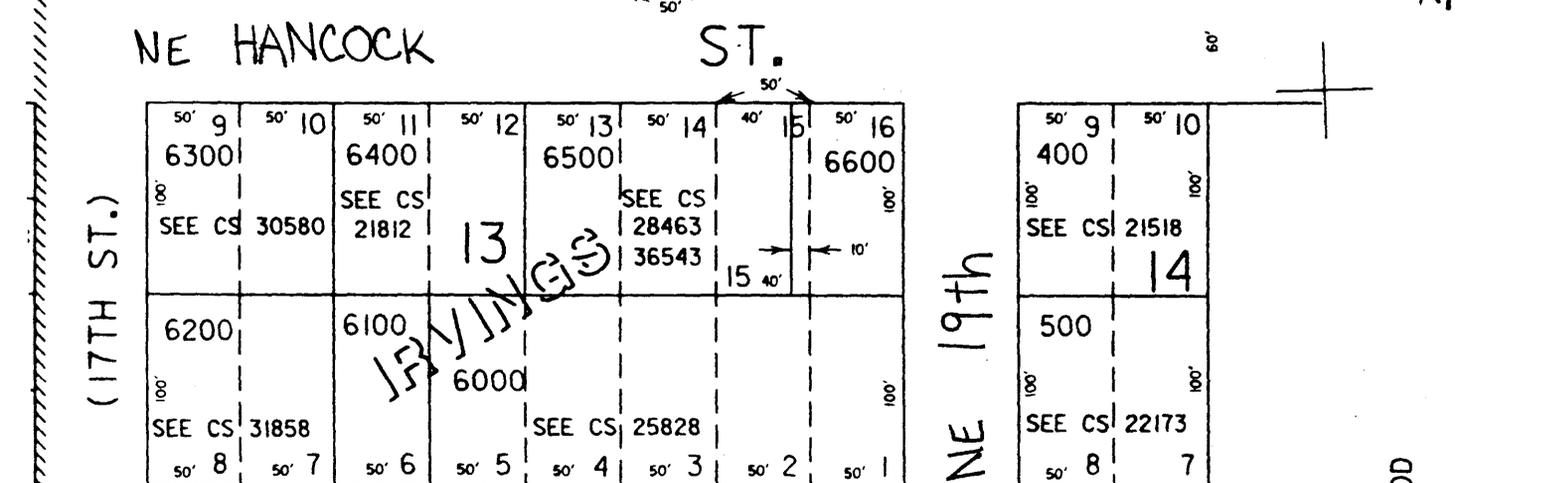
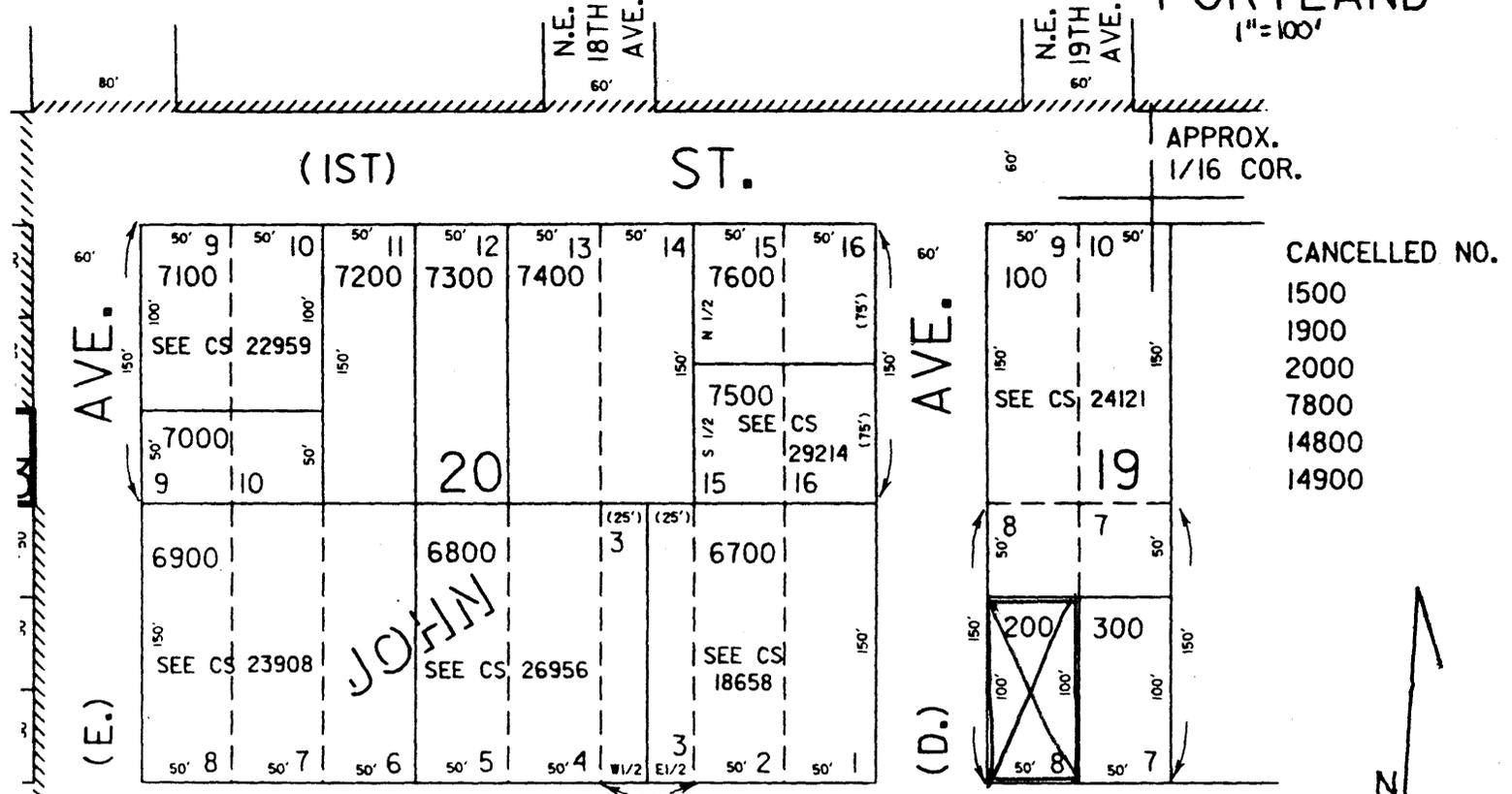
DATE TAKEN: 11/00

1. main (S) elevation, facing N
2. north elevation, facing SE, showing second floor addition
3. west elevation, facing E
4. vestibule, facing S
5. living room, facing E
6. living room, facing NE
7. living room, facing NW
8. inglenook, facing W
9. detail, inglenook post and panel with double dovetail
10. dining room, facing NW
11. kitchen, facing SE
12. kitchen, facing SW, showing original cabinetry
13. service porch, facing N
14. butlery, facing NW
15. butlery, facing NE, showing original cabinetry and fir paneling
16. staircase detail, facing N from living room
17. upstairs hallway, facing S
18. master bedroom, facing NE
19. guest bedroom, facing SW

NOTE: NO LOTS 1 & 8 AS PER 49612, 46905
 24387 AND 27001. CS 24176 IMPLIES LOTS
 1 & 8 BY DISTANCE SHOWN HOWEVER DOESN'T
 SPECIFY. LOTS 2-7 IN BLKS. 262, 263 AND
 264 ARE 50'x200'.
 CS 23282 INDICATES NORTH LINE LIES
 NORTH OF A NORTH LINE OF PLAT.
 MAJORITY OF DEEDS IN BLKS. 262, 263, & 264
 DO NOT INDICATE EXISTANCE OF LOTS 1 & 8
 IN THESE BLKS.
 ALL INFORMATION INCONCLUSIVE.
 MAPPED ACCORDING TO DEED RECORDS.

IN IE 26DC
 & INDEX
 PORTLAND
 1"=100'

UNTY



SEE MAP IN IE 26DD