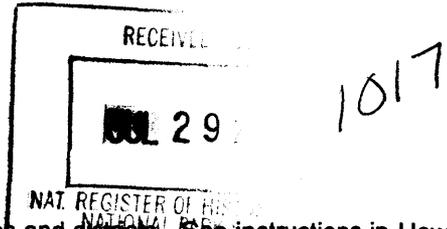


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 509 NE Prescott Street not for publication ___
city or town Portland vicinity ___
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97211

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.)

James H. Smith July 26, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Deputy SHPO Date

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
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): _____

Edson H. Beall 9/14/02
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	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)

 DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

 LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood: beveled drop siding and

 shingles

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Alfred J. Armstrong House is located on a corner lot at 509 NE Prescott Street in the historic King neighborhood of Portland. Built in 1894-1895, it is a 1 1/2-story Queen Anne style house with a parged brick foundation. The exterior is asymmetrical and has a combination of beveled drop siding and decorative cut shingle siding and a square tower on the southeast corner, all typical conventions of the Queen Anne style. The roof is hipped with several projecting gables, further emphasizing the asymmetry of the house. The interior layout of the house has a comfortable and functional layout. Although some of the interior detailing has been altered, the general floorplan has not. Those original details which remain, including the doors and moldings, some windows, and the staircase, are in good condition and reflect the style of the house.

Setting

The Alfred J. Armstrong House is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of NE Prescott Street and NE Grand Avenue in the Highland subdivision of the King neighborhood. The house faces south on a slightly terraced double lot (100 by 100 feet) which is attractively landscaped and contains a number of mature plantings, including a monkey puzzle tree, a Japanese maple, and several other large trees and shrubs. It is set back approximately 30 feet from Prescott Street, and approximately 25 feet from Grand Avenue. The northern boundary of the property is marked by a one foot retaining wall. A driveway extends along the northern edge of the property from Grand Avenue.

The surrounding neighborhood is a mix of historic houses and more recent infill houses, reflecting the area's blighted past. Most of the historic houses are in the Arts and Crafts style, ranging from modest bungalows to larger four-squares built between 1900-1920. There are a few older homes like the Armstrong House, which were built in the 1890s, primarily in the Queen Anne style.

Other eclectic styles of the late Victorian and early 20th century revival periods are also scattered through the Highland subdivision. Immediately to the east of the Armstrong house is a large Arts and Crafts style home built in 1901. To the north of the house, facing Grand Avenue, is a modest Craftsman bungalow built ca. 1920. South, across Prescott Street from the Armstrong house, is a vacant lot. The rest of the block contains a mix of large and small historic houses and some infill houses. One block to the east is Mt. Sinai Church, a fine wood frame Arts and Crafts style building constructed ca. 1905.

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, one block to the west of Grand Avenue, is the main north-south thoroughfare through the neighborhood and the focus of commercial activity in the area. Once blighted,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Page 2

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A., House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (cont.)

the King neighborhood and the entire Albina area of North and Northeast Portland has been the focus of much renewal in the last 15 years. There are homes in various stages of preservation in the neighborhood, as well as many newer modest homes and some vacant lots.

The Armstrong house is located near the peak of a hill which rises from the south and affords a view over the neighborhood and the city beyond. The streets are arranged in an orderly grid pattern and most are lined with mature trees. The average lot size in the neighborhood is 50 feet (frontage) by 100 feet, although the Armstrong house is located on two lots. Most residences in the neighborhood were originally single family, but many houses have been converted to multi-family housing. There are several churches and a school within a few blocks of the subject house.

Exterior

The Alfred J. Armstrong House is a one-and-one-half story, wood frame building set on a brick foundation recently parged with concrete. It has an irregular footprint which is approximately 35 feet wide by 50 feet deep (two bays by three bays), with the primary elevation facing south. The house is sheathed in beveled drop siding on the first floor with a molded belt course at the second story level and patterned shingles above. The windows are primarily original 1/1 double-hung sash, many set in pairs and some with transoms. All the windows have recently installed wood storm windows. A complex roofline caps the house, consisting of a hipped roof with projecting cross gables on three sides and a square tower with a flared roof on the southeast corner. There are two brick chimneys, both recently rebuilt. One is an exterior chimney on the west side of the house, the other is a smaller interior chimney rising from the roof near the peak of the hip.

The primary (south) elevation is asymmetrical, with a cross-gable projecting from the west half of the house and a two-story square tower rising from the southeast corner. The entrance is located on the wraparound porch which encircles the square tower. This porch was rebuilt approximately 25 years ago, and has no original trim elements. It will be restored, with a new rail and trim to match the original still extant on the rear service porch. The main entrance, located on the west end of the wrap-around porch, has a multi-paneled oak door in the Queen Anne style, with an asymmetrical sunburst panel on the bottom, surmounted by a narrow horizontal raised panel, a square window set on the diagonal, and finally three small raised panels at the top. The door is capped by a plain glass transom. The door is in good condition, although it is likely the square window and the transom once contained beveled or stained glass. To the east of the main door is a square window set on the diagonal, which may have also contained stained glass. At the other end of the wrap around porch is a secondary door which matches the main door.

To the west of the wrap-around porch, the south facing gable-end has cutaway corners on the first floor decorated with jigsaw brackets and acorn pendants. Double-hung windows in the cutaways flank a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection Number 7 Page 3Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (cont.)

center window with a transom, all with panels of diagonal boards beneath them. The transom has a new stained glass window, although it may have originally been a multi-light window as seen in other transoms in the house. The second story walls of the gable are flared over the belt course. The eaves have a jigsawn bargeboard decorated with applied bullseyes. A paired window is centered in the gable, and decorated with a jigsawn skirt beneath the sill. Two other paired windows are located in second-story of the tower, these with transoms, one of which has had a stained glass replacement window installed. Above the roofline over the tower windows are small decorative pediments with jigsawn decoration. The tower is topped by a metal cap and cast-iron cresting, which is new.

The west elevation has a nearly centered cross-gable which is virtually identical to the south facing gable. The transom over the center window in the cutaway first-floor of the gable has its original multiple lights, and there is a small fan bracket at the apex of the gable. The exterior chimney, which has recently been rebuilt in the Victorian style, is visible to the south of the gable.

The rear (north) elevation is the only elevation that does not have a cross gable. It has a small, hipped-roof service porch which, although altered, still retains its original turned porch balustrade. The easternmost portion of the service porch has been enclosed. The back door is simple with a single panel surmounted by a single-light window. There is a basement entrance beneath the service porch which is accessed from poured concrete stairs to the west. A shed-roof dormer, added in 1926, rises above the roofline and has a single light window and decorative shingles.

The east elevation has another cross gable, this one without the cutaways in the first floor. The first-story window has its original multi-light transom. Small paired windows are located in the rear section of this elevation.

Interior

The interior of the Alfred J. Armstrong House has a smooth-flowing asymmetrical layout. Most of the interior layout is original except for some changes made in the 1920s, primarily at the rear of the house. Although it retains its original layout, it has been used as a duplex since the 1960s. The double doors leading from the front hall to the parlor allow the first and second floors to be used as separate units, and one of the upstairs bedrooms has been converted to a kitchen (although no structural changes were made).

Entrance to the house is gained through the square tower, which contains a small but pleasant entry hall, with a narrow open stair winding around to the right. The walls are paneled with Douglas fir, and the staircase has a wainscot of the same wood. The wood was painted and is currently being refinished. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Page 4

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (cont.)

staircase has its original newel posts and rails, but the balusters have been replaced. The original balusters are extant in the house and plans are to restore them to the staircase. The lowest newel post has had its carved floral decoration replaced with a modern reproduction due to damage. The floor of the entry hall has wood parquet flooring, which was added after a secondary basement access was closed. Plans are to restore the floor with salvaged oak flooring.

From the entrance hall a doorway in the west wall leads to the parlor. This door has double swinging doors, which are reproductions. The parlor is the largest room in the house at 15 by 30 feet, with two bay windows and a fireplace. As in most of the house, the door and window frames, as well as the baseboards, are original clear-coated fir. These moldings are finely molded, with bullseye corner blocks. A new painted picture molding has been added. The fireplace had been altered, and had to be rebuilt to modern code when the new chimney was built. The new fireplace has a cast-iron coal insert retrofitted with gas, and will have a tile surround and hearth with a wood mantle in a compatible style. The floor is oak covered with carpet. The parlor walls are coved, and two reproduction chandeliers hang from reproduction plaster medallions on the ceiling.

Through a single door in the north wall of the parlor is a small room, a library or den, which has two windows and a door leading to the bathroom.

A doorway on the east wall leads from the parlor to the dining room. Although the doorway originally had pocket doors, renovations in the 1920s removed them and added recessed alcoves on either side of the doorway. The current owner has removed the alcoves and is replacing the pocket doors with reproductions. The woodwork in the dining room was painted and has been refinished. The single window in the east wall has its original multi-light transom. A secondary entrance door is located in the southeast corner of the dining room, and has a square window set on an angle. To the west of this door is a closet.

A door in the north wall of the dining room leads to the kitchen. This room has well crafted wood cabinetry dating to the historic period of the house, although it is not the original cabinetry. The cabinetry is primarily located along the east wall of the room, and the sink is located beneath a pair of double-hung windows. the countertops and backsplash are tile, but are going to be replaced. On the north wall of this room is a small bump-out, which was added in the 1920s, and the back door leading to the service porch. This door has a single panel and a single light in the upper half. A transom surmounts the door.

From the kitchen, a door in the west wall leads to the bathroom, which contains no original elements, but is being restored to period style, with beadboard wainscoting and a claw-foot tub.

Up the stairs from the entrance hall the staircase opens to a light and airy tower room, which has a view to the south and east from the two large windows. The rail overlooking the stairs in this area has been replaced, but will be retained for safety reasons. From the upper stair landing a narrow hall turns to the north and provides access to the three bedrooms and bathroom. The front bedroom is used as a kitchen

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 5

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (cont.)

for the upper rental unit, but it has had no structural changes other than the addition of cabinetry along the east wall. All three bedrooms, which are located in the cross-gables, have sloping ceilings and knee walls, giving the space a cozy but comfortable feel. At the end of the hallway is the bathroom, which is located in a dormer added in 1926. The bathroom does not have any original elements. It will be remodeled to suit the style of the house. The dormer window, now a single sheet of glass with an awning style mechanism, will be replaced with a double-hung sash to match the others in the house.

Alterations

Sensitive renovation is currently underway at the Armstrong House. On the exterior, the front porch will be rebuilt, using details replicated from the original rear porch. The rear porch will be restored to original condition, retaining the original features and restoring missing elements. All windows have new wood storm windows, and the 1926 chimney has been rebuilt in a style more compatible with the original Queen Anne style of the house. The cresting on the tower roof, recently added, will be changed to be more historically accurate.

Inside the house, some minor structural changes have taken place. A wall blocking off the staircase in the front hall was removed, as was a staircase leading to the basement from this same hall. The floor was restored to its original condition. In the parlor, the fireplace, which had been altered over the years and had an Arts and Crafts style mantle, has been rebuilt by necessity when the chimney was rebuilt. A cast iron, coal-burning insert converted to gas has been installed, and a new Queen Anne style mantle which meets modern fire codes will be constructed.

Cosmetically, there are many changes to the interior of the house. The fir woodwork is being stripped and refinished. The pocket doors between the parlor and the dining room will be reproduced and replaced in the wall pockets. Other doors in the house which are missing will also be reproduced to match the originals. The floors will be repaired and refinished. Reproduction and salvage light fixtures will be used throughout the house. Ceiling fixtures will be hung from molded plaster medallions.

The kitchen will retain its existing historic period cabinetry, which will be refinished. All other kitchen surfaces will be replaced with compatible new material, as no original or historic fabric is extant. Likewise, the two bathrooms contained no original fixtures or treatments, and are being refinished in style if not exact accuracy. The window in the upstairs bathroom will be replaced with a double-hung wood sash.

The staircase retains most of its original elements, and the original balusters, extant in the house, will be restored. Upstairs, few changes are being made to the bedrooms. The front bedroom, which is used as a kitchen, will retain its existing cabinetry, as the house will remain a two-family dwelling for the time being.

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:

- 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1894-95

Significant Dates

1894-95

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ferris, John T., builder (attributed)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 1

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alfred J. Armstrong House meets significance criterion C, as a fine example of a Portland Queen Anne style residence, in a neighborhood which has suffered from blight and lost many of its significant homes. The period of significance is 1894-1895, the dates of construction.

The Queen Anne Style

The A. J. Armstrong House is a fine example of a modestly sized Queen Anne style house. The Queen Anne style was the among the most popular American house style from about 1880 to 1900. The style was perfect for displaying wealth, because it relied heavily on applied ornament, the fancier and more splendid the better. For less affluent homes, pattern books and mass produced ornament, or "gingerbread" were readily available.

The Armstrong House is a fine example of a Queen Anne style house, displaying many of the conventions of the style, which were designed to give a complicated, romantic and highly decorative impression. On the Armstrong House, these included a complex hipped roof with multiple gables, a square tower with a bell-cast Mansard roof, a combination of clapboards and patterned shingle siding to avoid the appearance of a flat surface, turned spindlework on the porch, decorative bargeboards, and carved gable ornaments. Although this house was probably not architect designed, it has a unified and pleasing exterior appearance and a flowing interior layout, which may have been adapted from one of the many pattern books available at the time of its construction.

Neighborhood Development

The A. J. Armstrong House is located in the Highland subdivision of the King neighborhood, which was once part of the city of Albina. Albina was a working class city which developed around the Union Pacific railroad yards. It was incorporated in 1887 with a population of 7000. In 1889, Albina annexed areas to the north and east, essentially quadrupling its original size. The area was focused around the waterfront and Russell Street. The outlying areas were farmed. In 1891, Albina annexed all of the peninsula of North Portland. Later that same year, the cities of Albina, East Portland, and Portland consolidated into one city.

The east side of the city remained less expensive, continuing to attract immigrants and working class people. A streetcar was built on Union Avenue by 1891 to service the new Piedmont and Woodlawn subdivisions, located over a mile north of the Highland subdivision. This line provided a development boost to neighborhoods along its length, including the Highland area, but in general development was slow.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 2

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Neighborhood Development (cont.)

The "Highland" plat, then on the outskirts of the city of Albina, was filed with Multnomah County by Theodore and Margaret G. Wygant on August 27, 1888. The plat plan on paper at this time extended from Union Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) to NE 14th Place, between Prescott and Wygant Streets (2).

The 1889 City Directory lists Theodore Wygant as the treasurer for Northwest Loan & Trust Company and the secretary of the Portland Hotel Company. He lived at 167 N. Nineteenth Avenue (old address, site now on NW Nineteenth). By 1893, he was listed as the fire commissioner. The next year, he was listed as a real estate agent, and by 1895, he had a second residence in the Piedmont neighborhood, on the northwest corner of NE Cleveland and Ainsworth Streets (7). Other trustees involved with sales efforts for the Highland subdivision included Gustav Donner and Emmor J. Haight.

Development in Highland was slow through the early 1890s, and was virtually non-existent after the bank panic of 1893 and the economic depression that followed. Housing starts picked up at a gradual pace by 1898 as the local economy recovered, but there was an abundance of sparsely built subdivisions in East Portland at this time and lot prices were low. It was not until after 1900 that sales picked up again, and not until 1905, when the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exhibition spurred a building boom, that East Portland, and the Highland subdivision, was more fully developed. Most of the remaining lots in the Highland subdivision were purchased and most of the housing in the area was built at this time. Lots on the north side of Prescott were the most desirable as they provided a good view to the south. Most of the sidewalks and streets in the neighborhood were not paved until after 1910.

The King neighborhood historically attracted residents of modest means who built smaller homes in the prevailing styles of their times, although there are some larger homes scattered through the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the King neighborhood, like many areas of north and northeast Portland, suffered from varying degrees of blight from about the 1960s to about the 1990s. During this time, much of the housing stock in the vicinity of the Armstrong House became dilapidated and some houses were torn down and replaced with incompatible infill houses. Many others have had insensitive additions or remodels. The area still retains some historic integrity, however, and could be renewed if the trend toward restoration continues.

Comparative Analysis

An informal comparative analysis of small Queen Anne style houses was conducted in the vicinity of the Armstrong house. The area surveyed was roughly from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the west to

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 3

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Comparative Analysis (cont.)

Tenth Avenue on the east, Wygant Street to the north and Skidmore to the south. The Queen Anne style was common in the area, composing approximately twenty percent of the existing houses, from small cottages to large houses. Unfortunately, most of these houses have been irretrievably altered, leaving only the vaguest clues to their style. Most had lost significant decorative trim, and many had been sided with asbestos shingles or vinyl siding. Porches were missing or altered, as were windows. The Armstrong House is one of the most elaborate and best preserved examples of the style in the area, and is the only one with a tower.

The Queen Anne style is represented in the area by some well preserved and restored examples, such as 4534 NE 8th Avenue, a side gable example with beveled drop siding on the first floor, a flared belt course, and plain shingles above. A large wraparound front porch has shingled arches, a boxed rail, columns and sawtooth decorative shingles. Similar porches with shingled arches and sawtooth decoration can be seen throughout the neighborhood, including at 4413 NE 10th Avenue and 4317 NE 7th Avenue.

Another restored Queen Anne is located at 801 NE Prescott Street. It is a large 2 1/2-story, cross gable example with a large, columned front porch, clapboard siding and shingled gables. Another restored Queen Anne at 4315 NE 10th Avenue has a 1 1/2 stories and a flared, side gable roof, a recessed porch with columns and dentil molding, and a large front gabled dormer.

There are a number of similar modest, 1 1/2-story houses with front gables, clapboards or siding on the first floor and shingles on the second floor. Most of these have simple details and small columned porches, and many are in poor or altered condition. An example of this type is 4536 NE 10th Avenue.

Many of the houses in the neighborhood are hybrids of the Queen Anne style and another style, such as Colonial Revival or Arts and Crafts. 736 NE Going Street is a 1 1/2 story cottage with Arts and Crafts proportions and Queen Anne details. It has an almost symmetrical façade with a wide gable and a full width porch with columns, and a horseshoe arch in the gable end with a recessed balcony. It is sheathed in vinyl siding on the first story and patterned shingles on the second story.

The majority of the Queen Anne houses in the neighborhood have been so modified that their original appearance can only be assumed, based on form or some remnant of historic detail. These include 4326 NE 10th Avenue, 4317 NE Grand Avenue, and 737 NE Skidmore Street.

Although the Queen Anne style is common in the King neighborhood, the Armstrong House is one of the best preserved and most prominent examples in the area. Even when built in this Queen Anne rich area, the Armstrong house was an elaborate and unique example of the style, featuring a complex form with a

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 4

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Comparative Analysis (cont.)

tower, turned porch posts, patterned shingles, and decorative jigsaw elements. It is the only extant house in the vicinity featuring a tower. Most other Queen Anne houses in the vicinity were simple in form, had columned porches and simple decorative elements.

The Alfred J. and Georgia A. Armstrong House Chain of Title

On May 28, 1894, Alfred J. and Georgia A. Armstrong purchased lots 5 and 6 of Block 21 in the Highland subdivision for \$1000 from Howard C. Stratton (2). Howard Stratton was listed in the city directory as a The Alfred J. Armstrong House Chain of Title (cont.)

mining operator involved with lot sales. Alfred Armstrong was of Swedish descent and born in New York in March 1864. His parents were immigrants from Sweden. His wife Georgia was also from New York, where they married before coming to Portland in 1892 (11). At the time he purchased the subject land, Alfred Armstrong was listed as a cutter of clothing for "Nicoll The Taylor" and lived at 171 1/2 W. Park (now SW Park, demolished). The shop where Armstrong worked was located at 304 SW Third and operated by W. G. Jerems and Fred F. Boody (7).

Soon after purchasing the lot on Prescott Street, the Armstrongs began construction on their new house. Alfred's father-in-law, John T. Ferris, an elderly carpenter, resided with them. He was born in New York in February 1833 and came west with his daughter and son-in-law in 1892. Because he was experienced in the trade, it is likely he designed and built their new home on Prescott Street. The house was completed by the first part of 1895, as both Alfred Armstrong and John T. Ferris were listed at 403 Prescott Street (old address) in the 1895 city directory. The probability that Ferris built the house is further strengthened by the fact that no mortgage for construction was filed with the county.

According to the 1900 Census, John Ferris remained within the Armstrong household with his wife Adeline E. (born April 1834) and listed as a house carpenter (11). He died about 1901, and his wife soon after. In 1903, the Armstrong family moved into a house at the NE corner of SW Twelfth and Taylor, closer to his work. They disappeared from directories by 1907 and no obituaries were indexed by any local newspapers for any of the family members. They apparently (re. 1900 Census) had no children in their household.

On November 19, 1903, the Armstrong family sold the house to reverend Henry L. Barkley for \$3500. Barkley was listed as a bishop for United Brethren Church located at 450 Mechanic (old address).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 5

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The Alfred J. Armstrong House Chain of Title (cont.)

On October 15, 1906, Henry L. and Ida B. Barkley sold the house to Kate Henry (trustee) for \$3500 (2). At this time, much of the Highland subdivision was being built up. Not much is known about Kate (Katherine) Henry. Directories from 1907 through 1918 list her as a widow of George P Henry and living at this address. She previously lived at 766 Rodney (Old address, now 3614 NE Rodney). Her son, George P. Henry Jr. also lived in the house on Prescott. He was a clerk and got into the real estate business during Portland's rapid growth in the 1910s. On May 11 1918, the Oregon Journal included him with a list of candidates running for State Representative (4). It stated that he was a nephew of Charles K. Henry, a prominent realtor noted for spearheading the Laurelhurst development in 1909. It also said that he had no previous experience in politics and was well thought of among business circles of the city and regarded as capable, active, and industrious. In 1918, he moved to 1621 N. Ross. It did not appear that he won the election (7).

The house changed hands again on June 6, 1918, when Kate Henry sold the property to J. A. and Effie Stavely of Lafayette, Oregon (2). It is unclear if Stavely ever moved to Portland as directories did not list him.

On January 27, 1919, the house was sold to John A. and Emma Meissner for about \$3500 (IRS Revenue stamps on deed) (2). John Meissner was a land examiner for J. F. Kaufman, a large real estate firm. He originally used the house as an investment. He added a detached garage at the rear of the house in 1922 (demolished, date unknown). In August 1926, he filed a permit for \$1200 worth of remodeling to the house. The changes indicated on the surviving inspection card included the addition of a bathroom upstairs with creation of a dormer at the rear, remodeling downstairs in the kitchen and bathroom, and the addition of an exterior chimney on the west side.

Meissner lived in a house at 4023 NE Laddington Court in Laurelhurst until about December 1926, when he moved into the house on Prescott. A photo of the house during his ownership survives in OHS archives (see attached). In 1943, John A. Meissner sold 509 NE Prescott Street to A. J. and Mary J. Brown.

By 1950, the city directory lists Daniel and Olinda Knack as the owners of 509 NE Prescott. Mr. Knack was an upholsterer for Powers Furniture Company. The Knacks remained until 1971, when Elzie L. Howard acquired the house and moved in. Either the Knacks or Mr. Howard were probably the first to use the house as a duplex. Howard was listed as a laborer at Zidell Explorations. In 1973, the property was sold to Rube Burrell. He occupied the house through the mid-1980s and was retired (7). In 1986, current owner Karla Pearlstein purchased the house in deteriorated condition and began engaging in long term restoration.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 9 Page 1

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A. House County and State Multnomah, OR

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

1. Clark, Rosalind, *Oregon Style: Architecture from 1840 to the 1950s*, Oregon Historical Society, 1983.
2. Multnomah County Deed Recordings, 1888-1919.
3. Oregon Historical Society Vertical Files and Photograph Collection (84792, neg # 0354P236).
4. *Oregon Journal*, May 11, 1918, p.3.
5. *Oregonian*, January 27, 1944, funeral notice for John Meissner.
6. *Oregonian*, February 4, 1948, funeral notice for Ella Meissner.
7. Polk Company, *Portland Directories, 1889-1980*.
8. *Portland Building Permit Records Center*.
9. *Portland Landmarks Commission, Historic Resources Inventory, 1984*.
10. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1909*.
11. *United States Census of 1900*.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .22

JTM References

Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 526610 5044550
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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 Amy McFeeters-Krone, Architectural Historian, and Roy E. Roos

Organization _____ date February 26, 2002

Street & number 1831 NE Thompson Street telephone (503) 493-1926

City or town Portland state OR zip code 97212

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Karla Pearlstein

Street & number 1020 SW Cheltenham Ct. telephone (503) 452-7773

City or town Portland state OR zip code 97201

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 10 Page 1

Property Name Armstrong, Alfred J. and Georgia A., House County and State Multnomah, OR

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Alfred J. Armstrong House is located on Lots 5 and 6 of Block 21 of the Highland Subdivision of the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the entire urban tax lot, and is the legally recorded boundary for the Alfred J. Armstrong House.

I.E. GANT ST.

LU

(N.E. UNION)

25	19	3	6500	6	25
25	18	SEE CS	6600	7	25
25	17	11033	6700	8	25
25	16		6801	9	25
25	15			10	25
25	14		6800	11	25
25	13	100'	6800	12	25

(IST)

25	19	4.91 AC.	12	6	25
25	18				25
25	17				25
25	16				25
25	15				25
25	14				25
25	13	100'	100'	12	25

25	6				25
25	7				25
25	8				25
25	9				25
25	10				25
25	11				25
25	12	100'			25

MARTIN

STATE HWY. 99E

12	7600	8500	8600	12
11		11	SEE CS 8656	11
10	8400	8300	8100	8
9	9	8	8200	8
8	8	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7

GRAND

12					12
11					11
10		SEE CS 5150			10
9		2			9
8		9			8
7		5			7
6	100'	100'			7

12	8800	8900	9700	9800
11		2	11	11
10	9000	3	9600	3
9	9100	4	9500	4
8	9200	5	9400	5
7	9300	6		6

N.E. HIGHLAND PLACE BLS. 4, 5, & 6

RES. 19626 5-14-50 30-1177-4

15701	15702	15703
16200	16500	15800
15900	16000	16100
16000	16100	16100

N.E.

14801	14802	14803
15500	14900	15000
15300	15000	15100
15200	15100	

6TH

14700	13900
14600	14000
14500	14100
14400	14300
14300	14200

COR. IN A ESTEAD A N.E. ALBINA HOMESTEAD

1/4 COR.

N.E.

N.W. LINCOLN PARK ANNEX

PRESCOTT



1,447,000

SEE MAP IN IE

Multnomah County IN IE 23BC

235

THURSDAY

GOING

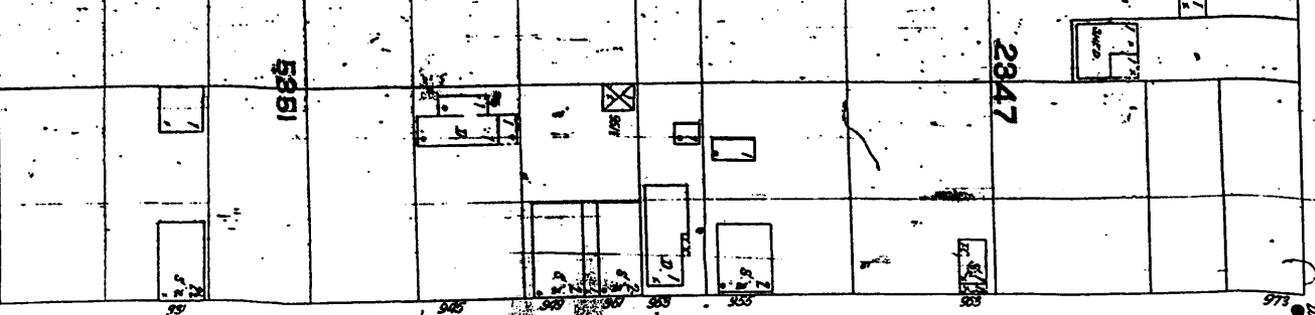
236

248

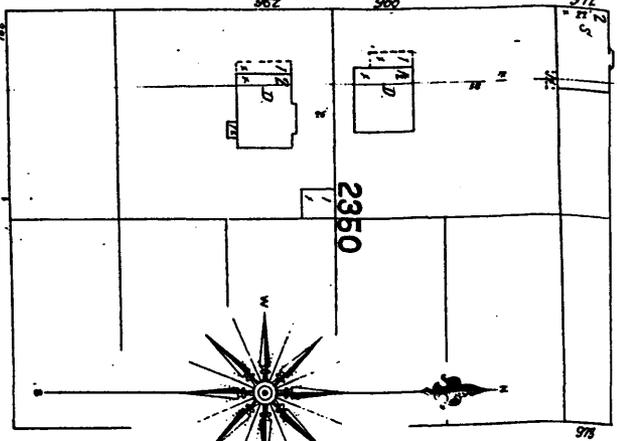
1909

Sabine map

As Armstrong House (1875)

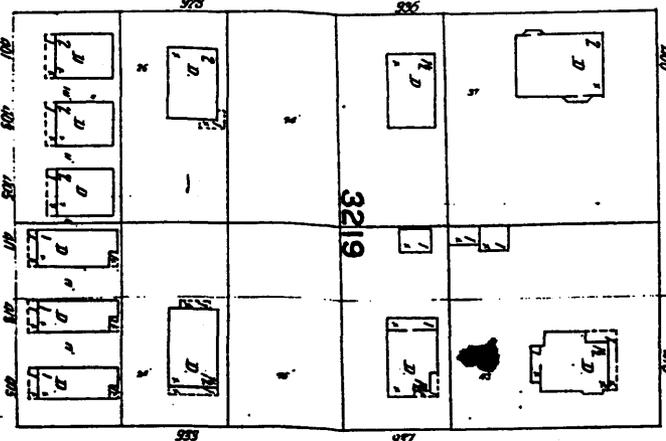
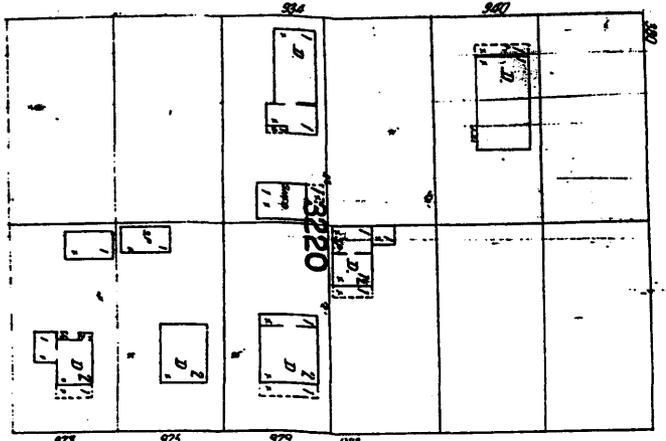


UNION AV. N.

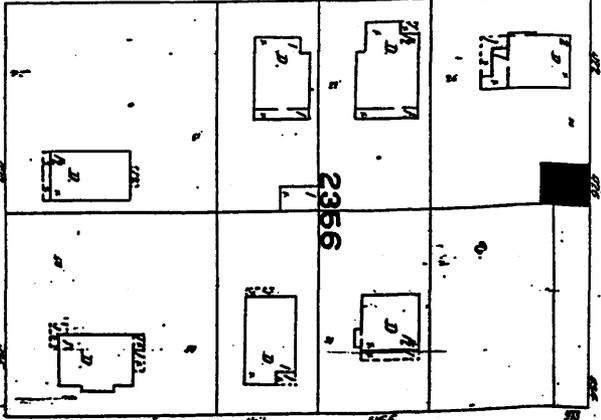
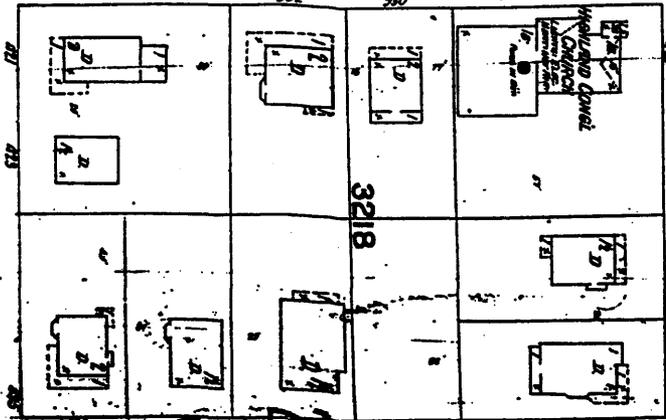


GRAND AV. N.

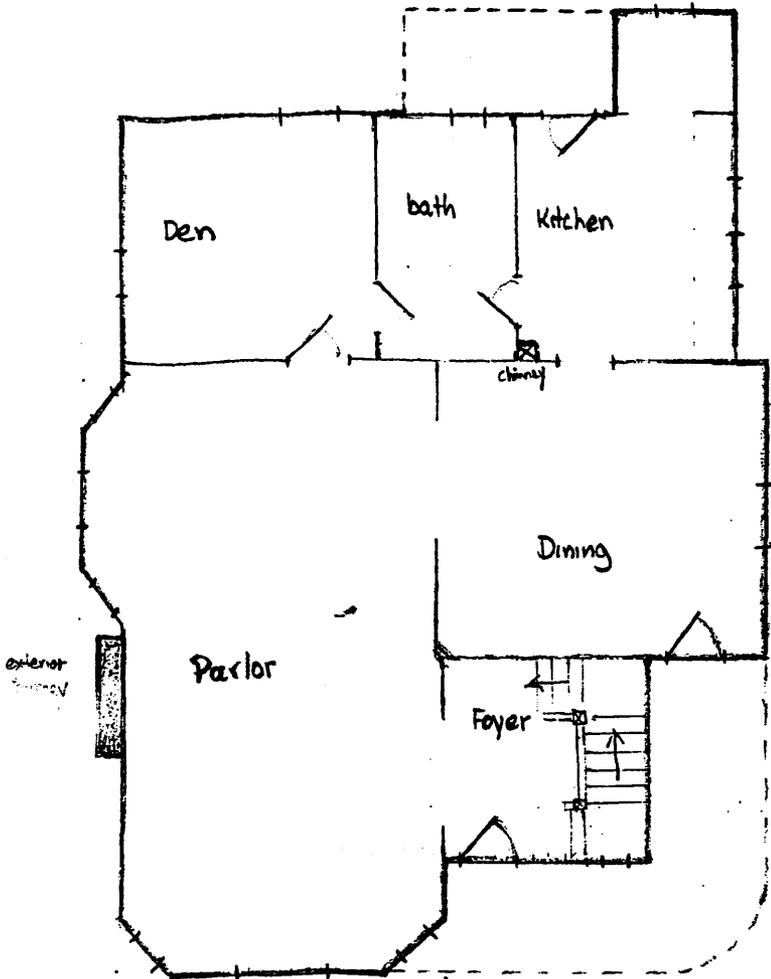
PRESCOTT



E. 6TH ST. N.



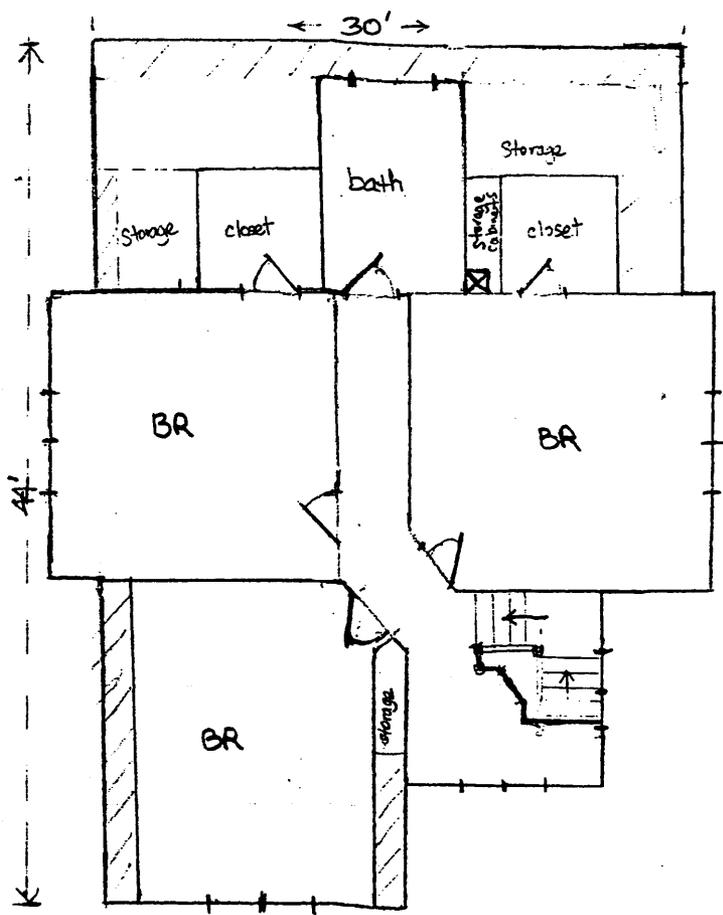
INTERIOR



1st FLOOR



SCALE: 1" = 10'



2nd FLOOR

A.J. Armstrong House (1894-95)
509 NE Prescott Portland (Mult.Co.) O1