

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 31 1979

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Whaley House

MAY 08 1979

OHP

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1395 "H" Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Arcata

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
second

STATE

California

CODE 06

COUNTY  
Humboldt

CODE 023

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: apts.

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William H. and Sara C. Thonson

STREET & NUMBER

2750 Pacific Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Arcata

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Calif.

95521

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Humboldt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

825 Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

STATE  
California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Historic Resources Inventory - City of Arcata

DATE

January 1979

\_\_ FEDERAL    \_\_ STATE    \_\_ COUNTY     LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE  
California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1903</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Of Greek Revival design, the Whaley House is a one-and-a-half story, front-facing gable structure with a one-story rear section. Facing east, the front facade has two, six pane casements in the upper story and two, eight-pane casements and an off-centered front door in the lower story. An open veranda, supported by four tapered posts on square piers, extends across the front of the house. Returned eaves and a wide molded frieze provide classic detail.

Both the south and north sides have a four-window bay with bracketed cornice and panels below the windows. Twelve-pane, double-hung windows are present in the lower story on the sides and in the upper story in the rear facade. Construction is of redwood, siding is clapboard, and there is an exterior brick chimney on the rear facade.

The one-story kitchen section has porches on both the north and south sides. Twelve-pane, double-hung windows are also present in this section and the siding is the same as the main portion of the house. At right angles to this rear section is a gable-roofed, one-story addition with a rabbeted three-step siding.

The house is located on a corner lot which extends 100 feet to the alley at the rear and has a frontage of 115 feet. The side yard on the south recalls an earlier time with its cherry and apples trees. A low picket fence extends across the front of the property and along the north side. On the alley at the rear of the property is a three-car garage with several small additions.

In 1903 the house, occupied by the Charles W. Hill family, was purchased by Mr. Hill and moved from its original location on the north side of 14th Street between "I" and "J" Streets to the present site at the southwest corner of 14th and "H" Streets, approximately a block and a half east of the original site. The owner of the original property, Walter Wiley, wanted the house removed from the lot in order to build a new house. The house was moved from a location between mirror-image Queen Anne houses built in 1888 to a neighborhood which included the 1870 Ericson House (across the street to the east and essentially unaltered), the 1895 Stern House (on the northeast corner of 14th and "H" and remodeled in 1904) and another settlement-era house on the same block. Within the year after the house was moved, three houses (two remain) were built on the west side of the block. Today the neighborhood contains mixed housing types--bungalow, modern, turn-of-the century, and settlement-era.

The house is in a deteriorated condition and is currently occupied as a three-apartment rental by Humboldt State University students. However, the new owners intend to begin immediate structural repairs (foundation and roof) and, as soon as possible, undertake exterior restoration and interior renovation. Exterior alterations to the main house include the two bays, which appear to have been added at the time the house was moved in 1903; the addition (at the time the house was converted into apartments) of two small windows on either side of the house; the front door which appears to be early 1900's; and the front porch which no longer has its roof balustrade and may have different posts. Alterations to the kitchen section include the addition at the rear and the south-side porch, which has been partially enclosed. The new owners plan to rebuild the front porch to include a roof balustrade and square posts with simple capitals, replace the foundation skirt-ing, remove the garage additions, repair the picket fence, clean up the overgrowth in the yard, paint the exterior white, and renovate the interior. The building's setting, including the old orchard trees, side yard, picket fence, and surrounding neighborhood, support the character and qualities of this early settlement house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 31 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

---

At the rear of the property on the alley are three garages, built in a row. They were probably constructed in the 1920's. They are one-story woodframe construction with shiplap siding. The size of the structure is approximately 48 X 18 feet with shared common interior walls. The roof is low-pitched and shingled with composition material. The floors are concrete slab and the garage doors are sliding types on a tubular steel track.

# 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 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

1855; moved in 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John A. Whaley

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Humboldt Bay region was discovered by the Gregg-Wood party, a group of miners from the Trinity River mining district, in December 1849. The following spring, ships from San Francisco brought eager fortune-seekers to the area and rapid settlement followed as Union (renamed Arcata in 1860) became a supply center for the interior mining districts. Goods were brought by ship to the deep-water port at Union for transport by mule train across the mountains to the Klamath, Trinity and Salmon river mining camps.

Settlement-era architecture in the Humboldt Bay region reflected the cultural origins of New England immigrants and like other housing built in California during this period was simple and classic in detail often with double galleries, French doors, and balustrades (Kirker, 1960). The Whaley House, built in 1855, is a good example of this style and period. It is nominated to the National Register because it is a significant component of Arcata's architectural heritage, being one of only five remaining residences known to have been built in the 1850's and the only remaining Greek Revival cottage with the characteristic double galleries and French doors of settlement period California.

John A. Whaley, a pioneer settler from New York, built this "comfortable and handsome dwelling" on the "plateau north of the Plaza" in February 1855. The following July he was married to Emily Southard, whose brother Charles C. Southard was a member of the Humboldt Bay discovery party of 1849 and in the spring of 1850, a founder of Trinidad. John and Emily set up housekeeping in this house and there were four Whaley children. Mr. Whaley, described as a "clear-headed, active and upright businessman," had a saddlery and harness shop and served as the local Justice of the Peace, Town Recorder and general business agent in 1858. For twenty-five years he was the Internal Revenue Collector for the local district and at the time of his last illness in 1887 was a deputy assessor for Humboldt County. After his death in 1888, his widow continued to occupy the house where she raised two grandsons. In 1899 she sold the house on its original lot to Walter J. Wiley and moved to Hollister where she died in 1911.

Wiley apparently never lived in the house, but rented it to Charles W. Hill, who purchased the house in 1903 and moved it to the present location. A native of Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Hill came to Humboldt County in 1858 and spent the next four years logging. Returning to New Brunswick in 1862, he was married to Mary M. Wilson, a sister of Mrs. William Carson of Eureka's Carson Mansion fame, and they returned to Eureka where Hill ran a logging operation on 1,600 acres in the Ryan Slough area. Upon his retirement about 1900, they moved to Arcata where he was engaged in various pursuits including a gold saving operation on local beaches and pine timber deals.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed Records, Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, CA  
 Humboldt Times, 17 Feb. 1855; 11 Aug. 1855; 2 Jan. 1858; 15 May 1858.  
 Arcata Union, 28 July 1888; 3 Dec. 1892; 17 Jan. 1903; 29 April 1911; 7 Sept. 1922.  
 Kirker, Harold. 1960. California's Architectural Frontier. Huntington Library.  
 Fountain, Susie Baker. Notebooks, Vol. 2, pg. 37. HSU Library, Arcata.  
 Picture collection, Humboldt County Collection, HSU Library, Arcata.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .26UTM REFERENCES Arcata South Quadrangle 1:24000

A 

1	0	4	0	8	6	1	0	4	5	2	5	0	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southwest corner of 14th and "H" Streets (northeast corner of block 273), thence south 115 feet; thence at right angles west 100 feet to alley, thence north along east line of alley 115 feet to 14th Street, thence east 100 feet to place of beginning.

### 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

Susie Van Kirk, Historical Researcher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

24 April 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1162 C Street

TELEPHONE

(707) 822-6066

CITY OR TOWN

Arcata

STATE

California 95521

# 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

K. M. Mellon

TITLE

DATE

10/19/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Cecil O. Skellern

DATE

12-31-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/26/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 25 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 31 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

Charles and Mary Hill lived in this house until their deaths in 1922 and 1935, respectively. Ownership of the house went to the Hill's son, Henry Edmond Hill, in 1935 and upon his death in 1943, to his sisters, Nellie (Mrs. David) Wilson and Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank) Smith. The following year Mrs. Smith's daughter, Met (Mrs. Julius) Moore assumed ownership which lasted until 1964. Since that time the house has had two other owners before being purchased by Bill and Sally Thonson in April 1979.

The house is recommended for placement on the National Register because its architecture is significant to the community, its history is only five years short of covering the same time span as Arcata's history, and National Register status will aid in its restoration and preservation.