

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 8 1984

date entered SEP 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic Gray, Capt. J. H. D., House

and/or common Harvey House

2. Location

street & number 1687 Grand Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input 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 Dr. Edward W. Harvey

street & number 1687 Grand Avenue

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number 740 Commercial Street

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
Parks and Recreation Branch, Department of Transportation

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain J. H. D. Gray House, built in 1880 by prominent local carpenter-builder Albert W. Ferguson, was the first house constructed southeast of the city in what was to become a fashionable neighborhood. Stylistically typified as a restrained version of Steamboat Gothic, the house and grounds retain a high degree of integrity.

Oriented to the north, the property is located within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian. It is surrounded by well-maintained houses of similar vintage and commands a striking view of the city and waterfront. It occupies the northerly 105 feet of Lots 1 and 2 of Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, and is otherwise described as Tax Lot 6600.

Two stories in height on a sloping site, the narrow end of the rectangular mass faces the street. Constructed in cedar, the walls are covered in channel siding. Windows on all elevations are primarily four-over-four, double-hung sash and are set into corniced frames. The front facade is symmetrically composed and is distinguished by a flat roofed porch with brackets, sawn panels, and chamfered columns. Drop ornament and Eastlake-style pierced, jig-sawn decoration is modestly dispersed on the gable ends on the north, east and west elevations.

An interesting fact about this porch is that within the past forty years, a curved railing was taken from the Jas. Welch residence which was at the time being torn down, and installed around the northeast end of the house. The porch or veranda was extended around this corner and along the east side of the house.

Along Grand Avenue to the north, the steep slope is held in place by a dressed stone wall broken only by the wooden stairway leading up to the house. Along 17th Street to the east, there is another stone wall, although this one is roughly laid. An immense shade tree graces the northeast corner of the lot. The Second Street entrance to the house leads from 17th Street to the side porch which runs along the kitchen inside. The steps here are of brick. There is an enclosed porch running along the east side at the rear and doors lead from this into the kitchen in the southeast end of the house and into an entry way which has a steep stairway leading to the rear end of the second floor. This outside entrance provides access to an apartment which was once on the second floor.

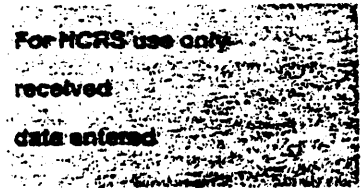
On the rear or south end of the house, there are two one-over-one windows on the first floor and a round window on the second. The chimney leads down through the center of the house to a fireplace in the living room or parlor. On the west side, there is a bay window with three-over-one windows in the parlor.

Originally, there was a dirt basement under one half of the house, but a concrete complete basement has been added during the past forty years.

On the interior, the parlor extends across the front or north side of the house adjoining a small hallway on the northeast corner from which the stairway goes up to the second floor. The walls of this room and all the others are of plaster. Interestingly enough, the mouldings, door and window trim and other woodwork in the house are all plain with no ornamentation or decorations.

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Originally, there were French doors separating the parlor from the dining room but these have been removed, leaving a wide opening which makes the two rooms virtually one. Double French doors lead from the dining room out through the west wall to the outdoors. In back of the dining rooms is a pantry room with built-in china closets which opens up into the kitchen located on the southwest corner of the house. There is another smaller room reached by a glassed-paned door from the parlor which originally was probably a sewing room. This room is on the east side of the house under the gabled end.

The second floor is really divided into two separate areas although there is easy access between the door by a wide hallway. At the rear where the small stairway from the outside eastern entrance leads, there is a complete apartment with two bedrooms on the western side, a kitchen at the rear, and a bath on the east. All of these are in the rear part of the house. Apparently, an apartment was built here at one time, possibly during the war years when housing in the area was at a premium. However, that area is now just a part of the second floor. There is a bedroom facing north with the top of the stairway adjoining it on the east. There is still one more bedroom on the west. All of these rooms are connected by a central hallway which runs north and south.

The present owners have lived in this house for more than forty years and have obviously lavished years of hard work and careful attention to detail to make this residence so attractive. A well-cared for yard, and the corner location, makes this one of Astoria's showplaces. It richly deserves a place in the National Register.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1880

**Builder/Architect**

Albert W. Ferguson

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1880 by Albert W. Ferguson, the Captain J. H. D. Gray House is located at 1687 Grand Avenue, in Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon. It is locally significant under Criterion "b" for its associations with Gray, who built a distinguished career as a riverboat captain, businessman, postmaster, county judge and state senator, among others. The Gray House is also eligible under Criterion "c" as the first house built in the soon to be fashionable southeast hills and which was the first of three houses designed by Albert W. Ferguson in the immediate vicinity.

John Henry Dix Gray was the first son born to William H. Gray, a secular missionary who came across the Plains in 1839 with Dr. Marcus Whitman, later to lose his life in the famous Whitman Massacre. J. H. D. Gray, the first of nine children, was born in Lapwai, Idaho, on March 20, 1839.

He was educated in Clatsop County where his father had moved to in 1846, and at Pacific University. He then moved north to the Fraser river country where he entered the steamboating life, serving as mate and later as master of a series of river boats operating on the Fraser River and on the Upper Columbia River. In 1868, he returned to Clatsop County where he put the river steamboat General Grant into operation as a freighter and passenger boat running between Astoria and other lower river ports. This was the first steamboat to operate in this area.

In 1888, Capt. Gray left the shipping business and entered into a series of other businesses in Astoria and in the surrounding area. He served as the postmaster of the Astoria post office, as a county judge, as a Columbia River Pilot Commissioner, and as a state senator. He was intensely interested in regional history, and was for a number of years the president of the Oregon Pioneer and Historical Society, and of the Oregon Pioneer Association.

In 1868, Capt. Gray married Laura W. Bell of Salem, a member of a prominent pioneer family of the 1851 migration westward. The Grays had eight children. After living in a series of houses, Capt. Gray decided to build a new house for his large family up on the hill above the city of Astoria. At that time, the area was virtually a wilderness but had been surveyed and platted. The J. H. D. Gray House was designed and built during the fall of 1880 by Albert W. Ferguson, a prominent local builder and architect, who later built his own large residence on the property directly to the west of the J. H. D. Gray House. Still later, the Ferguson family built a smaller home for Ada Ferguson and her new husband John N. Griffin on the property just to the west of his house. These three historical houses are in an area bounded by Grand Avenue to the north and by 16th and 17th Streets to the east and west, and are a part of what is generally considered one of the finest historical residential areas in this historic city.

Today, the Capt. J. H. D. Gray House still stands on the same spot on which it was built more than 104 years ago. It has been immaculately kept up by a series of owners

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Astoria - Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	0	4	3	6	4	6	5	5	1	1	4	8	4	5
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 Captain J. H. D. Gray House is located on the north 105 feet of Lots 1 and 2, Block 21, Shively's Addition, to the City of Astoria, clatsop County, Oregon, otherwise known as Tax Lot 6600.

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger T. Tetlow - Historian and writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society date February 16, 1984

street & number 1832 Exchange Street telephone (503) 325-4083

city or town Astoria state Oregon

# 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 

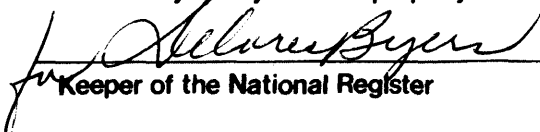
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 25, 1984

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

Entered in the National Register

date 9-7-84

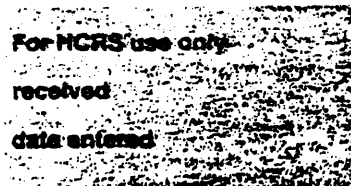
  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet CAPT. J. H. D. GRAY HOUSE Item number 8 Page 2

and still looks about the way it did when it was built. The location is superb and the house can be seen from many parts of the city below.

This house is one of the best known residences in the city of Astoria and is on the "must see" list of most tourists. Ther present owner, Dr. Edward Harvey, is a prominent member of the Clatsop County Historical Society and is one of the city's leading history researchers. The house is listed in all local historical residences tours and is open to the public on special occasions.

Albert W. Ferguson was born on August 29, 1821 in Buckingham County, Virginia. He crossed the plains in 1850 to California, where he did prospecting before moving to Oregon. Having lived in Salem, where he operated a sash and door factory and designed and built such structures as the first Marion County Courthouse, he moved to The Dalles. From 1862 to 1876, he operated a planing mill and served as sheriff of Wasco County for two terms. He moved to Astoria in 1876 and opened another sash and door factory, and continued to work as a builder and designer of numerous Astoria residences. He eventually was joined in the business by his son James Ernest Ferguson. The elder Ferguson was stricken with inflammatory rheumatism in 1884, but managed to continue supervising the construction of buildings such as the Gray House until his death on February 25, 1891.

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date entered

Continuation sheet CAPT. J. H. D. GRAY HOUSE Item number 9

Page 1

Tri-Weekly Astorian. July 1, and September 4, 1873

Daily Astorian. May 30; December 23, 1876  
September 8, 1877  
March 10, 1878  
March 10; October 6, 1880  
June 15; November 5, 1882

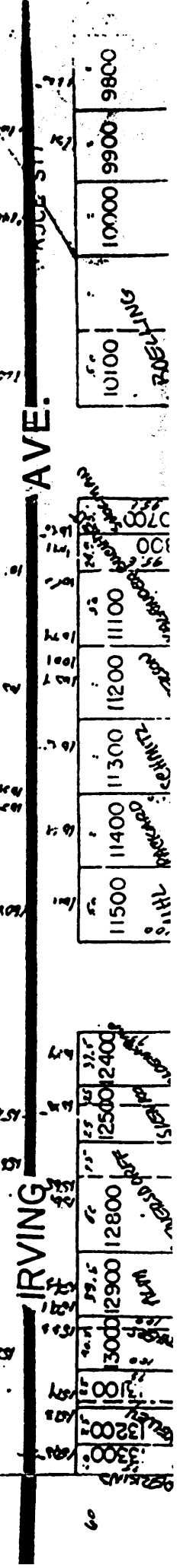
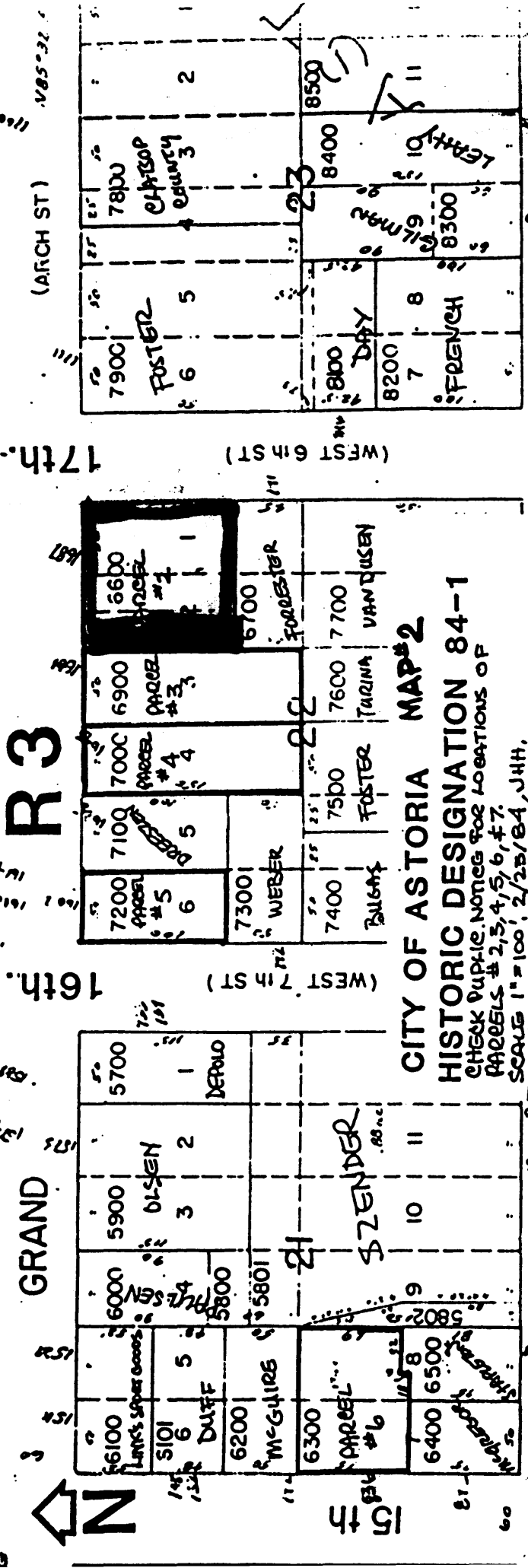
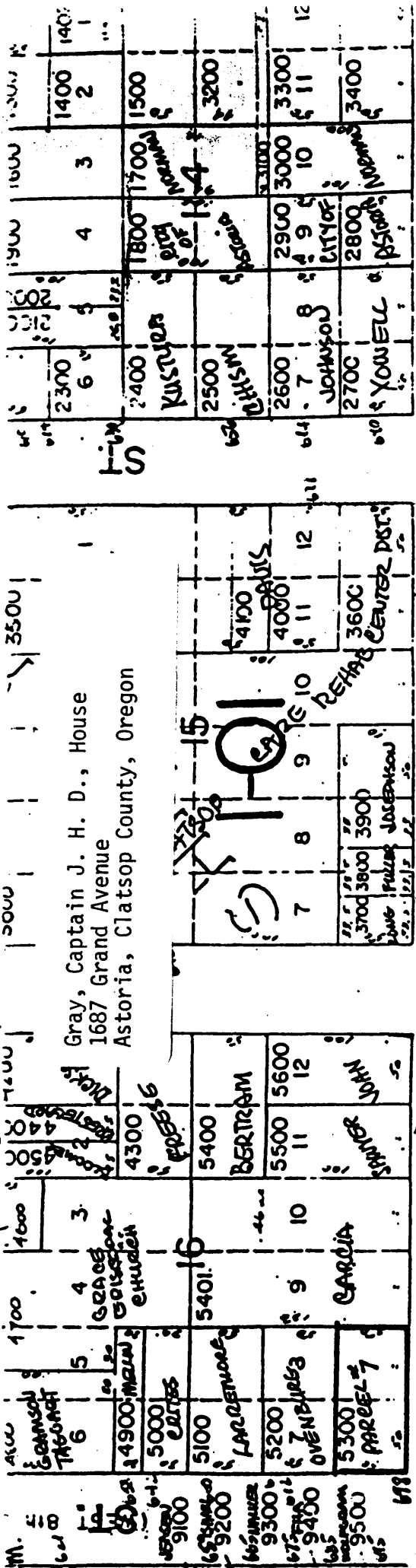
Weekly Astorian. December 23, 1876

Daily Morning Astorian. February 3; September 10, 1884  
April 24-25; December 4, 1890  
October 3, 1893  
June 5, 1894  
January 8; May 25; October 9, 1895  
July 7; October 13, 1896  
July 28, 1897  
January 30; November 25, 1899  
July 16; October 28, 1902  
May 31, 1903

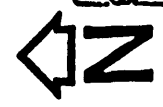
Astoria Daily Budget. October 3, 1893  
June 5, 1894  
February 27, 1900  
June 26, 1901  
November 22, 1904

Hines, Rev. H. K., An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1893, p. 753.

CLATSOP COUNTY ASSESSORS MAP 89-BDC SW 1/4 SEC. 8 T. 8N. R. 9W. W.M.

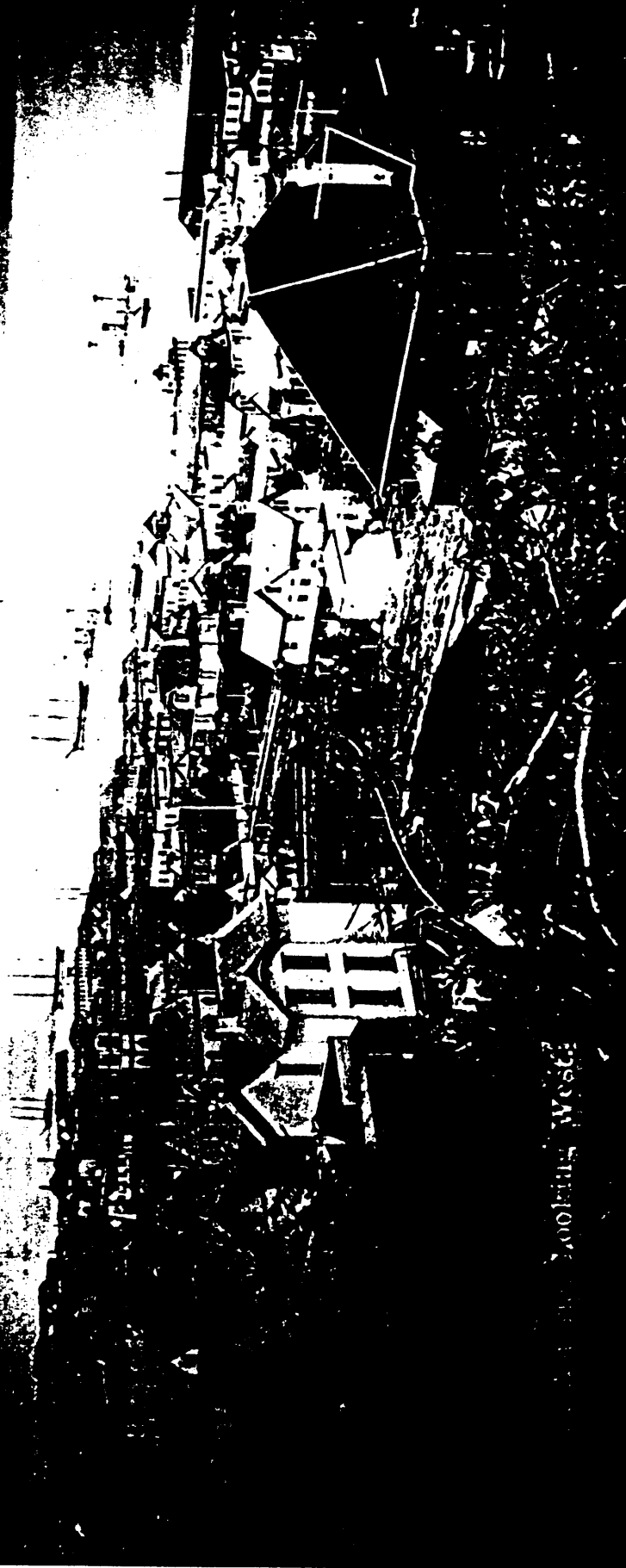


CITY OF ASTORIA MAP 2  
HISTORIC DESIGNATION 84-1  
CHECK DUPLICATE NOTES FOR LOCATIONS OF PARCELS # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.  
SCALE 1" = 100'





Gray, Captain J. H. D., House  
1687 Grand Avenue  
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon  
House in middle ground



SHIRLEY WEST

Gray, Captain J. H. D. House  
1687 Grand Avenue  
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon  
House in middle left ground

