Page

1478

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property		
historic nameSchmidt, Claus	and Hannchen, House	
other names/site number		
street & number _508 SW 5th city or townGrants Pass state _Oregon zip code97526		not for publication
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the Natio certify that this _x_ nomination requestandards for registering properties in the Natio and professional requirements set forth in 3 does not meet the National Register Criteria	est for determination of eligibility m lational Register of Historic Places 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the a. I recommend that this property b	eets the documentation and meets the procedural property _X _ meets be considered significant
nationally statewide _x locally. (See continuation sheet for addition See Continuation sheet for addition	
Signature of certifying official / Deputy SHPC	O Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau/ Orego	on@State Historic Preservation	Office

	roperty meets or additional comments.)	_ does not meet the National Register crite	ria. (See
Signature of comme	enting or other official	Date	
State or Federal age	ency and bureau		
======================================	rvice Certification	/^~~	=======================================
See continude determined eliconal RegisteSee continude determined no la National Registe removed from	National Register lation sheet. ligible for the lation sheet. lation sheet. lot eligible for the let let let let let let let let let le	Signature of Keeper Boat	Date of Action
other (explain)	=======================================		
5. Classification			
x private public public public- Category of Propert	-local -State -Federal ty (Check only one box)	es as apply)	
x buildir district site structu object	ıre		
Number of Resource	es within Property		
Contributing 2	Noncontributingbuildingssitesstructuresobjects		

	n or Use	
Historic	Functions (Enter categories from instrDOMESTICSub:	
Current	Functions (Enter categories from instr	ructions)
	RECREATION AND CULTURE	museum
7. Desc	ription	=======================================
Archited	ctural Classification (Enter categories fate 19 th and Early 20 th Centur Craftsman, verna	ry American:
fou roc	Ils (Enter categories from instructions) Indation _BRICK OfASPHALT SHINGLE IlsBRICK, WOOD	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statemer	======================================					
	National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property Register listing)					
_x A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.					
_x B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.					
_x C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.					
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.					
Criteria Cor	nsiderations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)					
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.					
B	removed from its original location.					
C	a birthplace or a grave.					
D	a cemetery.					
E	a reconstructed building, object,or structure.					
F	a commemorative property.					
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.					
Areas of Si	gnificance (Enter categories from instructions) COMMERCE ARCHITECTURE					
	ETHNIC HERITAGE EUROPEAN (German)					
Period of S	ignificance1901-1927					

Significant Dates1901 (house construction)1904 (barn built)1910 (house remodel, 2 nd story added)
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)Claus Schmidt
Cultural Affiliation
Architect/BuilderUnknown
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
Primary Location of Additional Data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University

Josephine County, Oregon	Page 6
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property0.34	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation	sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 10 472950 4698160 3 2 4 See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property	on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a	a continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleKathleen McKenna, volunteer	
<pre>organization_Josephine County Historical Society</pre>	dateNov. 22,
street & number512 SW 5 th St telephone(541)479-78	327
city or townGrants Passstate_OR	zip code 97526
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's loc A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acre	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional item	es)

SCHILLAR HOUSE

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) nameJosephine County Historical Society_	
street & number512 SW 5 th St	_telephone_(541) 479-7827
city or townGrants Pass	stateOR zip code97526
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Schmidt House Josephine County, Oregon

Page 8

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __7__ Page __1_ Schmidt House name of property

Josephine County, Oregon county and State

SITE

The Schmidt House is located on the northeast corner of Block 79 in the original Town of Grants Pass, Oregon. The current house occupies a footprint of approximately 50' by 50' on a parcel that is 100' by 150'. There is a detached fruit storage room that shares a roof with the main house. The fruit room is 8' by 10'. Also on the property is a barn 18' by 18'. The property is dotted with many trees including dogwood, horse chestnut, maple, oak, persimmon and holly. A camellia japonica on the north side of the house dates from 1915. An oak tree was there when the family moved in, in 1901.

HOUSE

The house is two stories. The first story is of brick and was constructed in 1901 in a vernacular style. It was originally a four-room house, approximately 30' square, with a hipped roof. The bricks were local, from the Woolfolk Brickyard. The bond is Flemish -- each course has alternating headers and stretchers that are offset from the course above and below. Every other course is stacked. All the bricks are laid using an all-rowlock method, where the bricks are all laid on their narrow, rather than wide, lengthwise edge. This method creates an interior air space that provides insulation for the building. This method is cheaper because each course is taller; the walls rise faster and fewer bricks are required.

The foundation consists of 4 layers of brick stepped out.

The roof is made of composition shingles, laid in 1978.

The first major remodel occurred in 1904. An addition to the south included another bedroom and a bathroom, while part of an existing back porch was enclosed on the west side of the house for a new kitchen.

Page 9

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	7	Page	2_	Schmidt	House	
				name of prope	erty	

Josephine County, Oregon county and State

The second story was added in 1910. This addition included three bedrooms, a bath and a storage room. The original entryway was turned into the current bay window, and a new front porch was added. This remodel brought many elements of the Craftsman style to the structure. These elements include the wood shingles on the exterior, the wide front porch, exposed rafter tails, low-pitched gable roof with wide eaves, and windows with many small panes. The roof has two intersecting gables. The wider one faces east and is hipped at the west end. The smaller gable faces south. The rafter tails are exposed and decorative knee braces are located under the eaves on the gabled ends. The shingles are of random widths, generally alternating between wide and narrow, echoing the pattern of the bricks.

OMB No. 1024-0018

In 1978 the Schmidt property was deeded to the Josephine County Historical Society. The Society did some rehabilitation in the early 1980's. This included a new roof, paint, wiring, and interior floor coverings. In 1983 the house was opened to the public as a museum containing many of the Schmidt's possessions. In 1992 an extensive architectural review of the building was undertaken. Some of the more urgent items on the resulting list of suggested repairs were completed, but many of the less critical and/or more expensive items have not been done yet. The attached floor plans and elevation drawings are from this survey.

HOUSE EXTERIOR

East Elevation

The gable roofed front porch occupies the southeast corner of the first floor of the house. The porch is 10' wide and 15' deep. Under the wide gable on the second floor, there is bank of four, 1-over-1, double-hung windows sheltered by a pent roof with decorative braces. Under the eave of the side gable, on the second floor there is a small, single paned, single light casement window. On the first story, there is a 1-over-1 double-hung window under the porch roof and to the left of the door, another to the right of the porch. Towards the north end is a large bay window. The upper part of all three sections of this bay is characterized by decorative leaded glass. The central window of the bay is fixed; the side windows are single-hung. All of the window sashes and frames are wood. There are two entryways on the porch, one visible from the east, the other visible from the south. Both of these doors have large windows (22"x49"). Brickwork relieving arches are above the doorways and the first floor windows. The corners of the first story are reinforced with additional decorative quoins.

Schmiat House Josephine County, Oregon

Page 10

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section7	Page3	Schmidt House	Josephine County, Oregon
		name of property	county and State

South Elevation

The gable facing south is narrower than the one facing east. A bank of 3, 1-over-1, double-hung windows is on the second floor, under the gable. To the right, under the eave of the east-facing gable is another smaller, single light casement window. All of the window sashes and frames are of wood. On the first story, centered under the gable, are two double-hung 1-over-1 windows, each with brickwork arches over them. To the right, under the porch roof, is visible the second entryway, the main entrance to the house.

West Elevation

From the west, the main part of the roof is hipped on the left side. To the left is a covered back porch that measures 14'x 8'. On the second floor under the eaves are four single-light casement windows. On the first floor there is one 1-over-1 double-hung window under the roof of the back porch. An entryway on the porch has a brick arch. The door has two panels below a single light. The kitchen window to the right of the porch is a slider. At the far right is a small bathroom window with wooden louvers. A double-hung 1-over-1 window is obscured by the fruit room. All of the window sashes and frames are wood. This view echoes the front view — the same porch with window and two entryways to the left, the same peaked roof to the right.

North Elevation

There are two double-hung 1-over-1 windows on the second story, under the eaves, not quite centered. On the first floor are two widely spaced, centered, double-hung 1-over-1 windows. All of the door and window sashes and framing are of wood. The arch brickwork over the windows and the quoins at the corners are present from this view too. Underneath the back porch roof is another double-hung window and an entryway. This door, which leads to the kitchen, has a 4-light window above 2 panels. To the far right is visible another entryway with a 4-panel door.

Page

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __7__ Page __4_ Schmidt House name of property

Josephine County, Oregon county and State

11

HOUSE INTERIOR

First Floor - Dining

This room, measuring 13' by 15', was the kitchen of the original house. It has a chimney in the southeast corner of the room where a wood stove still stands, no longer connected to the flue. Molding circles the room 2' below the 9.5 foot ceiling. This molding was used to hang pictures on the wall without driving nails into the plaster wall; it is present throughout the house. The tongue-and-groove wainscoting is 3' high and made of fir. The walls are of plaster and painted white. All of the woodwork is dark stained fir. There are 4 doors and 2 windows in this room. The door leading to the pantry is hung so that it can swing both ways. The overhead light is controlled by a 1930's style switch on the east wall. There is a wide, open passageway between this room and the parlor. The frame around this opening has circular knobs that apparently were used to tie back draperies that separated the two rooms.

First Floor - Parlor

The parlor is 13'x13'. This room has the same molding and plaster walls as the dining room. Instead of wainscoting, there are 6" baseboards. A milk glass chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The primary feature of this room is the large bay window facing east. The side windows are 1-over-1, single-hung. The central window is fixed. The upper sections of all three windows are multipaned leaded glass.

First Floor - Kitchen and Pantry

The kitchen (13'10"x9') contains a second wood stove that is no longer connected to its flue. The Schmidt sisters did all their cooking on this stove up until the late 1970's. There are no electrical outlets in the kitchen, nor is there any provision for gas. The unique firewood box was made by Claus Schmidt. The antique phone hanging on the north wall is not original to the house. The three foot high, tongue-and-groove wainscoting is painted gray, as is the rest of the woodwork in this room. In the pantry, are one free standing and three built-in cabinets made by Claus Schmidt. They all have pie safe type doors made of metal screening. The pump and basin on the back porch are original to the house

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __7__ Page __5

Schmidt House name of property

Josephine County, Oregon county and State

12

Page

First Floor - Bedrooms

The larger bedroom is 14'x13' and has the same ring of molding and white plaster walls. The two interior doors in this room are solid with 4 panels. The exterior door has a large single light. This is currently the museum office. The smaller bedroom on the east side is now referred to as the 'Heston Room', since it is currently used to house the Society's collection of memorabilia from Col. Leroy Heston.

First Floor - Bathroom

The large bathroom contains a claw foot tub and a corner mounted sink. Storage cabinets built by Claus Schmidt are along the north wall. One of these is designed to hold a fold-down ironing board. A wide strip of molding runs at a height of 5 feet and is dotted with many hooks and various towel racks. A toilet is in a small adjacent room. The door to this room has a frosted pane above three horizontal panels.

First Floor - Foyer

The large $(13' \times 10')$ entryway offers access to either of the first floor bedrooms, the parlor, the dining room, and the main stairway. An entry closet is along the west wall. There is no closet bar. Clothes were instead hung from the many hooks mounted to the underside of the closed shelf. The hooks are 3 pronged and made of heavy gauge twisted wire.

Stairway

The stairway is made of the same dark stained fir as the rest of the house's woodwork. The cabinet work under the stairs was done by Claus Schmidt.

Second Floor - Northeast Bedroom

The master bedroom measures 12 feet by 18 feet. The east side is dominated by a row of four double-hung windows. There is a large walk-in closet on either side of the bedroom, each closet having a pair of casement windows that open inward. The ceilings on the second floor are 9 feet high. The same molding present on the first floor is here too. The walls are lathe and plaster. A metal plate cover on the wall show the location of the chimney. The baseboards are 6" high. The floor is carpeted.

Second Floor - Southwest Bedroom

This bedroom measures 17'x1''. It also has 2 large closets with casement windows. The floor is linoleum, the walls lathe and plaster. This room is now used for a toy display.

Schmidt House Josephine County, Oregon

Page 13

(8-86)

United NPS Form 10-900-a States Department of the Interior National Park Service OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	7	Page	6_	Schmidt H	louse	Josephine	County,	Oregon
				name of proper	rty	C	ounty and	State

Second Floor - North Bedroom

The guest room is $15' \times 15'$ with 1 small closet. Being under the hipped part of the roof, the ceiling is angled at one end. This room is carpeted, the walls lathe and plaster, painted white.

Second Floor - Bathroom

The small bathroom (8'x8') has a porcelain and cast iron corner sink. This bathroom never did have a toilet installed, but once held a tub. The walls have 3' high wainscoting. A bare bulb hangs in the center of the room. A 1930's style light fixture is on the north wall.

Second Floor - Storeroom

This room measures 8'x10'. The walls are unfinished, exposing plaster and lathe. Some brickwork, as well as some of the underside of the roof is also visible. The rafters are made from full dimensioned 2x4s. The fir sheathing is made from full dimensioned 1x6s. The tops of the decorative outriggers can be seen here. The walls are sheathed in random width fir boards, 1" thick. The shingles are laid directly on the wall sheathing. The floor is tongue-and-groove fir. There are 2 casement windows in this room.

Second Floor - Hallway

The hallway contains a sewing nook at the top of the stairs with a pair of casement windows providing light.

FRUIT ROOM

The fruit room is a separate building that stands at the southwest corner of the main house and is connected to the house by a shared roof. It measures about 8'x10'. It was used for food storage before the days of refrigeration. The fruit room is made of the same brick as the rest of the house, with the same corner quoins as those on the main house. There are no windows on this building. The single wood door faces the house.

Page 14

(8-86)

United NPS Form 10-900-a States Department of the Interior National Park Service OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section7	Page7_	Schmidt House	Josephine County, Oregon
	_	name of property	county and State

BARN

The barn was built sometime between 1901 and 1907, to house the cart and horse that Claus Schmidt used to deliver groceries. The barn has a single gable roof with lean-to roofs on either side. It is approximately 40' square.

After the house was deeded to the Historical Society, the interior of the barn was fitted with an insert to accommodate lights and heat. This insert completely covers the original walls, floor and ceiling with new materials. The exterior of the barn was left untouched. For many years the Society used the barn as it's research library; now it is used for storage and the occasional meeting.

The pump that now stands in front of the barn is not original to the property. It was made in 1901 by the Spokane Ironworks Company and was moved here from a farm in the Spokane area in 1998.

SCHWITCH HOUSE Josephine County, Oregon

Page 15

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

		name of property	county and State	
Section8	Page1_	Schmidt House	Josephine County, Oregon	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

OMB No. 1024-0018

Claus and Hannchen Schroder Schmidt were natives of Schlewsig-Holstein, Germany, who migrated to the United States in the early 1880's. They were both born in a part of Denmark that later was ceded to Germany in 1864 as a result of the Prussian war. They were educated in 'high' German, but spoke a dialect known as 'Flat Dutch' and considered themselves Danes. Claus was trained in Germany as a furniture maker, but when he arrived in the U.S. he was unable to find work, since furniture making in this country was no longer done by hand. In San Francisco, Schmidt set about learning the language and entered into a partnership in a grocery store near the Ferry Building. He met his future wife, Hannchen, at a German social club. Although they were born in neighboring towns, the Schmidts did not know each other in their native county. In 1887, they arrived in Southern Oregon on the recently completed Southern Pacific railway, homesteading in Josephine County.

When the Schmidts arrived in Josephine County, major changes were taking place that would ensure that Grants Pass would become a center of commerce. The railroad had arrived in 1883, the first bridge had been built across the Roque River in 1886 and the Town of Grants Pass was incorporated in 1887.

The Schmidts split a 160 acre farmstead with Hannchen's sister Emma and her husband, George Gebers. The farmstead was located on the south side of the Rogue where the Redwood Grange now stands. The Schmidts cleared the land, built fences and homes, planted a fruit orchard and raised vegetables. raised hay and had pasture for their cows and 2 mules, Pete and Mollie. generate some cash income, Claus hauled lumber. All five children were born on the farmstead; four survived infancy. All learned to read and write in German and in English, and graduated from Grants Pass High School. diplomas are still hanging on the wall of the upstairs hallway of their house.

In 1898, Schmidt headed for the Klondike. Instead of digging for gold, he cooked for the other miners, returning to Josephine County with enough cash to open his first grocery store in a rented building on 6th Street in Grants Pass in 1899. He built the counters himself. After a few years of walking the 2 ½ miles between the store in town and his farmstead, Claus Schmidt purchased two lots in town just blocks from his store. By 1901, the family moved from the farmstead across the Rogue River into the newly built house in town that is now known as the 'Schmidt House'. Later a third lot was purchased and the existing barn was built.

Page 16

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	8	Page2_	Schmidt House	Josephine County, Oregon		
			name of property	county and State		

During the early part of the twentieth century, Claus Schmidt was active in the affairs of Grants Pass. He bought and developed several downtown properties, moving his store several times, each time into bigger and better accommodations. Grants Pass suffered two major fires during the 1890's and there was a drive towards brick buildings. In 1903 he moved from his original rented wood building one door south into a new brick building. 1904 he bought three lots fronting on Sixth Street, between J and L, for \$1255 and erected several brick buildings for rentals. This property had been used as a bicycle park, having a famous bicycle track. Again, in 1906, the Rogue River Courier reported that Claus Schmidt had bought yet another lot downtown and had erected another brick building. In 1909, he completed his final building -- two stores on Sixth Street between J and K streets. Each of these stores was 25' by 100' and made of concrete and brick with a steel front. He moved his grocery to this location where it stayed until His grocery store was said to be the finest in the county. Schmidt store was known locally as 'The Place to Meet' in town. The store was a community center where people would go to catch up on local news or to socialize.

On Nov. 13, 1913 the Grants Pass Bank and Trust Company, which had originally organized in 1901, became the Grants Pass Banking Company. Claus Schmidt was named president of the reorganized bank. On June 1, 1921 this bank was consolidated with the Josephine County Bank becoming the Grants Pass and Josephine Bank. Claus Schmidt was a director of this later bank.

Claus Schmidt was an active member of the Odd Fellows, a philanthropic organization that offered help to families in need. Schmidt extended credit quite freely to many of his customers. He was instrumental in helping early businesses in Grants Pass get started.

Schmidt must have been quite successful in his grocery and other business ventures, because he was able to travel to Germany twice. Claus and Hannchen made the arduous trip in 1908 and again in 1914 when they were gone from July 9 to October 13. On this trip, they had trouble getting transportation out of Germany as World War I was breaking out, finally getting home on a Red Cross ship.

The first Josephine County Fair was presented in 1919. Claus helped the fledgling fair get started by offering space in his buildings on $6^{\rm th}$ Street for Fair exhibits.

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __8__ Page __3_ Schmidt House name of property

Josephine County, Oregon county and State

Page 17

The Schmidts had five children, four who survived infancy. Hannchen died in 1924, Claus in 1927. The two daughters, Anna and Flora, never married. They lived in the house from the 1920's until the late 1970's when they moved into a retirement apartment and deeded their house to the Josephine County Historical Society. Anna went to work in the family store as a bookkeeper when she was 17. She was active in the running of the grocery business with her brother Herman until 1955 when it went out of business. Flora worked for the United States Bank for 40 years. Flora died in 1981, Anna in 1987.

Page 18

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	9	Page1_	Schmidt House	Josephine County, Oregon	
			name of property	county and State	

Major Bibliographic Information

Grants Pass Daily Courier, Feb. 2, 1995, "What Was Still Is at Historic Schmidt House"

Grants Pass Daily Courier, Dec 14, 1982, "Sisters Share Home Nearly 9 Decades"

A History of Josephine County, Oregon, Martha Murphy, Ed., Josephine County Historical Society 1988

Physical Assessment & Preservation Master Plan for Josephine County Historical Society, Afseth, Jocobs & Schmitz, Architects and Planners, 1992.

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Bearrs, Ernest; 1996 letter to Josephine County Historical Society

Murphy, Martha; notes from interview with Anna Schmidt, 1980

Oaks, Michael; research and notes

Schmidt, Anna; notes

Vogel, Don; interview Nov. 7, 2001

McFadden, Tom; interview April 29, 2003

collection of the Josephine County Historical Society

SCHMIAL HO	ouse	
Josephine	County,	Oregon

Page 19

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section10	Page1_	Schmidt House	Josephine County, Oregon			
		name of property	county and State			

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in the NE 4 of the SE 4 of Section 18, Township 36S, Range 5W WM, in Josephine County, Oregon. The property includes all of Lots 1, 2 and 3, within Block 79 of the Town of Grants Pass. Each of the three lots is 100' by 50'. The three lots together form a rectangle that is 100' by 150'. The property is bounded on the east by S. Fifth and on the north by "J" Street. An alley running down the center of the block forms the boundary to the south. The western boundary is the property line of Lot 4 in Block 79. The property is Tax Lot 12900.

Boundary Justification

Lots 1 and 2 were purchased in 1899 by Claus Schmidt for his town house. The adjoining lot 3 was bought in 1904 when the barn was built.

Page 20

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 1 Schmidt House name of property

Josephine County, Oregon county and State

Photograph Descriptions

Schmidt House, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon

Black and white photos taken by Kathleen McKenna, using Kodak Tri-X Pan 400. Exterior shots were taken 09-01-01, interior on 10-16-01. Original negatives are located at the Josephine County Historical Society, Grants Pass, Oregon.

EXTERIOR:

- 1. north side of house, looking W. from 5th and J St.
- 2. east side of house, taken from across 5th St.
- 3. SE corner of house, showing front porch
- 4. south side of house, from alley, showing front porch
- 5. NW corner, showing back back
- 6. east side of house, looking north, showing window detail
- 7. NE corner, looking west, showing masonry detail
- 8. east side bay windows
- 9. front porch entryway
- 10. view from back porch, showing pump
- 11. front porch, looking W. from 5th St.
- 12. pump in back yard
- 13. barn

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _Photos_ Page __2 Schmidt House name of property

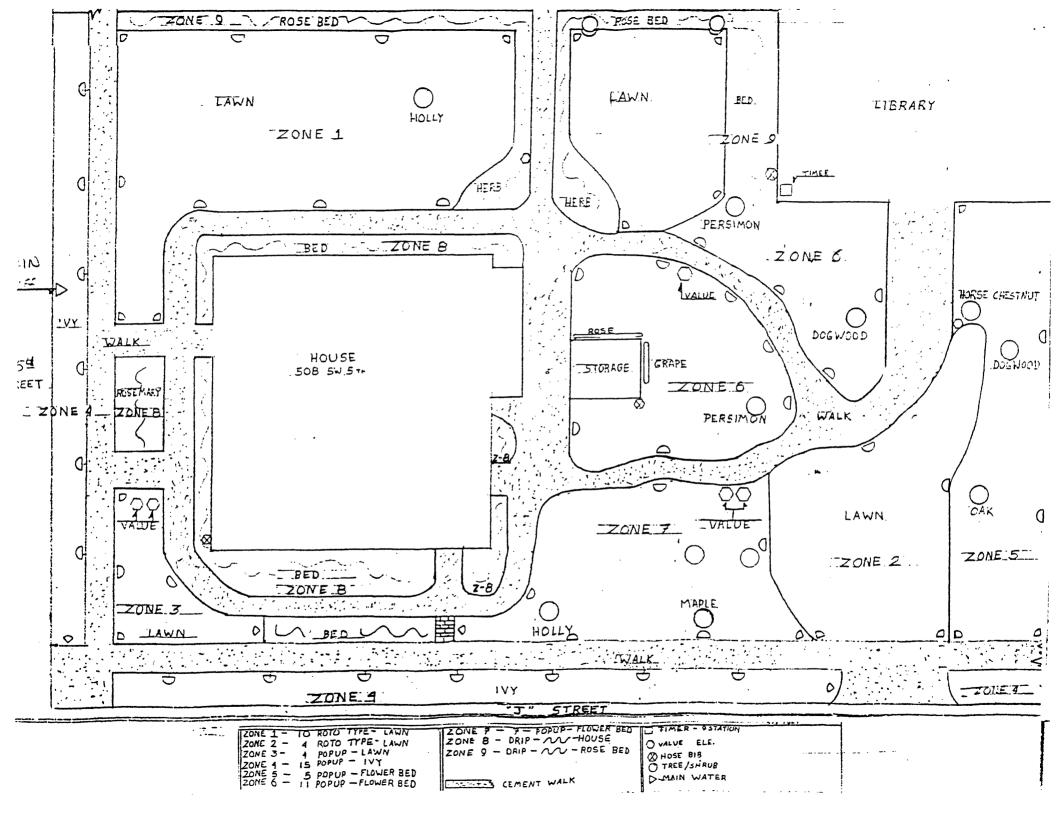
Josephine County, Oregon county and State

Photograph Descriptions (cont)

INTERIOR:

- 14. front door from stairway
- 15. stairway
- 16. dining room from parlor
- 17. wood stove in kitchen
- 18. kitchen sink
- 19. first floor bathroom
- 20. kitchen, looking out to back porch
- 21. master bedroom
- 22. boy's bedroom (toy room)
- 23. second floor bathroom sink
- 24. storeroom
- 25. guest room closet
- 26. second floor hallway
- 27. stairway from top of stairs
- 28. interior chimney
- 29. woodwork under stairs

27





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SCHMIDT HOUSE STUDY SINKER PASS, CHECON 1975-8

JOB #9213

AUG.4,1992

