

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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received

date entered

JUL 13 1983

1. Name

historic Woodward, Elias, House

and/or common Woodward-Gellatly House

2. Location

street & number 442 NW 4th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Corvallis N/A vicinity of Fifth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Benton code 003

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 checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A 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 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 Wayne D. Hensley

street & number Route 1, Box 348

city, town Forest Grove N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97116

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Courthouse

street & number 120 NW 4th

city, town Corvallis state Oregon 97330

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State of Oregon Inventory
Historic Sites and Buildings has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

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 <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rural Gothic house built for Elias Woodward in Corvallis, Oregon in 1871 occupies its original site at the southeast corner of 4th and Tyler Streets on the northerly edge of the downtown core. The two-story house of plank, or box construction is L-shaped in plan, its main volume measuring approximately 20x40 feet and its long axis oriented north to south. Thus, the principal facade faces east onto 4th Street. A single-story kitchen ell is offset to the northerly end of the rear, or west face. The main ridge of the steep gable roof follows the long axis, but a cross-axial gable at the south end creates the base of the L-shaped configuration, covering a wing which projects from the principal facade. The main entrance is slightly offset from the center of the facade, just inside the angle of the main stem and east wing.

The house has several dormers, including a gable-roofed wall dormer over the front porch and a shed-roofed dormer at the west end of the east-west cross-axial gable. There is also a gabled, two-story bay which projects from the south wall. Originally covered with wood shingles, the roof, with its simple boxed eaves, is presently covered with composition roofing material. Several brick chimneys break the roofline on front and rear slopes. Exterior walls are clad with lapped weatherboards trimmed with plain corner boards and frieze boards. In addition to the pitch of the roof and the front wall dormer, another hallmark of the Rural Gothic style is the treatment of vergeboards of the east gable in scalloped jig-saw work. A single-story, bracketed window bay is centered in the gable end of the east wing. The front porch displays the delicate membering, including decorated capitals atop slender columns and piers, which is typical of the period. The upper deck railing of the porch, somewhat too heavy in feeling, and the Eastlake-style sunburst ornaments and decorative shingling in the gables are reversible additions of the renovation undertaken by the current owners of the property in 1977.

The surrounding neighborhood is zoned for commercial and residential use, and many older homes in the area, like the Woodward House, have been adapted for commercial purposes. The parking strip in front of the house retains its three stately Linden trees. The rear of the 100x100-foot parcel has been adapted for parking, a step made possible by removal of a 1930s garage. In the recent renovation, also, a storage room addition to the kitchen ell dating from the 1930s was removed, as it was of sub-standard construction, and was replaced by an unobtrusive grade-level deck with railing. The building rests on a brick perimeter foundation. Its walls are reported to be constructed of "solid 1-1/2x12-inch rough planks." During the 1930s, when the house was converted to apartments, a small shed-roofed bathroom addition was made at the southwest corner. Typical window openings, both single and paired, are trimmed with architrave molding and fitted with double-hung sash with one-over-one lights.

The front entrance is noteworthy for the comparatively bold detail of its trim. The door contains two glass panels with a wide mullion above two panels with decorative molding. Above the transom bar is a rectangular top light. The frame is embellished with chamfered, engaged columns on fluted pedestals. The interior is divided by the entry stairhall which gives access to the kitchen ell. North of the hall is a parlor; south of the hallway are a parlor/sitting room and study which are connected by sliding pocket doors, dining room and a bed chamber. The existing hall staircase with its graceful, curvilinear open string, is understood to have been added by Elias Woodward about 1891.

The interior is spatially intact and retains most of its original woodwork. However, certain modifications were made by Ward Gellatly's widow, Emma, in the 1930s when the house was converted to apartment use. In addition to the addition of the first floor bathroom,

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already mentioned, bathrooms were installed in two larger upstairs bedrooms, and the parlor and sitting room ceilings apparently were lowered from 14 to 10 feet at that time.

Other adjustments were made during the renovation of 1977. For example, the hallway entrances to parlor and sitting room were widened to five feet, and the doors removed. Also, a swinging butler door from the dining room to the kitchen was closed off. Throughout the house, the old and deteriorating wall coverings and ceilings were removed and the rough plank walls were covered with plaster board for fire safety and insulation and also to provide a smooth surface for new wall papering and finish treatment.

Access to the kitchen ell is from a door with transom at the west end of the entry stairhall, as has been mentioned. The original kitchen chimney is still used to provide stove heat to the kitchen area.

The upper floor is composed of three large rooms and one smaller room. When the house was converted into apartments in the 1930s, as has been mentioned, two bathrooms were installed in two of the larger bedrooms. The attic space remains unfinished.

The outstanding features of the interior are the curving staircase, the fireplace mantel, the sliding doors between sitting room and study, and the woodwork in general. The stairway which is the focal point of the entry stairhall was installed in the house in 1891, some twenty years after the home was built. According to the grandson of Elias Woodward, the stair rail was "made in Europe and transported to Corvallis around Cape Horn by ship." A large black walnut newell post is at the foot of the handrail with its turned balusters. The fireplace mantelpiece in the living room is constructed of pine and is decorated with brackets and chamfered pilasters. It has a ceramic tile surround.* Window casings throughout the house extend from floor to ceiling and form an interior box that is decorated with panels and moldings. Interior doors have a four panel design. The 8-foot wide sliding pocket doors between the sitting room and study retain original brass hardware.

*The parlor mantelpiece and front door frame appear to have been part of remodeling work reported to have been done in the 1890s.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1871 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The two-story, L-shaped house of box, or plank construction at the southwest corner of 4th and Tyler Streets in Corvallis, Oregon is a locally significant example of Rural Gothic architecture. It was built in 1871 for Elias Woodward, who was at the time superintendent of schools for Benton County. The house occupies a double lot at its corner site on the northerly edge of the downtown core. Originally, Woodward's property encompassed four lots. The surrounding neighborhood is zoned commercial-residential, and the Woodward house is typical of many older residences in the area in having been adapted for commercial use. The current owner converted it to a sales outlet in 1977. While the house has maintained its integrity overall, certain alterations have occurred, as is noted elsewhere. With its bracketed, projecting window bay, its steep gable roof, its gable-roofed wall dormer opening onto the upper deck of the front porch, and with its verge boards decorated with scalloped jig-saw work, the Woodward House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Rural Gothic style. The Eastlake style gable ornaments and shingles in gable ends were added in the renovation of 1977, as was the existing railing of the upper porch deck. These added elements are reversible, and, indeed, the current owner may consider their removal as soon as practicable.

The Woodward House is locally significant under National Register criterion "c" as a rare example of Rural Gothic architecture antedating 1875. It is among the few houses remaining in downtown Corvallis which date from the earliest years of the city's development. Above all, it is locally significant under criterion "b" as the ultimate property associated with Elias Woodward (1837-1928), a native of Vermont who settled in Benton County in 1864. Woodward is noteworthy in local history for filling a succession of public offices which included county school superintendent (1866-1872), Corvallis postmaster (1875), state senator (1880), mayor of Corvallis (1896), and county judge (1898, 1906). Woodward began acquiring the property upon his marriage to Cornelia Allen in 1869. He occupied the house 48 years, a period which spanned his most important public service. In 1919 the house was sold to county sheriff Ward Gellatly, whose widow converted it to apartments during the 1930s.

Elias Woodward, born in 1837 on a farm in Vermont, like many other boys of his time, dreamed of the great possibilities of the American West. In 1855, at the age of 18, this well-educated young man began his trek west, stopping to teach for four years in Waukesha County, Wisconsin. From there he went to Pike's Peak in 1859 and then to Sierra County, California where he engaged in gold mining until 1864, at which time he settled in Benton County, Oregon.

In 1864 the community of Corvallis was eighteen years old, having been first settled by J. C. Avery and William Dixon in 1846. In 1850 Avery (South) and Dixon (North) each donated forty acres of land to form the township of Marysville of which name was changed to Corvallis in 1853. The first recorded deed of lots 5 and 6, Block 14 of Dixon's Second Addition on which the house is situated is dated July 30, 1859 to William Blake.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one _____

Quadrangle name Corvallis, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 110 4719 41410 419 314 81410
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The Elias Woodward House occupies Lots 5 and 6, Block 14, Dixon's Second Addition, Town of Marysville (now City of Corvallis), in Benton County, Oregon.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Constance Hensley-Jones

organization N/A date October 25, 1982

street & number 1935 NW Larch Street telephone (503) 752-4973

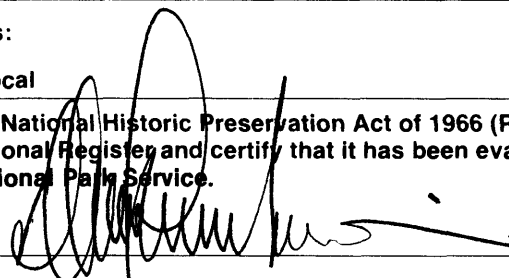
city or town Corvallis state Oregon 97330

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

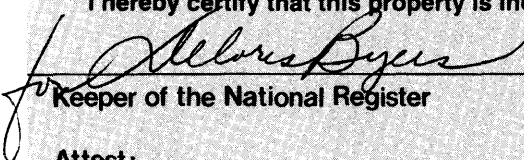
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 7, 1983

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

 **Keoper of the National Register**

Entered in the National Register date 8/11/83

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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When Elias Woodward settled in Benton County in 1864, he lived on a farm southwesterly of Corvallis which eventually grew to 756 acres. It was there that he began his career as educator and public leader. He taught two years at Soap Creek School. In 1866 he was elected county school superintendent and became a primary teacher upon the founding of Philomath Academy in 1867. Philomath Academy was listed in the National Register in 1972 and is the third oldest college building in the state of Oregon.

Elias Woodward held the office of County School Superintendent until 1872. In 1869 he purchased from J. W. Souther half interest in a drugstore which for the next thirty years was operated under the name Allen & Woodward Drugstore. This business still exists today under different ownership. In 1869, also, he married Cornelia Allen, daughter of Hiram Allen, a pioneer (1847) of the state of Oregon and his new partner in business. Just prior to his marriage in 1869, Woodward purchased Lot 3 of Block 14 in Corvallis, then in early 1871 he purchased adjoining Lots 4, 5, and 6 for the sum of \$1200 and commenced the building of his home in town.

It has been said that nowhere is the imprint of individuality more obvious than in housing. Besides being shelter, living spaces are messages to a community about the inhabitants and their financial resources or social aspirations, their taste and their cultural background. The Elias Woodward home is a fine example of a simple Rural Gothic style of the period. That he was not a wealthy or pretentious man seems evident in the architecture, but that he and his wife had a sense of taste and refinement is also clear. The layout of the home is a good representation of the era of living space to accommodate a man of education with public aspirations. The presence of a study room and the floor plan which lends itself to public entertaining give insight to the owner's lifestyle. Attention to decorative detail throughout the home tell us something of his taste.

The public life of Elias Woodward included a number of appointed and elected offices. In 1875 he was appointed postmaster of Corvallis and in 1879 was appointed by the city council as a "property holder and prominent citizen" to negotiate with the Oregon and California Railroad for a route through Corvallis which was attained in January of 1880 after years of waiting. In 1880 he was elected to the state senate and served a term in that capacity. Other public offices included being elected mayor of Corvallis in 1896 and county judge in 1898 and 1906. The Honorable Elias Woodward died at the age of 91 in 1928. He is buried at the historic Union Cemetery outlining Corvallis. His only living direct decendent is Harold Woodward, grandson, aged 82, who resides in San Francisco and who still visits his hometown of Corvallis every July. It is "Woody" Woodward who has provided much of the information about his grandfather's life.

The second phase of the historic period of the house began in 1919 when the property was purchased by Ward and Emma Gellatly. The Gellatly family is well rooted in Benton County, well known as owners of the Gellatly Century Farm outlining Philomath. Because of the Gellatly ownership, the house is known by many in the community as the Gellatly House. In 1891, during some remodeling work, the existing staircase was installed in the home by a local carpenter.* That carpenter was the grandfather of Emma, who accompanied her grandfather to the house occasionally during the work. Twenty-eight years later, Emma Gellatly and her husband purchased the house and raised their nine children in it. Ward Gellatly served as sheriff of Benton County for twelve years.

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After Sheriff Gellatly's death, some time in the 1930s, the house was converted into four apartments, thus allowing Mrs. Gellatly a place to live and rental income at the same time. Many of the renters during this time were wives of service men stationed at Camp Adair, north of Corvallis.

The house remained in use as apartments, falling steadily into disrepair and passing through three ownerships until it was purchased in 1977 by the present owner. Extensive work was done to bring it into conformance with building code requirements and to enhance its historic character.

*Remodeling work of 1891 appears to have included front door frame and parlor mantelpiece.

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Fagan, David D., History of Benton County, Oregon, Portland, Oregon: author, 1885.

Martin, Bruce, "History of Corvallis 1846-1900," Master's thesis presented to the Graduate School of the University of Oregon (History), June, 1938.

Spencer, Victor, "An American Town Named Corvallis," a reminiscence, winter, 1962.

Registry of Deeds, Benton County Courthouse, Corvallis, Oregon.

Personal Diary of Elias Woodward, written in 1915.

Conversations with Harold Woodward, grandson of Elias Woodward.

Conversations with Margaret Gellatly, daughter of Ward and Emma Gellatly, former occupants of the house.

Benton County, Oregon Illustrated, The Benton County Citizens' League, C.E. Woodson, Secretary, Corvallis, Oregon (no date).