

PH0065862

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: San Francisco	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.06.0006	DATE 3/24/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Feusier Octagon House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Feusier Octagon House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1067 Green Street

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: San Francisco CODE: 023 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Donald F. Houghton and Byron R. Meyer

STREET AND NUMBER: 1067 Green Street

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco STATE: California CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco STATE: California CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

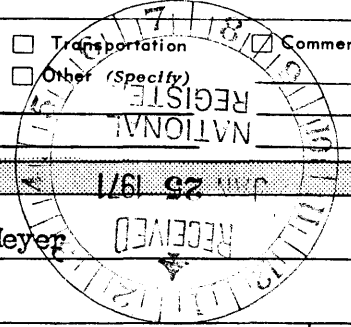
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal Building (Rm. 14321)

STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco STATE: California CODE: 06

ALSO: Jr. League of San Francisco Survey

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: California
COUNTY: San Francisco
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.3.06.0006
DATE: 3/24/71

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

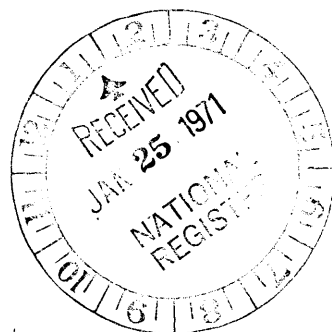
late 19th century

Octagonal in shape and having three stories, the house was built of a mixture of cement or burnt lime, gravel and clay, according to the method prescribed by O. S. Fowler. Unlike the Colonial Dames Octagon, there is no exterior wood covering. The house is surmounted by an octagonal cupola, windowed on each side. The third story has a Mansard roof covered by fish scale shingles, with dormer windows alternately single and double. The corners are quoined, and there are brick chimneys at three corners. There is a flat projecting cornice at the roof line; the original cornice, at second-story ceiling level, is sloping and supported by exposed rafters. The house is not heavily ornamented; small consoles support the upper cornice, and there is an ornamental iron fence above that cornice at the roof line. There are balustered balconies at the second-story floor level. The base of the house sits below street level on the down-sloping lot. The entrance is by way of a stairway to a columned porch at the second story on the left side of the house, the porch projecting out from the basic octagonal form.

The interior is in excellent condition and has been carefully maintained, preserving the spatial configurations dictated by the octagonal building shape. The house is surrounded on its relatively large site by a spacious garden.

The original two-story house was modified (not to its detriment) late in the century when the Feusiers added the third story with Mansard roof, surmounted by its octagonal cupola.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857-58

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>One of the oldest</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>residences in</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>San Francisco.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

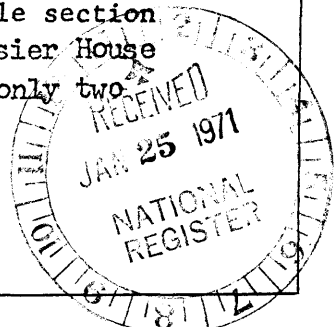
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Feusier Octagon is one of only two surviving houses in San Francisco built on the octagon plan, the other being the Colonial Dames Octagon on Gough Street. The exact year of its erection is uncertain, but the Feusier is one of the oldest houses on Russian Hill; the most informed estimate indicates that it was built in 1857 or 1858, with one source alleging construction as early as 1852. This Octagon is notable in having preserved the original exterior construction, and it fortunately continues to reflect its eight-sided shape on the interior.

Octagon houses became something of a national fad in the mid-19th century as the result of a book by Orson Squire Fowler entitled "A Home for All; or, the Gravel Wall and the Octagon Mode of Building". In this work Fowler, a New York phrenologist who identified one's well-being with the shape and construction of his domicile, proposed a new and cheap way to construct houses for the "new age". The octagon form was prescribed by Fowler so that every room could receive sunlight at some time of the day; he asserted that it would admit more sunlight into more rooms for longer periods than any other building form.

The fad resulting from Fowler's book swept several sections of the country and has left us with a hundred or more Octagons nation-wide. These are concentrated in the Hudson River country of New York, in New England (especially New Hampshire), in the South and Southwest (Mississippi and Texas), and in the Far West, including California. At one time there were at least five (possibly six) Octagon Houses in San Francisco, as well as others in the Fruitvale section of Oakland and elsewhere in the Bay Area. The Feusier House and the Colonial Dames Octagon are apparently the only two remaining in the entire Bay Area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

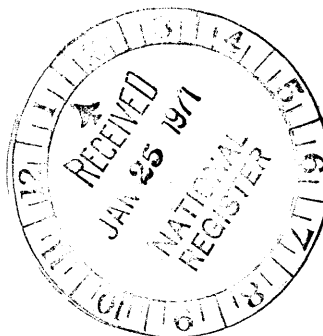
STATE California	
COUNTY San Francisco	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 113,06,0006	DATE 3/24/76

(Number all entries)

B. (cont'd)

The house is commonly associated with the name of Feusier, in whose family it remained for some eighty years. According to the family history, Louis Feusier arrived in California about 1852, spent the years 1857-1867 in Nevada, and then returned to San Francisco, later marrying Louise Guerne, daughter of the pioneer for whom Guerneville was named. Feusier is said to have been a companion of such San Francisco notables as Leland Stanford and Mark Twain; he was a man of varied business interests.

The house appears in early views of the city showing Russian Hill, including views dated 1858, 1861, 1862 and 1863. It was near the summit, not closely surrounded by other buildings, and was indeed an outstanding landmark of the city's skyline. Like other buildings on Russian Hill, the Feusier House escaped the 1906 Earthquake, but was menaced by the Fire; the outbuildings were dynamited but fortunately the main house was saved. Today, with Russian Hill built up intensely and high-rise apartments vying with older dwellings, the Feusier Octagon no longer stands isolated and dominant as shown in the pictures of a century ago; but it remains a link with the early days of the city and a visible reminder of the time when eight-sided houses were a fashion. The Feusier is undoubtedly the most distinguished landmark on its block, but it is by no means the only building of interest. The 1000 block of Green Street is, in fact, one of the most charming in the city due to its profusion of fine residences and its dignified and spacious profile.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Orson Squire Fowler, A Home for All, or, The Octagon House and the Gravel Wall Mode of Construction (New York City, 1854; first edition 1848)

Clay Lancaster, Architectural Follies of America (Rutland, Vt., 1960)

Bailey Millard, History of the San Francisco Bay Area (San Francisco, 1924)

various magazine and newspaper articles (citations on request)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

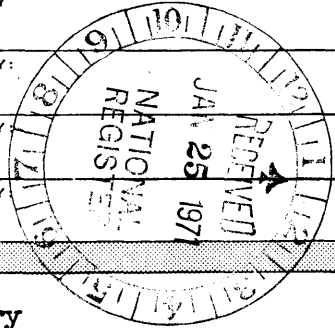
**O
R**

37° 47' 54" 122° 20' 30"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9,000 square feet**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM
10/551460
4183390

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Ralph A. Mead, Secretary**

ORGANIZATION: **San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board** DATE: **January 5, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **100 Larkin Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **San Francisco** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: **State Liaison Officer**

Date: **January 22, 1971**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1971

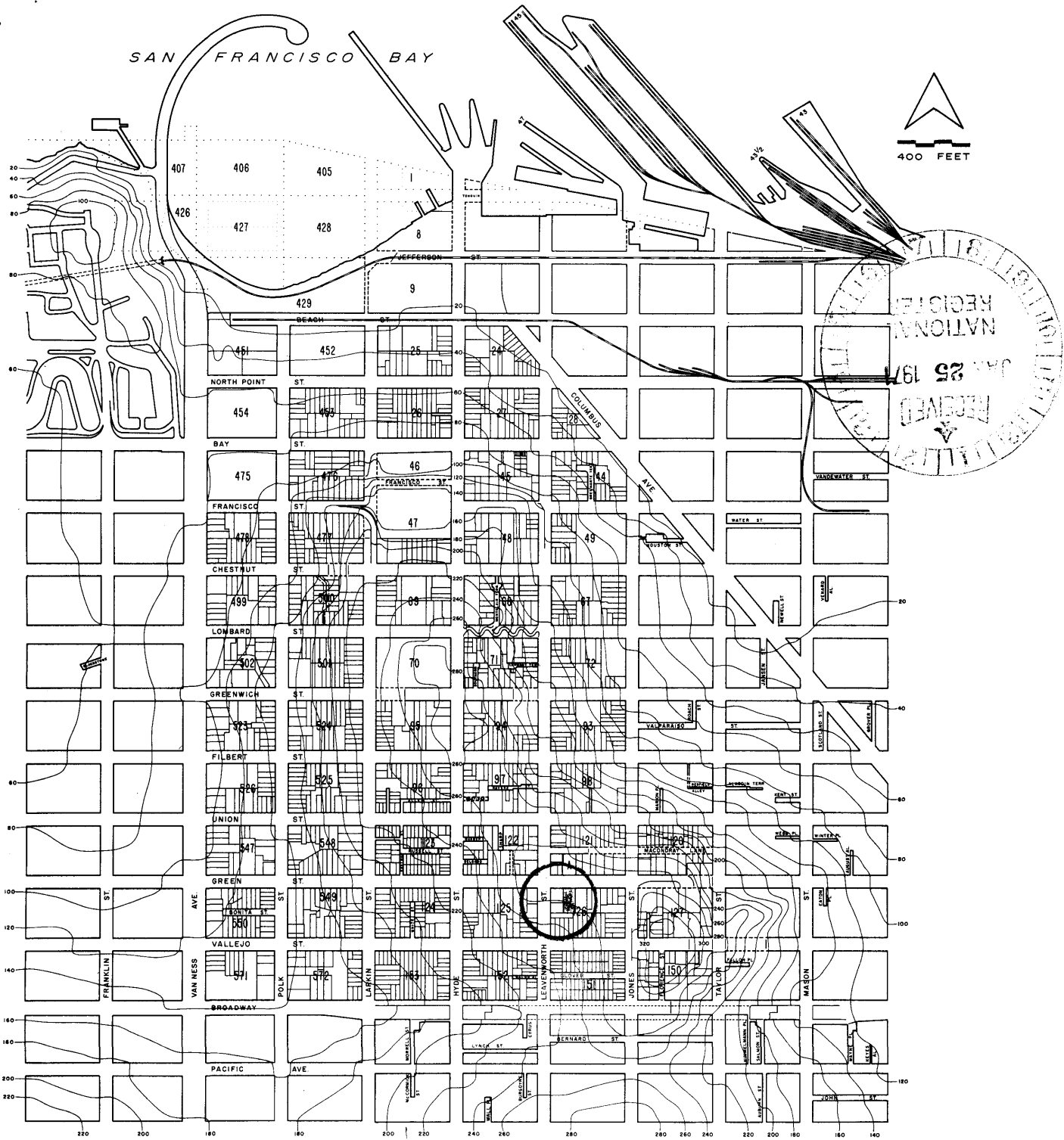
Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

MAR 8 1971

Date: _____



COMMUNITY AREA LAND USE STUDY

RUSSIAN HILL

COMMUNITY 4 · PLANNING AREA I

9075 #

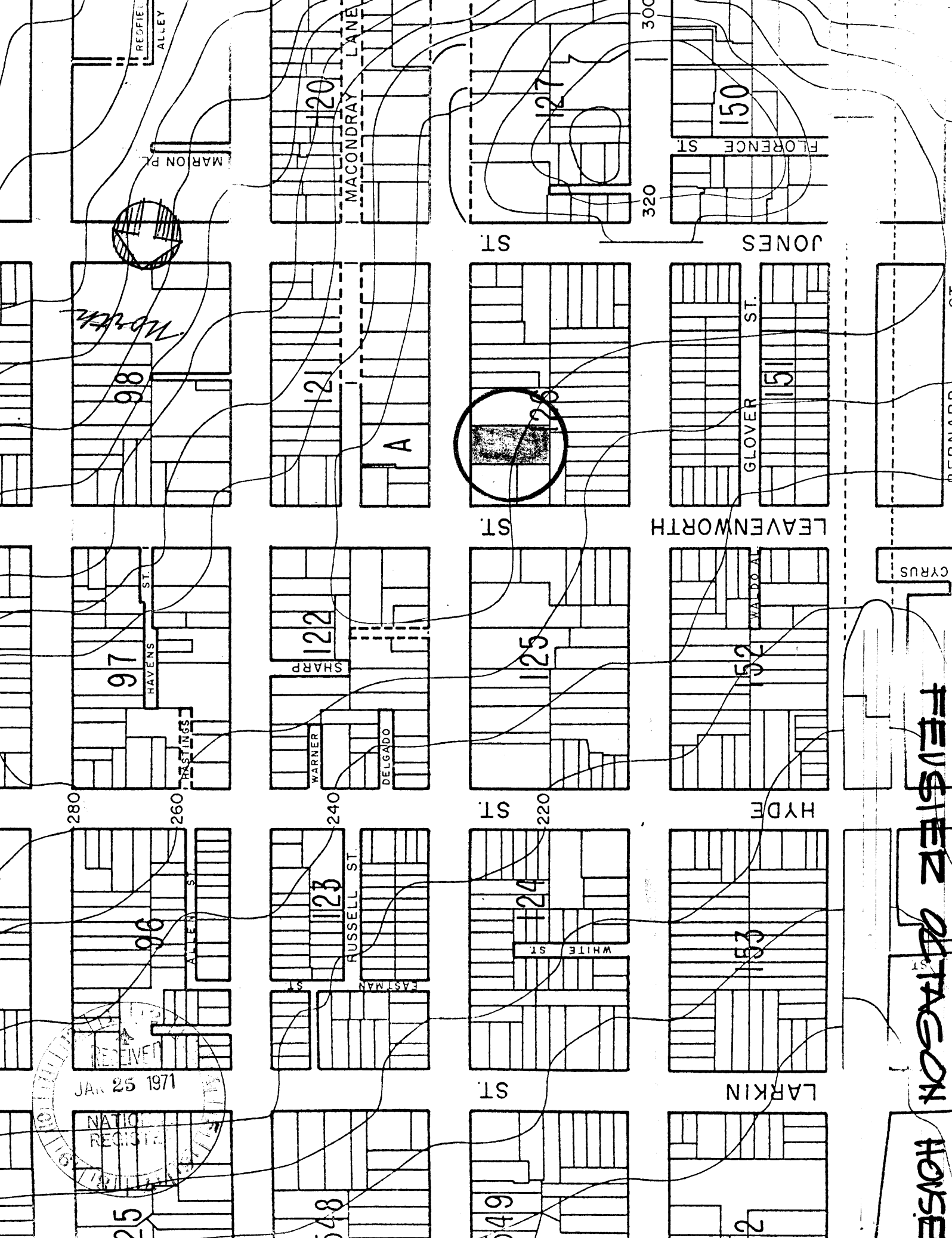
FEUSIER OCTAGON HOUSE

LATITUDE 37° 47' 54"

LONGITUDE 122° 20' 30"

FILE 825.4-113
BASE AUGUST 1967
DATA

RECEIVED
JAN 25 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES



FELDER ATTORNEY HOUSE