## 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	Clark, Frank Chamb	erlain, House		
and/or common	Clark-Jackson Hous	е		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	1917 E <del>ast</del> Main Str	<del>eet.</del>	N	A_ not for publication
city, town	Medford	<u>N/A</u> vicinity of	congressional district	Second
state	Oregon code	41 county	Jackson	<b>code</b> 029
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considered	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X_ private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	'ty		
name	Mr. and Mrs. Peter	Van Witt		
street & number	1917 East Main Str	eet		
city, town	Medford	N/Avicinity of	state	Oregon 97501
5. Loca	tion of Lega	al Description	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Jack	son County Courthou	ise	
street & number	Eighth and Oakdale	Streets		
city, town	Medford		state	0regon 97501
6. Repr	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title Frank C.	Clark Architectura	1 Survey has this pro	perty been determined e	legible? yes _X no
date	1982		federal sta	te <u>X</u> county local
depository for su	rvey records Souther	n Oregon Historical	Society, PO Box 4	80
city, town	Jacksonville		state	Oregon 97530

# 7. Description

Condition  Check one  Check one	N/A	
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Medford, Oregon architect Frank Chamberlain Clark designed the Colonial Style house at 1917 East Main Street for his own use and that of this wife and children in 1930. The building stands on one of four contiguous lots now making up the holding in the Westerlund Heights Addition to Medford. The general site of the Clark House is shaded by mature native oaks and evergreen trees. The area along East Main Street immediately west and east of Barnebury Road is a fashionable residential section which developed during the 1920s and 1930s. As East Main Street leaves the heart of Medford, it crosses Bear Creek and extends several miles to the hills on the east. The developed residential area at its easterly end encompasses approximately fifteen blocks. Architectural styles represented run gamut of those pouplar between 1920 and 1950. The majority of houses along the broad, winding arterial are well maintained, have deep lawn setbacks with mature trees and landscaped yards. Clark designed many of the most noteworthy houses in the neighborhood, but this example of his work is distinctive because he occupied it until forced by the deepening Depression to move elsewhere and lease it for income. It is the only house in the Rogue River Valley which Clark designed expressly for his own use, and it represents the culmination of his many years of designing residences in the Colonial vein.

Rectangular in plan, the two and a half story house measures approximately 30 x 45' in its main volume and has a 18-foot, two-story corner ell. It is oriented with its long axis west to east. The principal facade faces south onto East Main. A two-bay, single-story garage wing, set back at the end of a side driveway, is attached to the east wall of the ell. The house is in excellent condition with no significant exterior alteration except the removal of operable shutters in 1953 and the replacement of garage doors which originally contained banks of fixed-pane, four-light windows. In recent years, a covered wood work deck was added across the rear face of the house in the angle between the main wall plane and the ell at the northeast corner.

The house rests on a concrete foundation. Its walls are of balloon frame construction with exterior shingle siding. The gable roof also has shingle cover. A lesser wing telescoped from the east end of the main volume contains an upstairs sleeping porch and a screened sun porch below. An outside fireplace chimney centered on the west end is faced with coursed rubble masonry. At the attic story it is flanked by quarter-round fan lights.

The five-bay facade of the main volume is organized with strict bilateral symmetry, with two bays on either side of the central entrance bay. Windows are simply framed and fitted with double-hung sash with six lights over one. The use of multi-paned sash, boxed cornices with returns and fretwork bed molding, and, above all, the segmentallyarched, pedimented portico are the exterior elements which are characteristic of the Colonial Style. The portico, with its fully-expressed classical entablature, columns of the Greek Ionic order and shadow pilasters, shelters a six panel Dutch door with sidelights and is the most distinctive single feature of the exterior. The quality of its detailing and execution is characteristic of the more important finish details of the interior. The porch floor and steps are concrete.

Interior spaces are organized around a central entry cross hall. The plan includes two rooms on either side of the hall in the main volume. Eight foot ceilings,

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original oak flooring, heat registers, and door and cabinet hardware remain throughout. The focal points of the living room are a built in book-case and adjacent doorway framed by a broken pediment with urn finial and a fireplace with marble surround and Adamesque mantlepiece incorporating Corinthian colonettes and fluted mantel shelf bearing a bas relief panel in an elaborate cornucopia motif.

Elaborate cornice molding finishes walls in the major downstairs rooms. Window and door trim is restrained.

French doors with original hardware give access from the central hall to the dining room. These doors are recessed in a two-and-a-half foot deep alcove with panelled sides and soffit. The stairway to the second floor rises in the hallway. It is a single-flight stair open at the string, with simple brackets at the tread nosings, slender, tapering balusters, shaped wood handrail and a turned newel post. Treads, rail and newel post are unpainted, polished wood. The diningroom has a built-in hutch and cabinets with original hardware in the Arts and Crafts tradition. A breakfast room off the kitchen has a built-in hutch with original hardware, wainscoting and oak flooring. Thekitchen was modernized between 1953 and 1955. Original doors remain, however, and lead to back porch and utility areas. Walls of utility rooms are finished with beaded tongue and groove boards.

At the rear of the central hall, leading to the back patio, is a doorway with a fanlight with five lights over the door. Two small rooms are entered from the rear portion of the hall: a small one-half bath with original fixtures, and a closet with leaded glass light in one wall. The basement was finished on the inside by the Jacksons and is used as a game room. An original Pacific heating boiler is located in a room off the basement. The fully-panelled office or study located behind the living room was remodeled by Glenn Jackson.

There are four large bedrooms on the upper level opening off the central hall. Two bedrooms have sun porches adjoining them. One porch has four-over-one light double hung windows, and the other six-over-one windows. Bedrooms are papered and painted. All doors are panelled. One bathroom has original fixtures, another has been modernized. A large linen closet comprised of drawers and cabinets has a segmentally arched top and original hardware. A railing extends fully around the stairwell.

There is only one small outbuilding on the property: a garden tool shed measuring approximately ten by twelve feet. At the front of the property, a laurel hedge defines the perimeter, and a semi-circular driveway and a flagstone walk lead to the front entrance. Much of the current landscaping was done by the Jacksons, both during their period of rental and final ownership. When the Clarks built the house, the property was completely undeveloped, and their shortened tenure left major landscaping to the second owners. Native oaks existed when the house was purchased and the Jacksons added flagstone walks, foundation shrubbery, evergreens, and in the rear yard, a patio. The rear two lots are planted in lawn and accented with oaks and evergreens, roses, iris and hedge screens.

# 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		g landscape architectur law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater _X transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1930	Builder/Architect F	rank Chamberlain Clar	k, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonial Style house at 1917 East Main Street, in a fashionable suburban neighborhood of Medford, Oregon, is significant as the major self-designed house occupied by Frank C. Clark (1872-1957), leading architect of the Rogue River Valley from the time of his arrival in southern Oregon in 1902 to his retirement in 1945. The house was completed in 1930, at the pinnacle of Clark's long and prolific career. From the time he opened his practice to the time he was joined in partnership by Robert Keeney in 1935, Clark consistently garnered first class residential commissions from well-to-do orchardists and business and professional men in Ashland, Medford, Central Point and Grants Pass. The Colonial Revival Style and Colonial period styles of the later 20th Century were especially popular among his clients, although Clark, of course, was fluent in all the stylistic idioms of his day. Clark's house and a similar house designed for Chauncey M. Brewer and constructed concurrently on a neighboring block on East Main Street represent the highest expression of the architect's work in the Colonial vein in the years between the end of the First World War and the Great Depression. Clark's greatest output of residential work occurred in the period 1922-1930, which was coincident with the second wave of rapid growth and development in the Rogue Valley brought on, in part, by improvements in irrigation. The Great Depression which halted this growth also caused Clark to lose the only house he had designed specifically for his own use. The Clark House is a straightforward, rectangular volume in which the bilateral symmetry of its facade is slightly offset by a lesser wing telescoped from the east end. Historical references in exterior detail are almost wholly concentrated in a single, academically-rendered portico with segmentally-arched pediment and columns of the Ionic order. This increasing emphasis upon simplified geometric form was entirely modern and differed substantially from Clark's earlier works in the Colonial Revival Style. The Clark House is well preserved and well maintained, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of the 20th Century Colonial Style. While Clark lived in the house only three years, the house is nonetheless significant for its unique association with a distinguished figure in Oregon architectural history. The house was subsequently leased by Clark to California-Oregon Power Company executives John C. Boyle and the late Glenn L. Jackson, who became one of the influential figures of the state as long-time chairman of the Oregon Highway Commission. Jackson purchased the property from Clark in 1946.

Frank Chamberlain Clark purchased the property on which he built his house in April, 1930.<sup>1</sup> The Westerlund Heights Addition on East Main Street was annexed by the City of Medford during the 1920s. A dramatic expansion of the city eastward across Bear Creek during the decade following the First World War brought several new housing

<sup>1</sup>Jackson County Deed Records, Volume 182, p. 332.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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	N/A	es for properties overla code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
organization street & number	N/A 102 Sout	h Pioneer Street			June 1, 1982 503/482-8714
city or town	Ashland			state	Oregon 97520
12. Sta	ate His	storic Prese	ervation	Office	er Certification
	national			storic Preservation and Revealed to the second s	ation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– that it has been evaluated ecreation Service.
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iitle Deputy	State Hist	coric Preservation	Officer		date September 29, 1982
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areas into the corporate limits. Ea	ch was named to app	peal to a sense	of exclusivity:

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Siskiyou Heights, Wellington Heights, and Westerlund Heights were among them. The opportunity for growth evolved in the healthy economy of the 1920s in the Rogue River Valley. The fruit industry had struggled through the first two decades of the century, but was given a life-saving boost with a dependable irrigation system in 1919. New residents and businesses proliferated.

Medford's population, which had reached 8,840 in 1910, dropped during World War I and the waterless years to 5,756. The achievement of irrigation systems and the availability of land at good prices brought a new influx of people during the 1920s and doubled the population by 1930.<sup>2</sup>

The finest fruit crop to date matured late in the summer of 1929 and, after the stock market crash, died with so much else. Boxcars and warehouses held the rotting fruit which no one would buy. The effects of the Depression were slightly delayed in the Rogue Valley, perhaps because less money was tied up in eastern markets. In 1930, as Frank Clark completed a productive decade of work and planned his fine new home, building projects in the Rogue Valley were decreasing rapidly and would reach a near end by 1932.

The architect purchased his lot from Mrs. John A. Westerlund, window of a prominent orchardist and developer who had come to Medford from Chicago in 1903 to take advantage of speculative opportunities in the area. As a real estate promoter, he took an option on 400 bare acres of land for forty days and went back to Chicago to organize the Western Orchard Company. By 1910, he had 2,100 acres, more than half of which were planted in apples and pears, and he planned to buy 200 acres more.<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Westerlund eventually sold all twenty-one lots which comprised Westerlund Heights.<sup>4</sup>

Frank C. Clark was born in Greene, New York December 27, 1872. His training in architecture was gained under the apprenticeship system. In 1888 he entered the office of Frederick Martinez, Jr., in Bayonne, New Jersey. After two years with Martinez, he worked successively in the New York offices of Arthur C. Longyear, Oscar S. Teale, and Robert Gibson, the latter of whom Clark remembered as an exponent of the Romanesque Style. He enrolled in the Cooper Union Night School of Engineering and, for a brief period of four months in 1896 before his health broke, he was associated with the eminent firm of McKim, Mead and White. In 1897 Clark moved to the West Coast and entered the Los Angeles office of Frank Roehrig. He was in the Roehrig office about two years, and while there worked with Jospeh Jacobberger, who later was a leading architect in Portland. In 1899 Clark launched his independent practice, undertaking various projects in Arizona

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Kay Atwood, <u>Blossoms and Branches</u>, A Gathering of Rogue Valley Orchard Memories, Medford, Oregon, 1980.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Medford <u>Mail Tribune</u>, January 2, 1910.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Frank Clark bought Lot 21 in April, 1930. Lots 14, 15 and 20 were acquired by Glenn Jackson in 1944 and 1946.

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at Jerome, Tucson and Prescott. Clark arrived in Ashland, Oregon in the fall of 1902, according to his own account, and opened an office there which he maintained until he moved to Medford in 1909. Clark spent the rest of his career headquartered in Medford, and verified by his own account that he "pioneered the game" in southern Oregon. He worked in virtual isolation for improved building ordinances and "better buildings" in general.<sup>5</sup> In 1935 Clark joined in partnership with Robert Keeney, who was largely responsible for the Modernistic commercial buildings produced by the office.

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In 1945 Clark retired, although he continued some consulting work thereafter. He died in Medford in May, 1957. $^{6}$ 

Frank Clark's output was prolific. It encompassed some 250 projects throughout the Rogue Valley, including at least 78 residences ranging in style from the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival to Bungalow, Arts and Crafts and Prairie Style and the gamut of 20th Century period styles, especially Tudor and Colonial. In Ashland, Clark designed the Women's Civic Center building, the Elks building, the Swedenburg and Traverner houses, the Enders building, and the Pracht, Butler and Carter-Fortmiller\* houses. Grants Pass projects included the Michael Clemens\* and George Calhoun\* houses and several business blocks. His Medford buildings include the Bear Creek Orchards plant, the Medford Hotel, Elks building, Methodist Church, Kay building, the Holly and Craterian theatres, Medford Senior High School and the Community Hospital building on East Main Street. Medford houses designed by Clark include Reginald Parsons summer home at Hillcrest Orchards, and the Delroy Getchell,\* Ralph Bardwell and Victor Bursell\*houses. The Henry Van Hoevenburg\*house in Sams Valley was designed by Clark.<sup>7</sup>

Clark married Grace Wilson of Jacksonville, Oregon in 1924. The couple had four children. Shortly after the last child was born, Frank Clark built the home he specifically designed for his young family. At almost sixty years of age, with two major projects in Medford just completed (the Holly Theatre and Washington School), the architect could afford this gift to his wife and children. Clark's daughter recalls that each child had his or her individually planned room with furniture designed by the architect.<sup>8</sup>

Straitened financial circumstances of the Depression years allowed the Clarks only three years in the house. About 1933 they were obliged to move to Jacksonville and live in a house which belonged to his wife's family. This enabled them to lease the Medford house to others. The only other self-designed house known to have been <u>occupied by Clark</u> during his long and prolific career was a Queen Anne Style House

<sup>5</sup>Frank C. Clark to George M. Post, Secretary, Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners, letter written at Medford, Oregon, December 17, 1919. <sup>6</sup>Medford <u>Mail Tribune</u>, May 31, 1957.

<sup>7</sup>An asterisk indicates Clark buildings currently on the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>8</sup>Louis Clark Patterson, Oral Communication, December 10, 1981.

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in Ashland of 1904-1905 which Clark had builtfor speculation. Within a few years it was acquired by George Traverner and is known exclusively under the latters name.

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The John C. Boyle family became Clark's first tenants in the Medford house and lived there from 1934 to 1938. Boyle was the first of two executives associated with the California-Oregon Power Company who would occupy the house over a twenty year period. Economically significant in the southern Oregon region, as elsewhere, the California-Oregon Power Company was incorporated December 15, 1911, consolidating several smaller power companies. In 1921 the head office of COPCO was moved from San Francisco to Medford, and the organization continued incorporating other smaller towns and developing power plants and lines throughout northern California and southern Oregon. After forty years of operation as COPCO, the company joined Pacific Power and Light of Portland in a merger which was ratified March 14, 1961.

John C. Boyle began a distinguished career in 1910 as an assistant engineer with the Siskiyou Electric Power and Light Company. He served variously as assistant engineer, engineer and manager of the Klamath Division of COPCO between 1918 and 1929. After Spetember, 1929, Boyle became assistant general manager of COPCO with headquarters at Medford.<sup>10</sup> In 1938, after the sudden death of Chauncey M. Brewer, general manager, John Boyle was appointed to the position. He served in this capacity, and as vice-president of Pacific Power and Light Company, until his retirement. Boyle served as consultant and member of the Pacific Power and Light Company board of directors from 1961 to 1964 and as director emeritus. In 1961 the Big Bend Power Plant was renamed the John C. Boyle plant. He remained active and involved with the company until shortly before his death in January, 1979 at the age of 91. He is the author of two books, <u>Fifty Years on the Klamath</u> (1976) and Toketee (1977).<sup>11</sup>

In 1939 the house was rented by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Jackson, who had moved to Medford in 1928 when Jackson joined the California-Oregon Power Company as sales manager. The Jacksons were renters until 1946, when they purchased Clark's house. In that year, Glenn Jackson purchased two lots behind the house which, combined with the joining lot to the west which he earlier acquired, provided a generous four-lot setting dominated by oaks and evergreens.

Glenn L. Jackson was born April 27, 1902 to W.L. and Minnie Jackson in the Willamette Valley. His father was superintendent of Linn County Schools and publisher of the Albany <u>Daily Democrat</u>. In 1925 Glenn Jackson took a job with the Mountain States Power Company in Albany, Oregon, and shortly after married Helen Simpson, native of Edinburgh, Scotland. He served as a colonel in the Air Force during World War II.

<sup>9</sup>George V. Taylor, "History of the California Oregon Power Company," 1964. (Mss. in possession of Pacific Power and Light Company, Medford, Oregon.)

<sup>10</sup>Mrs. C. B. Collins, Oral Communication, December 1, 1981. Mrs. Collins is a daughter of Mr. Boyle.

<sup>11</sup>Pacific Power and Light Company <u>Bulletin</u>, Volume 61, No. 3, April, 1979.

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He advanced steadily in COPCO and following f the Board of Pacific Power and Light Company

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Jackson's political appointments were many. He was appointed in 1949 to the State Highway Commission and served to his resignation as chairman of the Oregon State Transportation Commission in 1979. In 1953, Governor Paul Patterson appointed Jackson to the Oregon Development Commission. In 1968 President Lyndon Johnson appointed him chairman of the National Alliance of Businessmen, and the year before his death, Governor Victor Atiyeh appointed Jackson to the Oregon Economic Development Commission. Upon Glenn Jackson's death in 1980, four men who served as governors of Oregon for a span of twenty-two years--Mark Hatfield, Tom McCall, Bob Straub and Victor Atiyeh--delivered the eulogies at his memorial services. An editorial in the Portland Oregonian, considered his death:

"Leadership, the most widely discussed attribute of Glenn L. Jackson, Oregon uncrowned governor for the last 20 years, is also the least understood trait of this remarkable man who died June 20, of cancer at 78. As a citizen soldier . . .he rose to become a colonel; as an appliance salesman for a small electric power company, he advanced to the chairmanship of the northwest's largest electrical utility, Pacific Power and Light Co. . . as a private entrepreneur, he multiplied an inherited halfinterest in the Albany Democrat-Hearld into a controlling interest of 10 Oregon newspapers . . .

During his 20 years (17 of them as chairman) on the Oregon Transportation Commission . . . Jackson guided and ramrodded the laying of 700 miles of Oregon freeway and construction of numerous major bridges, the Fremont, Astoria and Marquam bridges among them. The I-205 bridge being built to span the Columbia will carry his name."<sup>13</sup>

In 1953 the Jacksons sold the house at 1917 East Main Street to Vernon Robinson, a Medford insurance executive who had come to the area in 1938. Robinson sold the house in 1961 to Floyd H. Baker.

Floyd H. Baker came to Medford in 1928 when his parents purchased a pear orchard on Griffin Creek. By 1930 the family had lost everything invested in their Bosc blocks and began the search for work through the Depression experienced by so many area orchardists. Mr. Baker worked summers in orchards as a child and later in the packing houses. After three years at Willamette University he returned to the Valley and

<sup>12</sup>"Mr. Oregon, Jackson Remembered", <u>Oregon Stater</u>, September 9, 1980.

<sup>13</sup>Portland <u>Oregonian</u>, J. Richard Nokes, editor, June 24, 1980.

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married. From 1940 on he worked with his father-in-law, Raymond Reter, supervising a spray crews, picking and pruning operations, serving in the office with lading work, sales and eventually became general manager. After Mr. Reter's death in May, 1974, he became owner and general manager.<sup>14</sup> The Bakers lived in the house for seventeen years and sold it to a new owner in 1977. Mr. Baker continues as owner and general manager of the Reter Fruit Company.<sup>15</sup> The current owners purchased the Clark-Jackson House in 1980.

<sup>14</sup>Floyd H. Baker. Oral Interview, November 26, 1977 by Kay Atwood.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Jeffery Thompson and Clarence Casebier owned the house briefly between 1977 and 1980. Thompson did not live in the house.

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Atwood, Kay, <u>Blossoms and Branches, A Gathering of Rogue Valley Orchard Memories</u>, Medford, Oregon, Gandee Printing Center, 1980.

Baker, Floyd, Interview, November 26, 1977.

Collins, Mrs. C.B., Interview, December 1, 1981.

Jackson County Deed Records, Volume 182, page 332.

Jackson, Mrs. Glenn, Interview, December 5, 1981.

- Keeney, Robert, Interview, 1981. Robert Keeney was Frank Clark's partner from 1935 until the latter's retirement in 1945.
- Medford Mail Tribune, January 2, 1910; December 31, 1930; May 31, 1957.
- Oregon Stater, September 9, 1980.

Pacific Power and Light Company Bulletin, Volume 61, No. 3, April, 1979.

Patterson, Louise Clark, Interview, December 10, 1981.

Portland Oregonian, June 24, 1980.

Taylor, George V., "History of California-Oregon Power Company," 1964.

Who's Who for Oregon 1936-1937, page 121, Frank Chamberlain Clark. Also: Frank Clark to George M. Post, Secretary, Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners, written at Medford, Oregon, December 17, 1919, application for certificate of registration under State's new licensing act (effective May 29, 1919). This informal written application contains important information concerning the architect's training and early career.