NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 28 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic: Clark-Norton House — Number of contributing resources: 1

and/or common: Same — Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number: 127 NW "D" Street — N/A not for publication

city, town: Grants Pass — N/A vicinity of: Second Congressional District

state: Oregon — code: 41 — county: Josephine — code: 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Kenneth W. Pierce and Alma L. Pierce — Kenneth W. Pierce, Jr. and Mary C. Pierce

street & number: 301 Manzanita Drive — 100 Birdseye Creek Road

city, town: Rogue River, OR 97537 — N/A vicinity of — state: Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Josephine County Courthouse

street & number: Sixth Street

city, town: Grants Pass — state: Oregon 97526

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date: 1985 — ___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records: State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

city, town: Salem — state: Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clark-Norton House was constructed in 1903 as a private residence by brick contractor Henry J. Clark. The modest Italianate-style brick building is oriented in a north-south direction on D Street between 5th and 6th Streets in the business portion of Grants Pass. The area to the west--one block from this property--is primarily residential in character. To the north lie the Josephine County courthouse and library. In the same block, to the southeast, stands the former Redwoods Hotel. In location, design, materials and workmanship the exterior of the resource retains its integrity. As a private residence the setting had a domestic appearance-and included a lawn and rosebushes. The lawn has disappeared with the continued use of the building for commercial purposes. After 1946 the interior was continually remodelled, most recently for use as a bus depot. The current owner has rebuilt the interior. Even with these alterations the exterior integrity of the house has not been compromised.

Located in Township 36 South, Range 5 West, Section 17, Willamette Meridian (Assessor's Plat 36-5-17-23), the Clark-Norton House presents a brick bearing wall structure, rectangular in shape and one-story in height with a flat roof. The building is approximately 47 feet deep and 36 feet wide. The facade, which faces north, is topped by a parapet which continues along the east and west elevations. The flat roof is covered with composition material. The west elevation borders an unimproved lot. The north or rear elevation borders an alley which is flanked by other older commercial brick structures. A small parking area is situated on the east elevation.

The entire structure is of brick laid in a common bond pattern with a header course occurring at every seventh stretcher course. The front elevation is distinguished by a wooden central entry door with a large single glass panel. Two large single light windows flank the central door. Doors and windows are segmentally arched at the top. A single light transom is situated above the main entry door. The east elevation is characterized by four one-over-one, double-hung windows with segmental arches. An entry door with a segmental arch at the top provides access on the east elevation. Window frames throughout the structure are wood. There are three windows on the west elevation.

Extensive brick decorative work adds distinction to the front elevation. At the top of the facade, a heavy brick cornice is composed of several patterns. Each of two running bond courses are corbeled out one inch. Two offset denture courses occur next, laid on a 45 degree angle. Another running bond course intervenes, followed by three courses with inset cross patterns. A running bond course is then followed by three courses of corbeled brick which form the modest cornice. This supports a running bond course topped by a corbeled header course. The header course is corbeled eight inches out from the original wall line. The wall then continues four courses to form the parapet wall.

Additional detail is evident on the building's side elevations where running bond brick provides the basic wall pattern. The windows have two rollock, relieving arches placed flush with the wall line. Brick window sills have been plastered. There are three entry doors, one at the front, one on the east elevation and one at the rear of the building.

An exterior alteration to the Clark-Norton House occurs on the rear elevation. At the time of construction a small screened porch existed on the southwest corner of the building. About 1950 this porch was filled in with concrete block, flush with the exterior wall. The concrete block has been plastered. This portion is visible only from the alley.

The interior of the Clark-Norton House was originally comprised of a central hall with parlor, dining room and bedrooms leading from it.* It was completely altered over a fifty year period. Wall materials had been changed, or covered, rooms altered with partitions, and original molding trim had been removed. The current owners have rebuilt the interior to accomodate two offices. Hallways lead from a foyer to the rear of the building. Flanking each hall are small rooms used for office purposes. Interior walls are of sheet rock. Wood molding trims windows and doors. The soft wood floor has been carpeted.

Changes to the Clark-Norton House and its environment are primarily evident in the setting. Originally a private residence with lawn space and flower gardens, the building has been bordered by asphalt or dirt lots. The current owner is installing grass at the front of the building and planting flowers: parking will be at the east elevation.

In Grants Pass the Clark-Norton House is unique in appearance and integrity and contributes richly to the community heritage. Its rehabilitation and current use have re-established the building as a visible and significant Grants Pass resource.

*Information from Hiram Norton, grandson of Harry D. Norton.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1903-1930 **Builder/Architect** Henry J. Clark (builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clark-Norton House, constructed in 1903 by prominent local brick contractor Henry J. Clark, is located at 127 NW "D" Street in Grants Pass, Josephine County. Originally constructed to be enlarged with an additional story, the building exhibits a commerical-style character unusual in domestic architecture. Nevertheless, the building which features Italianate-style detailing, is the oldest of three standing brick residences within the original town boundary and can be evaluated under criterion "c" for its associations with noted local mason and contractor Henry J. Clark. Clark, having emigrated to Grants Pass in 1902, found his skills in great demand after a major fire two months after his arrival.

The second occupant, Harry D. Norton, regional circuit court judge and state senator, resided in the house between 1904 and 1930, the end of the period of significance. It is its association with Norton and his accomplishments in the fields of law, politics and government during the period before 1930 that supports evaluation of the property under criterion "b" as well. During the 25 years he occupied the house, Norton served in the Oregon State Senate (1909-1911), was appointed city attorney (1914-1926), headed the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce (1926-1927), and was elected circuit court judge (1928). As a result of the latter appointment, the Nortons eventually moved to Medford in neighboring Jackson County to be near the Federal courthouse.

Grants Pass was a small stage station stop until 1883 when the Oregon and California railroad built a depot on the current northwest corner of Sixth and Front (G) Streets. A town plat was filed by Jonathan Bourne on December 10, 1883 and in 1886 Josephine County residents voted to establish the county seat at Grants Pass.[1] That year the town had 135 residents, 51 business houses, a courthouse and a jail. By 1900 the town functioned as a mining center and experienced a flourishing if unstable economy. The population, which had numberd 1,432 in 1890, grew to 2,290 by 1900. In the next decade the town's population tripled.2

A period of extensive growth occurred in Grants Pass after 1900 as surrounding farm lands were settled by progressive agriculturists. Many newcomers arrived from the East to develop large orchard holdings. Steady progress and growth was interrupted twice in three years by fires which swept the business and residential areas once in September, 1899 and again in July, 1902. The Clark-Norton House was originally planned as an apartment building after the latter fire, to house the large number of new arrivals in town. The brick building is tangible evidence of this period of rapid community growth.

The demand for brick was high between 1900 and 1910 as property owners rebuilt

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Grants Pass, Oregon **Quadrangle scale** 1:62500

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	10	473250	4698600	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Clark-Norton House is located in Section 17, Township 36S., Range 5 W., Willamette Meridian, in Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon. It stands on Tax Lot 10800 (Lot 4, Block 32 of the Original Town of Grants Pass), a parcel 50 x 100 feet.

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

state	N/A	**code**	**county**		**code**
state	N/A	**code**	**county**		**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kay Atwood		
organization	(for Kenneth Pierce, Jr.)	**date**	July 18, 1985
street & number	102 South Pioneer Street	**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** X **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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **date** January 16, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

for Alexander Byers **date** 2/27/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

after the fires. Each year, the need for brick far exceeded the supply, as residents waited for dry weather to introduce the building season. For the entire decade brickyards flourished as many citizens selected brick as the material for their new homes and businesses. Less than a year after the 1902 fire, the local newspaper recorded:

> The Colvin brickyard began brick making on Monday. . . three brickyards are now operating in and near Grants Pass and the brick famine which has been prevailing since the first of the year will soon be relieved. The Woolfolk yard has a kiln now burning and the Mensch yard will fire a kiln in about a week and a half.[3]

Within a month the paper reported extensive work to repair the damage of the 1902 fire:

> There is more building going on in Grants Pass than ever before. All over the business portion of the town are brick buildings in the process of construction, and dwellings are going up everywhere.[4]

Arriving in Grants Pass just two months before the July, 1902 fire, Henry J. Clark, a prominent Oregon brick contractor, soon found his skill in great demand. Henry Clark was born October 21, 1846 in Boston, Massachussetts; a son of Joseph S. and Harriet Clark. In 1874 the family moved to Albany, Oregon, where father and son worked together as builders. In 1875 Henry J. Clark served as foreman for the construction of the Oregon State House in Salem.[5] He constructed many buildings in following years including the First National Bank Building, the Oddfellows Building, and the roundhouse of the Corvallis and Eastern Railway Company - all in Albany. After moving to Ashland in 1888, Clark built the Ashland Opera House, and a similar building in nearby Grants Pass. In Roseburg he was responsible for the City Hall and the Opera House. Clark erected buildings in several other western Oregon communities including Eugene and Monmouth. After arriving in Grants Pass in 1902 he constructed the Masonic Temple, the Thornton Block, a brewery, an addition to the Josephine Hotel and a brick residence for himself. His wife, Susan, and two grown children moved with him to Grants Pass. Susan Boggs Clark was born in Albany, a daughter of Thomas Boggs, Willamette Valley settler of 1844. She and Henry Clark were married in 1881.[6]

In April, 1903, Susan Clark purchased Lot 4, Block 32 from attorney J. O. Booth, for $500.00[7] By June, 1903 the Rogue River Courier announced:

> Another brick residence is being built by Mr. Clark, the contractor and bricklayer, on "D" Street between 5th and 6th. It is being constructed with the idea of enlarging it later into a spacious apartment house.[8]

Clark's plans for the apartment building never materialized and the property remained one story in height. In July, 1903 the paper announced that "The brick paving firm of Colvin and Clark has dissolved. The business and building operations are continued by Mr. Clark."[9] In September of that year the Clarks separated permanently. The Rogue River Courier commented:

Mrs. S. C. Clark has sold her brick residence 510 "D" Street to Mrs. H.D. Norton. Mrs. Clark, and daughter, Juanita, will leave soon to visit Lewiston, Idaho.[10]

Henry Clark and his wife were divorced. He remarried in Grants Pass, and became the father of a daughter. He served a term on the city council and during this time he and his grown son, Myrden J. Clark, continued to work as brick contractors. In 1912 they were awarded the contract for the construction of Grants Pass City Hall. On May 12, 1915, at age 68, Henry J. Clark died at his home of a self-inflicted gun-shot wound.[11]

The next family to occupy the brick residence had rented homes in Grants Pass for six years, and were grateful to purchase their own. Harry D. Norton was born in Illinois on February 17, 1866 to Henry B. and Marian (Goodrich) Norton. The family moved to California where Harry Norton was educated in public schools and at San Jose State College. In 1888 Harry D. Norton married Elizabeth Morrell at Mountain Home in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California.[12] It was in California that their son, Henry H. Norton, was born on June 22, 1889. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Oregon and settled in the Willamette Valley. Harry Norton studied law in the office of L. Bilyeu in Eugene and was admitted to the Oregon Bar in March, 1893.[13] He practiced law in Eugene until 1899, when he moved to Grants Pass. The family stayed first at the Josephine Hotel because housing was so difficult to find. Harry D. Norton opened his law office in the Opera House Building in Grants Pass, and his wife worked with him as legal secretary.

After purchasing the Clark House in 1904, Harry Norton continued in his profession and made notable contributions to the region. He was elected to the state senate and served from 1909 to 1911, representing the 7th senatorial district of Oregon. In 1914 he was appointed city attorney of Grants Pass and served in that position until August, 1926. He served as president of the local chamber of commerce from 1926 to 1927. Harry D. Norton was elected circuit court judge in 1928 and began serving in that capacity in January, 1929.[14]

Late that year the Nortons hired architect Frank C. Clark to design a new residence for them on Oakdale Avenue in Medford. They moved into the new home in 1930. This residence was included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as part of the Oakdale Historic District. Judge Norton served two terms as circuit court judge, retiring because of poor health. He died February 8, 1942 at the home of his son in Grants Pass.[15] He was remembered by those he had served as a firm but equitable judge, respected by consitutents and colleagues.

In May, 1935, Harry and Elizabeth Norton turned over title for the Grants Pass house to their son and grandchildren. After the Depression, the building was sold and a succession of occupants used the former house. After World War II a dressmaker lived in the building and used it as a shop. In 1953 a physician operated his office there. Five years later, Sherman Smith, Grants Pass attorney,

opened his office in the building and occupied it for several years. Between 1967 and 1973 a bookkeeping service and public accountant used the building, and in 1973 a print shop and the Trailways bus depot shared the space. Remodeling of the building's interior began after 1945 as commercial functions were established.

The Clark-Norton House is one of three extant brick residences within the original Grants Pass town boundaries of nine which were standing in 1910. With a construction date of 1903, it precedes the Flanagan House (1906) and the Smith House (1910). The other six residences have been demolished. It is the only brick residence standing in Grants Pass which is known to be constructed by Henry J. Clark.

The Clark-Norton House retains its exterior design characteristics and successfully conveys its historic associations. With the exception of a small wooden porch, long missing, the house retains original patterns of fenestration, texture and ornamental detail. The resource, which stands on its original site, retains integrity of location, although the setting of the house has been affected by the transition from residential to commercial use. The primary changes are evident in landscaping alterations which have occurred. Judge Norton was an accomplished gardener, but his much-loved roses have been gone for many years. The neighborhood in which the residence exists has consisted of both commercial and residential properties since the Clark-Norton House was built. Its relationship to nearby buildings both in number and density remains basically intact. Older commercial buildings stand near the Clark-Norton House on Sixth Street, and on "D" and "E" Streets. Older residences lie across Fifth Street to the west.

Integrity of materials and craftsmanship are retained on the exterior of the house, and reveal the preferences and skills of craftsman Henry Clark. This modest vernacular structure indicates his ability and remains one of the few local examples of his work. In its feeling and association, the Clark-Norton House evokes the historic sense of the period in which it gained significance. The Josephine County Courthouse, to which attorney Norton walked so frequently, lies a short distance to the north. The former Redwoods Hotel stands in the same block, slightly to the southeast. As the sole resource in Grants Pass which may be associated with Henry D. Norton, the Clark-Norton House richly contributes to the historic character of Grants Pass.

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1 Edna May Hill, "Josephine County Historical Highlights," Vol. II (Grants Pass, Oregon: Josephine County Library, 1979)p. iv.
2 Ibid.
3 Rogue River Courier, May 11, 1903.
4 Ibid., June 11, 1903.
5 Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon, (Portland: Chapman Publishing Co., Inc., 1904), pp. 687-688.

6 Ibid.
7 Josephine County Deed Records, Vol. 21, p. 439.
8 Rogue River Courier, June 11, 1903.
9 Ibid., July 23, 1903.
10 Ibid., September 8, 1904.
11 Oregon Observer, May 19, 1915.
12 Henry B. Norton, Interview with Kenneth and Deborah Rothery, November 25, 1979.
13 History of the Bench and Bar in Oregon (Portland: Historical Publishing Co., 1910), p. 200.
14 Ibid., p. 200.
15 Grants Pass Daily Courier, February 9, 1942.

Grants Pass Daily Courier, February 9, 1942.

Hill, Edna May. Correspondence, July 8, 1985.

Hill, Edna May. "Josephine County Historical Highlights," Grants Pass: Josephine County Library, 1979.

History of the Bench and Bar in Oregon, Portland: Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1910.

Josephine County Deed Records, Vol. 21, p. 439.

Norton, Henry H. Interview with Kenneth and Deborah Rothery, November 25, 1979.

Oregon Observer, May 19, 1915.

Polk's Grants Pass City Directories, 1928-1973.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon, Portland, Chapman Publishing Co., Inc., 1904.

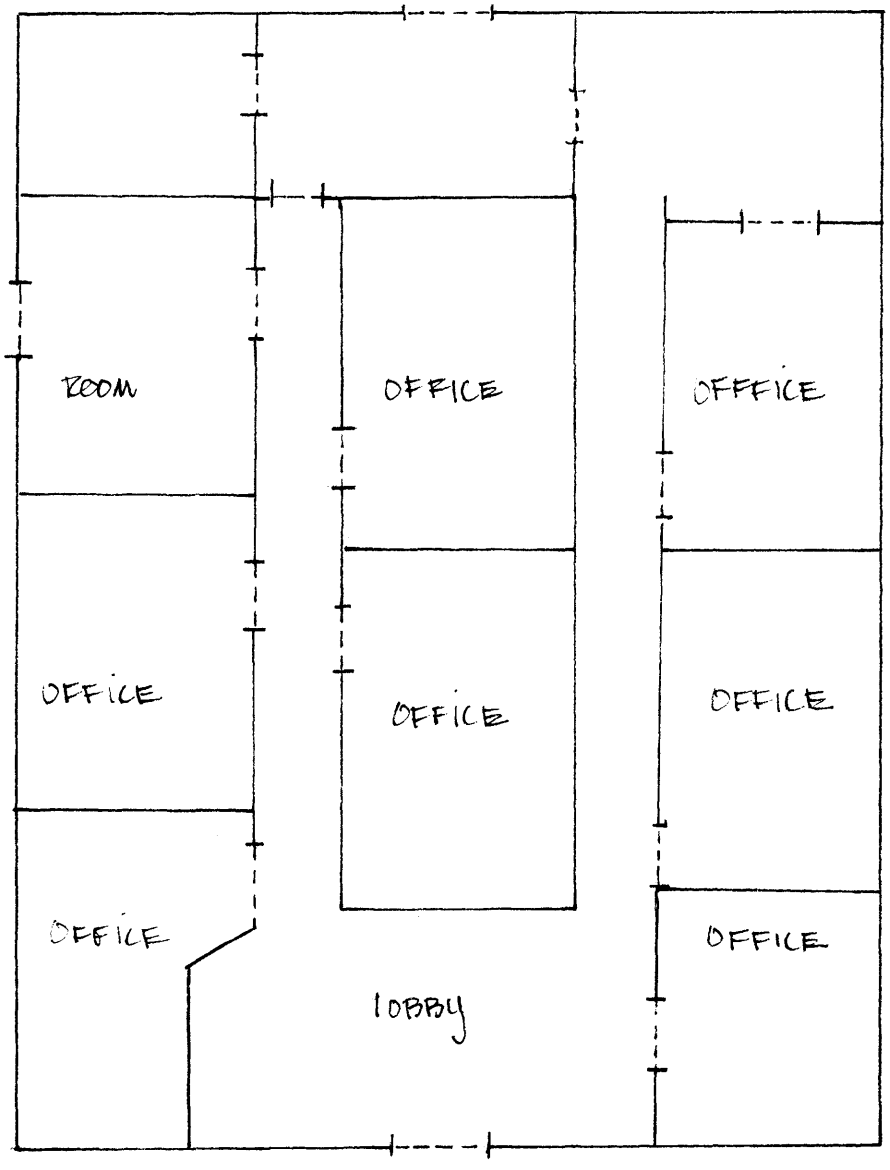
Rogue River Courier

May 11, 1903
June 11, 1903
July 23, 1903
April 2, 1904

Sanborn Map Company, Grants Pass, 1907.

Wilson, Pearl. Interview, May 28, 1985.

Alley



D. STREET

Clark-Norton House

NTS.

Name: Clark-Norton House
Address: 127 N.W. D Street
Grants Pass, Josephine County,
Oregon
Photographer: Kay Atwood
Negative: Kay Atwood
Date of photograph: 1985
View: North and West elevations

OPEN

Name: Clark-Norton House
Address: 127 N.W. D Street
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Photographer: Kay Atwood
Negative: Kay Atwood
Date of photograph: 1985
View: North elevation and facade;
Cornice detail

Name: Clark-Norton House
Address: 127 N.W. D Street
Grants Pass, Josephine County,
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Photographer: Kay Atwood
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Date of photograph: 1985
View: North elevation and facade;
Cornice detail

Name: Clark-Norton House
Address: 127 N.W. D Street
Grants Pass, Josephine County,
Oregon
Photographer: Kay Atwood
Negative: Kay Atwood
Date of photograph: 1985
View: South and rear elevation

Name: Clark-Norton House
Address: 127 N.W. D Street
Grants Pass, Josephine County,
Oregon
Photographer: Kay Atwood
Negative: Kay Atwood
Date of photograph: 1985
View: Interior; hall