

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 28 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Spence, Jack, House Number of contributing resources 1
and/or common Same Number of non-contributing resources 0

2. Location

street & number 536 East 5th Street N/A not for publication
city, town McMinnville N/A vicinity of First Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Yamhill code 071

3. 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mark V. Temple et al, please see continuation sheet
street & number 536 East 5th Street
city, town McMinnville N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97128

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yamhill County Courthouse
street & number 5th and Evans Street
city, town McMinnville state Oregon 97128

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of McMinnville Historic Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1980 federal state county local
depository for survey records City of McMinnville Planning Department
city, town McMinnville state Oregon 97128

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The English Cottage style Spence House, located at 536 East Fifth Street in McMinnville, Oregon, was built in 1929 for Jack and LaVerne Fenton Spence. The residence was designed by the Portland architect, Roscoe Hemenway, and was constructed under the supervision of Dwight C. Miller of McMinnville. The Spence House is situated in a mixed commercial and residential area of the city, occupying about a quarter block. It is at the northwest corner of Fifth and Ford Streets, across from the Yamhill County Courthouse, which though most recently built in the 1950s, has historically occupied the block north of the Spence House. West of the house is the Colonial Revival-style Frank Fenton House, a National Register property, dating from 1909. The latter recently was converted to professional office use. The Georgian-style United States Post Office, built in 1935, occupies the south half of the block. Thus, the neighborhood surrounding the nominated property has traditionally harbored a mixture of civic and residential uses. The Spence House, possessing a high degree of integrity, notwithstanding its conversion to a duplex in 1955, is still owned and occupied by descendants of the original occupants.

The house faces north and occupies Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Rowlands Addition to McMinnville, Yamhill County, Oregon, a parcel measuring 120 x 100 feet. Large walnut street trees once lined Ford Street, at the east end of the property. An historical photograph of the house dating from the 1930s shows the house has changed little externally, apart from a compatible subsidiary wing at the southeast corner and a carport addition to the porte-cochere at the west end.

The two and one half story house is rectangular in plan. It is of balloon-frame construction over a concrete foundation and basement. The tapestry brick on the exterior was manufactured at the Willamina Brick Factory in Yamhill County. The brick was laid by George W. Evans and Herbert Cheguyn.¹ The English Cottage style residence has a cross gable roof of cedar shingles. The cedar horizontal boards which cover the upper portion of the gable ends has been painted a beige color. Two large, decorative, corbelled brick chimneys are on the east and west facades of the exterior. The central interior chimney is used for burn-off from the automatic oil heating system, a notable luxury, which is original to the house. The majority of windows throughout the house are multipaned casements with wooden surrounds. Leaded glass casement windows are in the northwest section of the home, which is presently used as a living room.

The major facade faces north, with a central, recessed entryway. The main gable is intersected by the entry gable. Above the entry is a recessed balcony on the second story which is enclosed by a decorative wrought iron railing. The doors and windows which lead from the bathroom to the balcony are set into an elliptical arched frame and contain multipaned lights. Above the balcony is an elliptical brick soldier course. The porte-cochere is visible from this facade in addition to the two exterior chimneys which flank the east and west elevations.

Few changes have been made to the exterior of the Spence House since its date of construction in 1929. The changes that have occurred took place in 1955, when the

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Continuation sheet Jack Spence House

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Mark V. and Frances S. Temple	536 East 5th St., McMinnville, OR 97128
Mark S. Temple	444 Baker Creek Rd., McMinnville, OR 97128
Richard B. Temple	13250 131st Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034
Jack F. Temple	Route 1, Box 252-A, Amity, OR 97101

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Continuation sheet Jack Spence House Item number 7 Page 2

interior of the house was converted into a duplex, also designed by Roscoe Hemenway. The porch on the east building facade was enclosed at this time and the multipaned windows in the sunroom on the south facade were replaced by single, fixed panes. An addition was also built onto the south facade at this time. It is compatible with the original style of the house and features a steep gable roof of cedar shingles and wide cedar siding painted beige. This addition is not visible from the main facade.

The residence originally had a central stairwell which led to the second story bedrooms. The living room and sunroom were east of this entryway and a room for Mr. Spence, breakfast and laundry room were to the west. A large dining room and kitchen were south of the major stairwell and entry. These rooms are all in excellent condition and still intact, however, their use has changed slightly to accommodate the division of the home. The four upstairs bedrooms and bathrooms have not been significantly altered.

The alterations that were made to the house during its conversion from a single-family residence into a duplex, were carefully designed so that the integrity of the residence was not compromised. One now enters through the main entrance on the north facade, the east apartment is to the left and the west apartment is to the right.

East Apartment

The east half of the home is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Temple, the daughter and son-in-law of Jack and LaVerne Spence. The original living room off the main entry has an ornately tiled fireplace. From this room, one enters the dining room, previously the sunroom, through multipaned wooden pocket doors. An old glass chandelier hangs in the center of the dining room. The enclosed porch with a tongue and groove ceiling is east of the living and dining rooms. A door from the dining room leads to the addition which was constructed at the time the house was converted into a duplex.

West Apartment

Portions of the central entryway are utilized on this side of the residence for access to the second story. However, entry to the apartment from the outside is gained through the dining room on the west facade. The original balusters and turned newel post are intact and in good condition. A casement window of 12 lights is in this stairwell, which descends from the first to second story. A bathroom on the first story, shown on Hemenway's 1929 floor plans, is located between the hall and the living room to the west. What is now the living room was designed especially for Mr. Spence; it has built-in cabinets with leaded glass doors and a fireplace hearth with decorative tile. There was once a laundry room between Mr. Spence's room and the room to the south, which now serves as a combined breakfast and dining room for the west apartment. A wall was constructed on the east side of the kitchen off the breakfast room, dividing it from the east apartment.

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Gumwood has been used for all the interior detailing throughout the Spence House. The trim has been left unpainted and is in excellent condition. Oak and fir hardwood floors were employed all through the house. The concrete basement floor has been partially covered with linoleum. This room was traditionally used for dances and parties by the Spence family. There are built-in leaded glass cabinets also in this room. The attic is a large, finished space presently used for storage.

Though the Spence House has been modified from a single-family residence into a duplex, the changes were made sensitively by Roscoe Hemenway, the architect. From the exterior of the residence, the alterations to the interior are not noticeable. Many of the unique features of the residence, such as the multipaned windows, the use of gumwood for all details, the cedar-lined closets, and the hardwood floors, have been left untouched. The house has been well maintained by the Spence and Temple families and is an excellent example of English Cottage style of architecture, a visible landmark at its location across from the Yamhill County Courthouse, on the corner of Fifth and Ford Streets, in McMinnville, Oregon.

¹ This information was according to a newspaper clipping from the McMinnville Telephone Register dated 1933.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1929 **Builder/Architect** Roscoe Hemenway, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house at 536 East Fifth Street in McMinnville, Oregon, was constructed in 1929 for Jack Spence (1881-1945), businessman and gentleman farmer, and his wife, the former LaVerne Fenton, granddaughter of leading local attorney Frank W. Fenton, whose Colonial Revival House of 1909 is situated immediately to the west. The latter has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The two houses, having interrelated associations, historically have been neighbors to the Yamhill County Courthouse, which occupies the block directly opposite, on the north side of Fifth Street. The present courthouse was erected in the 1950s on the site of the courthouse of 1888.

The Spence House is nominated primarily under National Register criterion "c" as a locally distinctive and singular example of English Cottage architecture in McMinnville, designed by Roscoe Hemenway, an accomplished practitioner of period residential design who centered his architectural practice in Portland. Hemenway is noteworthy in Oregon architectural history of the Depression era as one of the most active field squad members engaged by the Historic American Buildings Survey. The Spence House in McMinnville appears to be among the earliest in his documented body of work produced between 1929 and the time of his death in 1959. Illustrating the particular care taken by architect and client to produce compatible results, Hemenway was engaged to design sensitive later modifications to both the Spence and Fenton Houses. The subdivision of the Spence House as a duplex in 1955 had little impact on the exterior, which is characterized by steeply-pitched intersecting gables, tapestry brick walls and horizontal weatherboarding in gable ends. Other features characteristic of the style are the prominent chimneys with brick detailing to evoke the clustered flues of English cottages, diaper-patterned, leaded-pane casement windows, and a general richness of texture. Interior features are in the Arts and Crafts tradition and include Gumwood trim used throughout and two ceramic tile chimneypieces of unusual opulence.

The Spence House is significant under National Register criterion "c" as a distinctive and rare example locally of the English Cottage style of architecture. It is located in a mixed commercial and residential neighborhood, across from the Yamhill County Courthouse in downtown McMinnville. The Fenton House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, occupies the same block as the Spence House. The nominated property, built for Jack and LaVerne Spence, is an outstanding example of documented work by Portland architect Roscoe Hemenway outside of the metropolitan area. Hemenway, who designed as many as 250 houses throughout the Portland area between 1929 and 1959, was considered one of the area's leading domestic architects. In addition to designing the house for Jack and LaVerne Spence, Hemenway was responsible for the remodeling of the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name McMinnville, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Jack Spence House occupies Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Rowlands Addition to the City of McMinnville, in Yamhill County, Oregon. The parcel measures 120 x 100 feet and is also described as Tax Lot 2900, Yamhill County Assessor's Map No.: 4 4 21 BC.

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 Jack F. Temple with assistance of Kimberly Demuth

organization N/A date August 28, 1985

street & number Route 1, Box 252-A telephone (503) 835-3843

city or town Amity state Oregon 97101

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.

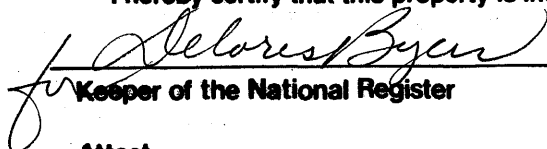
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 16, 1986

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

Entered in the National Register date 2/27/86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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neighboring Fenton House in McMinnville for Mrs. Spence's grandfather, Frank W. Fenton. He also designed the house of Mrs. Spence's brother, Mr. F. Boyce Fenton, of Portland; the house of her uncle, Dr. Hicks C. Fenton, of Portland, and the residence of her niece, Mrs. M. R. L. Smith, of Portland.

Hemenway was born in Cottage Grove and attended school in Portland. He graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in architecture and later became a member of the American Institute of Architects. Hemenway appears to have practiced independently throughout his career. He was listed in the Portland City Directory as working in the Bidell Building from 1929 to 1943. Prior to that time, he had an office in the Oregonian Building. In 1950, he moved his business to Sixth Avenue. He was located in the Cascade Building from 1953 until his death in 1959. Hemenway's 1929 plans for the Spence House are held in the collections of the Oregon Historical Society. Plans for the 1955 interior subdivision for duplex purposes have not come to light, however.

The Spence House is secondarily significant under National Register criterion "b" for its association with the Spence and Fenton families. Jack Spence (1881-1945) was born in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, the eleventh of thirteen children. He emigrated to the United States at the age of 19, first settling in Portland, Oregon. While in Portland, he worked for Miller Mercantile Company. In 1907, Spence moved to McMinnville, where he continued to work for the local outlet of the company. He also worked for the Tilbury Auto Agency and Jameson Hardware Company. He was later appointed a receivership involved in stock liquidation companies in Yamhill County. Several years later, he retired from his business ventures and purchased 150 acres in the Dayton area, where he managed his farming interests until 1945, when he passed away. Jack Spence married LaVerne Fenton (1885-1973) of McMinnville on December 16, 1909. Miss Fenton was the daughter of Francis W. and Dilla Butler Fenton, and the granddaughter of Frank W. Fenton (1859-1940), a leading attorney and businessman in McMinnville. Frank Fenton purchased all the lots in Block 1, Rowlands Addition, in 1888, and in 1909 had his own Colonial Revival style home constructed on Lots 3 and 4. The Spence House was built next door, on Lots 1 and 2, for LaVerne and her fiance, Jack Spence. The property was given to the couple by Frank Fenton.

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News papers:

McMinnville News Register, October 31, 1973, Obituary article, LaVerne Fenton Spence Foster (1885-1973).

McMinnville Telephone Register, 1933
"One of McMinnville's Newest Homes," photograph and caption.

McMinnville Telephone Register, January 21, 1937, "Frances Spence and Mark Temple Wed Here on Saturday."

McMinnville Telephone Register, March 15, 1945, Obituary article, Jack Spence (1859-1945).

Oregon Journal, July 27, 1959, Obituary article, Roscoe D. Hemenway, (1889-1959).

Oregonian, July 27, 1959, Obituary article, Roscoe D. Hemenway.

Pietsch, Margaret. Riverwood, Yesterday and Today. Lake Oswego: Lake Grove Printing Co., 1980, p. 129.

Portland City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., Portland, Oregon, 1920-1959.

Family papers, including the Fenton family notebook of misc. clippings and data, and Roscoe Hemenway's plans for the Jack Spence House, 1929, McMinnville, Oregon. Material is located in the manuscript collection, Oregon Historical Society.

National Register nomination for the Frank W. Fenton House, compiled by Jack Temple in 1983.

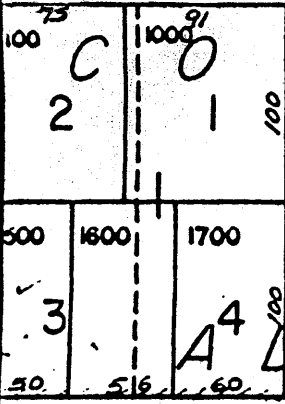
City of McMinnville Inventory, Phases I and II, completed in 1980 and 1983/84. McMinnville Planning Department.

Oregon Statewide Inventory Form on the Jack Spence House (1980). Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Salem, Oregon.

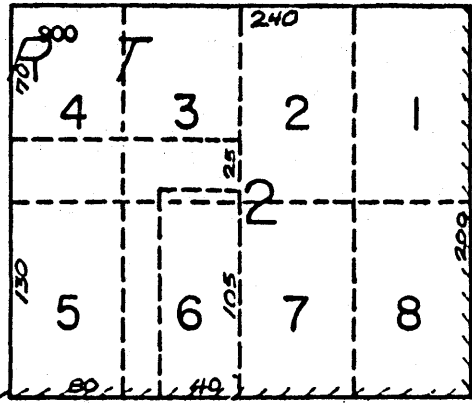
Yamhill County Courthouse, Tax Assessor and Deeds and Records information on the Jack Spence House.

Interviews regarding the Spence House with:

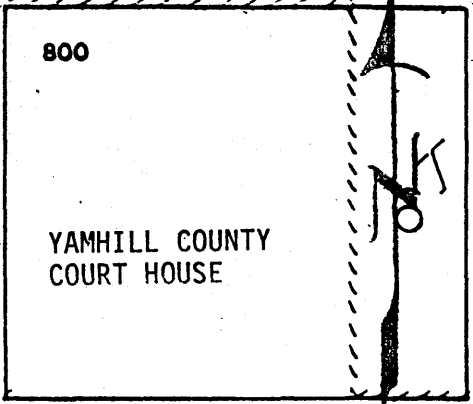
George McMath, telephone interview, August, 1985.
Ruth Stoller, telephone interview, August, 1985.
Jane Hoffman, telephone interview, August, 1985.
Frances Spence Temple, interview, August, 1985.



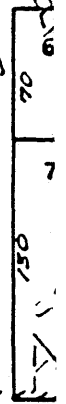
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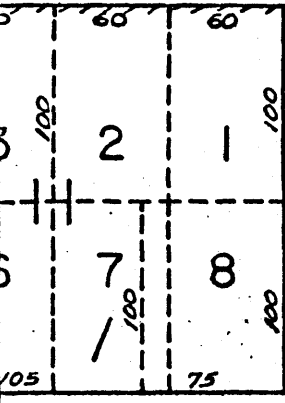
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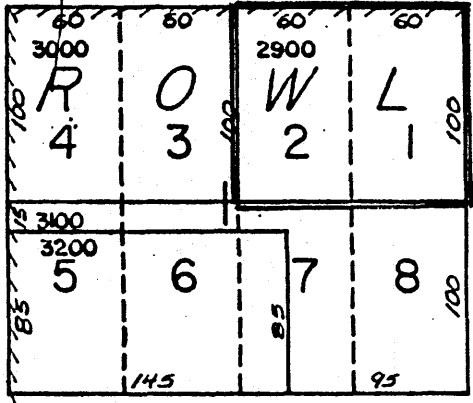
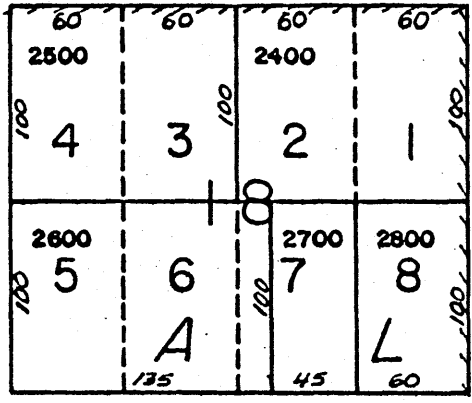
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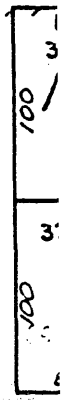
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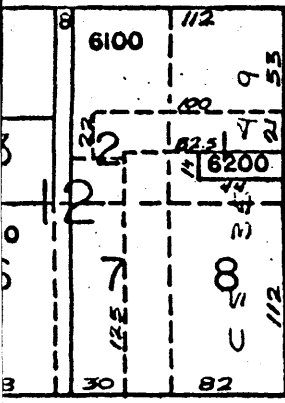


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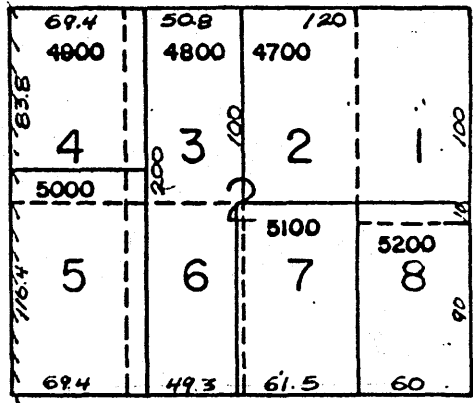
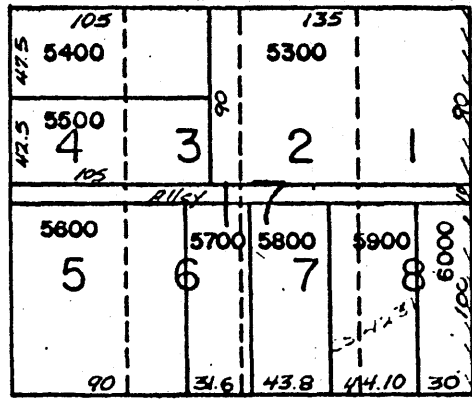


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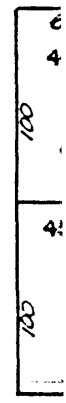
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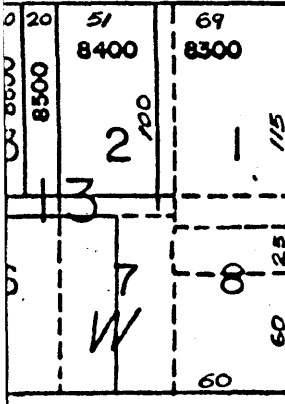
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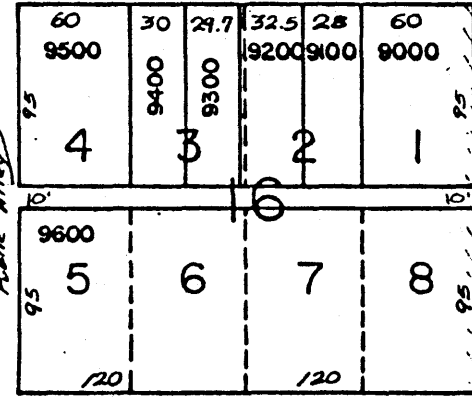
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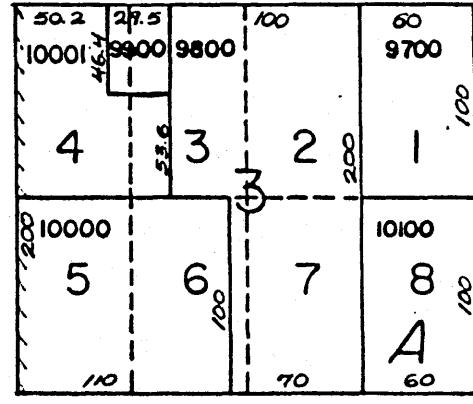
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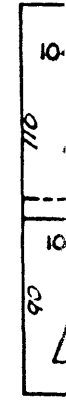
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