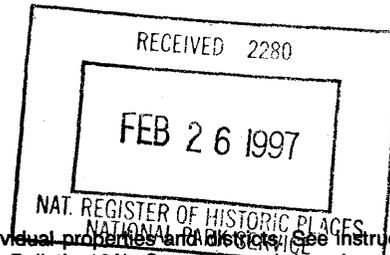


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 an 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 Bickle, Ann, House

other names/site number Ann Bickle Heritage House

2. Location

street & number 226 E. Minnesota Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town Glenwood vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Pope code 121 zip code 56334

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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] 1/3/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Ian R. Stewart Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. 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): _____

[Signature] 3/28/97
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

Bickle, Ann House
Name of Property

Pope County, Minnesota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: American Foursquare

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured concrete

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

Bickle, Ann House
Name of Property

Pope County, Minnesota
County and State

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.)

Property is: N/A

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1936-1947

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Bickle, Ann Jones

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Allen, Frank P. and Son (architect)

Wollan, Albert (builder)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Pope County Historical Society and
Ann Bickle Heritage House

Bickle, Ann House
Name of Property

Pope County, Minnesota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	3 1 4 1 4 0	5 0 5 7 6 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger and Kay Grossman

organization Gemini Research date September 30, 1996

street & number 15 E. Ninth Street telephone (320) 589-3846

city or town Morris state MN zip code 56267

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Glenwood, Pope County, Minnesota

7. DESCRIPTION

The Ann Bickle House, built in 1913, is located at 226 E. Minnesota Avenue in Glenwood, Minnesota, a town of about 2,570 people in Pope County. The property is located on a corner lot on the southern side of Minnesota Avenue, Glenwood's major thoroughfare and main commercial street. The house stands in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood about two blocks east of downtown Glenwood. The Bickle House is surrounded by residences to the east, west and south, and commercial properties across Minnesota Avenue to the north.

The Bickle House is a two story, woodframe American Foursquare style structure. It was designed by a Michigan firm, Frank P. Allen and Son, and built by Glenwood contractor Albert Wollan. Both the exterior and the interior of the house are essentially intact.

The house measures approximately 38 feet wide by 46 feet deep and rests on a poured concrete foundation that has 18-inch-thick walls. The exterior of the house is covered with stucco. Its truncated hipped roof has wide overhanging eaves and is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has rectangular window openings with double hung sash. The upper sash has wooden muntins forming a geometric pattern. There are small rectangular and square windows lighting the basement. The house has a stucco-covered exterior endwall chimney on the eastern facade and an interior chimney near the rear.

The main (northern) facade of the Bickle House is symmetrical. The second story has two square windows in the center bay and a larger rectangular window in each of the outer bays. Two hip-roofed, attic-level dormers project from the roof of the main facade. Spanning the main facade is an eight and one-half foot-deep front porch that has a stucco-covered base and four broad stucco-covered piers that support a hipped roof. The porch has been screened. Within the porch two rectangular window openings flank the main entrance to the house. The main entrance consists of a single-leaf door flanked by rectangular leaded glass sidelights.

The eastern facade has a wide one story bay window, a battered stucco-covered exterior chimney, and rectangular window openings. The western facade has a simple, symmetrical pattern of rectangular window openings. The rear (southern) facade has a one story, hip-roofed kitchen extension, single-leaf doors leading to the basement and to a rear entrance porch that enters the kitchen, and rectangular window openings.

The basement originally contained a laundry area at the southern end; a vegetable storage room, coal-burning furnace, and coal chute near the center of the house; and an open storage area near the northern end.

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Glenwood, Pope County, Minnesota

The first floor is divided into five major rooms arranged around a central hall and a centrally-located stairway to the second floor. A parlor--used by the Bickles as a music room--is located at the northwestern corner. A sitting or living room is located at the northeastern corner, a dining room is located near the southeastern corner, a library is located near the southwestern corner, and a kitchen with pantry is located across the southern end of the house.

The second floor is arranged like the first floor, with a bedroom in each of the four corners of the house and a bathroom located near the center of the eastern side.

The interior of the house has plaster-covered walls, oak trim that retains its original red oak finish, and hardwood floors. The music room and the library have oak, maple, and black walnut flooring laid in a three-color geometric pattern. The living room and the dining room have oak flooring. The dining room and the library each have a beamed ceiling and a fireplace. The living room has a bay window.

The Bickle House is located midway down a large hill, dubbed "Soo Hill," which runs twelve blocks from the Soo Line Depot (at the top of the hill east of the Bickle House) to the shore of Lake Minnewaska (approximately six blocks west of the Bickle House). There are public sidewalks and grassy boulevards with deciduous trees along the northern and eastern sides of the property. A gravel alley runs along the southern side of the property as it bisects the block. The house has a steeply sloping, grassy lawn. There are large evergreen trees located in the front yard and at the southeastern corner of the lot. Near the foundation of the house are evergreen shrubs, hostas, perennial flowers, and plum bushes. Woodvines that were planted in the 1940s cover all four sides of the house. A 1914 photograph of the house shows a grass-planted lawn and a row of deciduous trees (probably elm) standing in front of the house.

Running along the property line in front of the house is a reinforced concrete retaining wall that was built by cement contractors Louis Hofstead and John L. Johnson. The wall was faced circa 1939 with three types of granite from central Minnesota laid in a random pattern with rounded-arched designs. The wall is approximately four feet tall and four feet thick. A poured concrete retaining wall also runs along the eastern side of the property. The main facade of the house is approached via a set of granite steps built of three different types of granite.

Granite slab steps of a single color also approach the rear of the house from the alley. West of the steps is a circular planter made of granite. At the rear of the lot adjacent to the alley is a woodframe, one and one-half story,

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Glenwood, Pope County, Minnesota

shiplap-sided, gable-roofed garage that was built in the 1940s on a concrete block base. The garage is contributing to the site.

The house is now being preserved locally as the Ann Bickle Heritage House. A group of Glenwood women purchased the house in 1988 to preserve it for the community as a cultural and community center which celebrates the accomplishments of women. Each year in March the Heritage House honors local women who have contributed to the community in the tradition of Ann Bickle. The garage has been converted into the Dina Bremness Art Gallery which showcases the work of Pope County artists and crafts people. The gallery opened in 1991.

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Glenwood, Pope County, Minnesota

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ann Bickle House, built in 1913, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B (associated with the life of a significant person). The house is associated with Ann Bickle, a woman who made significant contributions to her community and state through public service. Bickle is known particularly for her contributions to health care and to World War II civilian defense activities. She served the community of Glenwood as an organizer and volunteer in many civic organizations, as well as being influential on the state level as one of the founders and the first president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Minnesota Hospital Association.

The Ann Bickle House was the home of Ann Jones Bickle (1886-1984) from 1936-1984. Bickle's civic contributions during those years included service on many civic, cultural, and social organizations in Glenwood. She became the first president of the Glenwood Community Hospital Auxiliary in 1939. She was instrumental in raising funds to construct and equip the Glenwood Hospital, which was constructed in 1939-1940, and in funding its subsequent operation. Partly as a result of Bickle's efforts, the Glenwood Hospital was recognized nationally several times during the years 1940-1945 as an outstanding small hospital by the American Hospital Association. During World War II Bickle was Director of Women's Services in Civilian Defense in Pope County and led many facets of the "home front" war effort. She was also a member and officer of a number of social and cultural organizations, including the Glenwood Civic Club, the Glenwood Music Club, the Glenwood Literary Club, and other groups. Prior to her move to Glenwood, Bickle was active in organizations such as the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, the Minneapolis Philharmonic Club, and World War I "home front" efforts. Ann moved to Glenwood in 1936 when she married Frank Bickle, a career Soo Line engineer who had been living in the house since it was built in 1913.

Ann Jones Williams was born in Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales on February 15, 1886. Her father, Captain John Williams, a Master Mariner, died October 13, 1898, when his ship sank during a storm. Ann's brother Edward, who was 28 years old, also died during this voyage. Remaining family members included her mother Ellen Jones Williams, a half-sister Claudia, and a brother Isaac. Ann attended preparatory schools in Wales and studied for one year at the University of Wales where she took music classes and voice lessons. As a child, Ann had sung with the well-known Welsh Brenig Edward's choir which earned many awards in music competition. In 1904, when Ann was 18, she immigrated to Calgary, Canada, to homestead with her brother Isaac who had immigrated earlier and established a claim. When Isaac returned to Wales, Ann remained in Calgary where she worked at a hotel which she eventually managed. In 1910, Ann moved to Minneapolis where she married and became a homemaker. By 1921 Ann McKay, separated from her husband, took a position as

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a saleswoman. Following her divorce, Ann worked in the advertising department of the Chippewa Water Company in Minneapolis.

Ann's second husband, Frank B. J. Bickle, was born December 28, 1876, in Devonshire, England. When he was 14 years old he immigrated to Canada and from there to Gladstone, Michigan, where he worked at a sawmill. In September of 1896, he began working as a fireman on the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad (known as the Soo Line) and in July of 1901 was transferred by the railroad to Glenwood. By September of that year he had been promoted to engineer and was assigned the 186-mile run between Glenwood and Thief River Falls. He held this position until he retired in 1946 after having worked 50 years for the railroad. Bickle commissioned the construction of the house in Glenwood in 1913, shortly before his first marriage to Flora Drake who was also an English immigrant. The marriage ended in divorce during the mid-1930s. Ann met Frank Bickle at a church function in Minneapolis where Welsh and English groups socialized. Ann was 50 and Frank was 59 years old when they married on June 10, 1936.

In 1936, Ann moved to Glenwood, then a town of 2,500 people, and into the Bickle House. She immediately began to make an impact on civic and cultural life in the city. Her contributions were far-reaching.

The city of Glenwood is located on the eastern end of Lake Minnewaska in west central Minnesota where it was platted in 1866 by the early settlers. It was named "Glenwood" after the home of one of the founder's families in New York state. Glenwood became the county seat of Pope County in 1867. Most of the county's early settlers were pioneer farmers of Swedish or Norwegian descent. Immigrants from Germany, England, and Bohemia also moved there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Glenwood was incorporated as a village in 1881 and received rail service in 1882 when the Little Falls branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived. In 1886 the Soo Line was built through Glenwood and the town became a division headquarters on the Soo. Glenwood's economy was centered around the town's role as an agricultural trade center and as a resort community on Lake Minnewaska. Its current population is about 2,570.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Glenwood Music Club

Ann's involvement in various Glenwood cultural and social clubs, such as the Glenwood Music Club, was a creative outlet for a civic-minded woman whose volunteerism was a full-time career. From the moment Ann moved to Glenwood, her musical talents were called upon as she entertained at various club meetings. She was described in the 1942 Who's Who in Minnesota as "an entertainer, lecturer, and singer for several years in Glenwood, beginning in 1936" (Cornwall 1941:405). She sang in the church choir, entertained at

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community functions, and lectured on her homeland of Wales and on the European countries through which she and Frank traveled.

Ann joined the Glenwood Music Club in 1936 and was elected president in 1939. The club held monthly musical presentations for the community, including performances of operas such as the "Mikado." It also presented an annual Christmas Nativity Pageant and hosted district-wide music contests for high school students. In 1941, for example, the Glenwood Music Club's District Music Contest was a two-day event that drew 3,249 students from 29 schools to Glenwood (Pope County Tribune, Apr. 21, 1941).

Glenwood Literary Club

Bickle was a member of the Glenwood Literary Club from 1936 to at least 1941, and probably much longer. The Literary Club had formed in 1911 to promote arts and literature in Glenwood and was active in civic and cultural affairs. In this role the club sponsored fund-raising events for the school, library, and local Red Cross.

During Ann's involvement with the Glenwood Literary Club the group organized the local Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), raised money for street signs and the construction of a community band stand, raised funds to purchase a Hammond organ for the school, and participated in World War II defense and Red Cross work. The Literary Club was a sponsor and strong supporter of the Glenwood Public Library. The club held numerous benefits to raise funds for the library including card parties, teas, and Minnesota Artists' Shows.

There were 19 members in the Literary Club when Ann joined in 1936. Monthly club meetings were devoted to the study of literature and the arts. Book reviews were presented at each meeting, and topics of study discussed. The fall meetings in 1937, for example, were devoted to the study of China. At a meeting in October of 1937 Bickle lectured on Chinese art, social customs, and on her own travels in China (Glenwood Herald, Oct. 7, 1937).

Glenwood Civic Club

Ann joined the Glenwood Civic Club shortly after her arrival in Glenwood, and was elected president in 1943 and 1944. The Civic Club had been formed in 1920 to promote civic responsibility and Americanism. It also provided recreation for women and encouraged women's intellectual development in science, literature, and the arts. Among the club's accomplishments were the passage of city ordinances for community public safety, organizing the Girls Honor Society and the local Girl Scouts, securing the first school nurse for the public school system, and establishing health screening clinics for public schools. The Civic Club raised funds to construct a women's building at the Pope County Fair grounds, to build a stone fireplace in the city park, to place benches on the courthouse lawn, and to purchase books for the local library.

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The Glenwood Civic Club had joined the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs in 1920, and it is through the Civic Club that Ann became involved in the Federation of Women's Clubs at the state level.

The Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs had been organized in 1895 in Minneapolis to affiliate all types of women's clubs in Minnesota. By 1924 there were 671 clubs in the state federation. The Glenwood Civic Club and Glenwood Literary Club were both members of the federation's Seventh District. Ann quickly became involved in state-level duties, holding state office for a number of years. At one time Bickle was First Vice President of the state organization, but it is through her role as State Health Chairman, discussed below, that Ann was most influential.

Eastern Star

Bickle was also active in the Eastern Star which she had first joined when she lived in Minneapolis in 1923. Bickle joined the Glenwood chapter in 1936 and in 1973 she was awarded a 50-year Eastern Star membership pin. She had been a past Matron and Chaplain of the organization.

The Eastern Star was the largest fraternal organization to which both men and women belonged. Both Frank and Ann Bickle belonged to the "Minnewaska Chapter #129, Order of the Eastern Star" which had been organized in Glenwood in 1898. The local chapter often raised funds and held benefits for local charitable organizations. For example, the Eastern Star held its sixth annual Christmas Charity Tea in 1946 and donated the proceeds to the Red Cross and other groups. Ann Bickle offered an unusual skill, and displayed an undoubted sense of humor, by reading tea leaves at these annual events.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary

The Glenwood Hospital, built in 1939-1940, was the community's first modern hospital. It replaced the town's crowded and out-dated hospital that was located in a private house. The Glenwood Hospital still serves the town of Glenwood and farms and smaller communities in the surrounding area.

In the fall of 1939, Bickle and seven other women organized the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary. This committee sent letters to every organization, church, and club in Glenwood and the surrounding area inviting each to send two representatives to sit on the hospital auxiliary board. The board met for the first time in November of 1939, and Bickle was elected president. Ann was re-elected 11 times to the presidency, serving 12 terms before retiring from the position in 1951 (Wittkop 1993:9-10).

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By the end of the first year the auxiliary had 141 members. The members represented a wide variety of women's organizations in Pope County, including the Ladies' Aid groups of the Methodist, Congregational, Glenwood Lutheran, Barsness Lutheran, Villard German Lutheran, Villard Methodist, Catholic, Covenant, and Missionary churches; and other groups such as the Pope County Farm Bureau, the Royal Neighbors, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Literary Club, the Grove Lake Methodist Group, the League of Women Voters, the Sons of Norway, the Eastern Star, the Music Club, the Reno Study Club, the Civic Club, and the Villard Community Group (Wittkop 1993:5-6).

Once members had been enlisted, the group embarked on its primary mission, the raising of funds to equip the new hospital. The members' organizations held teas, tag days, card parties, dances, and theater parties to raise money. Men's groups including the Ski Club and the volunteer firemen's organization were also successfully encouraged to donate.

During the first year of its organization, the Glenwood Women's Hospital Auxiliary, with the assistance of other county organizations, raised money to purchase curtains, drapes and rods, books for the hospital library, 25 baby layettes, baby identification cabinets, and birth certificates for the new hospital building. Each year a membership tea was held to raise money, funds were solicited from local businessmen, and dues were collected from members. Other fund-raising events included holding benefit dances, card parties, ice cream socials, and teas, and selling specialized printed baby announcements and corsages. The auxiliary continued to purchase items for the hospital including vacuum cleaners, incubators, scales, a refrigerator, and a freezer. The auxiliary women also sewed hospital gowns and blankets, and made toys for hospitalized children.

It was in 1940, after the first year of the auxiliary's existence, that the Glenwood Hospital received the first of many honors which were directly attributed to the administration of the hospital under superintendent Dina Bremness and to the auxiliary activities under Ann Bickle. In 1940 the hospital was selected as the most Outstanding Small Hospital in Minnesota by the American Hospital Association. It also received an honorable mention award in North American Hospitals category. In 1944, the Minneapolis Star outlined the accomplishments of Ann Bickle, the auxiliary, and the Glenwood Hospital:

[It] must be of great satisfaction to her [Ann Bickle] and all the women--representatives of every church and club group in Glenwood--of the auxiliary, that this little hospital of 26 beds has four times been recognized nationally and on each year since 1940 has been awarded plaques on National Hospital Day as the outstanding hospital in cities of 15,000 and under (Stafford 1944).

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During her early years of work with the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary, Ann established a program to encourage young women to enter nursing. Later, as State Health Chairman of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, Ann established a state program modeled after the Glenwood scholarship program. Beginning in 1943 in Glenwood, a yearly auxiliary committee was appointed to recruit high school girls into the nursing profession. The Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary held a tea at the hospital for the young women to introduce them to the facility. In 1947, the auxiliary began presenting an annual nursing scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to the most "deserving practical nurse who affiliated in Glenwood from the Franklin School for Practical Nurses in Minneapolis" and encouraged young nurses to return to the Glenwood area after graduation (Wittkop 1993:8).

Ann Bickle remained active in the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary well into the 1960s. After she left the presidency in 1951 she continued to serve on the auxiliary board of directors and to attend state auxiliary meetings.

State Health Chair of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs

Bickle was appointed State Chairman of Nurses (later referred to as State Health Chairman) of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs in 1945. She also served on the Board of Directors of the federation. As State Health Chairman, Ann was responsible for promoting health and social issues and for directing the public health officers of the ten federation districts within the state. She was also the Seventh District Health Chairman (the district which included Glenwood). In this capacity, her duties included the supervision of the health officers and the direction of public health activities within a district that included 69 clubs in 13 counties. One of her most important duties as State Health Chairman was to disseminate information to federation clubs on public health bills which were before the legislature. The state federation and Ann were able to participate in political activism by lobbying the state legislature for the passage of bills that addressed health and safety issues. A bill on which Ann worked in 1948, for example, supported the prevention and treatment of mental illness by providing funding for disturbed children, preventative clinics, additional personnel, and training facilities for mental health workers.

In her role as Health Chairman and as president of both her local hospital auxiliary and the state auxiliary, and because of her activism during World War II, Bickle was acutely aware of the nursing shortage throughout the country. A state project initiated by Ann (and modeled after the Glenwood Nursing Scholarship Program) was an annual state essay contest offered to high school juniors and seniors entitled "Why I Want To Be A Nurse". In a letter to the National Health Chairman of the Federated Women's Clubs, Ann wrote that, although only two of those submitting essays from each federation district would win a scholarship to nursing school, the contest would provide a listing of interested nursing candidates. Bickle encouraged that all

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entrants in each district be contacted once the contest was over to support their entry into the profession (Bickle May 8, 1948). The statewide nursing scholarship program remained in effect for many years.

Ann Bickle served as State Health Chairman of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs for many years, at least into the 1950s.

Minnesota Hospital Auxiliary

In March of 1946 Ann Bickle, who was president of the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary at the time, and ten other auxiliary presidents who were from Twin Cities hospitals, met to organize a statewide hospital auxiliary to the Minnesota Hospital Association. The new organization was formally accepted by the Hospital Association at its convention May 27, 1946. Minnesota was the second state in the United States to organize a state auxiliary, with Texas being the first (Wittkop 1993:8-9).

The first officers of the Minnesota Hospital Auxiliary were Ann Bickle, President; Mrs. Carl Olson of Fairview Auxiliary, Minneapolis, Vice President; Mrs. H. B. Kildahl, Fairview Auxiliary, Minneapolis, Secretary; Mrs. Phil Akre, Glenwood, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Wm. H. Lang, Children's Hospital Auxiliary, St. Paul, Treasurer; and Mrs. C. P. Rolig, Bethesda Auxiliary, St. Paul, Historian. The initial goals of the organization were to organize auxiliaries throughout the state, to replace Red Cross volunteers that were diminishing in number due to the end of World War II, and to establish a scholarship fund to encourage young women to enter nurses' training (Bremness circa 1946).

One of Ann's most important duties as president was to coordinate the recruitment of nurses and other hospital personnel. She wrote in 1947, "With our membership of 8,000 all working we could be a powerful influence in solving this [nursing shortage] problem. The demand for nursing services has been increasing faster than the supply. Even though we have more nurses today than ever before we need another 41,000 graduate professional nurses" (Bickle Jan. 14, 1947). Ann, once again, become politically involved as a result of her state presidency. She often wrote to legislators about pending health care bills and encouraged auxiliary units to do the same. In her correspondence Bickle was able to assure legislators she could rally the support of the entire Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs (Bickle Sept. 21, 1946).

Bickle served as president of the Minnesota Hospital Auxiliary for two terms, 1946-1947 and 1948-1949, and thereafter remained active as a lecturer, traveling to hospitals throughout the United States and Canada where she advocated the establishment of local auxiliaries. In September of 1971, Bickle was honored at the silver anniversary of the Minnesota Hospital Auxiliary. The auxiliary had accomplished much in its 25 years, growing from

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an organization of 8,000 women in 33 auxiliaries, to one of 50,000 members in 157 auxiliaries (Pope County Tribune, Oct. 7, 1971).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD WAR II CIVILIAN DEFENSE

During World War II Bickle was called upon to donate her organizational skills to the "home front" effort. She played a significant leadership role in Pope County civilian defense efforts. A pamphlet published by the U.S. War Manpower Commission explained the value of women like Ann Bickle:

The membership of women's organizations represents a source of national strength and leadership, which has been of great assistance to the country in the mobilization and utilization of women during this war. This is not new, however, for women's organizations have always participated in civic and public activities. Club women because of their acquaintance with, and their experience in, their own communities, have always been in position to be of vast assistance to public officials in the solution of local problems, and this service has been of even greater value since Pearl Harbor (War Manpower Commission Jan. 1944).

Director of Women's Services in Civilian Defense for Pope County

In February of 1942 Ann was appointed Pope County Director of the Women's Services in Civilian Defense by Governor Stassen. In describing the attributes and role of a county director, the Victory Aide Handbook stated, "This director should be a woman of mature judgement with established community contacts, with good organizing ability, capable of accepting, carrying out and giving instructions, and who has a spirit of unselfish, patriotic service" (Victory Aide Handbook:28).

One of Ann's duties as county director was to administer the V-Home Award program which was presented by the local Civilian Defense Council to "those families which have made themselves into a fighting unit on the home front" (Pope County Tribune, May 16, 1943). The award was given to families who followed air raid instructions, conserved food, clothing, transportation, and health, salvaged materials, and purchased War Savings Stamps and Bonds regularly.

Perhaps Bickle's most important duty as Director of Women's Services was to organize and manage the county's Victory Aide Program. The Victory Aides were a division of the Office of Civilian Defense which was created by President Roosevelt in May of 1941. The purpose of the Victory Aide Program was described in the 1945 Minnesota Legislative Manual:

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Following a plan of organization suggested by the National Office of Civilian Defense, a system of county defense councils was initiated in Minnesota in 1941. . . . The Service Corps includes Victory Aides, women organized to deal directly with their neighbors in each block in the cities and village of the State as well as in rural areas. The functions of the Service Corps consists in providing volunteers and promotion for activities that have become more necessary in wartime, relating to consumer interest, nutrition, recreation, welfare, salvage, etc. Its purpose primarily is to coordinate and use existing agencies in meeting adjustments necessitated by war (Minnesota Legislative Manual 1945:148).

The program called for one volunteer for each square block in a city and one for each suburban area containing 100 residents. The rules for recruitment directed that a Victory Aide must belong to, or be a representative of, a group or organization. The Victory Aides kept neighbors informed about the war effort, worked with the Red Cross, disseminated information on various welfare programs, assisted with the Office of Civilian Defense's Nutrition Program and Recreation and Physical Fitness programs, and recruited volunteers. In addition, they promoted bond drives, assisted the county Rationing Board and Salvage committee, registered the families of servicemen, and promoted Victory Gardens.

Ann directed 271 Victory Aides in five drives to sell Defense Savings Bonds. She also served on the Rationing Board and food panel, and directed the Victory Aides to assist the local Rationing Board in their communities. Bickle was responsible for the collection and cataloging of information about the families of servicemen in Pope County so that the families could be supported and honored. She also promoted the planting of Victory Gardens. Bickle expanded the garden project by encouraging those planting Victory Gardens to also plant extra rows of vegetables to be donated to the Glenwood Hospital.

As chairman of the county's Women's Salvage Committee, Ann was also responsible for the organizing and collection of paper, rubber, scrap metal, tin cans, silk stockings, and old rags. In conjunction with the men's salvage committee, Ann's group helped to collect 176 tons of paper and 150 tons of scrap metal (Stafford 1944).

The duties of the Pope County Director of Women's Services in Civilian Defense were far-reaching and time-consuming and Bickle's involvement was complete. She worked closely with the local branches of the armed services, attended numerous meetings and workshops, and participated at state functions. In April of 1943, for example, Ann spent a week in Minneapolis attending a Civilian Defense training course. The Glenwood Herald reported that the speakers at the meeting included Mary Proel Lindeke, Ruth

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Lindstrom, Edward Thye, O. B. Jesness, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Roosevelt spoke about the bombing in England, which occurred not far from Ann's birthplace, according to the article (Glenwood Herald, Apr. 15, 1943).

For her contributions to her country, state, and community as the Women's Civilian Defense Director, Ann was awarded four citations which commended over 2,000 hours of service.

Red Cross

Ann Bickle had been active in the Red Cross as early as World War I. During World War II she also donated her services to the Red Cross in Pope County. Ann personally knitted sweaters and gloves for soldiers in England, as well as baby sets. In 1942 the Red Cross assisted with the county's scrap and salvage drives. After the war, Ann continued her service to the county Red Cross chapter, serving as the Pope County Vice Chairman in 1948.

MODEL FOR VOLUNTEERISM

Ann Bickle was always a motivating force behind each organization with which she was involved. Many women in Glenwood credited their membership to Ann's encouragement and recruitment. In a series of articles published in the 1989 and 1990 Pope County Tribune, a number of women who had been longtime members of the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary were profiled. The women mentioned Ann Bickle's influence upon their involvement. Alice Nason, a member of the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary since 1940, recalled, "Mrs. Bickle was bound I'd join. . . . At first I wondered about it but like all the other women, I became interested. There was always something going on. She was just a lovely person" (Pope County Tribune, June 4, 1990). Myrtle Anderson, a member of the auxiliary since 1939, said, "Ann Bickle, who initiated the auxiliary organization, was always around in those days. She was such an inspiration. Ann Bickle was a joy to be with, always cheerful and never flustered by things. She had a quiet nature and was an easy person to be with" (Pope County Tribune, May 14, 1990).

In 1936, when Bickle moved to Glenwood, most women's sphere of influence was centered around her home and family. Civic and social clubs were important because they provided an outlet for women to participate in society independently from their husbands and homes. Membership was also a means of developing socially and intellectually. Sara M. Evans writes,

Though based on domesticity, they [clubs] provided arenas outside the family over which women had a considerable measure of control--arenas which they 'owned'. In these environments women learned to speak in public, to organize, to raise and manage money, and finally to understand the complete illegitimacy of their exclusion from public politics. . . . Attention to the personal dimensions of women's

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networks has further revealed the powerful bonds that sustained the women as they challenged a range of social inequities (Evans 1983:234).

Women's clubs also provided social services in the years before tax-funded county and state social services were established. "Ladies' aid societies and auxiliaries provided a 'safety net' in a world without social security, health benefits, or sick leave. . . . Such groups put their members in touch with economic and social problems and gave women a sense of contribution, action, and leadership" (Bingham 1989:440).

Ann Bickle's involvement in civic clubs and home front activities was typical of many upper-middle and middle class women of her era. Campbell writes that women of means rarely worked outside of the home. "Wealthy women who could afford to hire servants for some or even all household duties rarely took jobs. They found outlets for their energy in social and cultural affairs and in volunteer work" (Campbell 1984:84). Through their connections with other well-to-do individuals, often times politicians, these women were able to influence societal changes through community service organizations.

Barbara Stuhler uses the term "professional volunteer" in reference to women who had leisure time to occupy and did so by belonging to civic and social clubs. Quite often, women of means would develop a "full-time career" of their volunteerism. Stuhler explains that "The choice was not an uncommon one for intelligent women of means" particularly during the 1920s-1940s, "a period when women had few opportunities for self expression except as volunteers." She adds that "throughout American history, voluntary associations have served as agents of change" (Stuhler 1977:285, 299).

In an analysis of women's roles during World War II, Campbell observes,

Volunteer activity in officially approved war programs absorbed the leisure energies of about one-fourth of the [American] women. Participation varied by life-cycle stage, class, and race. Housewives in their thirties and forties were the most active, as were established residents in their communities. . . . Despite rhetoric in Washington about the need for participation from a full spectrum of the American people, it did not happen that way" (Campbell 1984:66).

Campbell explains that those who could not or did not participate were often mothers with young children, the elderly, and employed women. She adds that

Women with white-collar husbands and those with some college experience were two to four times as likely to volunteer as women from less privileged backgrounds. . . . Middle-class women not only had more time available, they also had much more experience with organized social activities outside the home. Except possibly for some Office of Price

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Administration (OPA) projects, nearly all war-related activities at the community level were set up or run through established clubs and networks of local influentials (Campbell 1984:66).

Ann Bickle died at her home May 18, 1984, at the age of 98. Her obituary in the Pope County Tribune praised Bickle's contribution during her lifetime:

Glenwood and Minnesota lost a grand lady last week when Ann Bickle died at the age of 98. Back before it was fashionable for women to be active, Mrs. Bickle started the Glenwood Hospital Auxiliary, an organization with a founding date of Nov. 4, 1939. She was president of the Glenwood Auxiliary for 12 straight years, but in the process also traveled and organized auxiliaries elsewhere. . . . Mrs. Bickle's efforts set a high standard for volunteerism, and we in this area are the beneficiaries of this effort (Pope County Tribune, May 24, 1984).

Ann Bickle's longtime friend and companion, Dina Bremness, was at Ann's side when she died. The women's friendship began when Bremness was the in-charge nurse and, later, the superintendent of the first Glenwood Hospital (razed) which was located in a house across the street to the north of the Bickle House. When the new Glenwood Hospital was completed in 1940 Bremness became its first administrator, serving from 1940-1967. Bremness became Ann's housemate after Frank Bickle died in 1959 when Ann was 73 and Dina 54. Bremness inherited the Bickle House when Ann died in 1984, and Dina continued to reside there until her death at the age of 82 on May 6, 1988. Bremness had lived in the Bickle House for 29 years.

Bremness was born on a farm in 1905 in Pope County. From 1924-1927 she attended nurses training at the Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester. For a time she worked as a registered nurse in Rochester and Los Angeles. When she returned to Pope County in 1932, she worked for Drs. Eberlin and Elsey and later became the administrator of the new Glenwood Hospital. Under her administration, the Glenwood Hospital won five National Hospital Day awards.

Bremness was a member and president for four years of the Glenwood League of Women Voters, held offices in the Pope County Nurses Association and the Minnesota Nurses Association, was a member of the State Advisory Council for Construction under the Hill Burton Act which helped fund the expansion of hospitals, was active in the Red Cross and served as county chairman in 1942, and served on committees of the Minnesota Hospital Association. Bremness was one of the first rural women to be elected president of the Minnesota Hospital Association, serving as president in 1945-1946. (She was president of the Association during the time that Bickle help organize the Minnesota

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Hospital Auxiliary.) Bremness retired as hospital administrator in 1967, but continued to work with various local and state organizations.

BICKLE HOUSE

The Bickle House was designed by the Frank P. Allen and Son architectural firm of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The firm had been established by Frank P. Allen, Sr. (1856-1934) in Grand Rapids in 1892. Allen was joined by his eldest son, Frank P. Allen, Jr. (1880-1943) around the turn of the century. The Allens practiced under the name Frank P. Allen and Son until 1914 when Frank Jr. moved to California. In 1920, another son, Roger Allen (1892-1971), joined the firm. Roger Allen inherited the business after his father's death in 1934 and continued to head Roger Allen and Associates, one of Michigan's leading architectural firms until the late 1960s.

By the time the Bickle House was constructed in 1913, Frank P. Allen and Son was both successful and prolific. During the 1910s and 1920s the firm designed more than 60 commercial buildings, numerous apartment buildings, a dozen public schools, at least eight churches, and hundreds of private residences in Grand Rapids and other Michigan cities.

The Bickle House is one of few buildings known to have been designed by the Allen firm in Minnesota. Frank Bickle lived in Michigan from circa 1890 until he moved to Glenwood in 1901. It is possible that he became acquainted with the Allens or with their work while living in Michigan and then commissioned the firm to design his house in Glenwood.

The Bickle House was constructed by Albert Wollan, a well-known and highly respected Glenwood contractor, carpenter, and cabinet maker. Albert Wollan was born in Norway in 1872, and learned the carpentry trade there. He immigrated to Glenwood in 1892 and worked for Theodore Waalen as a carpenter for five years before starting his own construction company. Wollan built many homes in Glenwood, as well as the town's first 85-foot-tall ski tower, and the band shell in the city's lakeside park. An article in a 1951 issue of the local newspaper stated, "Mr. Wollan has the honor of having built more homes in Glenwood than any other carpenter. In certain sections of the city, rows of houses have all been built by Mr. Wollan" (Pope County Tribune, Apr. 5, 1951). Wollan was also a locally renowned cabinet maker and interior woodworker. Working closely with Frank Bickle, Wollan personally crafted much of the interior of the Bickle House.

The Bickle House was the site of many meetings and social gatherings associated with Ann Bickle's volunteerism. The Women's Civic Club, the Literary Club, the Music Club, the Eastern Star, the Hospital Auxiliary, and the Women's Civil Defense groups often met and held special events in the Bickle House.

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SUMMARY

The Ann Bickle House is significant as the home of Ann Bickle, a woman who made outstanding contributions to her community, county, and state through public service, leadership, and volunteerism. Bickle's commitment to volunteerism may be summarized by her own words from a 1948 annual report: "My report is not one of outstanding achievements but it is a record of a year of days willingly and gladly given in service. It has been a wonderful experience, so long as we love to serve" (Bickle 1948).

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

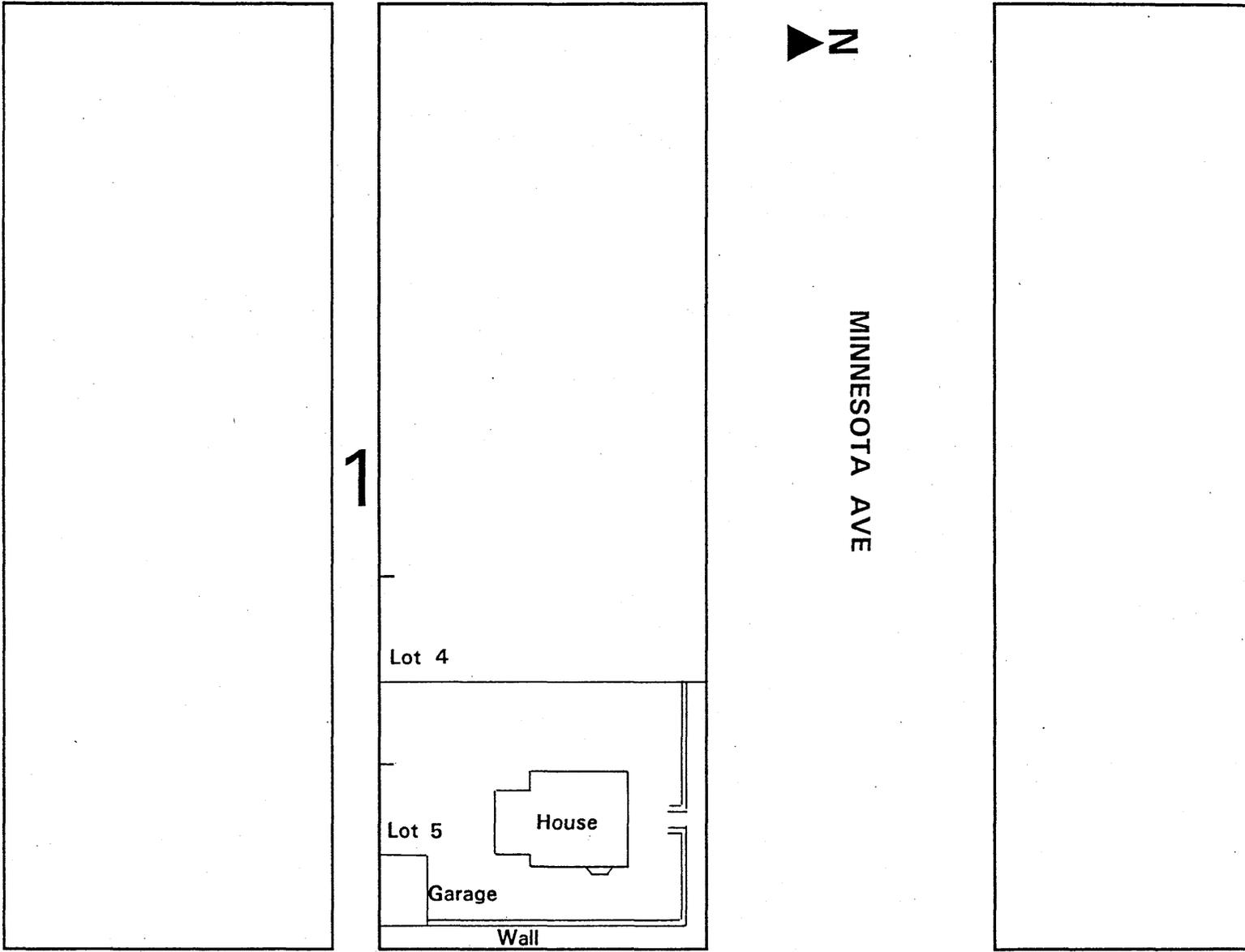
Verbal Boundary Description

East 29 feet of Lot 4 and all of Lot 5, Block 1, Thorson's Addition, City of Glenwood.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Ann Bickle House.

Ann Bickle House
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DEVONSHIRE ST

SCALE 1" = 54'