

PH0364811

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 5 1977

DATE ENTERED

SEP 22 1977

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**NAME**

HISTORIC

Ermatinger (Francis) House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1018 Center St.

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oregon City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Clackamas

CODE

005

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Lohr

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1206 Washington St.

CITY, TOWN

Oregon City

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97045

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clackamas County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Oregon City

Oregon

STATE

97045

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

May 1976

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Branch

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon

STATE

97310

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1910</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Francis Ermatinger House, constructed c. 1845, is one of the oldest surviving structures in Oregon. With its Federal Style architecture, the Ermatinger House nicely complements its Oregon City contemporary, the Dr. John McLoughlin House. The Ermatinger House was moved in 1910, one year after the McLoughlin House was moved. A unique feature of the Ermatinger House is its original flat tin roof, still intact under the present hipped roof.

The earliest photograph of Oregon City, taken in 1857, shows the Ermatinger House, but it is so far in the distance that the only distinguishing features are the flat roof and a single chimney. A later photograph specifically of the house was taken about 1900. This photograph shows the house as it probably looked originally, with the exception of the added hipped roof. The present appearance of the house is similar to the 1900 picture with the added front porch as the only major exterior alteration.

As it presently stands, the Ermatinger House is a two-story volume, facing northwest, with a one-and-one-half story ell extending from the southeast. The sash windows throughout are symmetrically placed, with the original six over six lights on the second floor and a conglomeration of six over six, twelve over one, and one over one lights on the first floor. The front door is centrally placed with side light panels and a transom light. The main volume has clapboard siding and the ell is covered with more recent shiplap siding. Composition roofing covers the present hipped roof but, as mentioned earlier, the original tin roof is intact underneath. The cornice is boxed with a plain frieze, and is identical to the 1900 photograph.

Within, the house is formed around a central hallway with four rooms on each floor. The ell contains the kitchen, a pantry and a bathroom. Evidence is present on the first floor where two fireplaces existed before the house was moved in 1910.

In 1910, the Ermatinger house was moved from its original location next to the Willamette River up the hill to the residential district of Oregon City. This move occurred one year after the nationally famous move of the Dr. John McLoughlin House (National Historic Site). The moves of the Ermatinger House, the McLoughlin House, and later the Dr. Forbes Barclay House (moved in 1937 and entered in the National Register 11/5/74) were necessary because of the peculiar formation of Oregon City. Oregon City has developed on three tiers, or levels of land, separated by a solid perpendicular cliff between the first and second level and a steep hill between the second and third levels. The commercial area developed on the lower level next to the Willamette River and as this development increased, it was necessary to either move or demolish residential houses on the lower level. The McLoughlin and Barclay Houses were moved with a great deal of public support and recognition, and both were restored and are maintained by the McLoughlin Memorial Association. Until just recently, it was not known that the Ermatinger House was indeed the Ermatinger House, but by checking local records and comparing the house to earlier photographs it was decided that this was the house. The evidence was conclusive when an archeological study of the house revealed the original flat tin roof under the present hipped roof. The flat tin roof was the distinguishing feature of Ermatinger's House in early Oregon City photographs and sketches.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1845      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Francis Ermatinger House is one of the oldest extant houses in Oregon and the only two-story Federal styled house originally built with a flat roof. Francis Ermatinger, the owner, was a powerful and influential figure in early Oregon history. He was a chief trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, he was in charge of Ft. Boise and Ft. Hall and managed the Hudson's Bay Company store in Oregon, and he was the first British subject to hold public office in the Oregon Provisional Government in 1845.

Francis Ermatinger was born in Portugal in 1798 and was educated in England. He entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1818 in England and worked at York Factory on Hudson Bay until 1825 when he came to the Oregon Territory to work for McLoughlin at Ft. Vancouver. He was placed in charge of trade with the Flat Head Indians in the 1830s and from 1838 to 1842 was in charge of Ft. Hall and Ft. Boise. In 1841 Francis married Catherine Sinclair, who was Mrs. John McLoughlin's granddaughter. In 1842 he was promoted to Chief Trader and from 1844 to 1846 managed the Hudson's Bay Company Store in Oregon City. When British subjects were given the right to vote and hold office in the Oregon Provisional Government in 1845, Ermatinger ran against incumbent Philip Foster and was elected Treasurer. In 1846 he visited England where he was transferred to York Factory by Gov. Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company. He died in Ontario, Canada in 1858.

Documentation suggests that Ermatinger's house was built in 1845, possibly completed in early 1846. Dr. McLoughlin deeded the land on which the house was built to Ermatinger in 1844. The earliest sketch of Oregon City, done by Warre and Vavasour in 1845, shows a flat roofed building at the same location of the Ermatinger House. Francis Ermatinger was unable to live in his house for very long since he was transferred away from Oregon in 1846. The record shows that the house was sold in 1849 by Ermatinger's close friend, Dr. John McLoughlin. The house remained on its original location near the Willamette River until 1910 when it was moved up the hill in Oregon City to its present location.

The Ermatinger House nicely complements its contemporary, the Dr. John McLoughlin House. Both are Federal Style architecture, but the Ermatinger is distinguished by its original flat tin roof.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Munnick, Harriet. The Mountain Men, A.H. Clark Publishers, 1965, pp. 157-173.

Sampson, William, ed. John McLoughlin's Business Correspondence, 1847-48, Seattle, WA, University of Washington. Press, 1973, pp. 87-89, 130.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .147 (phone sheet)  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	5 3 1 1 8 0	5 0 2 2 7 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Jeff Lohr, Chairman, Historic House Committee

ORGANIZATION

Clackamas County Historical Society

DATE

August 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1206 Washington St.

TELEPHONE

656-7679

CITY OR TOWN

Oregon City

STATE

Oregon 97045

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*David B. Talbot*

TITLE State Parks Superintendent

DATE

Dec. 28, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Derrington*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles W. Cole*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-22-77

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1987  
date entered SEP 17 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ermatinger, Francis, House Number of contributing resources: 1  
and/or common Same Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number 619 6th Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Oregon City N/A vicinity of Fifth Congressional District  
state Oregon code 41 county Clackamas code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Ruth McBride Powers (Owner of house only)  
street & number 554 Warner Parrott Road  
city, town Oregon City N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97045

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clackamas County Courthouse  
street & number Main Street  
city, town Oregon City state Oregon 97045

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date September 22, 1977  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records National Park Service, 1100 "L" Street NW  
city, town Washington state DC 20005

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>1910, 1986</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Francis Ermatinger House at 619 Sixth Street was purchased and restored by Ruth McBride Powers in 1986. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, the Ermatinger House, built in 1845, is the oldest house in Oregon City and the third oldest house in the state of Oregon. Francis Ermatinger was chief trader for the Hudson's Bay Company and a close associate of Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the company's Columbia District. He was the first British subject to hold public office in the Provisional Government of Oregon. It is clearly among Oregon City's and the state's most important historic buildings, due to age, historical association, and architecture.

The Francis Ermatinger House, constructed c. 1845, is not only one of the oldest surviving structures in Oregon, it is one of few remaining examples of Federal style architecture. Its most notable counterpart is the Dr. John McLoughlin House of 1846 in Oregon City, a National Historic Site. The Ermatinger House was first moved in 1910, one year after the McLoughlin House was moved. A unique feature of the Ermatinger House is its original flat tin roof, which remained intact under the hipped roof which was added before the turn of the century. The architect and builder are unknown. The house has been permanently relocated 7 blocks to the corner of 6th and John Adams streets in Oregon City. It has undergone restoration by the current owner and will be open to the public as a museum upon completion of the finish work.

The earliest photograph of Oregon City, taken in 1857, shows the Ermatinger House, but it is so far in the distance that the only distinguishing features are the flat roof and a single chimney. A later photograph specifically of the house was taken about 1900. This photograph shows the house as it probably looked originally, with the exception of the added hipped roof. The present appearance of the house is similar to the 1900 picture; the original front porch has been rebuilt.

As it presently stands on its new site, the Ermatinger House is a two-story volume, facing south-west, with a one and one-half story ell extending from the northeast. The sash windows throughout are symmetrically placed, with six-over-six lights. The front door is centrally placed with a transom light above. The main volume has clapboard siding and the ell is covered with more recent shiplap siding. A low-pitch built-up roof has been constructed covering the original tin roof, and behind the original cornice, thereby giving the original look to the home, yet preserving the house from the elements and keeping the original flat tin roof intact for viewing. The cornice is boxed with a plain frieze, and is identical to the 1900 photograph. The windows and porches will be reconstructed according to historic photos and indications of original location found in the home.

Within, the house is formed around a central hallway with four rooms on each floor. The ell contains the kitchen, a pantry and a bathroom. Evidence is present on the first floor where two fireplaces existed before the house was moved in 1910.

(Continued)

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c. 1845 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Francis Ermatinger House, as relocated and restored in 1986, retains those qualities which made the property eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criteria A and C in 1977.

It is a rare example in the statewide context of Federal style architecture having a fine, classical entablature. Believed to have been built in 1845 but possibly completed in 1846, it is significant as one of a small group of important early houses in Oregon City built for Hudson's Bay Company figures. Originally, it occupied a site near the Willamette River at water grade level at Fifth and McLoughlin streets at the heart of the townsite platted by Chief Factor of the fur company's Columbia District, John McLoughlin. Like the houses of McLoughlin and Hudson's Bay Company physician Forbes Barclay, the Ermatinger House was displaced by later commercial and industrial development. In 1910, the Ermatinger House was moved north to Center and Eleventh streets, the fringe of the downtown, its location at the time it was listed in the National Register in 1977.

Prior to 1900, the two-story house with its flat, tin-clad roof and clapboard siding, formally-composed elevations and classical portico was altered by the addition of a hipped roof. It is believed the one and one-half story, gable-roofed rear wing was added at the time of its resiting on a sloping lot on Center Street in 1910. At that time the house acquired a basement story and a wrap-around veranda with square columns. The hip-roofed dormer on the north face of the ell, like the veranda, is a reflection of the Colonial Revival style then in fashion.

To rescue it from an uncertain future, the house was acquired by noted Oregon preservationist Ruth McBride Powers and moved in 1986 to city-owned property behind the fire hall at Sixth and John Adams streets on Oregon City's upper level. The privately-financed relocation and restoration project is aimed at historic house museum use and was coordinated for Mrs. Powers and the City of Oregon City by Daniel W. Fowler of F & F Structures.

The building's association with Francis Ermatinger is extremely significant, however short-lived. Ermatinger served in the Hudson's Bay Company Columbia District under McLoughlin from 1825 to 1846. He was married in 1841 to a granddaughter of McLoughlin's wife, the former Marguerite Wadin McKay. Ermatinger was promoted to Chief Trader in 1842, and was in charge of the fur company's store at Oregon City in 1844, the year McLoughlin deeded land to Ermatinger for construction of a house. In 1845 Francis Ermatinger was elected Treasurer of the Provisional Government of Oregon. A British subject, he served until his resignation in 1846, at which time he left the Oregon country in the break-up of the Columbia District. Very few buildings associated with figures who served in the Provisional Government of Oregon have survived to the present day.

The Ermatinger House is one of the oldest extant houses in Oregon and the only two-story Federal styled house known to have been originally built with a flat roof.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Munnick, Harriet, The Mountain Men, (A.H. Clark Publishers, 1965), pp. 157-173.  
Sampson, William, ed., John McLoughlin's Business Correspondence, 1847-48 (Seattle University of Washington Press, 1973), pp. 87-89, 130.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Oregon City, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	0	5	3	1	0	4	0	5	0	2	2	3	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel W. Fowler, President

organization F & F Structures, Inc. date April 25, 1987

street & number 1785 7th Avenue telephone (503) 657-7010

city or town West Linn state Oregon 97068

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date August 13, 1987

For NPS use only

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

*for* William B. Bushong date 9/17/87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number   4   Page   1  

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Owner of Lot

City of Oregon City  
320 Warner Milne Road  
Oregon City OR 97045

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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The house was moved in 1910 from its original downtown Oregon City location at 5th Street and McLoughlin Boulevard, near where the Elks Club now sits, to 1018 Center Street. There is no information available as to why the 11th and Center Street location was chosen for the house; its only obvious advantage was a straight and easy northerly move up main Street from 5th to 11th, and a short one-block move easterly on 11th Street. Today, the existing location has severe accessibility problems, given the building's "tucked-away" hillside location, lack of off-street parking, and removal of access from Main Street in 1971 through closure of the railroad crossing.

The original 5th and McLoughlin site is at the heart of the original Oregon City townsite, platted and developed by Dr. John McLoughlin. The city's earliest buildings were concentrated from 2nd to 7th Streets, on the "shelf" between the Willamette River and the bluff. (The Dr. John McLoughlin House was located at 4th and Main and the Dr. Forbes Barclay House was located at 7th and McLoughlin.)

In 1910, the Ermatinger House was moved from its original location near the Willamette River. This move occurred one year after the nationally famous move of the Dr. John McLoughlin House, (National Historic Site). The moves of the Ermatinger House, the McLoughlin House, and later the Dr. Forbes Barclay House (moved in 1937) were necessary because of the peculiar formation of Oregon City. Oregon City has developed on three tiers, or levels of land, separated by a solid perpendicular cliff between the first and second level and a steep hill between the second and third levels. The commercial area developed on the lower level next to the Willamette River and as this development increased, it was necessary to either move or demolish residential houses on the lower level. The McLoughlin and Barclay Houses were moved with a great deal of public support and recognition, and both were restored and are maintained by the McLoughlin Memorial Association. The gradual transition of the original townsite to a commercial and industrial center resulted in major changes to the character of that area. When the Ermatinger House was moved, its original location had become a very busy street, with surrounding commercial and residential uses.

The 11th and Center Street site had deteriorated, and was an inappropriate location for substantial restoration of one of Oregon City's most important historic buildings. It is a mixed commercial and residential street; the house is adjacent to a Southern Pacific rail line that cannot be crossed for access to Main Street; there is an adjacent lot owned by the railroad, and a 1923 commercial building, originally used for a car sales business, that will soon be occupied by the County Corrections office. Also across the railroad tracks is a fast-food operation and another major car sales complex.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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The house was sited at this location and then altered so that its original appearance is grossly obscured. The hillside topography required a basement structure be built under the original home. There by causing it to be much higher above ground level than originally constructed. This factor, and the wrap-around porch that was constructed, obscure the building's Federal-style design, and have contributed to its structural deterioration.

Specifically, the Ermatinger House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its historic and architectural significance as a building. There was no significance noted for its site.

The present location of the Francis Ermatinger House is a flat vacant corner of City-owned property at 6th and John Adams in the McLoughlin Conservation District. This block is occupied by the City's 1923 Fire Station ( former City Hall), the 1922 Odd Fellows Lodge, and the 1908 Stevens-Crawford House, which is the museum of the Clackamas County Historical Society. All are locally-designated Landmark Buildings and are protected by the City's preservation program. There is substantial open area on the block, which contains parking for the City facilities. Across John Adams is the 1913 City Carnegie Library, and kitty-corner across 6th Street is the 1923 Atkinson Memorial Church, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. the corner site is 4,406.25 square feet in area, is flat and grass-covered, has 70.5 feet of frontage on 6th Street and 62.5 feet of frontage on John Adams Street. The house faces 6th Street, for reasons of visibility and compatibility with the Stevens-Crawford House at the corner of 6th and Washington Streets.

The new location places the house two blocks from the Dr. John McLoughlin House, which in its original location was two blocks from the Ermatinger House. The new setting is similar to the mix of residential, commercial and institutional uses that surrounded the Ermatinger House from the 1860's on, in its original location.

The topography of the new site, being that of the original, allows the home to be restored to its original design. Being on a flat site, the original porch has been reconstructed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

The original arrangement of the home is very difficult to determine. The home has four rooms around the central stairs as mentioned, but there is some evidence that shows the original placement of some the walls may have been moved over the years. On the main floor, the room on the southeast corner has 1 x 4 T&G fir flooring over the original plank floor. The walls are the original plank walls with underpaper and wallpaper as a covering. No sheetrock has been used in the home. The windows have been reconstructed to the original with the front (south) window being a 6 over 9 pane with the sill being flush to the floor. The east window is 4 over 4. The northeast room, the original kitchen, has plank floor and a 4 over 4 window on the east wall. There is a door on the north wall leading to a rear porch.

To continue, the main floor on the west side has two rooms connected with an open archway. The floors are random plank, the walls are vertical plank with underpaper and wallpaper. The windows are 6 over 6 on the west side and the front (south) is a 6 over 9 with elongated panes with the sill being flush to the floor. In the northern most room, there is a built-in buffet cabinet. Between the 2 rooms at the archway, the flooring indicates the placement of the original double faced fireplace.

An ell, circa 1910, on the home consists of the kitchen, pantry and bathroom. Wainscoating is found in the kitchen, and the original panel door and windows remain in the ell. The west window is a single pane double hung and the north window is a 2 over 2 double hung.

The pantry has been converted to a small kitchenette with a single white cast iron sink and a small refrigerator. The cabinets are an ice-box style with butterfly hinges and the countertops are laminate maple. The walls and ceiling in the pantry(kitchenette) are "V" groove 1x4.

The bathroom is original. The corner sink, claw foot tub and toilet tank have been rebuilt and are functional. The walls are "V" groove 1 x 4, as is the ceiling. They have been painted and the plank flooring is stained.

Upstairs you find 4 rooms, all with 6 over 6 windows. The exterior walls are framed 2 x 4 with vertical rough sawn planks. Again the walls are covered with a heavy underpaper and wallpaper. The interior walls are single constructed planks. All doors are the original panel doors.

The original sloping roof is evident in the sloping board ceiling of the entire upstairs. The ceiling pattern changes in the hallway upstairs from smooth blank type covering to a board and pattern style.

Over the ell, the upper floor room is an additional bathroom with all walls and ceiling being "V" groove 1 x 4. Off the bathroom is a small unfinished storage room with a single 6 pane dormer window.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Francis Ermatinger, the owner, was a powerful and influential figure in Oregon's fur trade era. He was a chief trader for the Hudson's Bay Company. He had charge of Ft. Boise and Ft. Hall, and he managed the Hudson's Bay Company store in Oregon. He was the first British subject to hold public office in the Oregon Provisional Government.

Francis Ermatinger was born in Portugal in 1798 and was educated in England. He entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1818 in England and worked at York Factory on Hudson Bay until 1825 when he came to the Oregon Territory to work for McLoughlin at Ft. Vancouver. He was placed in charge of trade with the Flat Head Indians in the 1830s and from 1838 to 1842 was in charge of Ft. Hall and Ft. Boise. In 1841 Francis married Catherine Sinclair, who was Mrs. John McLoughlin's granddaughter. In 1842 he was promoted to Chief Trader and from 1844 to 1846 managed the Hudson's Bay Company Store in Oregon City. When British subjects were given the right to vote and hold office in the Oregon Provisional Government in 1845, Ermatinger ran against incumbent Philip Foster and was elected Treasurer. In 1846 he visited England, at which point he was transferred to York Factory by Governor George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company. He died in Ontario, Canada in 1858.

Documentation suggests that Ermatinger's house was built in 1845 and possibly completed early in 1846. Dr. McLoughlin deeded the land on which the house was built to Ermatinger in 1844. The earliest sketch of Oregon City, done by Warre and Vavasour in 1845, shows a flat roofed building at the site occupied by the Ermatinger House. Ermatinger was unable to live in his house very long because of his transfer from Oregon in 1846. Records show the house was sold in 1849 by Ermatinger's close friend, Dr. John McLoughlin. The house remained on its original location near the Willamette River until 1910 when it was moved uphill to 11th and Center streets, its location for the next 76 years.

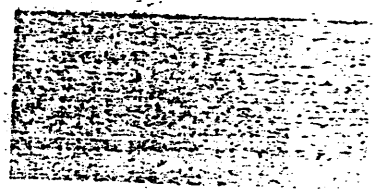
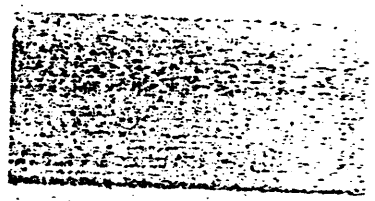
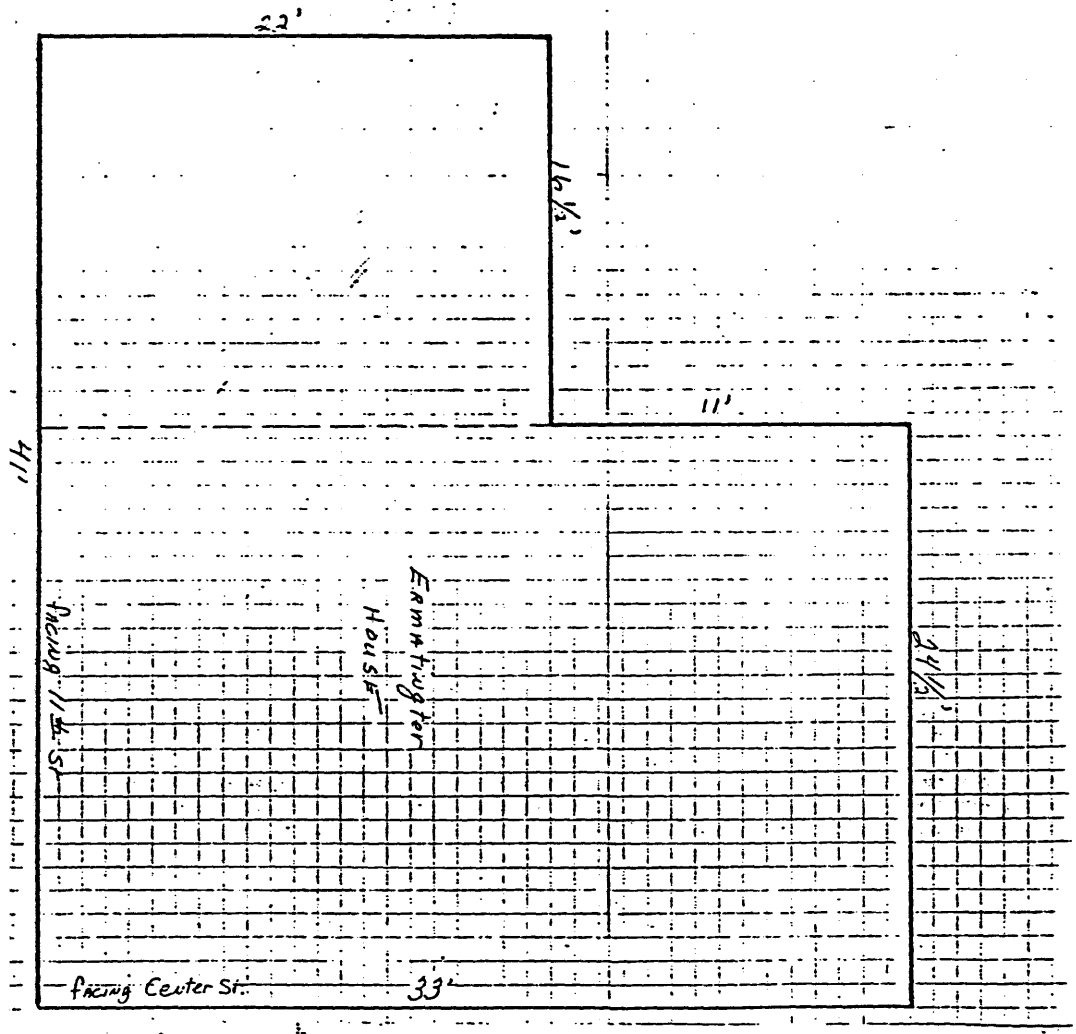
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The nominated area is 4,406.25 square feet to encompass the Francis Ermatinger House and its yard, but it does not include the public parking area adjacent to the north boundary of the yard. The nominated area is legally described as the south 62.5 feet of the easterly 70.5 feet of Lot 4, Block 63, Oregon City Subdivision, in Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon. Clackamas County Assessor's Map Reference No. 2 2E 31AC, Tax Lot 1500.



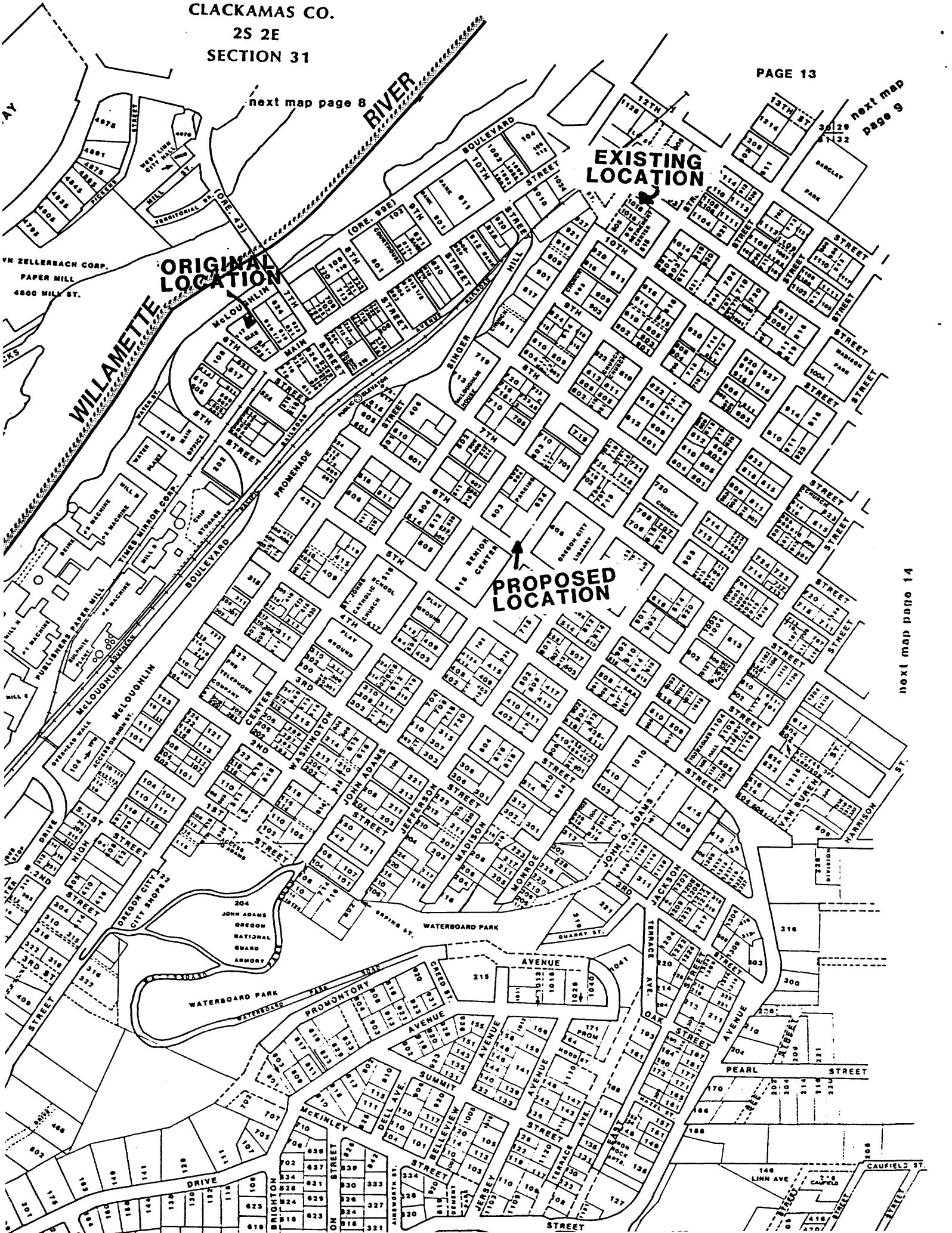
# MEASUREMENTS OF ERMATINGER HOUSE

CLACKAMAS CO.  
2S 2E  
SECTION 31

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**ORIGINAL LOCATION**

**EXISTING LOCATION**

**PROPOSED LOCATION**

VN ZELLERBACH CORP.  
PAPER MILL  
4800 MILL ST.

JOHN ADAMS  
OREGON  
NATIONAL  
GUARD  
ARMORY

WATERBOARD PARK

AY

MS

MILL E

STREET

STREET

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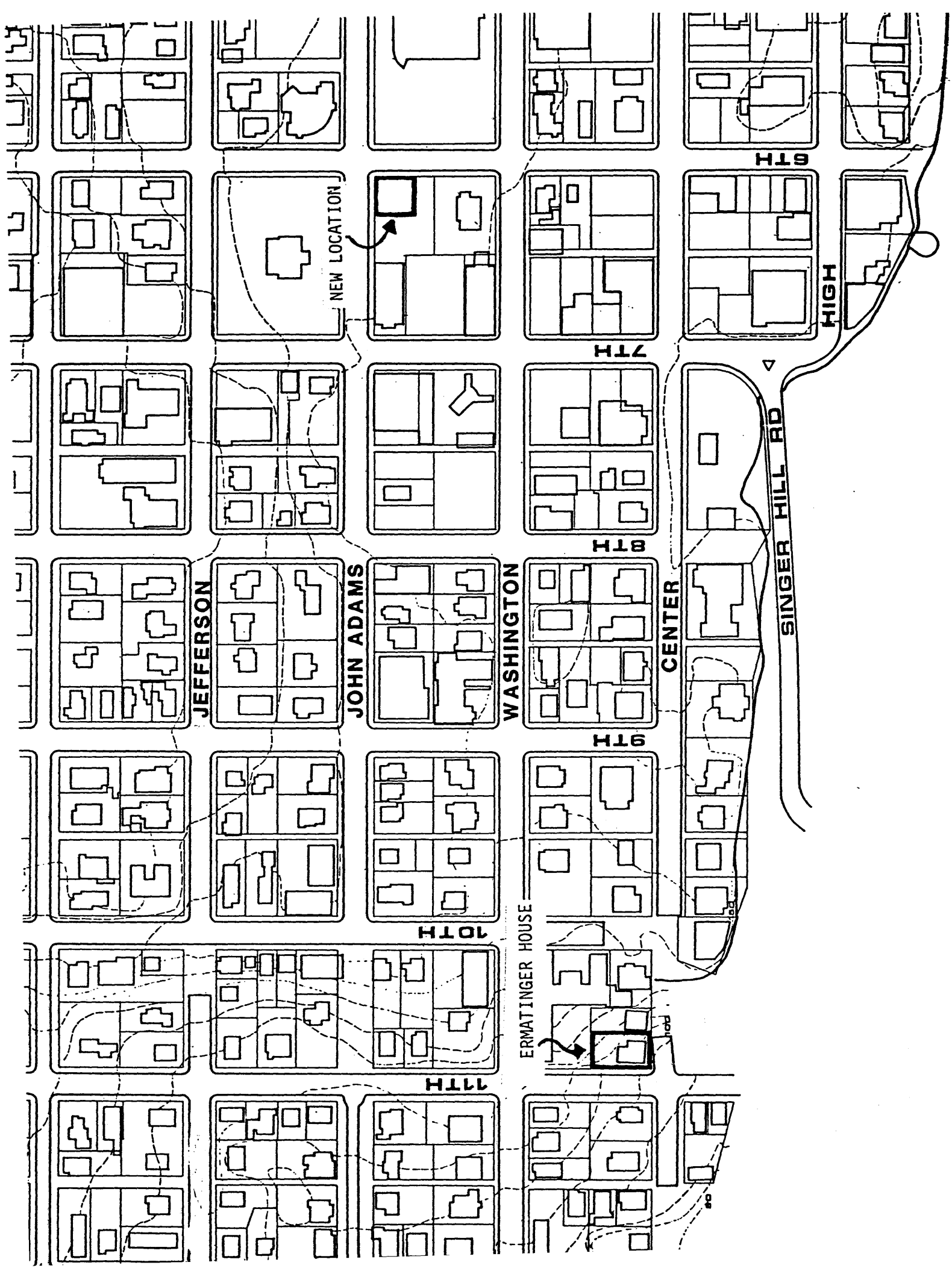
STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET





JEFFERSON

JOHN ADAMS

WASHINGTON

CENTER

SINGER HILL RD

HIGH

10TH

11TH

9TH

8TH

7TH

6TH

ERMATINGER HOUSE

NEW LOCATION

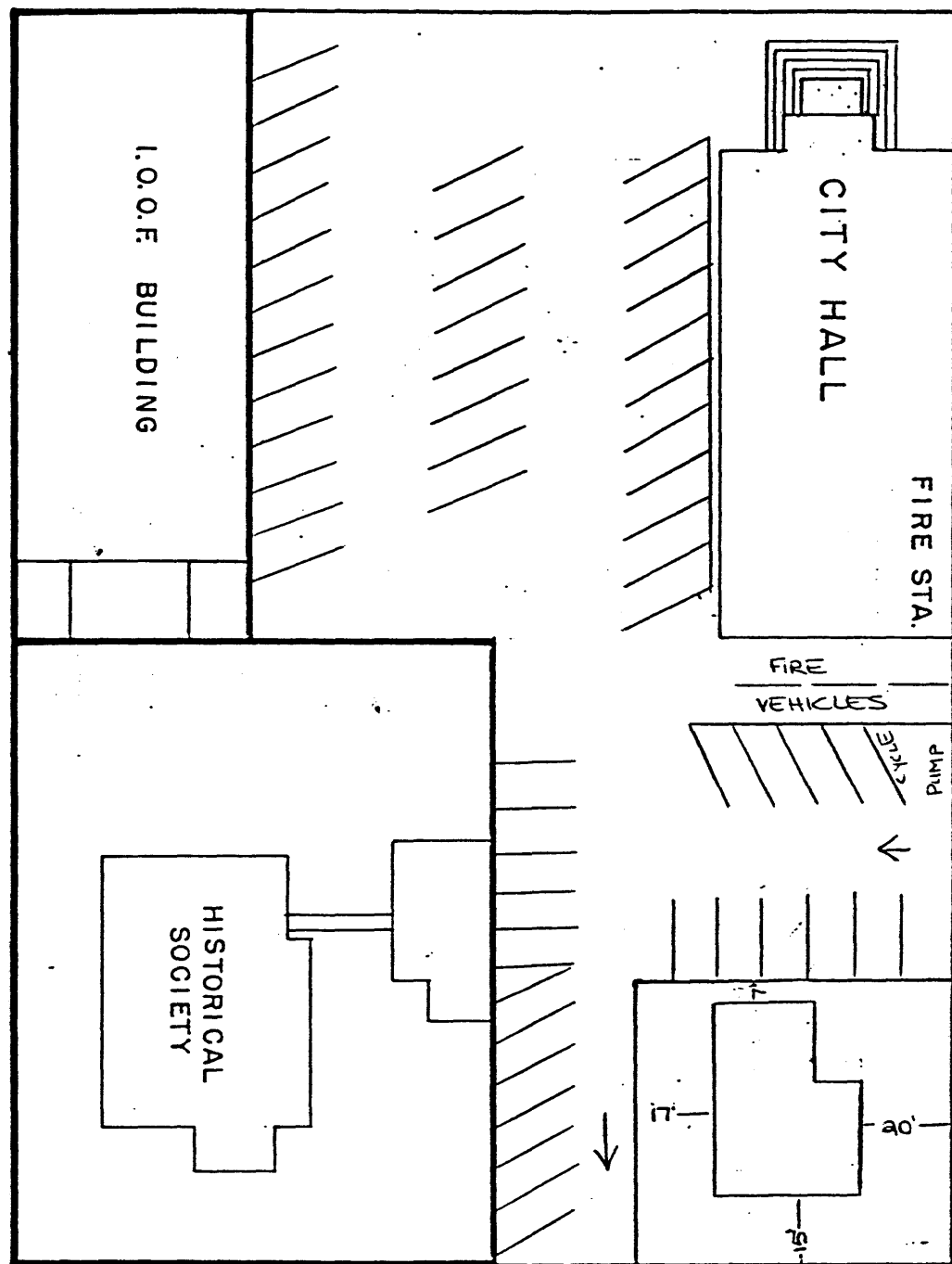
POB

PO

JOHN ADAMS

7TH.

WASHINGTON



6TH.

HOUSE LOCATION  
&  
PARKING LOT

(1"=30')