## 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 instruction 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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, 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 nameH. C. Keck House <u>/ Mt. Olivet Pars</u>		
other names/site number Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	Parsonage	
		not for publication
street & number 53 NE Thompson St city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97212	code OR county Multnomah	code 051
======================================		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Prescrequest for determination of eligibility meets the documentation and meets the procedural and professional requirements set meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this professional requirements of See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official / Deputy SHPO	ion standards for registering properties in the Na forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the prop	utional Register of Historic Places perty <u>X</u> meets does not statewide <u>X</u> locally. (
State or Federal agency and bureau		-
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the	e National Register criteria. (See continuatio	on 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 RegisterSee conditions determined eligible for the National Registerdetermined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register	ontinuation sheet See continuation sheet.	<b>4</b> °
other (explain):		
Signature of Keeper	Date of Action	

Henry C. Keck House (1899) Name of Property	9)	Multnomah, OR County and State					
5. Classification							
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)					
X private public-local public-State public-Federal	X building(s)		Contributing1	Noncontributing	buildings sites _structure _objects _Total		
Name of related multiple proper (Enter "N/A" if property is not p	ty listing art of a multiple property lis	ting.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
Eliot MPS					_		
6. Function or Use	****						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions	;)	Current Fund (Enter categorie	ctions es from instructions)				
DOMESTIC: Single dwel	ling	DOM	MESTIC: single dv	velling			
					<del>-</del>		
7. Description							
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruction: LATE VICTORIAN: Quee	on s)	(Enter categorie foundation: roof	composition :	shingles ble-beveled shipla	p & shingles		
		other					

### **General Description & Setting**

The Henry C. Keck House of 1899 is a two story residential dwelling of the Queen Anne Victorian architectural style very popular during the last 15 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This fine home remains architecturally intact in spite of 2 relocations in 1929 and 2001 and neglect during the past 25 years. Most original and distinguishable architectural features survive both outside and inside. Presently it stands on the north side of NE Thompson Street between N Williams and NE Rodney Avenues inside the Eliot Multiple Property Submission. (Appendix A) The previous sites the house stood at are also inside the geographic boundaries of the Eliot neighborhood as defined by the MPS. (Appendix D) This mixed-use neighborhood in the close-in area of N & NE Portland was nominated for and registered as a National Historic Multiple Property Submission from 1997 to 1998.

The Eliot neighborhood encompasses much of the area formerly known as the town of Albina on the close-in east side of Portland adjacent to the Willamette River and also a small portion of the former town of East Portland. Today, the City of Portland recognizes the boundaries as the Willamette River on the west, N & NE Fremont on the north, NE 7<sup>th</sup> on the east, and N & NE Broadway at the south. The district has a diverse variety of structures. The western portion (west of N Vancouver Avenue) is predominantly industrial and is dissected by the I-5 freeway. It also includes Emanuel Hospital near the Fremont Bridge ramp at the north end. The main portion of the district contains many commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings of both old and modern vintage along the major arterial streets of N Williams Avenue, N & NE Russell Street and NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The side streets contain predominantly single-family dwellings of old vintage. Many are a unique collection of surviving Victorian cottages in several styles. Newer buildings, predominantly duplexes and higher density, have been constructed to fill vacant lots and some are compatible with the historic neighborhood.

Henry C. Keck House (1899) Name of Property	Multnomah, OR County and State					
economic Significance 8. Statement of Significance						
======================================	one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)					
_X A Property is associated with events	that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.					
X B Property is associated with the live	es of persons significant in our past.					
C Property embodies the distinctive of work of a master, or possesses high artistic values individual distinction.	characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the lues, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components					
D Property has yielded, or is likely to	yield information important in prehistory or history.					
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that	ut apply.)					
<del></del>	eved significance within the past 50 years.					
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructi <u>ETHNIC HERITAGE: European</u> African-American	ions)					
ARCHITECTURE						
Period of Significance 1899-1964	4					
Significant Dates <u>1899, 1929</u>						
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked	above)Caston, Jonathan L. & Clow, Jessie James					
Cultural Affiliation	<b>y</b> .					
Architect/Builder Henry C. Keck						
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more co	ontinuation sheets.)					

## History of the Eliot Neighborhood

The Henry Keck House of 1899 presently sits on the plat of Albina. Before 2001, it sat on the plat of Holladays Addition to East Portland also inside the Eliot neighborhood in an area commonly referred to also as the Albina District during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The block it formerly sat on is only one block south of the south boundary line of the Albina plat. On 28 May 1873, Edwin Russell filed the plat of Albina and George H. Williams on a donation land claim originally settled by J. L. Loring and Joseph Delay. These two prominent businessmen of Portland spearheaded initial development efforts with William W. & Albina Page, who owned significant portions of the land and retained ownership of certain blocks after the platting. The town was named after Mr. Page's wife and daughter. Russell was an ambitious businessman who emigrated from England and had a vision of a thriving city on the other side of the Willamette. He managed the branch of the Bank of British Columbia in Portland and landed a contract with the U.S. government to build a ship. He built an elegant mansion for his

family in Albina but unfortunately borrowed heavily for development efforts and when a depression affected the industry in 1874, he went broke and moved to San Francisco by 1876. George H. Williams was a senator previously and US Attorney General and also went down in this financial effort too. Most of the plat, predominantly undeveloped, was sold to James Montgomery and William Reid. In 1882, they refiled maps for many of the blocks and developed the remainder of the

Major Bibliographical References	
<ol> <li>Bosco-Milligan Foundation, Cornerstones of Community: Buildings of Lart, Willie May, vivid description of parsonage from childhood memorals.</li> <li>MacColl, E. Kimbark, The Shaping of a City: Business and Politics of Multnomah County Deed Recordings, 1889-1907.</li> <li>Oregon Journal, "Called here", 18 February 1928, p. 14.</li> <li>Oregonian, "Negro gives invocation", 12 February 1931, p. 6.</li> <li>Oregonian, ebituary of Elise Dorothea Keck, 26 June 1951, p. 15.</li> <li>Oregonian, "Improved race relations in US seen by retiring minister", 10. Polk Company, Portland &amp; Albina Directories, 1890-1970.</li> <li>Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, Multiple Property Submiss 12. Portland Buildings Bureau Record &amp; Permit Center, building and plum 13. Roos, R. E., The History &amp; Development of Portland's Irvington Neig 14. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1901, 08, 23, &amp; 32.</li> <li>United States Census of 1900 &amp; 1910.</li> </ol>	ories, interview 17 November 2001.  in Portland, 1885-1915, Portland, OR, the Georgian Press, 1976.  gon, 1788-1940, the Georgian Press, 1980.  3 June 1963, sec. 2, p. 12.  ion for the Eliot Neighborhood, 8 December 1997.  abing permits.
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:
0. Geographical Data	
O. Geographical Data	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a c	continuation sneet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  110 526235 5042705 3 4  Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of W 48' of lot 19, Block 24, Albina	
A4 Form Propaged By	
name/title Roy E. Roos	
	data 20 Ephruary 2002
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	date20 February 2002
street & number53 NE Thompsonstreet & number53 NE Thompsons	telephone <u>(503) 282-9436</u> tate_OR_ zip code <u>97212</u>
Additional Documentation	=======================================
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locat A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreag	ion.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.	
Property Owner	=======================================
name <u>Roy E. Roos</u> street & number <u>53 NE Thompson</u>	telephone (503) 282-9436
city or town Portland	telephone <u>(503) 282-9436</u> state <u>OR</u> zip code <u>97212</u>

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The Keck House-Mt. Olivet Parsonage is generally rectangular in form measuring 25' wide and nearly 46' long. (Appendix B) It is two stories high with the main finished living space with a total of about 2200 square feet. It also contains a large unfinished attic without stair access. The main portion of the house has a steep-pitched hip roof with a gable end in the front and second one on the east side. As typical in Queen Anne style, the front gable is supported by a polygonal cut-away bay window and the side gable end is built in the same fashion. This Queen Anne differs though from many in that the polygonal bay windows run up from the first level and through the second instead of ending at the first level. The ground elevation at the house is about 3' higher than the Thompson street elevation and the main floor rises about 5' above the ground level outside. The house is supported by a perimeter concrete foundation rising about 4' from the ground level outside. The foundation was poured in September 2001 when the house was raised on cribbing and is reinforced with rebar meeting all modern building code requirements. Underneath the house is a full daylight basement with a concrete finished floor. In the backyard behind the house about 27' is a concrete slab from a two car garage that was demolished about 20 years ago.

This Queen Anne Victorian styled home sits on lot 19 of Block 24 in Albina that is 48' wide and 150' deep. The front elevation sits back 16' from the right-of-way of NE Thompson Street. The front lot line (right-of-way) is about 9" from the back of the public sidewalk. (Appendix B) Many of the original houses built on this block have the same setback and a few other nearby original homes are set back only 14'. The east bay window and gable end is about 6 ½' from the east property line. Behind the house is a vast backyard that extends 88' from the rear of the house to the back fence. This house blends in very well with nearly all of the adjacent homes up and down NE Thompson between N Williams and NE MLK Jr. Blvd. A good majority of the nearby homes are a variety of derivatives of the Queen Anne style ranging from larger stately homes to simple smaller one level cottages. At 27 NE Thompson is the H. G. Vincent House, a fine 3-level Queen Anne with a strong Shingle Style flair built in 1895. This home was tastefully restored and listed on the National Register in 1999. Another stately large Queen Anne home nearby is the E. E. Miller House of 1896 which stands at 89 NE Thompson at the corner of NE Rodney. To the immediate west of the subject house is a pair of Queen Anne cottages at 45 & 47 NE Thompson. Nels Johnson, a Swedish carpenter, built them in 1891. To the immediate east is another pair of Queen Anne cottages at 61 & 63 NE Thompson built by Robert H. Moore, also in 1891. Directly across the street stands a simple 1889 Victorian cottage that was saved from demolition for a new housing development a few blocks away by being moved here in 1997.

### **Exterior Description**

The Henry Keck House is a wood framed dwelling of two stories with an asymmetrical front layout of the Queen Anne architectural style. Common in Queen Anne Victorians, the roof is of a steeper pitched hip form with gable ends at the bay windows. At both levels in front and the lower level in the rear are recessed porches. (Photo 1) The house is sided with beveled shiplap and has a flared belt course of scalloped shingles around the perimeter between floors. Scalloped shingles also cover the gable ends above the second floors. Like most Victorian era homes, the windows are predominantly of the tall and narrow double-hung type. Most of the etched art glass windows survive along with nearly all of the other original windows. A plain frieze or horizontal band connects the tops of the windows on both the upper and lower levels. At the roofline around the entire perimeter of the house are boxed cornices. Most of the sofitt planks were rotted due to pigeon damage and removed. They will be reproduced with replacement or salvaged materials. During a period of over 102 years, only some alterations were done on the exterior and interior of the house and are in the process of reversal. Recent removal of artificial composite siding installed around the mid-1950s revealed most original architectural features intact. During residing, corner trim and the drip (water table) sill were removed and are in the process of being replaced. The lower trim and siding at the water table level will be replaced once seismic tie downs (required by code) are secured to the wall studs that are part of the balloon framing.

At the south elevation (front) is the front gable end with a polygonal cut-away bay window for the first and second floors. Molded inset panels of varying proportion surround the central picture window in the lower front bay. A small band with a dentil pattern at the top separates it from the upper sash/transom with an etched pane of fine floral patterns. The side windows of the bay have smaller molded inset panels below them. Both floors also have an open porch at the southwest corner. The first level porch functions as the front entry and the original turned column is intact. The front door is original with inset panels below and a glass pane above surrounded by decorative moulding. A transom above the front door adds light into the foyer. The upstairs porch or balcony has a shorter turned column supporting the roof corner and a perimeter wall rising about 30" from the floor.

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The west elevation is one continuous exterior wall connecting the front porch with the rear porch at the northwest corner. The siding is predominantly double-beveled shiplap horizontally split by the continuing belt course of scalloped shingles. There are only 3 windows: the widest one at the ground level near the rear, a second halfway between floors in the middle, and a smaller one upstairs. The elevation is broken at the ground level by an access door to the basement.

The rear elevation has similar exterior treatments and a recessed 5' by 5' porch at the northwest corner. (Photo 4) Significant weathering damage has occurred on this porch as the flooring and support column have extensive dry rot. The original column is of a simple beveled variety with some basal dry rot damage but salvable. The column and flooring will be repaired and replaced by matching materials as the rotten joists and sill underneath are replaced.

The east elevation is bisected by a two level cut-away polygonal bay window as in the front. (Photo 2) Exterior treatments are similar as in the front bay but considerably simpler. The bay with a width of 7 ½' at the face and a projection of 3 ½' is more shallow and narrow than the one in front. (Photo 3) About 30 years ago, siding at the lower rear of this elevation was removed and a doorway was built connecting the house to the immediately adjacent church at the former site. During the house lift and move, a gap was produced at this spot having to be studded in and covered. Exterior siding matching the original has been obtained and placed completing the wall as it was originally.

### Interior Description

The Henry Keck House of 1899 is a very typical Queen Anne styled home of the Victorian era containing an asymmetrical interior floor plan. All of the original moulding around the doors and windows survive except at the door entry and pocket-door opening in the front parlor. The mouldings are of Western-red cedar and of a beaded simple casing pattern with miter cuts at the corners instead of bulls eyes. This simple moulding is common in most of the late Queen Anne and Shingle Style houses built in the neighborhood between 1897 to 1901. Nearly all of the interior doors of the four-paneled Victorian design are present inside as well as smooth solid brass doorknobs with simple brass hardware for the knob plates and hinges. The house was built in the period where the pressed and plated iron hardware with the decorative patterns was being phased out with simple and smooth brass hardware in the industry. The window hardware is a mix of the older pressed steel decorative sash pulls and simple solid brass sash locks. On the first level, the ceilings are 9 ½' tall and 9' on the second floor. Throughout the house, original Douglas-fir floors of the 3" wide standard tongue & groove variety remain but have been covered with vinyl and carpeting in some of the rooms during the latter portion of the 20th Century. Though not in taste with the historic flavor of the house, the coverings did protect the flooring well from wear due to heavy use for 50 or more years. Some areas in the halls and several doorways where the flooring has been exposed have severe wear to a point where sections of the floor have to be replaced creating a larger restoration challenge.

When one enters the front door, a foyer extends about 20' back and a full staircase sits to the left against the west wall. (Photo 5) A fine crafted staircase banister remains intact with carved and turned newel posts. It also has its original finishes covering Douglas-fir and the hand-rubbed oak railings. (Photo 6) To the immediate right from the front door is a doorway leading to the front parlor. The front parlor is the most altered room inside the house where only the original floor and windows remain intact. The upper sash above the picture window in the front bay is a beautiful acid etched window of a floral motif. To the north, a large pocket door cavity opens to the 2<sup>nd</sup> parlor or living room. About 1970, the mouldings and pocket doors were removed and the room was encased with artificial wood plywood paneling for conversion of the room into an office. The owner is in the process of restoring the room to its previous parlor state and was fortunate to have obtained from a salvage vender a matching set of pocket doors and casing. Entering the living room, the east bay window to the right lights the room from outside, another doorway is to the left leading back to the foyer, and straight ahead, a set of original pocket doors leads into the dining room. (Photo 7) In this room, all original mouldings remain intact including picture railing. At the bay, the plaster has deteriorated severely and lath rotted underneath due to water damage from a neglected roof leak. Continuing to the south and through the 2<sup>nd</sup> pocket door opening, one enters the dining room. (Photo 8) This room is lit by a double set of standard Victorian era type of windows to the east. On the north wall is a built-in china cabinet likely dating to the early 20th Century. To the left is a single doorway leading into the kitchen. This room has original mouldings and wainscoting but the ceiling was lowered about 30+ years ago and covered with pressed fiberboard and original counters and cabinets were

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removed during conversions for the church use. The false ceiling and original plaster was extensively damaged from leaking plumbing servicing the bathroom upstairs. To the immediate right is a door to a half-bath where a pedestal sink and toilet remain including original wainscot and moulding. Ahead and to the right is the door with a window leading to the rear porch. At the south wall of the kitchen is a door leading to a staircase down to the basement. At a landing halfway down the stairs is the outside door at the ground level on the west side. Back in the kitchen to the left of this door is a doorway leading back to the fover.

In the foyer returning to the front door, the staircase leading upstairs is to the right with two landings (Photo 6) At the second landing on the west wall is a window where the stairs turn right again leading to a central hall. To the immediate right is a small balcony or sitting area where more balustrades separate the space from the stairwell. Heading south (towards the front), one is met with three doors at the end. Straight ahead is a door with the original etched glass of a floral motif intact that opens to the outside balcony. This balcony remains well intact fortunately due to total roof covering. At this hallway end to the right is a small storage closet. At the left here is the door leading into the front bedroom lit from outside by the windows on the bay (Photo 9) Above the middle picture window as in the same fashion as below, is an etched glass window with a floral motif. Returning to the central hall, halfway down to the right is a door to the middle bedroom. (Photo 10) This bedroom is lit from outside by the windows of the side bay. As in the front bedroom, an original etched glass window with the same floral motif sits above the middle window. Due to severe water damage and pigeon nesting, the plaster has fallen from the ceiling and exterior walls. Due to dry rot, lath was removed where a few framing studs were replaced. All surfaces lost will be restored to their original appearance as all original moulding was salvaged. Returning to the hall and heading north, one is met with three doors at the end. (Appendix C) The door at the right leads to the rear bedroom lit from outside by windows on the north and east walls. Water damage occurred in this room but with less severity. Damaged surfaces will be replaced here also to match surviving original. Back at the hall end, the door straight ahead leads into a smaller bedroom, likely once the sewing room lit by only one window. In the ceiling above is a crawl opening for access into the large attic. Returning to the hall, on the west side at this end is a door leading to a full bath. Original wainscot remains on the lower wall surfaces along with a claw-foot bathtub, believed to have been present with plumbing when the house was built in 1899.

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subdivision. The upper or higher portions were targeted for residential development and the areas in proximity of Williams and Russell Avenues became the new commercial core. The lower portion of Albina down Russell Street remained active with commercial activity but trended towards industrial activities when the railroad terminal at the docks was connected with the transcontinental system in 1883.(3)

Holladays Addition to East Portland was platted in December 1870 and a larger plat including added blocks on the northern portion of the subdivision was filed 1 February 1871 after Ben Holladay purchased a parcel of land from William Irving. Ben Holladay was a transportation magnate who established a stagecoach line to California from the east that later became Wells Fargo & Co. of San Francisco and attempted to take control of the railroad industry in the west coast. Even though there was apparent bribery and fraud, he did have a lot of ambition and force in the development industry and would have greatly succeeded in his efforts to expand East Portland and developing Albina if it was not for the 1873-74 Depression. His bond scheme feel apart before the railroad with a transcontinental link could be built to California and he also left town as Edwin Russell did. Actual development did not occur in this portion of Holladays Addition until 1888 in anticipation of the new Albina streetcar line linking to Portland from the Steel Bridge along Williams Avenue.(13)

In 1889, the first electric streetcar line along this route was completed connecting the Albina district with Portland and the community was booming with development activity. The 1880 Census recorded a population of 143 in Albina and it exceeded 4500 by 1890. It was a major bustling community in 1891 but the municipality established in 1887 suffered financially due to poor organization and no regulation in adjacent developments such as when streets did not line up. In July 1891, Albina, East Portland, and Portland merged creating one significantly larger city with more order resulting in better improvements on the east side. Density increased inside of original Albina as many new subdivisions to the north and east were developed and opened up along with the expansion of streetcar lines. Some of the developments such as Irvington and Piedmont were touted as high-class communities with building and ethnic restrictions placed on deeds and helped shape the newly emerging ethnic make-up of the Albina community. Here housing was also more affordable and located closer to the commercial center, railroad yard, grain mills, and waterfront. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, higher density housing was being built at a faster pace along all the major streets. Many were buildings with storefronts below and apartments above and others were strictly apartment and flat buildings.(11)

During World War II, Portland gained a large influx of African-Americans to work in the shipyards and many were allowed to live in Albina but segregated from other surroundings neighborhoods. After the Vanport Flood of May 1948, a greater influx of

African-Americans settled in the community due to cheaper housing and imaginary lines drawn by the real estate interests. During the 1950s, Albina was in major decline as businesses left for the outlying communities as the popularity of suburbs increased. During the 1960s and 1970s, urban renewal efforts worsened the effects to housing and small businesses were decimated.(11) During the 1990s, revitalization efforts were taking shape from efforts of the community as businesses were returning to surviving and new buildings along some of the original commercial corridors.

### History of the House

In the mid-1880s, lots in this northwestern portion of Holladays Addition became available for sale but only light residential development occurred at a slow pace until 1889 with the advent of the first streetcar line serving Albina along Williams Avenue. Elizabeth Irving's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition (platted in 1882) was adjacent to the west on the opposite side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street (now NE 1 Avenue and also initially developed at a slow pace. On 7 March 1899, Henry C. & Elise D. Keck purchased lots 3 & 4 of Block 245 in Holladays Addition for \$1250 at the northeast corner of present day NE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Broadway. Mr. Keck was an active building contractor of German descent and constructed humerous homes in the immediate proximity, many on speculation as has been revealed by deed records.(5) Henry C. Keck was born in 1854 in Ohio and his parents were immigrants of Germany. In 1882, he married Elise D. Struckman, also of German descent, and they moved to East Portland in 1889.(15) Holding a variety of jobs, Mr. Keck enjoyed carpentry and for a short term was an associate of Edward J. Grahs, a German born carpenter and architect who designed and built many homes and buildings in the Albina area. During this period, Grahs was also active building in the proximity of Williams and Victoria between Weidler and Hancock in Elizabeth Irving's Addition to East Portland. Edward Grahs designed and built the C. J. Johnson Building (on National Register), saved and relocated to 442 NE Russell in 1998. Between 1890 and 1908, Henry C. Keck constructed numerous other homes known about nearby on NE Hancock, Broadway, Weidler, & Halsey Streets, many on speculation. It was even

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noted in his wife's obituary of 1951 that they pioneered building activity in this proximity.(Appendix E) Henry Keck built his first home at 1223 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> around 1890 where he lived, now a parking lot south of NE Weidler. In a few years, he moved into another home he built at 53 NE Hancock on the Albina plat that was unfortunately replaced by concrete commercial buildings in the early 1970s. During the mid 1890s, Keck downscaled his speculation building activities due to the depression and worked for the Singer Manufacturing Company conducting clerk and engineering tasks. In 1899, he expanded his building activities and was listed as a carpenter in directories and built a new home (subject house) for his family on lot 4 of this block located at 362 E 1st N at the corner of Broadway. Also at this time, he built a somewhat smaller home on lot 3 next door on speculation at 366 E 1st N, also evident on the April 1901 edition of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.(14) By 1904, the Keck family moved into another new home he built on the south side of NE Broadway at #56 near Victoria where they lived several years before moving again in 1907 to a more modern house at 1622 NE Victoria on the same block (10) Both houses and others are presumed demolished in the mid-1960s due to redevelopment from effects of the nearby I-5 Freeway and off ramps. Keck was listed as a cement contractor for a few years at this time and in 1908, he went to work for the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Company and remained with the railroad about two decades. In 1924, he built a home in Irvington for his son Herman H. Keck at 3122 NE 13th after he married. Herman Keck was employed also by the same railroad and worked up to the ranks of chief clerk by the 1910s, retaining that position a few decades. Apparently without official retirement, Henry Keck returned to independent general contracting work until his death in August 1932 living the remainder of his life in the 1907 house at 1622 NE Victoria. His widow Elise soon moved into an Irvington home at 2534 NE 13<sup>th</sup> until her death in 1951 at the age of 86. Son Herman Henry Keck and daughter Mrs. Dean B. Webster, both of Portland, were listed as survivors.(8) Of the Albina area homes built by Keck, only two known homes survive because of extensive commercial development. In addition to this house, another house of the American Foursquare style was built in 1905 by Keck on the south side of NE Broadway near Victoria and moved into Irvington to 2345 NE 10th in 1947. In 1929, the 1899 Henry Keck House was slated for replacement by a service station in response to serve a busier Broadway. Since the opening of the Broadway Bridge in early 1913, commercial activity expanded westward from Union Avenue (now MLK Jr. Blvd.) along a previously quiet Broadway. Increasing households with automobiles put a demand on the bridge throughout following decades.

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church was established in 1907 and had a fine sanctuary built from 1921-23 at 1734 NE 1<sup>st</sup> at the southeast corner of Schuyler. The church acquired the house in July 1929, and at an estimated cost of \$1000, they had it moved around the corner on the same block to face NE Schuyler. (12) At the new address of 116 NE Schuyler, the Keck House served as the parsonage until about 1964. It was the residence of three pastors of the church who were very active in civil rights matters from the 1920s through the 1960s.

Reverend Jonathan L. Caston and his wife Violetta became the first new residents in November 1929. Caston was pastor of Mt. Olivet since 1927 and an instrumental influence for the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Rev. Caston was born in Springfield, Illinois on 16 April 1897 and educated in his junior years at St. Louis, Missouri. He attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City and Western Baptist College of Kansas City where he received his B.A. and D.D. degrees. His first pastoral experience was 4 years at Olivet Baptist Church in St. Louis and 4 more years at Broadway Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri. When he had the pulpit at Broadway Baptist, Caston was instrumental in bringing together the presidents of the Northern and Southern Baptist Conventions, split since the issue over the slavery question came up before the Civil War. Also during these early years, he shared the pulpit visiting other churches in the United States and Canada and conducted various lectures elsewhere. In addition, he was a feature writer for a while on the Mission Herald and became an associate editor of the St. Louis Clarion from 1915-19. Caston authored the book "Reaching the People", a church work manual for Negro churches.(6) He was the chairman of the NAACP Executive Board in 1928 and the campaign director of the NAACP 20th Anniversary fund in 1929. He was also noted for speaking at the City Club and organizing the Race Conference in 1929. He also was able to get the church debt paid off.(1) His timing was crucial as Portland saw a big rise of the KKK during the 1920s and African-Americans were a small minority group before World War II. His influence in Oregon was so strong that he was allowed to pray before the Oregon legislature in 1931.(7) In 1932, he took another calling and Reverend James D. Wilson became the next resident and pastor through 1935. Although less is known about Rev. Wilson, it was noted that he also kept the church and community active in these matters until he took another calling by 1936.(1)

In 1936, Reverend J. James Clow and his wife Pearl became the next residents. He followed Caston's footsteps further soon becoming the NAACP president. His service and involvement was notable for gains in better employment for local African-Americans.(1) Jessie James Clow, as originally named, was born on 14 May 1893 in Hufsmith, Texas in a family with 15 children. He went to school at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama during his high school years and was accepted at Virginia Union University where he graduated with an honorary doctorate degree in divinity in about 1920. He preached at

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4 H. C. Keck House (1899), Eliot MPS, Multnomah Co., OR

Whitestone, Virginia before moving to Phoebus in the same state before becoming established in a church in Atlanta, Georgia. His experiences were difficult due to high racial tensions in these communities where he learned the lesson of bitterness and the damage it does. His positive influence in Portland and its success was based on his views of how men behave towards one another. During World War II, he pushed strongly for an open housing policy for African-American defense workers and remained active in civil rights matters past his retirement into the 1960s. During the 1940s, his wife Pearl became the president of the OACW (Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs). In June 1963, Reverend J. J. Clow announced his retirement as much progress in Negro relations was noted.(9) Between 1964-71, the house is believed to have been used as an aged housing facility due to evidence of call buttons with wiring in every room along with telephone jacks but the use was not listed in directories other than the church office. In 1971, some remodeling was done in downstairs rooms to accommodate church office space and other rooms served as a nursery and Sunday school. In 1994, a new larger facility for Mt. Olivet Baptist was completed on N Chautauqua and the church relocated to their new sanctuary. The old church and house have remained in church ownership but served various rental functions including a small church in recent years. Both buildings have been neglected of maintenance and have fallen into disrepair.

In December 2000, the present Keck House owner discovered that there were plans for a new housing development to take place on the block and it was rumored that the church buildings were quietly slated for demolition. The new developer was to start clearance by October-November 2001. Upon discovery of a suitable lot nearby on NE Thompson where previously a sale to an apartment developer fell through, the church was approached with a proposal to acquire the house for moving where the developer would avoid demolition expenses. Upon acceptance with a nominal consideration, the new lot was secured and plans were established to relocate the house. On 5 August 2001, the relocation was accomplished successfully. Its new location on a block, which is dominated by Queen Anne homes, is an additional contributing benefit to the Eliot MPS. It sits on a lot where a home of the same style with a small turret stood on until burning down about 30 years ago.(14) It serves as a welcome alternative to a non-contributing modern 4-plex that was nearly built there. Due to the present recession, the developer postponed the project indefinitely and the old church is still standing. The future of this building with primary historic significance remains in jeopardy as the elements of water and pigeons remain taking their toll. It is believed to be the oldest church structure built by African-Americans that is still standing in Oregon.

### Significance

The Henry C. Keck House-Mt. Olivet Parsonage of the Queen Anne Victorian style built in 1899, has significance under Criterion A & B. Under Criterion A, it meets the registration requirements of the Eliot Neighborhood MPS in that it is associated with the ethnic working class inhabitants. It is architecturally intact and contributes as a good representative of the homes in the Queen Anne style built in the neighborhood from 1885 to 1901. Under Criterion B, it is significant as being the residence of two Mt. Olivet pastors who were instrumental in improving civil rights for African-Americans in the State of Oregon.

The Keck House-Mt. Olivet Parsonage qualifies under Criterion A due to its present and previous locations inside the Eliot Neighborhood Multiple Property Submission and association with the ethnic influences that shaped the neighborhood. When the Town of Albina was laid out in 1873 and adjacent subdivisions during the 1880s, they were positioned in a prime location for the railroad industry. This was an ideal site for a transportation hub between Oregon and Washington, being sandwiched between the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. In the early 1880s, the transportation industry, comprised of the railroads, shipping interests, and streetcar firms, brought large industry to Albina and a rise of a new socioeconomic class. As the railroad yards and industrial districts expanded, the distinction between residential and non-residential land was poorly defined. Many early residents migrated to the more predominantly residential sections up on higher land inside Albina that included immigrants that were established in employment. By 1900, a sizable portion of the affluent managerial and business class moved to the farther outskirts into new restricted subdivisions such as Irvington and Piedmont. More lower income groups filled in the gap as affordable housing and close proximity to work was desirable to them. Many of the homes built by the original settlers were later divided into apartments or fell into disrepair where only a fraction of them remain standing today. Nearly every house that stood in lower Albina is gone today but it has been discovered that a few were relocated to upper Albina during the 20th Century. The change in the economic profile of the Albina residents was accompanied by a parallel shift in the cultural landscape. In the 1880s, working class Irish and German immigrants started filling the semi-skilled jobs provided by the railroads. During the boom in the late 1880s, Scandinavians followed suit. The new immigrant groups were first herded to cheap structures close to the railroad tracks and this part of Albina soon earned its nickname "Stringtown". NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5 H. C. Keck House (1899), Eliot MPS, Multnomah Co., OR

This rough area served the new working class arrivals as the first stepping-stone up their social and career ladders. The next step often soon followed within a few years with affordable lots in nearby upper Albina where their housing stock was built or provided. Many of the Irish, Germans, and Scandinavians were skilled in carpentry working their niches into the local trade. During the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, immigrants from other European countries also settled in groups in Albina.(11) Even though second generation, both Henry & Elise Keck gave a strong German influence to the community as they worked up the steps of the social ladder faced by most German immigrants. It is known they were well acquainted with other residents of German descent. The craftsmanship of Henry Keck was also an instrumental influence in the development of Albina as there were other Germans in the same business.

During the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, some of Portland's small African-American population began trickling in the lower Albina area and also into a pocket in the proximity of the east end of the present day Broadway Bridge. Most of the African-Americans were forced into menial low-paying jobs due to discrimination but the railroad industry proved to be the largest employer. At the end of World War I, institutionalized discrimination grew leading to the rise of the Klu Klux Klan and segregated housing patterns emerged. The real estate industry established parameters to black settlement and confined Albina as one of the areas where blacks were encouraged to live. According to the 1940 Census, the Albina district was still 93% white as African-Americans were still less than ¼ % of the population of Oregon. Numerous churches and social institutions were established in the Albina district where black residents from throughout Portland would meet and become well acquainted. During World War II, nearly 15,000 African-Americans, predominantly from the southern U.S., migrated to Portland to work in the shipbuilding industry for the war effort. A tight housing market and racial discrimination forced many blacks into Albina. It appears that about 6000 blacks were lost because of discrimination in employment after the war and the Vanport flood of 1948. The general Albina district gained more African-Americans in effect to the flood displacement.(11) The house played an important role by housing individuals who were significant in the history of the Eliot neighborhood.

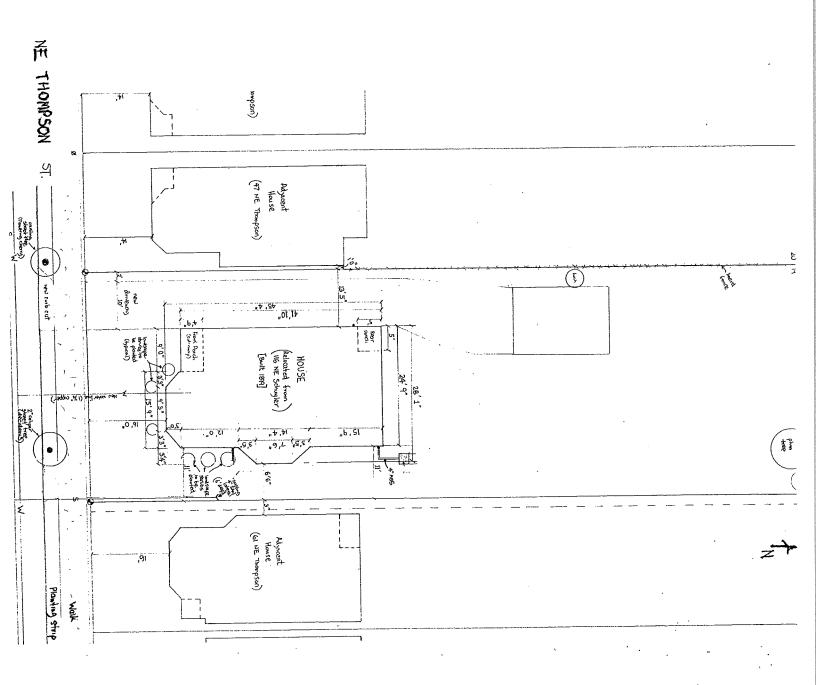
The Keck House-Mt. Olivet Parsonage at its second location played a strong role in the shaping of the African-American community and housed two pastors who were instrumental in improving the lives of blacks throughout Portland during three decades of strong racial discrimination. Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and its leaders played very strong roles in local and national civil rights struggles. Reverend Jonathan L. Caston, the first pastor to reside in the house, played vital roles in organizing local African-Americans to resist social pressures from the KKK at a time when blacks were a significant minority in Portland. He was a strong motivator helping blacks organize successfully across political lines. The Portland branch of the NAACP, organized in December 1914, aimed to end segregation and discrimination in employment, housing, education, voting and transportation but was not a strong political moving force until Caston got involved. Membership fluctuated around 150 members until Reverend Caston, the chairman of the NAACP board, organized the most successful pre-1940 campaign to recruit new members. At the end of 1928, the total membership rose to 694.(4) The small local black population also had a better direction in the political arena. The Caston influence was strong enough where he was allowed to pray at the state legislature in 1931.

Reverend J. James Clow, the 3<sup>rd</sup> resident pastor, was also a strong leader whose involvement in local matters of discrimination in housing and other issues was vital for improving the rights of the growing black population during the 1940s in Portland.(1) Due to his background experience with bitter racial struggles in southern communities, he was successful for creating a positive and peaceful moving force in reducing tensions while expanding rights for African-Americans. In 1942, he pleaded the federal housing authority to provide adequate housing for black defense workers and an open housing policy was urged throughout the city as tensions between blacks and whites in Albina were at a dangerous level. Reverend Clow got press coverage claiming that anti-black sentiment was the result of damaging newspaper publicity and police hysteria. He was influential with the local press with his claims as division in the opinions of local leaders was later noted as some were for segregation in housing while others opposed it.(4) Even though relocated, the Keck House is one of the very few surviving homes of early influential African-American leaders that escaped redevelopment and urban renewal pressures during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Black neighborhoods were typically the first targeted by the bulldozer for freeways, large institutions, and housing projects. Today, there are a few surviving Mt. Olivet Church members who have childhood memories of the parsonage when Reverend Clow lived there as he was reported to have frequent social functions inside his home welcoming new guests.(2)

The sketch below is made solely for the purpose of assisting in locating said premises and the company assumes no liability for variations, if any, in dimensions and location ascertained by actual survey.

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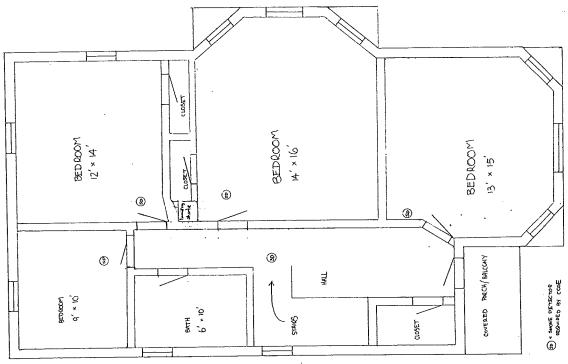
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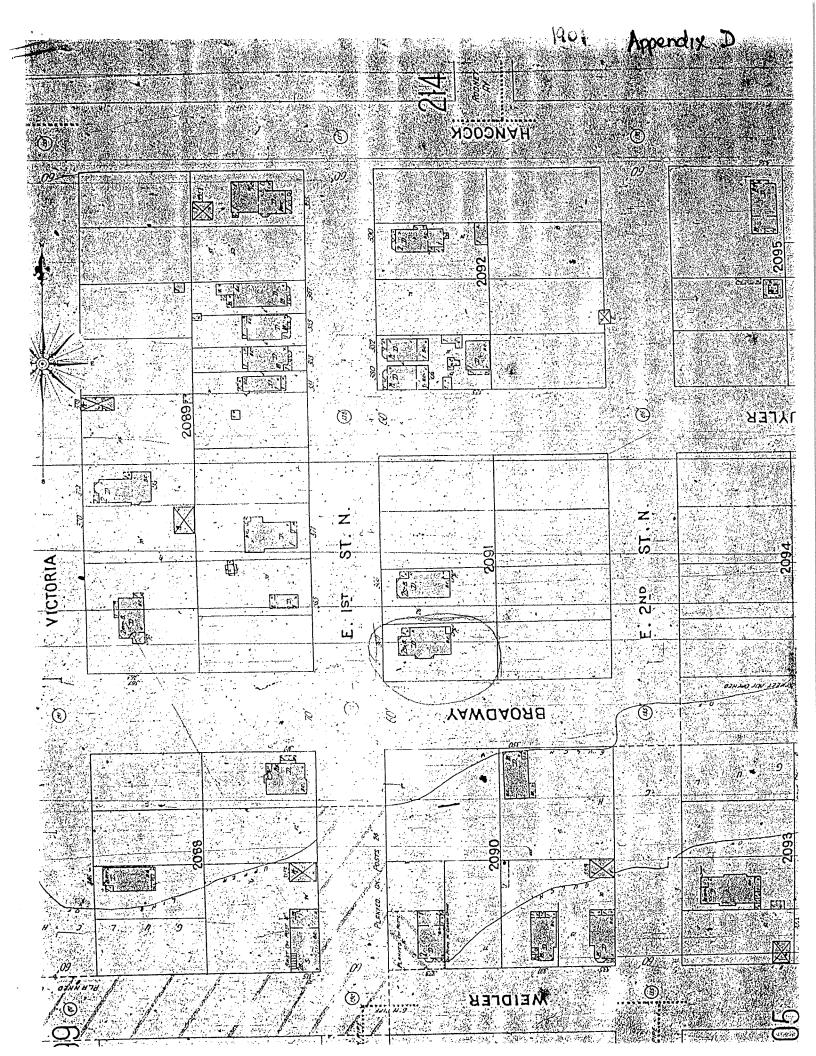


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The freight truck continued on its way without stopping and Mikelson ran back to attempt the rescue of his son.

### ELISE DOROTHEA KECK

Funeral services for Mrs. Elise Dorothea Keck, 86, who came to Portland with her hus-



band in 1889. will be Tuesday at 11:30 a. m. at the Pearson funeral church. Burial will be in the family plot at Lincoln Memorial Park. Dr. William G. Eliot Jr. will officiate at the services. Mrs. Keck died Sunday at her

home, 2534 N. E. 13th avenue. She was the widow of Henry C. Keck. They pioneered in building homes on the east side in the vicinity of N. Broadway and Victoria street.

Survivors include a son, Herman Henry, and a daughter, Mrs. Dean B. Webster, both of Portland; two sisters, Mrs. John Busch, Wiggins, Colo., and Mrs. Mary Yuenger, Denver, Colo.

### MRS. FRIEDA GRUETTER

Mrs. Frieda Gruetter, 7925 N. E. 82d avenue, died at Providence hospital Sunday. was born in Switzerland in 1892 and had resided in Portland since 1925.

Mrs. Gruetter was a member of the Second Reformed Evangelical church and of Swiss Ladies Aid society.

She is survived by the widower, Walter Gruetter, three children. Hans and William B. Gruetter and Mrs. Otto Henzler, and six grandchildren, all of Portland. There are two sisters in Switzerland.

Service is set Wednesday at 2 p. m. at the Pearson Fu-

street, will be Tuesday at 2:30 in a ho p. m. in Finley's Morninglight brakem Chapel under auspices of Mt Tabor lodge No. 42, AF & AM, with vault entombment at the Portland Memorial.

Mr. Pfaff, a Spanish American war veteran, was born October 4, 1879, in Scotland, S. D., and had been a Portland resident for 63 years.

He was a Mason and member of the Portland General Electric company 20-Year club, retiring five years ago after 47 years with the company. He was a member of Alderwood Country club and the Scout Young camp.

Survivors include the widow Violet: daughter, Mrs. Helen Van Natta, Portland, and two sisters, Mrs. A. W. Work, Portland, and Mrs. I. A. Weiss, The Dalles.

### EDWARD T. FALTING

A Portland resident for 42 years, Edward Thomas Falting, 2727 N. E. Skidmore street, died Sunday at his home.

He was a member of Harmony Masonic lodge No. 12. Scottish Rite, Shrine, and the Retired Principals' association. He was born in Detroit, Mich., and was 71 years old.

Services will be Wednesday at the Colonial mortuary. He is survived by his widow. Coral L. Falting; daughter, Mrs. Mary M. Sloat, Portland; sister, Mrs. Ida Lang, Michigan; brothers, Fred, Tom, Ernest and Raiph Falting, all of Michigan; and grandson, Harold F. Sloat Jr. United States air force.

## MARGARET BREIMO

Services for Mrs. Margaret Breimo, 3704 S. E. 65th avenue who died Saturday at a local hospital, will be Tuesday at 3 p. m. from the Pearson funeral church. Vault interment will be at Rose City cemetery.

Mrs. Breimo was born December 19 1875 in Norway and Christe:

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# RNAHAN TO ) MOVEMENT

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I the West Side will meet This Methodist church; northeastern section of fallory Avenue Christian 45 p. m. and those in tern section at 3:30 p. m.

tern section at 3:30 p. m. ed Presbyterian church the meeting, pastors will signments of calls, and ill leave at once to meet in their homes. This en devoted to intensive The visitors were trained six conferences.

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·Dr. J. L. Caston

A new arrival in Portland minis-, terial circles is the Rev Jonathan:

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# OPENS WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday, which is Ash Wednesday this year, marks the beginning of Lent, which will last until holy Saturday, the day prior to Easter Sunday. Fasting and abstinence practiced during Lent cease at noon on Holy Saturday. Easter falls this year on April 8.

theed during Lent cease at noon on Holy Saturday. Easter falls this year on April 8.

The date of the beginning of Lent varies from year to year, according to the date of Easter. Some sort of fasting time before the Easter festival has been observed by the Christian church since the early centuries, according to church historians. About the fourth century it is said to have become a fast of 40 days in many parts of the world. For some time thereafter, however, the Roman Catholic church prescribed a fast of 36 days only, beginning after the first Saturday of Lent. The four days before that Sunday were added by a council held at Meaux, France, in 846. Lent is a season of penance, fasting, and abstinence set apart by the church in memory of the 40 days fast of Jesus in the desert, and with the thought of making the life of the inembership more devout. Lent includes only the 40 week days of the period, and not the six Sundays. The Sundays are a part of the Lenten season, but are not observed as days of fasting or abstinence.

season, but are not observed as days of fasting or abstinence.

The growing generation is not as strict in observance of Lent as were their parents. A few years ago practically all public social functions were abandoned during Lent, and many people held no house parties. Lenten regulations are still given to the congregations of Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Luitheran churches. Many

# Called Here LENTEN SEASON Revival Meetings Church Program

Revival meetings will feature the progr during the next six weeks leading up to E ingathering of new members will take place

Leading among the ef-forts under way is the visitation evangelism cam-paign now under way, di-rected by Dr. B. Earl Ker-nahan of Boston. The in-tensive week of this tam-paign will be launched Sunday.

Dr. Morris Peterson, pas-

Dr. Morris Peterson, pastor of the First Swedish Baptist church of Los Angeles, will begin a revival campaign. Sunday at the Swedish Baptist temple: Bast Seventh and Clackamas atreets. He conducted a campaign with this church. four years ago. This will be his third campaign with the Rev. J. Alfred Erikson, pastor. He will speak at 10:30 a, m on "The Soul Winning Church": at 3:30 p. m. on "Success in Christian Life" and 7:30, "God's Call." Dr. Morris Peterson, pas-







DR. PETERSON



BISHOP BUT



## NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION EVALUATION REPORT FORM FEQUIRED OF ALL CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Property Name:	Henry C. Keck Hous	3e	·
Address: 53 NE Thon	npson Street		
Certified Local Government	: City of Portland		
Applicable Criteria:	A (History) C (Architecture)	B (Persons) D (Archaeology)	<u>.</u>
The CLG commissicategories is/are:	on or staff meniber(s) wh	o is/are professionally qualified in	the relevant
Commission: Barbara Abra	ıms (History); Art DeMu	ro (Real Estate); John Czarnecki	(Architecture)
Staff: Cielo Lutino (History)		,	(. dellizootale)
Since no commission	on or staff member with	the applicable professional experti	se was
available during the o	commission's consideration	on of this application, the followin	g qualified
professional was con	sulted (resume attached):		
Name:			
Title/Area of Exper	tise:		
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Signature of Commission Chai	irman (or Designee)		Date
Return to: Oregon State Histo	ric Preservation Office		

Salem, OR 97310-1001

