

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000282

Date Listed: 4/7/98

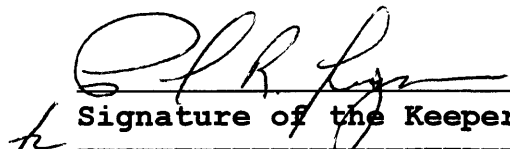
Chumaseero--Smith House  
Property Name

Clark  
County

WA  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

4/7/98  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The significance of the property under Criterion A is not sufficiently justified. *Settlement and Criterion A* are dropped from the nomination and the *period of significance is drawn from 1903-1930*. [The importance of the historic owners of the property within the local community does not appear to arise above the level common to many successful businessmen. There is insufficient documentation to show that their achievements represent a significant and identifiable pattern.]

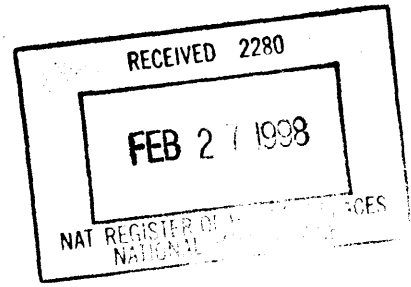
U. T. M. Coordinates:

The correct UTM coordinates should read: 10 525550 5052850.

This information was confirmed with L. McCroskey of the WA SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



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# 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 name Chumasero-Smith House

other names/site number Vintage Inn

### 2. Location

street & number 310 W 11th Street not for publication

city or town Vancouver vicinity

state Washington code WA county Clark code 011 zip code 98660

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 2.17.98

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  entered in the National Register.  Signature of Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 4/7/98

- See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	—	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Functions or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
<u>Domestic/ Single Dwelling</u>	<u>Domestic/ Hotel (bed &amp; breakfast)</u>

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials  
 Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/Four Square  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

foundation Concrete  
 walls Wood  
 roof Composition  
 other

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

The Albert and Mary Estelle Chumasero House is currently located on the north side of West Eleventh Street in the Esther Short Neighborhood within the original Town of Vancouver. The house is situated mid-block between the William Henry and Martha Ann Hamilton House (Hamilton Funeral Home) and the Samuel Brown House. The Hamilton and Smith houses both date to the turn-of-the-century. The subject house was originally located on Main Street, approximately two and one-half blocks to the east. In the 1930s, commercial redevelopment of that site made it necessary to demolish or relocate the house. When the house was relocated, the immediately surrounding area was characterized by single-family dwellings. Since World War II, the area has been extensively redeveloped and is now a mix of commercial, residential and residential buildings converted to commercial uses. Despite its move, the house retains an extremely high level of physical integrity. The very few changes to the original features are noted in the text.

Constructed in 1903, the Chumasero House is a two and one-half story building, has been described as of four-square design. It also has several notable features commonly associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement. Clad with horizontal wood bevel siding and finished with corner boards, the house is essentially rectangular in plan and covered with a bellcast pyramidal roof. A gabled dormer with closed eaves pierces the roof on the primary elevation. The tympanum of the dormer is enhanced by diamond-patterned shingles.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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 Considerations (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 Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>1903-1946</u>	<u>1903</u>
<u>Settlement</u>	<u>"</u>	
	Cultural Affiliation	
	<u>N/A</u>	

Significant Persons	Architect/Builder
<u>Chumasero, Alfred C.</u>	<u>N/A</u>

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Chumasero-Smith House is significant for two reasons; 1) it's architecture and 2) it's relevance to settlement of the Vancouver, Washington area. As a premier remaining example of a hybrid four-square style building, it represents turn-of-the-century architecture, which is fast disappearing in the fast-growing Vancouver urban area.

The contributions of the Chumasero and Smith families to the settlement of Vancouver are in the area of provision of electrical services and the evolution of transportation, as well as real estate development. The Chumasero's were prominent business owners and were involved in the growth and development of the city of Vancouver.

Midwest natives Alfred C. and Mary Estelle Chumasero were the first owners of the subject house, having purchased its original site at the corner of 11th and Main Street in 1902, and moved into their new home built there in 1903. Alfred immigrated to Vancouver in 1890 from Ohio, where census records indicate he was born in 1861. Family lore records that he was of Filipino descent. Two years after his arrival in the northwest he married Mary Estelle Smith, who was born in Wisconsin in 1859, and moved to Vancouver at an unknown date.

Property Name Chumaseo-Smith House

County and State Clark, Washington

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Chicago Title Company records, Vancouver, Washington.
- Clark County Genealogical Society records, Vancouver, Washington.
- Clark County Genealogical Society, **Clark County Pioneers: A centennial salute**, Vancouver, Washington.
- Clark County Museum records, Vancouver, Washington.
- Clark County Assessor Office records, Vancouver, Washington.
- Fort Vancouver Historical Society, **Clark County History**, "Family Business Evolves From Livery Stable", Linda Wear.
- Hale, Mike and Doris, ephemera, undated.
- Hale, Mike and Doris, unrecorded interview, March 27, 1996.
- Hale, Mike and Doris, unrecorded interview, April 4, 1997.
- Hale, Mike and Doris, unrecorded interview, August 22, 1996.
- Hale, Mike and Doris, unrecorded interview, September 4, 1996.
- Knapp Mortuary Funeral House records, Vancouver, Washington.
- Landerholm, Carl. **Chronology**, No. 2126.
- McAlester, Lee and Virginia, **Field Guide to American Houses**, Knoff, New York, 1989
- The Oregonian**, 1 April 1996, B2.
- The Columbian**, 28 January 1909.
- The Columbian**, 1 March 1923, page 1.
- The Columbian**, 1 August - 31 December 1930.
- The Columbian**, date unknown, 1943
- The Columbian**, 11 September 1944, page 1.
- The Columbian**, 7 January 1996, E7.
- Vancouver City ordinance #350, May 1902.
- Vancouver Historic Neighborhood Inventory, City of Vancouver, Washington.
- Vancouver Independent**, September 1892.
- Vancouver Independent**, 5 March 1903.

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
- Other

Specify repository:

City of Vancouver Heritage Services

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM Reference 52

1 1 0 5/5/5/0/0 5/0/5/2/8/5/0 3 1 ///// /////  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 1 ///// ///// 4 1 ///// /////

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

- Lot 190 of east half of Esther Short Donation Land Claim

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

This parcel includes the house and yard of the nominated property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title <sup>(1)</sup>Jane Morrison, Heritage Services Coordinator / <sup>(2)</sup>P. Elise Scolnick, Planner II

organization <sup>(1)</sup>City of Vancouver Cultural Division / <sup>(2)</sup>Clark Co. Dept. of Community Development date 8/12/97, rev. 12/10/97, 1/30/98

street & number <sup>(1)</sup>1101 Officers Row / <sup>(2)</sup>P.O. Box 9810, Vancouver 98666-9810 telephone <sup>(1)</sup>(360) 699-5288 <sup>(2)</sup>699-2375, ext. 4958

city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98661

**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 location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)**

name Michael and Doris Hale

street & number 310 West Eleventh St. telephone 693-6635

city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98660

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The facade is arranged symmetrically. The house is illuminated by wide, double-hung sash windows capped by architrave molding. The commodious front porch is supported by stout Doric columns and has a simple, capped balustrade. Historic photos reveal that the porch was surmounted by an ornamental rail; a treatment repeated on the polygonal bay. The current owners intend to replace the railings using the historic photographs. The glazed and paneled oak front door is flanked by sidelights. The gold leaf window painting treatment is believed to have been added by the attorney who owned the building during the post-historic period.

Within the front door there is a tiled foyer. Here, the floor is patterned with white, green and black and white one-inch square and hexagonal tiles. Another paneled and glazed oak door and sidelights separate the foyer from the central hall. These sidelights are glazed with leaded, stained glass with a delicate fleur-de-lis pattern at the bottom of the window. The primary amber glass complements the honey-colored oak molding which frames the doorway. Other elements of the sidelights are ruby and topaz jewels. An oak bench is attached to the wall in the entry.

The parlor, music room, dining room, kitchen, powder room and coat closet are accessed via the central hall. Other rooms on the first floor include the sunroom off the dining room and pantry.

The two front chambers--parlor and music room--are each entered through wide, paneled, oak pocket doors. The kitchen and dining room are entered via paneled hinged doors. A small half-bath and staircase to the second floor are located at the rear of the central hall. The hall is plastered and finished with molded mop boards, door and window surrounds, and a picture rail. The house is illuminated by period light fixtures. Most of the fixtures have multiple arms, however, at the base of the stairs is a large, single globe shade suspended from a large hook which is the main body of the fixture. Wall to wall carpet covers the 3 1/4" fir tongue-and groove floors.

A projecting rose-colored brick fireplace dominates the parlor. The frontispiece of the fireplace is an extremely decorative and very unusual "butter mold" pattern. According to a descendent of the original owner, the brick for the fireplace was shipped around Cape Horn. Tucked in the corner beside the fireplace is a built-in bookcase and drawers. The doors to the bookcase are leaded, tracery glass. A hinged door connects the parlor with the dining room. The music room, located across the central hall from the parlor, is similar to the central hall in its use of woodwork. These rooms are also carpeted.

The dining room is the most elaborate room in the house. It is polygonal in shape and enhanced by a fireplace, built-in buffet and bookcases. Like the parlor fireplace--which is adjacent--the dining room fireplace is constructed of ornamental rose colored brick. However, it differs from the parlor fireplace in character and design. The dining room fireplace is framed by molded, fluted brick pilasters on either side and a delicate egg and dart pattern across the top. Three courses of brick set in a radiating pattern surmount the firebox. There is a recessed panel with curved sidewalls above the corbelled mantle.

The built-in buffet is composed of a serving counter, leaded-lattice glass-fronted cabinets, drawers and cupboards. A beveled mirror enhances the area above the serving counter.

On the north wall--which separates the dining room from the sunroom--there are paired multi-light doors (French doors) illuminated with translucent art glass. These doors are flanked by leaded, stained glass windows above paired bookcases. The stained glass of both windows and bookcases is in the tulip pattern and reflects the Arts and Crafts style. In addition to the picture rail and mop board, walls of the dining room are clad with paneled wainscoting which terminates in a broad plate rail.

The sun room was added and apparently altered after the house was moved from Main Street, and consequently the walls are of bevel siding. A descendent of the original owner recalls that the porch was attached to the house when the house was moved. Boards mark the juncture of the original back porch on the east elevation. Most of the windows are multi-light fixed sash; some swing open.

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The pantry is a small room between the kitchen and dining room. The door to the pantry has a copper kick plate. The room is furnished with built-in stained fir cupboards. The upper cupboards have sliding glass fronts on each side; the lower cupboards have paneled doors with the exception of the dry goods bins. The lower portion of the walls are clad with wainscoting. A laundry chute can be accessed at the pantry. A cold storage closet is accessed via the pantry. The doorway has been reduced in size, an indication that the door may have led to the outside.

The kitchen has been subject to recent remodeling. When purchased in 1993 by the current owners, kitchen cabinets were limited to a lower cabinet on either side of the single kitchen sink. New cupboards, countertops, fixtures and floor covering have been added. The wood shuttle has been preserved. A traditional style light fixture is suspended from the ceiling; at the time of purchase the room was lit by a single lamp bulb. An original device, the speaking tube, for communication between the kitchen and 2nd floor master bedroom has also been retained. A narrow staircase leads from the kitchen to the second floor.

The back porch has square posts with modest caps, tongue-and groove decking, an enclosed balustrade, and square lattice frieze. A decorative screen door provides access to the kitchen. The back porch has a tiny, low sink. A remnant of square lattice remains below the porch deck.

Tucked beneath the staircase is a powder room or half-bath. The owners believe the sink is original but refinished; the toilet is not original. The floor is two inch hexagonal tile bordered by a black course and two courses of rosy brick. The mop board and chair rail are plaster.

The open staircase raises 12 steps, pauses at a broad landing and returns four steps to the second floor. The staircase is composed of a fluted, square newel posts and simple 1" x 1" balusters incised twice just below the rail and once a few inches above the step. Double-hung sash bay windows illuminate the landing. A carpet runner covers most of the oak treads and risers.

The four bedrooms on the second floor are served by an L-shaped hallway that wraps around the staircase. The hallway, like the bedrooms, has lathe-and-plaster walls which are either painted or wallpapered and are finished with picture rails, wide crowned mop boards and molded door surrounds capped with architrave molding. The floor is carpeted. In addition to the bedrooms, there is a linen closet and full bathroom off the hall.

The master bedroom is located in the southwest corner of the house. The wall to the west of the door is slightly curved. The predominant feature is the fireplace with its double wood mantle and mottled pastel ceramic tile. Slender ionic columns flank either side of the firebox. Above, the column treatment is repeated on either side of an oval mirror. A decorative leaf pattern is applied below the primary mantle; this treatment is mimicked around the mirror. The hearth is rectangular ceramic tiles. The closet has a built-in storage bench. The bedroom on the northwest corner of the house (i.e. above the dining room) has a polygonal window bay. While the sashes are equal in width, the middle sash extends only down to the mid-point of the flanking windows.

The bathroom is furnished with a clawfoot tub (stamped 1901), water closet and refinished corner sink. The oak tank for the toilet was found in the basement. An oak and metal bench straddles the tub; it is marked with a patent date of 1904. Narrow tongue-and-groove wainscoting is applied to the walls. The floor is covered with hexagonal ceramic tiles. The plaster mop and chair rail were damaged and replaced with wood. The room is illuminated with a simple ceiling light fixture for which the current owners added new shades. On the west wall of the bathroom are a pair of gold filigree sconces. There were no shades on them when current owners purchased the house so they have added shades matching the ceiling light fixture shade. The entrance to the laundry chute is mounted on the wall.

A sleeping porch extends across the two-thirds of the width of the north (rear) elevation. It is accessed by French doors in the northeast bedroom. The rafters are exposed, the windows have been fitted for screens, below which the walls are clad with bevel siding. The floor is painted three inch fir boards.

The third floor was originally unfinished, with the exception of a small "maid's room" which had a small wall sink in it. The attic was sheet-rocked and a full bath installed to create a master bedroom suite in 1996. The windows on



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this level were replaced with tempered glass to comply with local building codes. The fireplace chimney was left exposed. A narrow portion of the attic under the eaves has been retained for storage space. The fir railing around the open stairwell remains intact.

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Mr. Chumasero arrived in the Pacific Northwest during an economic boom, and took advantage of the situation to start a hardware business with a friend. After a few years the hardware business waned, presumably due to the Panic of 1893, which devastated commercial enterprises nationwide. Mr. Chumasero gave the business to his partner the business and bought a drug store business, The City Pharmacy, from A.L. Ross. Early newspaper advertisements (1892, 1900) locate The City Pharmacy in the now-demolished Christ's Block on Main Street. Mr. Chumasero, who was competing with one or possibly two other druggists practicing in Vancouver during this period, moved his business to the Schofield Building at 6th and Main in 1903, the same year that his new house was finished five blocks to the north. It is believed that he renamed the business Chumasero Drug Company at that time.

The Chumaseros engaged in other business pursuits in addition to the hardware and pharmacy trades. In 1902 A.C. Chumasero and his brother-in-laws Joseph R. Harvey and John Harvey built an electric station at the foot of Eighth Street, operating it for three years before selling to Portland General Electric. The Chumaseros were also actively engaged in local real estate undertakings. In September of 1902, they (along with Miles R. and Carrie E. Smith) platted the Prospect Park Addition, which is bounded by 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets, and Harney and Grant Streets, and a small additional area to the southeast. At that time, Harney Street was Chumasero Street.

Mr. Chumasero died in 1923 of tuberculosis. His wife is believed to have run the family business for an unknown period after his death at the same location until at least the early 1930s. Mary Estelle Chumasero died in 1944 of pneumonia, leaving a local legacy of good works, as had her husband. The obituary for Mr. Chumasero memorialized his generosity, noting that his "philanthropy and kindness were done quietly and without ostentation."

The Chumaseros were childless. After a fire in 1930 destroyed the home and business of Mrs. Chumasero's sister and brother-in-law Ella and Otis Hinkley "Bud" Smith at Third and Main, the Smith family moved into the subject house, which was still occupied by Mrs. Chumasero. The house was moved to its current location in 1930 following purchase of its original lot by community leader and businessman John P. Kiggins, who subsequently constructed a movie theater on the site. An article in The Columbian, the local newspaper, indicates that Mrs. Chumasero was having difficulty in "disposing of the large, two-story house." Presumably, she decided that the best financial decision was to move the house herself and use it as a residence at a new location. The Smiths eventually purchased the house, which remained in the Smith family until 1983 when it was purchased by local attorney Gerald Wear.

Otis Hinkle "Bud" Smith (2/25/1871-1943) took over a livery business from his father James O. Smith who--with his brother Jerome Smith--operated a blacksmith and livery business at Main and Third Street, noted in the first available city in 1907. However, Otis' obituary notes he took over the business in the "late Nineties".

Coincidentally, James Smith and Alfred Chumasero emigrated to Vancouver the same year.

According to Otis Smith's daughter Jean Smith Freauf, the Smith Livery was the first of its kind in Vancouver. As was true across the country, Vancouver residents advocated for paved roads. Beginning in the early 1900s, James' son Otis worked in the business, which offered wagons and buggies for rent. Smith Brothers also owned the local stagecoach business. When Smith took over the business from his father, he renamed it and added a hearse to the assortment of vehicles.

With the advent of the automobile, the business evolved into a taxi service. Business directories list Vancouver Taxi Company with owner Otis Smith and wife Ella; they lived on the second floor at 106 1/2 West Third. Initially Bud purchased two touring cars as Vancouver's first two taxis. In due time the livery stable was converted to a garage. A major fire in August of 1930 consumed the block bounded by Main, Third, Washington and Fourth, after which the Smiths resided with their relatives, the Chumaseros. The Taxi Company was relocated to Fifth and Main where it remained until 1973 as one of Vancouver's longest-operating businesses. That building is no longer extant; in its place is now the ramp from Interstate 5.

During World War II the company prospered. Demand for goods and services was brisk throughout the city. In the case of shipyard and railroad workers, both traveled to outlying areas via taxis. Taxis, however, were not immune

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to the effects of gas and tire rationing, and the Smiths found the taxi business challenging. Upon Otis' death in 1943, his daughter Jean and her husband Charles W. Freauf took over the business. They increased the fleet from four to eleven cars. The business continued to expand through the 1960s and 70s, the company's zenith. Cabs traveled to and from Portland and served as delivery vehicles for blood, doctors and nurses in inclement weather and transported elderly to the grocery store. In short, the company was a fixture in the community. A sign from the Vancouver Taxi Company was found in the basement of the subject house.

Otis "Bud" Smith served as the Vancouver Constable for seven years. Smith was also a prize fighter, who fought as a boxer and a wrestler. He had a ring set up at the livery stable, which he referred to as "the barn". According to his daughter he was involved with Jack Dempsey at the beginning of Dempsey's career. The citizens of Vancouver greeted Smith with a parade through downtown when he attained the Lightweight Championship of the United States. His granddaughter, Marla Greenley, has a medal he won in 1887 as the Pacific Northwest Amateur Wrestling Champion. Smith also coached wrestling at the high school. His wife Ella and her sister Lola were co-owners of a hat shop. Smith's Hat Shop was located on Main Street at Eighth. Ella was also a skilled horsewoman.

Both the Smiths and Chumaseros were active in the Elks fraternal organization, and both Mrs. Chumasero and Mrs. Smith were members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In the post-historic period the house achieved some notoriety as a stopping point for candidate Richard Nixon while in town campaigning for the presidency in 1960. Nixon stopped at the cab company office before coming to the house and swinging on the porch swing.

The Chumasero-Smith House may be evaluated under Criteria C and secondarily for Criteria A. It is a handsome, well-preserved and fine example of early 20th century domestic architecture. Characterized as an example of four-square residence, the house has some features which reveal an influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The house is one of the most intact of the few remaining examples of domestic architecture in the neighborhood.

The Chumasero-Smith House is located in the Esther Short Neighborhood, the oldest neighborhood in Vancouver, Washington. The neighborhood is bounded on the south by the Columbia River; by the Interstate Five freeway and Burlington Northern railroad tracks on the east and west, respectively; and by 15th Street on the north.

Much of the area is commercial or industrial in character. Main Street runs the length of the neighborhood. It serves as the spine for the central commercial core or business district.

The earliest non-residential development occurred along the river's edge. During the early 20th century, commercial development extended northward along Main Street, which runs perpendicular to the Columbia. During the middle and late 20th century, much of the rest of the neighborhood transitioned to non-residential use. During the urban renewal period, many residential buildings were demolished, clearing the way for industrial development.

Residential building types do remain in the northern and western parts of the neighborhood. Most are near the Clark County Courthouse and have been converted to office use.

The neighborhood was surveyed in 1994. Of the 29 blocks (minus 4 for Esther Short Park) of buildings in the neighborhood, only a handful were residential building types with at least moderate levels of physical integrity. Three fall into four-square classification style.

All of the buildings in the sub-types except the subject property are currently used as offices. The Chumasero-Smith House was used as an office prior to its conversion to a bed-and-breakfast. Of the three, the subject property and the house at 408 West Ninth are fine examples. The third, 905 West 13th, is in deteriorated condition.

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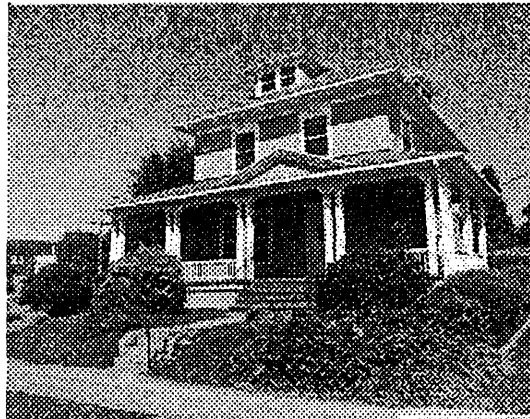
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County and State Clark, Washington

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905 W. 13th St., Vancouver, WA



408 W. 9th St., Vancouver, WA

The exterior of the house at 408 West Ninth, the A.M. Blaker House, is well-preserved and noteworthy for its fine classically-inspired details, including the molded pediment above the main entrance, paired square Doric order columns and simple capped balustrade. However, the interior has been seriously compromised. Some of the changes may be reversible. The major alterations include the installation of imitation wood paneling throughout the house, rearranged rooms, dropped acoustical tile ceiling, and fluorescent ceiling lighting. The original banister of the staircase in the front hall has been replaced with a modern black metal version. There are no vestiges of the original interior visible. For all intents and purposes, this is a modern office.

Of the three most similar buildings, the Chumasero-Smith House is the finest example of the type. While it has been used as an office, it was not structurally modified for that use and retains an extremely high level of integrity on both its exterior and interior. The current use as a bed and breakfast has returned the house to its original residential use. It is one of only three houses in the downtown Esther Short neighborhood that retains a residential use in conjunction with a business. The subject house is the most intact example of the grand residences that graced downtown Vancouver at one time.