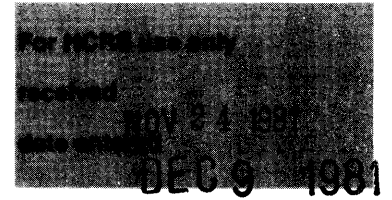


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Kline, Lewis G., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 308 NW 8th Street ___ not for publication

city, town Corvallis ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Oregon code 41 county Benton code 003

3. Classification

Category ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	Ownership ___ public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private ___ both Public Acquisition ___ in process ___ being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress Accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	Present Use ___ agriculture ___ commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
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4. Owner of Property

name Allan and Josephine Down

street & number 33036 Peoria Road

city, town Corvallis ___ vicinity of state Oregon 97330

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Corvallis ___ vicinity of state Oregon 97330

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1976 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem ___ vicinity of state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The fashionable house in the Italianate Style built for Corvallis mercantilist Lewis G. Kline in 1884 is a two-story, wood frame building on a brick foundation and basement. Irregular in plan, it encloses 3,118 square feet of floor space. It has a hipped roof and boxed cornice supported by console brackets. The brackets and frieze are decorated with incised scroll saw ornament in stylized foliate motifs. The siding is shiplap. Window openings, grouped in pairs and in tripartite arrangements--several of them in bays of varying projection, are fitted with double hung sash with one light over one. The framements are capped with bracketed hooded lintels.

The house is situated at the northwest corner of the intersection of NW 8th Street and Van Buren in a residential neighborhood, and it presents its principal facade to the east, along NW 8th Street. The front porch, typical of the Italianate Style, has a bracketed cornice and deck with railing. Over the years, however, the upper deck railing was replaced by a solid railing and the porch was enclosed with shiplap siding, in which several openings were made. Further, the porch was given a base wall of used brick from which a planter box wall extends to the northeast corner of the house. Current owners, who acquired the property in 1980, plan the removal of the inappropriate brick base wall. A section of original porch railing has been found on the premises to serve as a basis for restoration. Roof ridge cresting which undoubtedly once surmounted the house has been lost in the intervening years. To date, no historic view has come to light to document the nature of any such cresting. The only other exterior change involves the outside end chimney on the south elevation which appears to have been rebuilt in broader proportion in the years following the turn of the century. A second chimney penetrates the cornice above a single story latticed rear porch and fruit storage room.

The main floor plan contains a large parlor with fireplace, a solarium, library, diningroom, and kitchen. In the kitchen remodeling undertaken after the sale of the house to the first owners outside of the Kline family in 1954, the ceiling was lowered; cabinetry and a small bathroom were added. A rear staircase gives access to the second story, as does the stairs in the central stairhall at the front of the house. The latter is a dog-legged stair with landing. The second story floor plan contains a sitting room with marble fireplace, three large bedrooms, and two bathrooms. It is not known precisely when the bathrooms were added, but they had been installed by the time of the 1954 sale. The back bathroom still contains an old-style iron claw-footed bathtub.

Interior walls throughout are finished with lath and plaster. Floors are fir tongue-and-groove, and all wood trim is intact. There are top lights, or transoms over the front door and interior doorways. Most of the windows are shuttered with original shutters, as are those of the J. R. Bryson House, thought to have been erected by the same builder. All exterior double-leaf doors with molded panels are intact with original hardware. One set of interior pocket doors was replaced with glazed doors, probably during the 1920s.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1884 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built for local mercantilist and Polish emigre Lewis G. Kline in 1884 is one of two outstanding houses in the Italian Bracketed Style remaining in Corvallis and Benton County. It is similar in quality of craftsmanship and detail to the J. R. Bryson House (1882), which was entered into the National Register in 1979, and it is believed that the same contractor was responsible for both houses. (Construction of the Bryson House has been tentatively attributed to local carpenter-builder Joseph Emerick.) Lewis Kline arrived with his family in Corvallis in 1864 and established himself in the tailoring trade. He later founded L. G. Kline and Company, a dry-goods store which continued under the management of his descendents until 1954. The house built for Kline two years before his retirement from business life was occupied by Kline descendents for another fifty years following his death in 1900. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate Style and, while it has sustained some minor, reversible alterations, it possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Moreover, it is significant to Corvallis as the only remaining direct link among buildings to the earliest generation of a distinguished mercantile family.

Lewis G. Kline (1828-1900), a Polish Jew, emigrated to the United States and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1864 he and his wife, Adaline--a Russian Jew, and their three children sailed for Oregon, crossing the Isthmus of Panama. Kline had learned the English language by reading Shakespeare's works and *Les Miserables*. His wife had little education and was determined that their children should be educated. Together they arrived in Corvallis on the Willamette River with a sewing machine and a few bolts of cloth and set up their tailoring shop. For four years the family lived in a shanty behind the shop on Second Street. Kline's daughter, Pauline, later recalled, "...on one side was a saloon with a dance hall over it. Here the miners coming from the south with their bags of gold dust would stop for such entertainment as the place afforded. We never felt sure when we went to bed at night that we would not be dead by violence before morning." As business prospered, the shop expanded to become L. G. Kline and Co., and Kline served as the Wells Fargo agent. Kline retired from business life in 1886, two years after completion of his fashionable new house. Just as they had succeeded to the long-lived family store, Kline's son, grandson, and great grandson in turn fell heir to the house. Upon his death in 1900, Kline was buried in the Jewish cemetery in nearby Albany.

Lewis Kline's son, Simon L. Kline (1856-1909), took over management of the dry goods store upon his father's retirement. According to the biographical note contained in *Carey's History of Oregon* (1922), he not only figured prominently in commercial circles but in state politics as well. "He was mentioned as a candidate for the office of governor of Oregon and he served as a delegate-at-large to the national convention which nominated Theodore Roosevelt for president of the United States. He was also one of forty who were selected to act as aides at the inaugural ball held in honor of President William H. Taft." On the local scene, "...he served as a member of the city council and as a member of the board of water commissioners, in which connection he was instrumental in securing for Corvallis a water supply from Marys Peak, a distance of fourteen miles from the city. When the plant was first installed, service was given to five hundred people..." The system was later expanded to

9. Major Bibliographical References

Carey, Charles H., History of Oregon, Vol. 3 (Portland: The Pioneer Publishing Co., 1922), 114-117; 645. Biographical notes on Simon L. Kline and Walter H. Kline, son and grandson of Lewis G. Kline, respectively.

Historical Records Survey, Benton County, Oregon. Mark Phinney, undated /c. 1939/ interview with Pauline Kline, daughter of Lewis G. Kline.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Corvallis, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	4	7	9	0	3	0	4	9	3	4	7	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2 and the south half of Lot 3, Block 24, County Addition to the City of Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. (Tax Lot 9100)

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Josephine Down, based on work by Patricia Mackie, 340 SW 5th Street, Corvallis.

organization

date July 25, 1980

street & number 33036 Peoria Road

telephone 503/752-7831

city or town Corvallis

state Oregon 97330

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 26, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

12/9/81

Law
Boatman
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Kline, Lewis G., House, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

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serve the cities of Philomath and Corvallis, rural users along the route, and Oregon Agricultural College with its several thousand students.

Walter H. Kline succeeded his father, Simon L. Kline, as manager of the family business upon the latter's death in 1909. Born in Corvallis in 1886 and educated in the local public schools, he completed a three-year course at a San Francisco business college. In 1908 he and his father erected a new two-story building measuring 75 x 100 feet for what was then known as Kline's Department Store. By 1922 Walter Kline had added a two-story, 55 x 100-foot addition adjoining the main store and he operated a brokerage business in wool, cascara bark and mohair.

The last member of the Kline family to be associated with the enterprise was Sidney L. Kline. It was he who sold what was by then Kline's Women's Fashions and the house on NW 8th Street in 1954, thus ending a 90-year continuum in community life.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

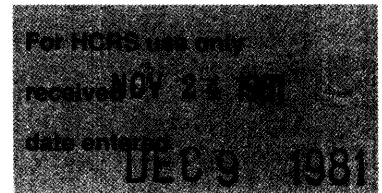
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Deed, marriage and probate records, Benton County Courthouse, Corvallis, Oregon

U.S. Census records, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon, 1870.

Watson, C. B., Business Directory of 1880, Vol. 1, 124-126.