city, town

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB

1 1985

date entered

state Oregon 97310

FEB 28 1985

	s in How to Complete N —complete applicable :	lational Register Forms sections		
1. Nam	е			
historic	Huntèr-Morel	ock House		
and/or common	Same			
2. Loca	ition			
street & number	104 Holmes S	treet		N∕A not for publication
city, town	Wallowa	N/A vicinity of	Second Congressiona	1 District
state	Oregon cod	e 41 county	Wallowa	code 063
3. Clas	sification			
	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considered	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name	Leonard D. a	nd Arletta Fergusor)	
street & number	104 Holmes S	treet (Box 242)		
city, town	Wallowa	N/A vicinity of	state	Oregon 97885
5. Loca	tion of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc.	Wallowa County	Courthouse	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
city, town		Enterprise	state	Oregon 97828
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing	_	
ritia	atewide Inventory o storic Properties	hae thie nr	operty been determined e	ligible?yes _Xno
date 19	84		federal sta	te county _X_ local
depository for sur		tate Historic Prese 25 Trade St. SE	rvation Office	

Salem

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unalteredX_ altered	Check oneX_ original site moved date N/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hunter-Morelock House, constructed in 1903 is a one and one-half story wood-frame vernacular building which exhibits stylistic characteristics relating to the Queen Anne and Eastlake styles. It retains a high degree of integrity.

Located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, Township 1 North, Range 42 East of the Willamette Meridian, Wallowa County, Oregon. The house occupies an irregularly shaped parcel, otherwise known as Tax Lot 1400, whose dimensions are 73' x 199' x 39' x 232.9'; the whole containing .32 acres.

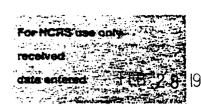
The site is level except at the rear or western portion, where it slopes gently toward a small stream (Clear Water Ditch) that forms the western boundary of the property. The house is well sited on the lot, with a deep setback. It is located in a quiet residential neighborhood. Although it is just inside the boundary of the area zoned commercial, it is not likely to be endangered by commercial development.

The house is a transitional design embodying characteristics of bungalow and Queen Anne styles. Built as a one-story cottage of modest proportions, it is more organic and less angular than earlier examples. Its hipped roof is of relatively low pitch and extends over the veranda; roof and veranda are both rounded at the front corners, without angles or breaks. A short ridge extends downward for a few feet on either side of the dormer. The roof line is extended forward by a small hip-roofed dormer that caps the front (east) elevation. The dormer does not have parallel sides but is wider where it joins the roof, enabling it to blend into the overall design more effectively. The upper sash of its double-hung central window consists of eight narrow vertical lights; the two side windows are nine-light Queen Anne sash with colored panes. Dormer trim, with the exception of a dentil course below the cornice, is essentially Eastlake. The central window is flanked by two panels on either side, forming extensions of lines established by the sash arrangement. The upper panels contain beaded wainscot stock laid diagonally; the lower are composed of decorative shingles cut in a non-standard heart-shaped pattern. The veranda wraps around the front of the house, with an extension along the south elevation that terminates in a side entrance to the dining room. There was originally a similar extension on the north. Porch posts are turned; balusters and decorative grillwork are constructed of square stock, without bracketing.

The house rests on a broad ashlar (30" thick) foundation cut from what the early settlers called "native stone." This is a form of volcanic tuff that occurs in a few deposits in the area. Soft and easily worked when first quarried (it was cut out with the long coarse-toothed saws used for cutting ice), it hardens on exposure to the air and resembles sandstone. Cubical blocks, with holes cut through their centers, were used in chimney construction and were once common in the are. They are now rare. The kitchen chimney of this house is built of tuff blocks; the central chimney is brick and is probably a later replacement.

Construction of the house is balloon frame utilizing rough pine 2" x 8" joists and 2" x 4" studs and rafters, all on 16" centers. The lumber was obtained from either of two sawmills (John Hoover or Marvin Brothers) located in the immediate area. Siding, flooring, and finished lumber (also pine) were probably furnished by Thomas DeVale, whose local planing mill was in operation by 1902 and who may have been the builder. All doors, sash, and interior trim are cedar; they and the hardware and fixtures were shipped in from Portland. Exterior surfaces are finished in drop siding (i.e., horizontal lapped

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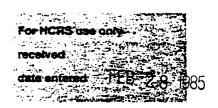
siding with a deep groove at the upper edge). Exterior casings and corner boards are $1" \times 6"$.

Interior walls are lined with shiplap, to which muslin was tacked as a foundation for wallpaper. The front entrance door (east elevation) is a one-panel, one-light door with an oval window of beveled plate glass. The panel is embellished with applied carving in a wreath-and-ribbon design. The transom sash is executed in leaded stained glass in a corresponding ribbon pattern. The colors are pale blue and red, with orange accents. A circle of faceted red jewels adds a further note of elegance. The entrance hall is also lighted by two other leaded sash executed in colored glass. One, beside the entrance, utilizes some of the same hues as the transom and measures 28" x 36'. The other, on the north wall, occupies a slightly smaller opening and contains paired lights. Each is a design composed of four hearts executed in ruby glass and beveled plate glass. These are very striking windows.

Interior trim in the hall, and throughout the house, is cedar. 10" head bocks, moulded at top and bottom and embodying turned rosettes, are employed rather than the more common corner blocks. Casings are 5 1/9" wide, in one of the standard fluted patterns. 11" moulded plinth blocks are used. Moulded baseboards are $7\frac{1}{2}$ " high, with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " moulded cap. Doors are four panel, with fielded panels, and locksets are finely detailed cast bronze. The house has ten-foot ceilings; instead of picture moulding, a gilded accent moulding, made of $\frac{1}{2}$ " half-round, occurs ten inches below the ceiling in parlor and dining room. It appears to have originally existed throughout the ground floor, with the exception of the kitchen and pantry. The shallow bay in the parlor has a central double-hung window with upper sash of the pattern occasionally found in late Queen Anne and Colonial Revival houses (a combination of vertical and diagonal wooden mullions); the panes in the upper sash are colored glass. The side windows are standard one-over-one double-hung sash. The dining room is separated from the parlor by a pair of pocket doors. The large dining room window is bordered at each side by a leaded glass section 6" wide and 48" high, in diamond panes, with a fleur-de-lys in the center. These are echoed in the upper sash by single colored pane of corresponding width on either side.

The pantry and serving area between dining room and kitchen is provided with a combined work table and built-in storage unit on the south side, lighted by a small double-hung window; on the north side there is another built-in storage unit, above which is a china cupboard with glazed sliding doors. These units are original. The kitchen, except for modern appliances and plywood paneling, is unaltered. The bathroom is original to the house and not added later; it was one of the first in Wallowa. The fixtures were probably not installed until 1907, when the city's waterworks was established. They are typical of the modern plumbing available at the turn of the century: enameled cast-iron corner sink, enameled cast-iron clawfoot tub, china toilet with higher seat than the later standard. The original tank may or may not have been of the high wall-mounted type. The present tank is relatively modern and is located a few inches above the bowl.

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The bath is entered from the rear bedroom; there may originally have been another door from the kitchen. The rear bedroom contains a leaded stained glass sash measuring 24" x 32" in its north wall. The house has a two-thirds basement with dirt floor, to which outside access was never provided. Interior access was by a walk-in (31" x 52" floor area) elevator entered by doors from dining room and kitchen. At that time the basement area was limited to a small fruit cellar. Access to the attic was evidently through the frame at the top of the elevator shaft. Some lighting fixtures are early but not original. The chandeliers were probably installed c. 1912.

The small outbuilding behind the house combined a woodshed, ice house and privy. The privy is contained in a small ell at the rear of the building and was reached by a covered walkway screened by latticework. It was evidently used until 1907, and perhaps for emergency use thereafter. The cesspool probably gave trouble from time to time until Wallowa installed its sewer system beginning in 1918.

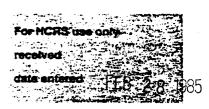
Alterations and Additions

There have been few alterations; most of these occurred when J. P. Morelock acquired the house in 1911. The attic was partially finished at that time and space for a stair was provided by incorporating the porch extension on the north elevation into the entrance hall. This meant enclosing a space measuring six by nine feet. The stair, of two flights with a landing, is constructed of pine with simple square newels and balusters; no attempt was made to duplicate the original styling of the interior. The front part of the attic, with its dormer, was finished as a small bedroom. The remaining space was lined with finished lumber and apparently served as a storage area, as it was never provided with natural lighting.

The change in the hall is not obvious and original locations of the two leaded windows are unknown, as no historic photographs of the house have been located. One was probably in the east wall of the front bedroom, at the end of the veranda extension. The elevator was removed after the attic was finished; there is a patch in the attic floor where its frame was located. The shaft was converted to a basement stairway accessed from the kitchen; the door in the dining room now provides access to storage shelving.

Morelock evidently excavated the basement and installed the central steam heating system with cast-iron radiators, cutting windows in the foundation to move the boiler through, provide access for coal delivery, and light the area. A central brick chimney was built at that time (c. 1911-1912). The present owners have added a small open porch off the kitchen; its roof protects the entrance. The kitchen door has been replaced and plywood paneling has been applied to the kitchen walls. The bathroom has been lined with tileboard and its tub enclosed. The partition between serving area and kitchen has been partially removed in order to provide space for appliances.

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In 1980 the owners installed a foundation under the veranda. It is constructed of concrete block and is a reasonable match for the volcanic tuff, which is no longer available. They have reroofed the house twice, substituting composition shingles for the original cedar. Steps have been replaced with new wood construction that matches the originals. The house is in excellent condition and is well maintained. It has never been abused and the few changes made have not detracted from its appearance or from the integrity of its design.

8. Significance

1700–1799 1800–1899	X architecture	community planning conservation economics	law literature military music nt philosophy	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1903	Post de side de la cal	homas DeVale (attribu	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hunter-Morelock House, located at 104 Holmes Street in Wallowa, Wallowa County, was erected in 1903 for former city councilman and Wallowa Mercantile Company partner Charles A. Hunter. The property is also associated with pioneer Wallowa businessman J. P. Morelock who was the first City Recorder and elected Mayor in 1902. Locally distinctive architecturally, the vernacular Queen Anne/Eastlake style house meets Criterion "c." It can be secondarily evaluated under Criterion "b" for its associations with the early careers of Messrs. Hunter and Morelock.

History of the Site

The Wallowa Valley was opened to settlement in 1867 and the first permanent settlers arrived in 1873. The present city of Wallowa began with construction of a general store by Island City Mercantile and Milling Company in 1889. This was operated as the Wallowa Mercantile Company. The company had also acquired a large tract of land, which was platted and developed for commercial and residential use. The site here described was accordingly acquired by Charles A. Hunter c. 1902. Hunter sold the property to J. P. Morelock July 30, 1911. Morelock was ruined by the Depression and was forced to relinquish the property in lieu of unpaid taxes (1932). It became part of a large parcel of such properties put up for tax slae. It was purchased by W. P. Stevens and his sister, Jean Kern, for the amount of unpaid taxes, in 1936. F. F. McCulley, City Recorder, lived in the house from 1932 to 1939. On November 23, 1939, Stephens and Kern sold the house to Herman and Grace Plass. They in turn sold it to the present owners, Leonard and Arletta Ferguson, in March 1941. The Fergusons satisfied their mortgage and acquired title to the property July 30, 1945.

<u>Historical Significance of the House</u>

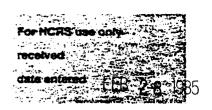
Charles A. Hunter, for whom the house was built, was a pioneer merchant in Wallowa; one of the city's founders; a citizen distinguished through his service to community and state; and a prominent eastern Oregon cattleman. His father, William G. Hunter (1841-1907), was a pioneer farmer and rancher in the Grande Ronde Valley. William's imposing residence, located four miles north of Island City, is still extant. His landholdings were extensive; he was also interested in civic and commercial affairs. He was Mayor of Island City at the time of his death. Charles A., third of ten children born to William and his wife Eliza W. (Mitchell) Hunter, was born in June, 1876 at the family farm. He received his elementary education at the nearby Iowa School and graduated from La Grande High School (at that time a two-year course of instruction). He attended Oregon State Agricultural College in Corvallis (now Oregon State University) for a year, where he took courses in business administration; he then attended Gem City Business College in Quincy, Illinois. Following his graduation from that institution he returned to eastern Oregon and went to work for the Island City Mercantile and Milling Company in which his father was a major shareholder. The company established general stores and flour mills in several eastern Oregon communities: these were operated as separate companies. Charles was employed as bookkeeper by the

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

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C			D		
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state	None	code	county		code
erganization		egon State Col	lege	date telephone	August 10, 1984 (503) 963-1523
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Wallowa Mercantile Company, moving to Wallowa in 1894. The officials of this company were E. A. Holmes (president) and Ed Goodnough. Charles bought an interest in Wallowa Mercantile, becoming a partner in the firm.

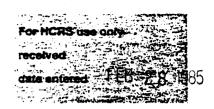
Island City Mercantile and Milling, through J. M. Church, had built this general store in 1889 and, by doing so, had effectively laid the foundation for what was to become the town of Wallowa. The company had also acquired much of the surrounding land, and the town was platted around the store with lots being opened to commercial and residential development. The store was located on the corner of First (the main commercial thoroughfare as well as the principal Wallowa Valley road) and Storie Streets (northwest corner of intersection). The company also built a flour mill (c. 1898), which was one block east of the home site later acquired by Charles Hunter. The mill was next to the Wallowa River and operated by water power through a mill race and turbine. The turbine also drove a generator, providing electricity for the community beginning in 1901. The mill was operated initially as a separate enterprise, Wallowa Milling Company, with Holmes as its president; electrical service was managed as the Wallowa Mercantile Company Light and Power Plant.

E. A. Holmes built an impressive Eastlake residence c. 1898 (later remodeled to Colonial Revival) on the corner of First and Holmes Streets. The latter street was, appropriately enough, named for himself. The lot is large, occupying approximately one quarter of a block. Early records do not appear to be complete, but Charles Hunter acquired the lot adjacent to Holmes, on the south, about 1902. His house, built for his bride-to-be, was constructed in 1903. It was a very comfortable house for its time and place, with many refinements; and, since Charles was a partner in the Wallowa Mercantile Company, was one of the first Wallowa residences provided with electric lighting. On September 16, 1903 Charles A. Hunter and Pattie McLean were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John McDonald; after a honeymoon at Niagara Falls they moved into their new home. Their two children, Elvyn K. and Virginia, were born there in 1904 and 1907 respectively.

In 1908 Hunter and his partners sold the store to T. T. Shell, retaining the company and its other operations. Hunter left the firm and became interested in the cattle business, buying his first land on Whiskey Creek, east of Wallowa. He later added extensively to these holdings, both in the Wallowa Valley and in the timberland and meadows north of it. In 1911 he and his family moved across the street to a large modern bungalow built by the Holmes family. He and his wife lived in that house for the rest of their lives, and it still belongs to the Hunter family.

Hunter, in addition to his other interests, was active in civic affairs. The City of Wallowa was incorporated April 8, 1899. At the time of incorporation John McDonald was Mayor, J. P. Morelock was City Recorder, and Charles A. Hunter was one of three Councilmen serving a two-year term. These men, along with three Councilmen serving one-year terms, were the group who wrote the bylaws and ordinances for the new city. In 1922 Hunter was elected to the Oregon State Legislature as joint representative from Wallowa and Union Counties. He served continuously and with distinction until his resignation on March 1, 1928. He stated at that time that he wanted to go on with his own life: ranching. He raised Herefords and his herds were among the finest in the state. He was a charter member of Standley Lodge No. 113, A.F. and A.M., Wallowa.

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Charles A. Hunter suffered a fatal heart attack while riding the range near Maxville, north of Wallowa, on June 26, 1950. His wife survived him ten years, dying in June 1960. Both were lifelong leaders in their community.

J. P. Morelock, second owner of the house, was also a pioneer businessman in Wallowa, a founder of the city, and a civic leader. James Knox Polk Morelock was born in Summerville, Oregon, September 23, 1872. He was a son of Edward B. and Rebecca Jane (Harris) Morelock. J. P. Morelock and his wife Mary were married February 23, 1898. Morelock moved to Wallowa before 1899; he was City Recorder when the city was incorporated April 8 of that year. In 1902 he was listed as J. P. Morelock, barber shop and notions, and was mayor of Wallowa. In 1915 he built a large one-story brick building on the corner of First and Storie Streets (southeast corner of intersection) that was the community's first autombile garage. It remained a garage and automobile dealership for many years. It is currently (1984) Don's Food Store. Morelock suffered severe financial losses during the Great Depression and in 1932 moved to La Grande, where he worked for the State Highway Department until his death on November 1, 1937.

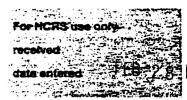
Architectural Significance

This is the only surviving house of its period, style and quality remaining in Wallowa that has not been drastically altered. It is also a fine example of the transitional residences that combined Queen Anne and bungalow styles and form a bridge between Victorian and modern residential architecture. Its art glass is outstanding in its local context and is a unique survival in the community. The house is not pretentious but possesses quiet elegance and grace. It has the quality of snug and comfortable shelter implicit in cottage design. It was also an expensive house for its time and place, and a remarkable achievement in that the railroad did not reach the Wallowa Valley until 1908; all the doors, sash, trim and hardware had to be freighted in by team and wagon from Elgin, at that time a distance of about forty miles, over a rough dirt road that traversed steep mountain grades and threaded a deep canyon.

Architect/Builder

The architect is unknown. Plans for the house were undoubtedly obtained from a firm that made them available on a mail order basis. Elvyn K. Hunter, son of Charles A. Hunter, recalls that the house was constructed by a French-Canadian builder and craftsman who lived a block and a half east of the site, near the flour mill. He remembers the builder's name was DeVaul or DeVall and states that this man had a woodworking shop and made all the "scrollwork" for the house (i.e., the porch embellishments). Research in the 1900 Census and other sources does not identify anyone with this name or other variant spellings. The builder was in all probability Thomas DeVale whose planing mill was in operation in or near Wallowa by 1902.

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Records, City of Wallowa, Oregon

Wallowa Record, Thursday, June 29, 1950

Fitzgerald, Lucille. <u>Death and Burial Records, Union County, Oregon, 1863-1974</u>. Microfilm, Walter M. Pierce Library, Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande, Oregon.

Wallowa County Museum Board. <u>History of Wallowa County, Oregon</u>. Taylor Publishing Company, 1983.

Elvyn K. Hunter, Salem, Oregon (personal communications, December 9, 1983 and May 23, 1984).

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UTM References Correction Sheet pertaining to the following property:

Hunter-Morelock House 104 Holmes Street Wallowa Wallowa County Oregon

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459070

Northing: 5046160

Quadrangle: Wallowa, Oregon

Scale:

1:24000

