

**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

For NCRS use only
received AUG 25 1981
date entered SEP 2 1981

1. Name

historic The Sun House

and/or common Hudson-Carpenter Home

2. Location

street & number 431 South Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Ukiah _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2

state California code 06 county Mendocino code 045

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name City of Ukiah

street & number 203 South School Street

city, town Ukiah 95482 _____ vicinity of _____ state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Recorder, Mendocino County Courthouse

street & number North State and West Perkins

city, town Ukiah _____ state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Historical Landmark No. 926 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Approved November 3, 1978 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records California Office of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento _____ state California

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 Sun House is a detached dwelling which sits on .4 of an acre in a wooded setting of redwoods, native oaks, sycamore and locust trees located in downtown Ukiah. The house is square in shape, the dimensions of which are 52' by 52' overall and with a total of 2,404 square feet of interior space. The exterior walls are of rough finish redwood board and batten. A brick walk leads to the front door which is made of slash grain oak and has hand wrought iron hinges, handles, plates, knocker and bolts. An open pergola supported by 12" by 12" redwood columns, to which a totem pole is attached, covers the entryway. A ship's lantern to the right of the door lights the area. All windows unless otherwise noted are wood sash, double hung, with multiple pane. Two windows 2½' by 3' are adjacent and to the right of the doorway. Three 2' by 5' windows are placed above the chimney in the attic and below the wide eaves. A wide shoulder red brick chimney which disappears into the attic or loft and reappears on the roof is in the center of the front or west wall while two more windows, 2½' by 5', separate the chimney and the large open porch on the southwest corner of the house. The large open porch has both a brick floor and a brick rail on the west and is supported by three 18" redwood columns. A wheelchair ramp built in the late 1950's runs alongside the west side of and onto the porch.

The porch opens to the south and has two French doors leading into the house, one into the living room and one into the dining room. Again, a ship's lantern at the right of the porch lights this entryway. Five windows, 2½' by 5', are placed in this wall followed by three small windows 2½' by 3' which have bright red oriental fretwork below.

The back of the house has three small 2½' by 3' windows in a bedroom bay with separate roof projecting to the east.

There are two windows 2½' by 5' in the attic and two windows 2½' by 3' directly below in the kitchen. There is a small separate roof over the doorway.

Two small 2½' by 3' windows are adjacent to and at the left of this door which also contains a window. Facing east, a 2½' by 5' window is in the service area with a small stationery clerestory window appearing above a concealed board and batten doorway (matching the house siding) into the storage area under the porch.

Facing north is a small 2½' by 3' window to the left of and adjacent to the doorway (up 5 steps) which leads to the artist's studio. Here again, a ship's lantern lights the entry. At this point, eleven 12" by 12" redwood posts form a trellis which crosses over the driveway to hold the antique bells (a collection of school, fire and church bells from old Ukiah buildings). Next, a large stationery window, 3' by 5', with two sash windows, 2½' by 5', on either side along and eight stationery clerestory windows above are on the bay of the artist's studio. Before 1938, a multi-paned skylight extended through a cutaway in the roof 1/3 of the way up and down into the wall, making one large multi-paned window. However, when the skylight was removed in 1938 and the house re-roofed with composition shingles, the stationery windows replaced the skylight. A stained glass window, 3' by 2', is placed between the bays of the studio and the entry hall and constructed of multi-colored leaded glass of a triangular design. Two more sash windows, 2½' by 5', followed by three small, 2½' by 3', windows with red oriental fretwork below bring us back to the entryway in the front.

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/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify): ethnography |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1911 - 1937 **Builder/Architect** George L. Wilcox

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) The Sun House is representative of an important era in the history of the American West. It is significant not only for its craftsmanship and detailing but for historic value pertaining to the owner-builders, Grace and John Hudson. Grace Hudson, an artist of acclaim, along with her husband, Dr. John Hudson, spent twenty-six years working at archeological findings and painting the local Pomo Indians while living in the Sun House. The invaluable and irreplaceable artifacts contained in the house, as well as the house itself, are very valuable man-made resources that have to be insured of being officially maintained and supervised.

A. O. and Helen Carpenter, with their daughter, Grace, were some of the earliest settlers in Mendocino County. Soon after Grace married John Hudson, they joined her family who lived and owned the property on Main Street and built the Sun House. It was to be used as the Hudson's residence and included an art studio for her and an office for him to pursue his ethnological studies. The house soon became one of the most interesting and substantial homes in the vicinity.

Grace Hudson's paintings soon achieved national significance, finding their place in such places as the Oakland Museum, the Los Angeles Museum of Art and the National Gallery to name a few. Her Vermeer quality paintings are today commanding prices competitive with the masters.

Dr. Hudson gained fame through his archaeological discoveries and his association with the Smithsonian. "John Hudson began recording the 'Poma' language in 1890 and continued until 1920 with the bulk of the collection done during the 1890's. Following the 'sophisticated' - for the time - J. W. Powell's Smithsonian Institution vocabulary elicitation schedule, Hudson compiled the earliest professionally elicited and most extensive vocabulary lists collected on any single tribelet in California. Because of Hudson's medical training, heavy emphasis was placed on terms dealing with anatomical, botanical and other medically related terms." His work at the Columbian Field Museum of Chicago made him a nationally recognized authority on Indian culture. The combined efforts and talents of the Hudsons have resulted in the preservation and conservation of an invaluable historical collection of baskets and other artifacts documenting the life and times of a vanishing race.

The Sun House, though altered in a few minor aspects, retains the same character and feeling it had when it was first constructed. The alterations do not detract from the significance of the property and it has a strong identifiable relationship to its history. The Sun House retains all the integrity it held during the time the Hudsons lived there. There are no other properties in this vicinity that have any association with the Hudson family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Painter Lady - Grace Carpenter Hudson by Searles R. Boynton, DDS, Library of Congress Catalog Card #77-08888
 I.S.B.N. #D-915580-04-7 - Copyright Searles R. Boynton, 1978
 The Hudson-Carpenter Estate and Its Collections - compiled and edited by (continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

ITEM NOT VERIFIED
 ACRES NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .4 acre
 Quadrangle name Ukiah Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

That certain real property situated in the County of Mendocino, State of California, described as follows: (see continuation sheet)

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 Barbara Eversole, Director
 organization Sun House Guild Corporation date August 22, 1980
 street & number P.O. Box 865 telephone 707-462-2206
 city or town Ukiah state California 95482

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 K. M. Ellison

title _____ date 8-17-81

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Bell Grosvenor date 9/2/81
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 9/1/81
 Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Sun House, a one-and-a-half story, seven-room house is a fine example of craftsman-bungalow style architecture. It has a living room, entry hall, den, artist's studio, one bedroom, dining room, kitchen, one bathroom and an attic. The bedroom, entry and artist's studio each have a bay. The house is of wood frame construction (principally redwood) with a 2' by 4' studding on 2' centers and 2' by 4' toe plates. The house has a gable roof which was originally covered with thick mill-planed redwood shakes. The ceiling rafters are of 2' by 4' placed on 2' centers with 2' by 6' studs projecting for cornices. The eaves have a 5' overhang and are finished off in the barge rafter style.

The foundation is of concrete wall^s and piers as follows: a wall laid on the surface of the ground 12" at the base and 6" at the top - plumb on the inside and from 12" to 28" high. Additional supporting foundations were made for N. and S. supporting partitions. Piers 10" by 12" at the base are placed 6' apart to support all the interior structure. The lower floor joists are 2' by 6' set on 2' centers supported by 4' by 4' stringers.

There are 44 windows in the house and five exterior doors with one large porch and two stoops. There are two chimneys - one for the living room fireplace and one for the artist's studio fireplace. The living room fireplace is faced with brick, has a stone hearth, is 3'8" by 2'6" with a 26" fire box and is provided with an exterior ash box. The mantel is 8' by 4" thick of natural redwood. The flue is 1/10th of the fire box opening. The artist's studio fireplace is 2'5" by 2'7" with a 24" firebox, faced with brick, has a stone hearth and a 6' by 4" thick solid redwood mantel.

The house opens into an entry hall with redwood panelling on the walls and ceiling and polished oak flooring. A window seat made of redwood is beneath the windows on the left. Three steps lead up into the living room which has large stained redwood beams and walls covered with painted burlap. The fireplace is on the right and across the room is a staircase made of oak with three steps leading to a redwood door which in turn leads to the attic. A totem pole sits to the right of the doorway. The attic is finished with sheetrock and is used for storage. There is 2½' redwood wainscoting on the walls of the living room. The dining room has 5' redwood wainscoting, a china closet alcove and redwood beam ceiling. Here again painted burlap covers the walls. The bedroom with adjoining screened porch was remodeled in the 1940's by enclosing the porch and thereby enlarging the bedroom. Again, redwood beams and painted burlap are the covering for walls and ceiling. The kitchen is of utilitarian nature with painted Oregon pine cupboards, sink and door with window leading out to the service porch with accompanying cooler and laundry area. The artist's studio was converted in 1938 to another bedroom with adjoining bathroom.

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Three-sided diamond shaped light fixtures with brass tops, both hanging and bracket, accent and light the entry hall, living room and dining room. All door knobs and escutcheons are of old brass. Door butts, window locks, cupboard catches, etc. are also of old brass finish. There are six interior doors made of solid redwood with a recessed panel subtly accented with a design of redwood in an oriental motif. Four of these are natural finish redwood and two are painted. A swinging door is one entry to the kitchen and multi-paned French doors lead from the dining room into the living room.

A sundial, fish pond, bird bath, and stone benches are set amid well-kept gardens. Three treated douglas fir flagpoles were added to display the state flag, the U.S. flag, and a Sun House flag. Three antique bells collected by Grace Hudson sit on towers located in the gardens adjacent to the State Historical Landmark plaque.

The boundaries have been drawn to encompass the historic setting of the house. A new city park abuts the Sun House property on the north, separated by an old wooden fence. A new museum is planned in the open area immediately east of the Sun House. The museum and parking area will involve new construction on presently vacant land. The southern boundaries is defined by the edge of the access road to the new museum complex. The proposed museum has been designed in a manner compatible with the existing historical property. A small arbor is presently located just outside the east boundary on the new museum site; this will be relocated several feet onto the historic grounds and will continue to maintain its approximate spatial relationship to the Sun House.

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Grace and John Hudson lived in the Sun House during the most productive years of their lives - 1911 through 1937. Upon their deaths, John Hudson in 1931 and Grace Hudson in 1937, the property was inherited by a nephew of Grace Hudson, Mark Carpenter, who with his wife, Melissa Carpenter, lived in the house the remainder of their lives. Their interest and recognition of the value of the material produced by John and Grace Hudson, along with the distinct architectural styling of the Sun House, prompted the Carpenters to preserve and maintain the property in its original condition as much as possible during the years they lived there. After the death of Mark Carpenter in 1967, Melissa Carpenter, in 1970, married a man by the name of Otis Kendrick.

Before her death in 1975, Melissa Carpenter Kendrick negotiated with the City of Ukiah for the sale of the property, with the stipulation that the Sun House and its surrounding property be used for the sole and exclusive purpose of an art and historical museum. Should this agreement ever be breached, the property is to revert to the California Historical Society or the State of California.

This house is the only museum located in the City of Ukiah and is one of the very few significant historical buildings in the area available for public use and study.

The Sun House was built in 1911-1912 in the "craftsman or bungalow" style. Although considered an extremely modern design for its time, the building utilized massive redwood timbers indigenous to the area. Reflecting the taste of a couple who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, the house is the most important example in Mendocino County depicting this particular style of early 1900 architecture.

Designed by George L. Wilcox, an architect/artist who had retired to Ukiah in 1906, the Sun House stresses openness, natural views from the windows and doors, and the incorporation of northwestern Indian designs into the wood. The scale is heavier than the craftsman style of the Greene brothers who were practicing in Southern California at this time. The architecture of the house is a visual representation of the Carpenter/Hudson philosophy of art and culture.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE

2

David Peri of California State University at Sonoma. Copies available through the City of Ukiah.

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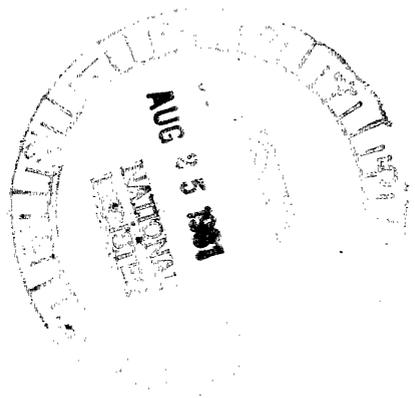
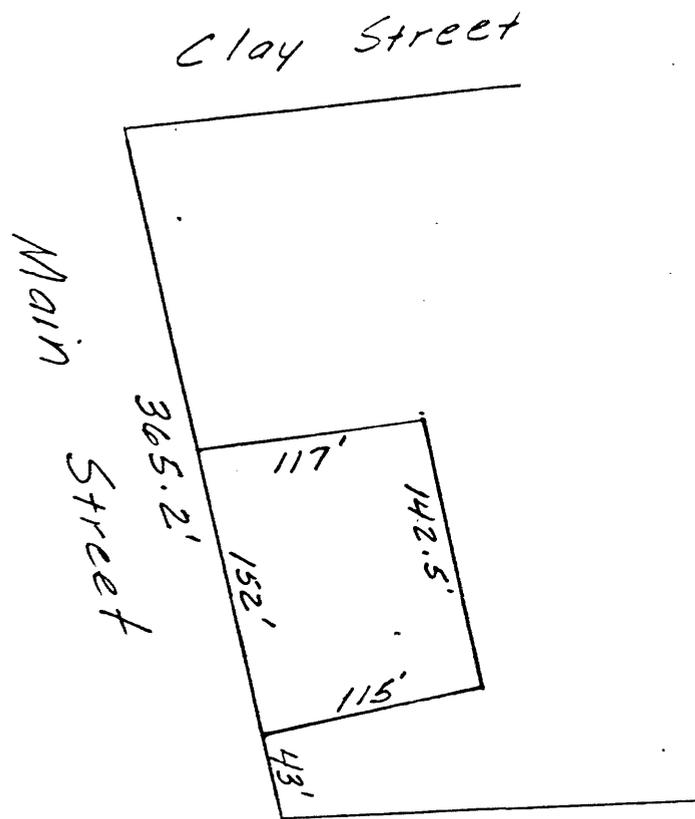
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|-------------------|-------------|
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Commencing at the southwest corner of the property described in the judgement recorded in Book 769, Page 29, Mendocino County Records, the said point of commencement being in the easterly Right of Way line of South Main Street; thence northerly along the said easterly Right of Way line 43.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence Easterly at right angles to the said easterly Right of Way line, 115.00 feet; thence Northerly and parallel with the said Easterly Right of Way line, 142.50 feet more or less to an existing fence; thence Westerly along the said existing fence, 117.00 feet more or less to the said Easterly Right of Way line; thence Southerly along the said Easterly Right of Way line 152.00 feet more or less to the point of beginning.

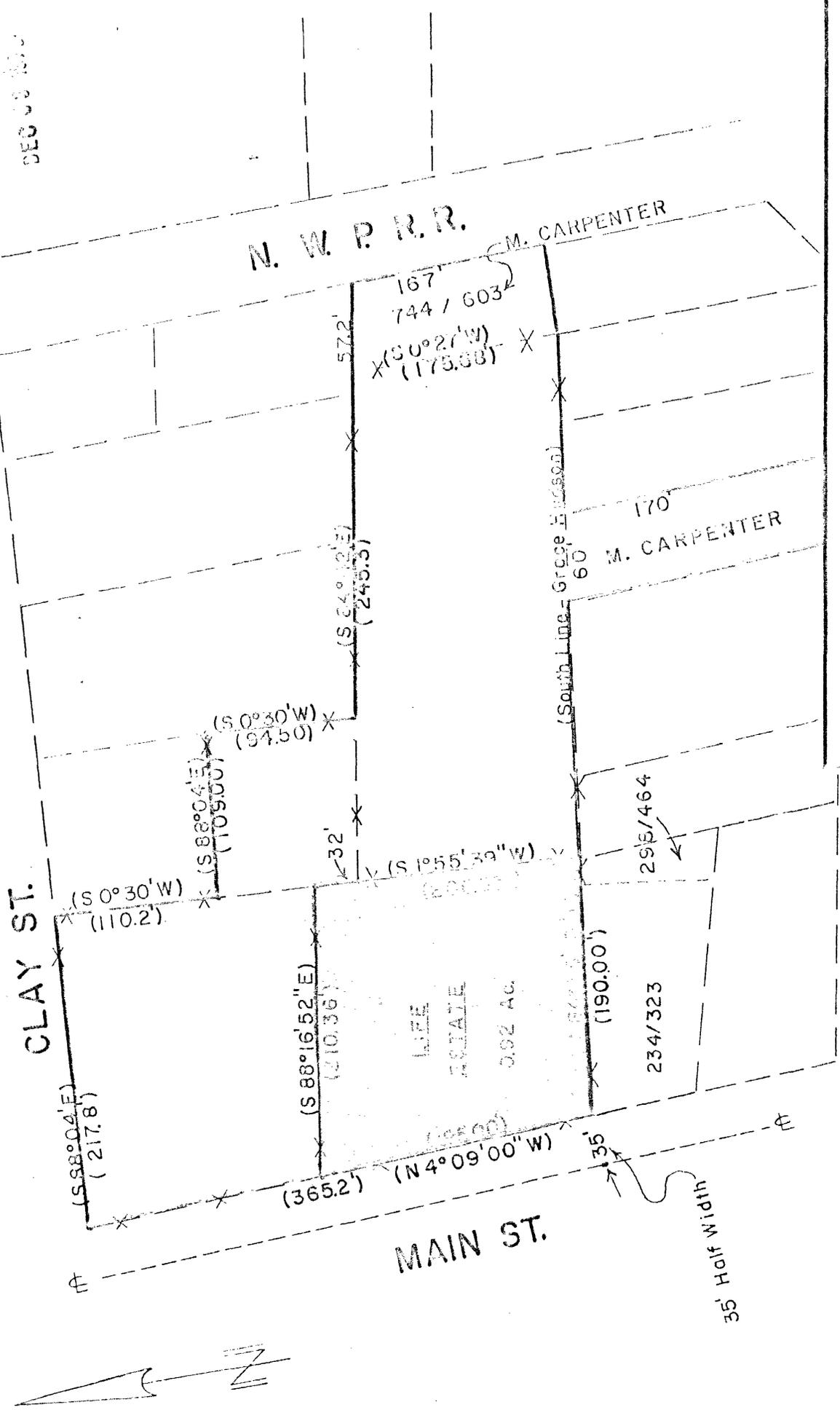
This boundary encompasses the original historic setting and maintains the integrity of the parcel of land where the house sits. This boundary is designated on the enclosed survey plot map by red and black lines.



THE SUN HOUSE
UKIAH, CALIFORNIA
SCALE 1" = 100'
8/80

SEP 2 1981

DEC 20 1975



N. W. P. R. R.

M. CARPENTER

M. CARPENTER

CLAY ST.

MAIN ST.

LIFE ESTATE 0.92 AC.

CITY OF UKIAH

SCALE: 1" = 100'

DATE: JULY '75

APPROVED BY: *M. Carpenter*

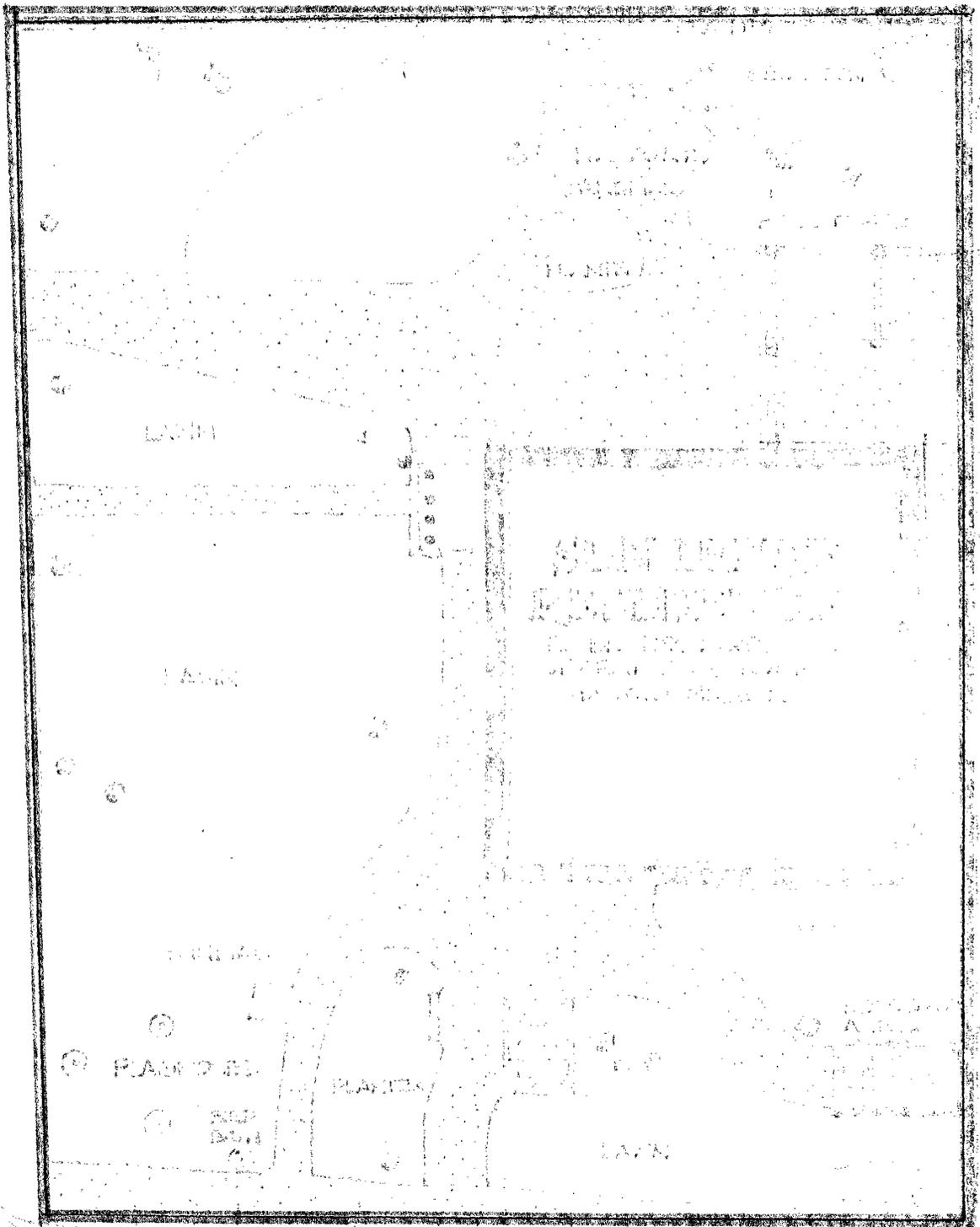
DRAWN BY: DNP

REVISED

LIFE ESTATE, M. CARPENTER

BOUNDARY DETAILS

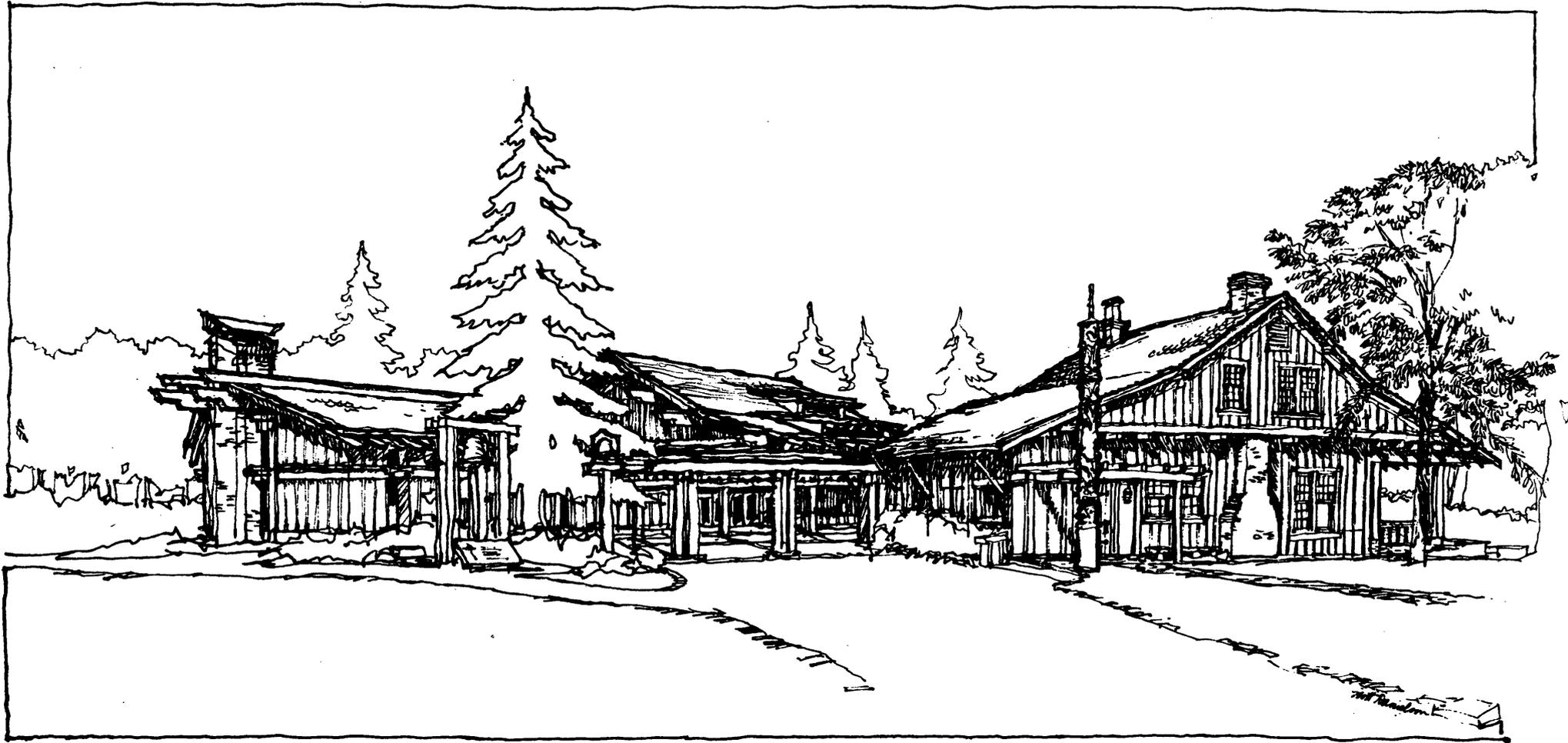
DRAWING NUMBER 1 of 1



THE SUN HOUSE
431 South Main Street
Ukiah, Mendocino County
California

Boundary map copied on bond paper

SEP 2 1981



VIEW OF SUN HOUSE MUSEUM • UKIAH, CALIFORNIA
FOR THE SUN HOUSE GUILD

Parsons
Brinckerhoff

