

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



1. Name

historic Peterson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1124 Talbot Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Albany _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8th

state California 94706 code 06 county Alameda code 001

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Ragi Awn

street & number 1124 Talbot Avenue

city, town Albany _____ vicinity of _____ state California 94706

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Alameda County Courthouse

street & number 1225 Fallon

city, town Oakland _____ state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Peterson House is a detached one-story wood cottage built in or just after 1906. The original shape was rectangular, and it contained a living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bath, and 2 open porches. It was originally gas-lit and had an outhouse in the back yard (Fig. 1A). What is notable about the Peterson House is the expressed frame construction method. In this form, the framing of the house, instead of being 2 X 4s inside the walls, is 4 X 4s exposed on the exterior. First, the frame of 4 X 4s was built on the subfloor; then, on the interior, 1 x 4 boards were nailed across the posts and lath and plaster or wood panelling attached to the 1 X 4s. From the exterior, double-coursed wood shingles were attached to the 1 x 4's which were behind the posts (See Fig. 2). This left the actual framing of the house exposed. (See Photo 1 and Fig. 3: front elevation). Finally, in the corner panels and on the front porch, a cross-bracing of 2 x 4s was added for strength. At the front of the house, a horizontal 4 x 4 supports the eaves (Figs 4a, b). The house originally had a wood shingle roof and this has been restored. In addition, the house had notched rafter tailings extending beyond the roof-line (Fig. 3 and Photo 2) and crossed rafters at the front and rear peaks of the roof. These were rotten and have been removed but could be restored. The house originally had a brick foundation; this has been replaced with a cement one.

One of the more interesting features of the house is the front door. The door, perhaps crafted by Mr. Peterson himself, consists of the 5-panelled door of the period which is found throughout the house. But on the front door, 3 inch-thick rough-hewn boards were attached with 52 hand-hewn wood pegs. Two hand-forged iron decorative hinges and iron bars across the one glazed panel complete this distinctive door (Fig. 4c). The living room has a box-beam ceiling (Fig. 4d), and lath and plaster walls above the fir board and batten panelling (Figs. 2, 4e). At the top of the panelling, there is a wooden ledge. Originally, the brick vent for the (original woodburning?) stove in the kitchen was enclosed as a fake fireplace in the living room. Above the fireplace were two cabinets which had leaded glass doors. Remains of the decor above the fake fireplace were found behind a modern sheetrock covering and the original, but broken glass doors were found under the house. Not enough of this feature remained to restore it. The brick vent had become a hazard, so this was replaced with a working fireplace, faced in the style of the rest of the living room. The original kitchen had undergone several modernizations, but with the addition of a new kitchen at the rear of the structure in 1980, this room was restored to its original condition, leaving the fir tongue and groove wainscotting exposed (Fig. 4f). The front bedroom is in virtually original condition. The pressboard wall covering (Figs. 4g, h) is in a remarkable state of preservation. All of the original woodwork is intact, as are the brass door fittings and light fixture. In the rear bedroom, the original fittings and woodwork are also intact. Between these two bedrooms, and originally opening into both of them, is a bath; this had in it a leg tub and a basin. These and their brass fittings as well as the original brass light fixture are still in use. The room has been modified; however, the door to the rear bedroom has been moved to the west wall of that bedroom, the tub was moved to the west wall and a toilet, vintage 1910, has been added. The original wood wainscotting has been restored to its original natural finish (Fig. 4i, and see Fig. 2C). The small room behind the rear bedroom was probably originally a storage room. It was entered from the rear porch. In the 1930s, a toilet was installed here; this has now been converted into a full bath, but the original wood wainscotting was retained (Fig. 4j).

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906 **Builder/Architect** unknown: H. Peterson, original

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Owner apparently did some of the work himself.

The Peterson House is unique primarily for its architecture. Post and beam, single wall construction has not been utilized (and has indeed been outlawed in some localities) for a number of years because the single wall has such poor insulating qualities. Few of these structures were built in the Bay Area and very few remain, if any (the writer knows of none). It is unusual enough that having architecture students come to the door to ask about it is a regular occurrence. In addition to the exterior features of the house, much of the interior detailing is remarkably intact; while little of this detailing is unique in this locality--as it has much in common with the Berkeley Brown Shingle style--the combination of the unusual exterior with the essentially intact interior is unique, certainly for the community of Albany.

Albany was developed by land speculators anxious to serve those who fled San Francisco after the earthquake. Regents Park was such a development; it was subdivided on August 27, 1906. Eyewitnesses recall that anxious buyers came from San Francisco, bought their lots in this and other such developments, and then lived in tents while their homes were built. Local lore has it that the Peterson House was the first in Regents Park. It is thus also a remnant of the social upheaval that followed the earthquake and of the history of Albany.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alameda County Assessor's Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2,500 sq. ft. = .06 acre

Quadrangle name Richmond Quadrangle, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>22</u> <u>40</u>	<u>4</u> <u>19</u> <u>2</u> <u>94</u> <u>0</u>
	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

The nominated property occupies Albany city lot 27 in block 16, Map no. 4 of Regents Park, filed Aug. 27, 1906, Book 21, p. 51, Alameda County Assessor's parcel #065-2408-009-01

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Patricia Bikai

organization

date 1/14/81

street & number 1124 Talbot Avenue

telephone (415) 845-9297

city or town Albany

state California 94706

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date 1-26-82 (letter)

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brachman

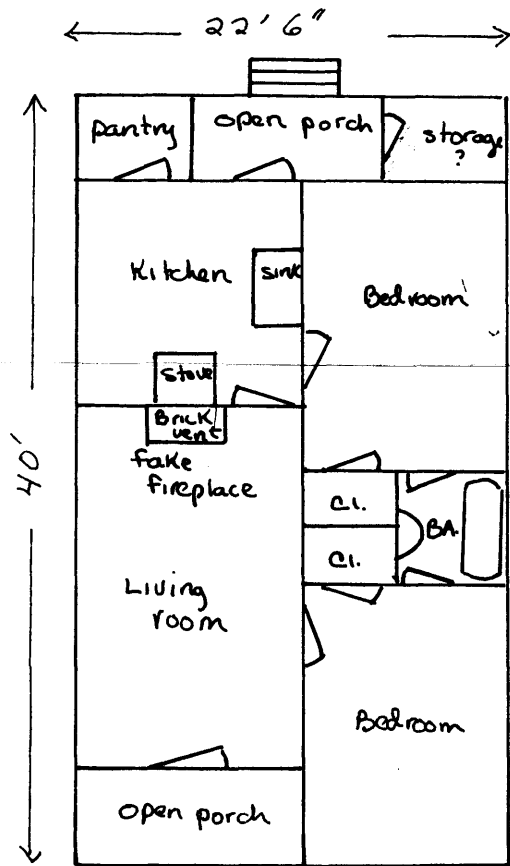
date 3.11.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

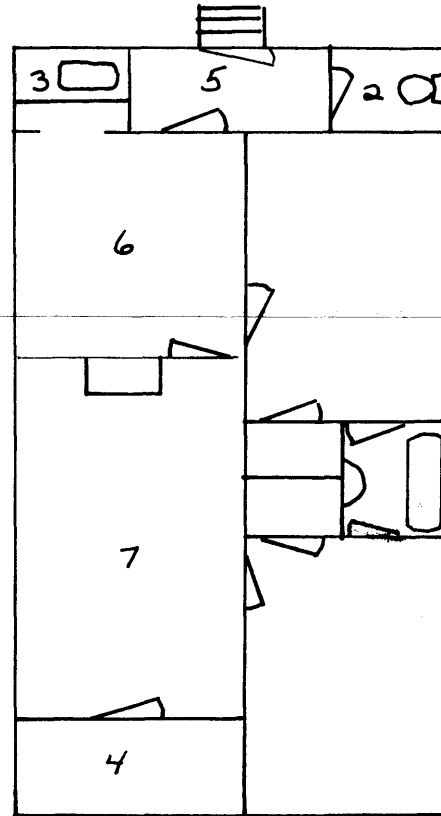
date

Chief of Registration



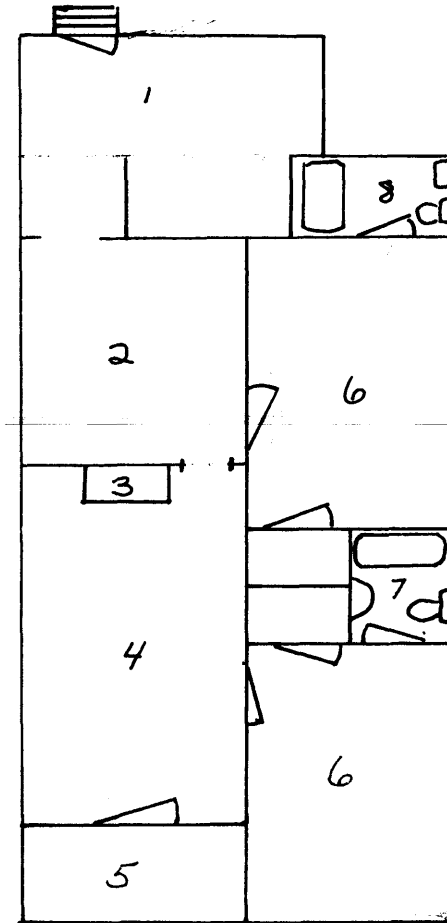
Original structure
ca. 1906

A
N →



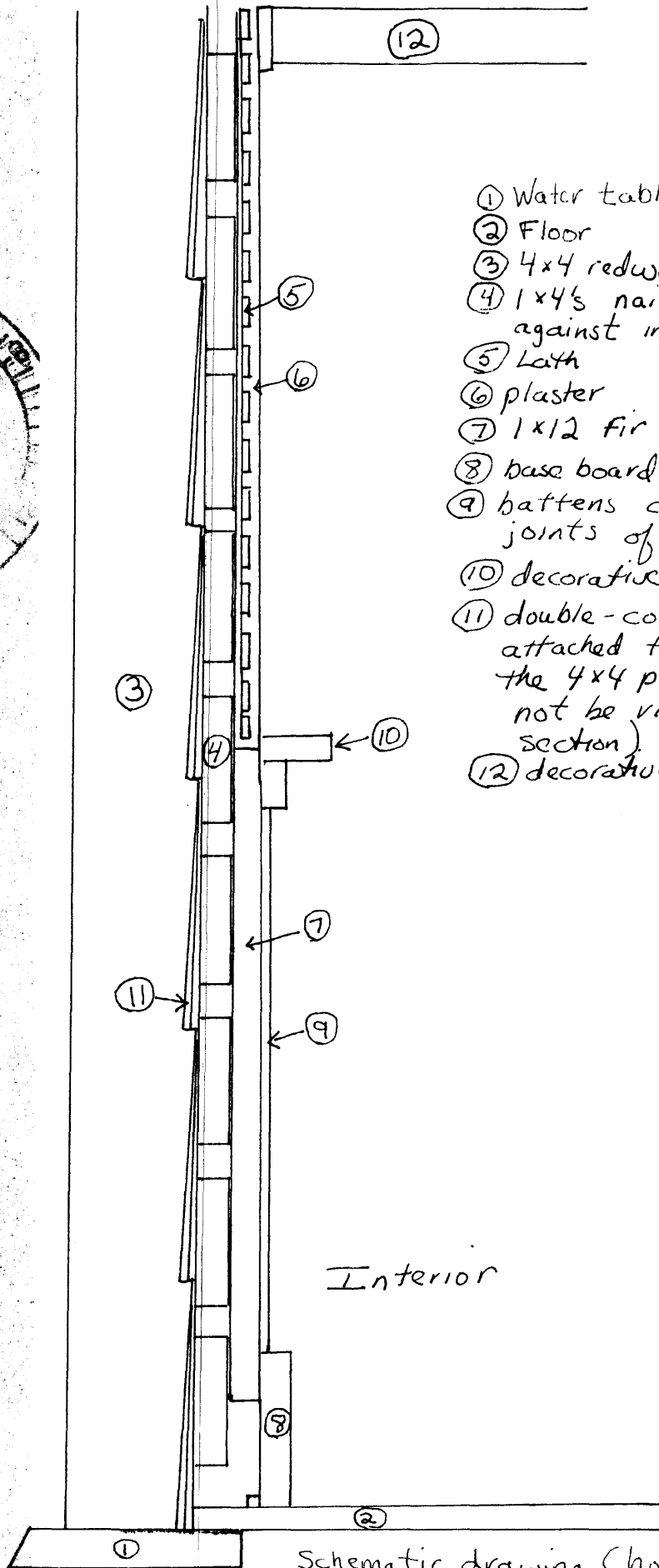
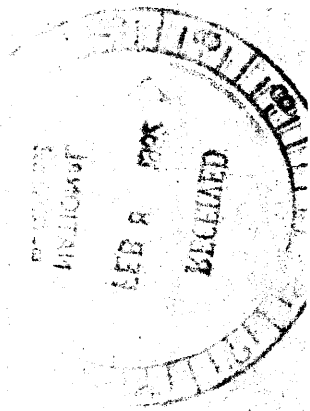
modifications
prior to 1980

B.



modifications/restoration
1980

C.

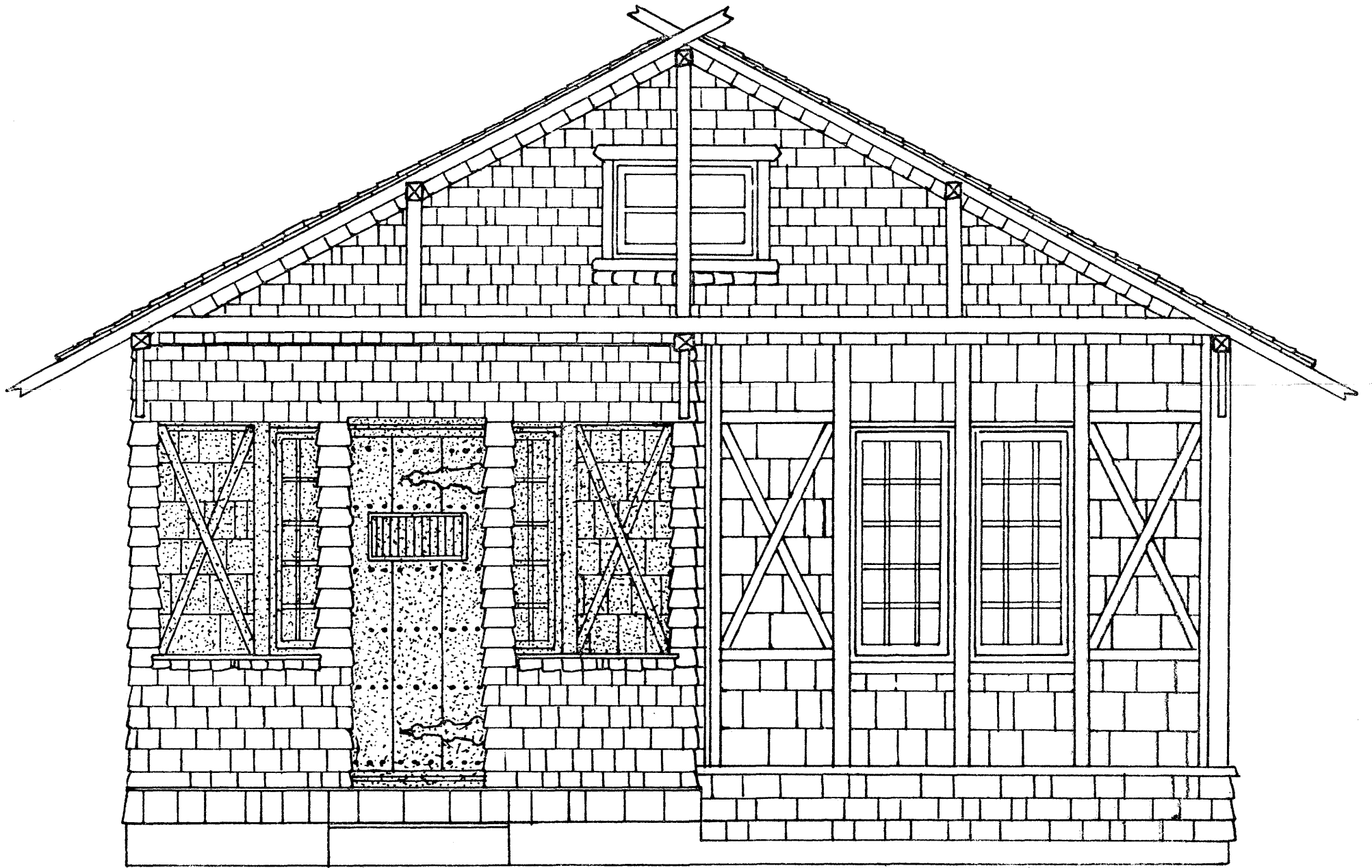


- ① Water table
- ② Floor
- ③ 4x4 redwood post
- ④ 1x4's nailed horizontally against interior of posts
- ⑤ Lath
- ⑥ plaster
- ⑦ 1x12 fir panels
- ⑧ base board
- ⑨ battens covering joints of 1x12 panels
- ⑩ decorative shelf
- ⑪ double-coursed shingles attached to 1x4's between the 4x4 posts (these should not be visible in this section)
- ⑫ decorative ceiling beams

Exterior

Interior

Schematic drawing (horizontally exaggerated) - South wall of Living Room - SECTION



Xerox copy of large original on Mylar film.

1124 Talbot Ave., Albany, Calif.
Patricia M. Bikai
Figure 3



Fig. 4a
N corner
facing west



Fig. 4b
detail of roof
support
facing west



Fig. 4c
front door
facing west



Fig. 4d
living room
ceiling
facing NE



Fig. 4e
detail of
living room
facing north



Fig. 4f
detail of
old kitchen
facing east



Fig. 4g
detail of
front bedroom
facing south

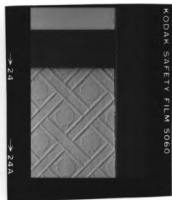


Fig. 4h
detail of
fig. 4g



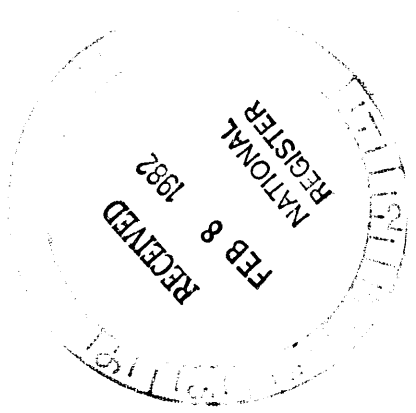
Fig. 4i
detail of
front bath
facing NW



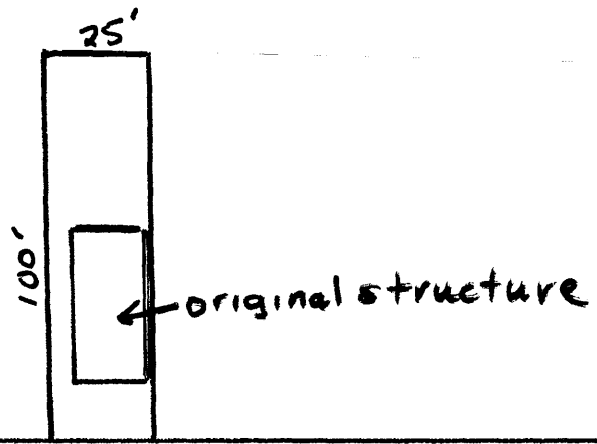
Fig. 4j
view of back
bath woodwork
facing east

1124 Talbot Ave., Albany, Calif.
Patricia M. Bikai 1/16/81
negatives as above. FEB 8 1982
Figure 4





N →



← Berkeley city line

1124
Talbot
Albany California

Ca. 225' North of
the Berkeley city line



SAN FRANCISCO BAY

*Xerox: submitted
for your information*

CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA

500 0 500 1000 FEET

*1124 Talbot
ca 225' n. of Berkeley line*