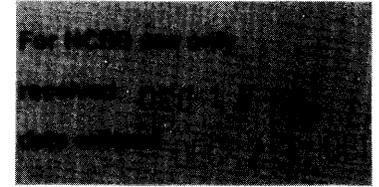


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Pracht, Humboldt, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 234 Vista Street _____ not for publication

city, town Ashland _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Fourth

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The Reverend and Mrs. W. R. Ellis

street & number 234 Vista Street

city, town Ashland _____ vicinity of _____ state Oregon 97520

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Eighth and Oakdales Streets

city, town Ashland _____ state Oregon 97520

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ashland Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1974 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Ashland Public Library

city, town Ashland _____ state Oregon 97520

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Bungalow Style Humboldt Parct House was constructed in 1910 for the manager of the Souther Pacific Railroad's Depot Hotel in Ashland, Oregon. It is in excellent condition.

Located in Sec. 9, T. 39S., R. 1E., W.M., the Pracht House is situated on Tax Lot 7400 in the Hargadine Tract of Ashland. It stands on a high bank and is oriented to the north fronting Vista Street, which follows the contour of a hillside overlooking downtown Ashland. The steep hillside rises at the back of the property and contains some of the original trees planted by the Prachts and other early residents of the area.

All the characteristic elements of the Bungalow Style are distinguishable in the Pracht House. The front slope of the main transverse gable is broken by a pair of dormers with broadly overhanging eaves and intersecting vergeboards. The front roof slope is supported by four solid piers clad with lapped siding to create a veranda extending fully across the facade. Typical, large, rectangular windows are fitted with double hung sash with many small panes in the upper sash. Picture windows with side lights and multi-paned top lights are on either side of the central entrance. The wide, 8-inch lapped siding has been stained a deep reddish-brown. Exposed structural members and trim are painted white; screen trim is painted black.

The two-story frame structure on basement is approximately square in shape. Its dimensions are roughly 45' by 45'. The ashlar foundation is four feet high at the front of the house where the site slopes forward toward the street. The gable roofs of the main volume and dormers were wood shingled originally and now are clad with composition shingles. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east end designed to serve both the living room fireplace and an outdoor fireplace opening.

The front and rear eave overhangs have exposed rafters with shaped ends. The eaves have a closed beaded soffit, and the ceiling of the porch is also closed with beaded boards and trimme with bed molding. The solid porch railing is clad with lapped siding and is crowned by the belt cornice which encircles the house. Eaves overhangs at either gable end of the house are carrie by five outsized triangular brackets.

Plain wide architraves surround all openings. The front door is solid oak. Each of its side-lights is of bevelled glass.

The interior spatial organization of the Humboldt Pracht House is unaltered. Original dark stained door and window trim is intact throughout, as are plaster walls. On the ground story are the living room, dining room, billiards room, kitchen and bath. The living room has beamed ceiling. Arches with sliding pocket doors divide the living room from the dining area and billiards room. A built-in book case with base panelling and a large fireplace complete the room. The fireplace has a brick surround and a massive wood mantel shelf with three large, block-shaped brackets. The billiards room has cornice moulding at the top of the wall and a built-in panelled seat along one wall which provided a resting spot for players. The dining room has dark-stained panelled wainscoting to a height of five feet. A built-in china cabinet and sideboard, also stained, has four cupboards with leaded glass fronts. The kitchen contains original cabinets. A small half bath has original fixtures.

The entry hall stairs and much of the wood flooring throughout are presently carpeted. The single-flight stair has a simple banister with square balusters and shaped top rail. Two large bedrooms open onto the large central hall on the second story, where ceiling heights are 9 feet. An upstairs sun-room, or sewing room has three-foot wainscoting. A large closet and access to attic storage make up the remainder of the second story space, along with an upstairs bathroom, which is replete with a full length bevelled glass mirror, original fixtures, and shelves.

The property contains one outbuilding, a two car garage used by the owner as a shop. Its dimension are approximately 20' by 20'. Six inch lap siding covers the frame structure. One six light window provides light on the north elevation of the garage.

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The lot occupied by the Pracht House is 198' deep and steep in grade. Several large old oak trees dot the property, one of them standing at the front of the house. Evergreens and deciduous trees are scattered on the slope above. A wide, well-kept lawn stretches across the front yard on a steep bank, and a sidewalk winds from the street to the front porch.

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 type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect Frank Chamberlain Clark

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built for Depot Hotel manager Humboldt Pracht at 234 Vista Street in Ashland, Oregon in 1910 is significant as one of a half dozen outstanding, sizable, high-style bungalows in the community which were designed by local architects or builders directly influenced by the work of California architects Greene and Greene. The Pracht House was designed by Frank Chamberlain Clark, the leading architect of the Rogue River Valley in the early years of the century. Its most distinctive exterior feature is the pair of large dormers on the front slope of the roof with their broadly overhanging eaves and intersecting vergeboards. The interior contains the panelling, wainscoting, wide brick fireplace surrounds, and built-in cabinetry which are characteristic of the Arts and Crafts ideal from which the Bungalow Style, in part, evolved. In addition to embodying the distinctive characteristics of its type, this well-preserved Bungalow possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with the heyday of railroad passenger traffic in Ashland.

Humboldt Pracht arrived in Ashland in 1886 at the age of eleven years. His father, Max Pracht, bought a large fruit tract which he named Peach Blow Paradise. The house of Pracht the elder still stands on Pracht Street in what became the fine Pracht Addition to Ashland. Max Pracht served as the first government fishing commissioner in Alaska and was appointed collector of customs at Sitka under President Harrison. Other government posts included service in the Department of the Interior, the Health Department and on the Protective Tariff Board. His year of public work were interspersed with successful production of fruit in Ashland.

When Humboldt Pracht took over management of the Depot Hotel early in the 20th century, it was already a thriving operation. Completed in 1888, the large structure had forty sleeping rooms, a dining room and kitchen. It's location on Southern Pacific Railroad property guaranteed a steady supply of patrons as tired travellers poured off the cars. For years the Depot Hotel ran under Humboldt Pracht's management and developed an excellent reputation on the West Coast. In the early 1930s the division head was moved from Ashland to Klamath Falls on the Cascade route, and the Depot Hotel, like other railroad related businesses in Ashland, declined.

In 1910, at the height of railroad passenger traffic in Ashland, Humboldt and Susan Pracht made plans for their new house. In April the local paper reported:

A. H. Pracht is excavating for the fine new bungalow which he will build on Vista Street. The plans contemplate one of the most complete and modern homes yet built in Ashland. It will be two stories and a basement and will comprise eight rooms and include that modern health-building luxury, an outdoor sleeping porch, as well as a hot water heating system.²

The Prachts occupied the house at its completion and lived there for the next thirty years. Mrs Pracht was active in church and community groups. She had come to Ashland in 1884 and attended local schools. Her marriage to Humboldt Pracht occurred in 1900. Susan Pracht died on Easter Sunday, 1942 and is buried in Ashland. Humboldt Pracht participated in local business ventures and contributed generously to civic enterprises. He died August 12, 1943.

¹Ashland Tidings, May 21, 1917.

²Ashland Tidings, April 25, 1910.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ashland Daily Tidings, April 25, 1910. Medford Mail Tribune, June 1, 1920.
 Ashland Daily Tidings, May 22, 1917. Medford Mail Tribune, May 31, 1957.
 Ashland Daily Tidings, August 12, 1943.
 Oral Communication, Charlotte Hull, July 12, 1980. Ver1 G. Barnthouse, July 14, 1980. Frank Davis, July 21, 1980. Robert Keeney, AIA, January 25, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one
 Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon - California

ACREEGE NOT VERIFIED
 UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Humboldt Pracht House is located in Section 9, Township 39 South, Range 1 East, W. M. It is legally described as Tax Lot 7400 in the Hargadine Tract, Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon -- map reference 39 1E 9CB.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

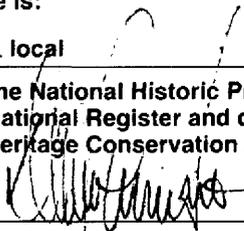
name/title Kay Atwood
 organization _____ date September 7, 1980
 street & number 102 South Pioneer telephone 503/482-8714
 city or town Ashland state Oregon 97520

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.

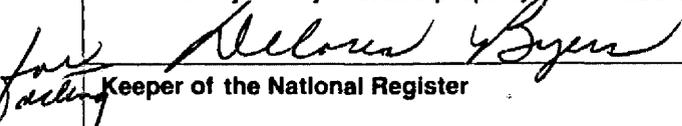
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 22, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 12/23/81


 Keeper of the National Register

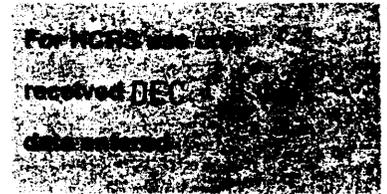
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The architectural significance of the Humboldt Pracht House lies in its size, its integrity, and its being an outstanding example of work in the Bungalow Style by leading local architect Frank C. Clark. The exterior remains unaltered; the interior is only slightly modified. A photograph taken shortly after construction and memories of long-time Ashland residents indicate that even the exterior color remains close to its original appearance. Each owner since the Prachts (there have been three) has continued a high level of maintenance. W. B. Hanby purchased the house from the Pracht estate and lived there twenty years. He added a gable-roofed garage with exposed rafters which matches the main structure in style and materials, probably completing it about 1948.

Historically, the Humboldt Pracht House reflects a time when residents associated with the Southern Pacific Railroad held the best-paying jobs in the area. The Prachts' financial position was at its peak in 1910, at which time they chose to build.

The Humboldt Pracht House is perhaps the largest Bungalow in Ashland. A house of comparable scale and quality stands on Siskiyou Boulevard across from the E. V. Carter House. It was built in 1909 for E. V. Carter before Carter moved his older residence across the street. Both the Carter-Fortmiller/^{house} and the Humboldt Pracht House are in excellent condition. The Pracht House, however, is least altered.

Robert Keeney, AIA, of Medford, Oregon -- a one-time associate of Frank C. Clark -- has identified the Pracht House as the work of Frank Clark. According to Keeney, "the whole composition is Clark's; the obvious sophisticated use of detail, carrying through of design in [the porch] railing, running trim and downspouts, is his work."³

Frank Chamberlain Clark, born December 27, 1872 in Greene County, New York, came to the West Coast before the turn of the century. His presence in Los Angeles and San Francisco for several years indicates an acquaintanceship with California architecture. He received this Oregon license by credential, and in 1920 was appointed to the State Board of Architect Examiners for a five year term.⁴ He moved to Ashland in 1904 and opened an office. Designs in the community include the Elks Temple, the Enders Building, the State Normal School Building, and the Chappel-Swedenburg, Taverner, Carter, and Butler residences. In Medford, Oregon, Clark designed Harry and David's Bear Creek Orchards Building, the Medford Airport Terminal, Elks Building, First Presbyterian Church, the Holly and Craterian Theatres. Houses in Medford include those of Glenn Jackson, Delroy Getchell, L. A. Salade, Ralph Bardwell and Victor Bursell. Grants Pass, Oregon and Yreka, California contain examples of his work. From 1936 to 1954 he worked with Robert Keeney, and the two designed buildings under the firm name of Clark and Keeney.⁵ He died in May, 1957.

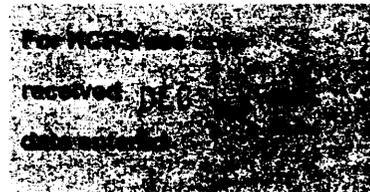
³ Interview with Robert Keeney, AIA, Medford, Oregon, January 25, 1981. During his eighteen year tenure with Frank Clark, Robert Keeney handled all the drawings and tracings and examined each carefully as he and Clark placed the material for each design in a large paper envelope they constructed for storage. After Clark retired, all the envelopes went to a family member. They were destroyed in a fire soon after.

⁴ Medford Mail Tribune, June 1, 1920.

⁵ Medford Mail Tribune, May 31, 1957. (Obituary)

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In order to accumulate comparative data on bungalow architecture in Ashland, in January, 1981 a windshield survey was undertaken in an area approximately 482 acres in size, bounded by Coolidge Street on the north and Beach and Morse streets on the south. The railroad tracks formed the eastern boundary, and Holly and Scenic, the western border. Approximately 130 bungalows were identified in the area, with the heaviest concentration westerly of Siskiyou Boulevard and North Main Street, in the later additions to the plat.

The bungalow in Ashland, as in the rest of the country, flourished between 1905 and 1920. The greater percentage of examples in Ashland are modest pattern-book, or builder's designs with common features; one or one-and-a-half stories, low pitched roofs, overhanging eaves, and truncated obelisk porch posts. Regardless of size, the houses have broad horizontal lines. For purposes of the windshield survey, it was determined that Ashland has about four kinds of bungalows, and for purposes of the survey they are identified as Type D, C, B, and A, and were examined with the following criteria:

- size; number of stories, overall footage
- exterior materials
- extent of detail, i.e. roof, windows, eaves, etc.
- setting; grounds and lot size

There exists a fairly even distribution of type D, B, and C bungalows in Ashland. Type A is represented by about six examples.

Class D-Small, one story; wood siding, few finish details. Simple small porch with pitched roof, single and multi-light windows. Small undistinguished city lot.

Class C-Medium size, one or one-and-a-half stories; wood siding, large porch, some gabled or shed dormers, simple finish detail in porch posts, railings, rafters.

Class B-Large, one story; wood siding, some shingles, occasional cobblestone. Wide porches, or small ones of cobblestone; more finish detail, including exposed rafters with shaped ends, purlins, some Stick Style characteristics; yards contain period plantings.

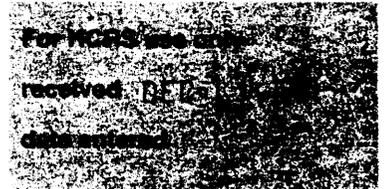
Class A-Largest in size, height and square footage, one-and-a-half to two stories; stained wood and shingled siding; distinctive exterior and interior details; chimneys of stone or brick, carved brackets and rafter ends, stained wood interior trim, generous landscaped grounds.

The Humboldt Pracht House is one of the few known architect-designed Bungalow Style houses in Ashland and, as such, is special, for generally, the bungalow was a mass-produced house, modest in scale, and affordable. The "chalet" characteristic suggested by the large double gables on the facade is repeated nowhere else in Ashland. It's chimney exemplifies what Mary Mix Foley, in The American House, calls "a bit of Tidewater English."⁶ Craftsman details are evident in the roof brackets, the inset rails on the porch, and, on the interior, in leaded glass cabinet doors, wide fireplace surrounds and bold mantelpieces, panelling, and built-in benches and cabinetry.

The Humboldt Pracht House is one of the three largest bungalows in Ashland. It is nearly two stories and contains approximately 3800 square feet. It's stained exterior siding retains it's original color.

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Its hillside setting on a large wooded lot emphasizes the house's quality and scale. It's construction date, 1910, makes it one of the community's earlier bungalows.

⁶Foley, Mary Mix. The American House, Harper and Row, N.Y., 1980, p. 200.