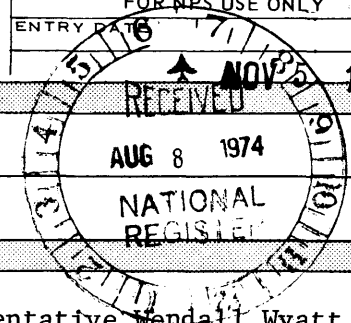


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon  
 COUNTY: Multnomah  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 5 1974



**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Kamm, (Jacob), House  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1425 SW 20th Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland 97201  
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41  
 REPRESENTATIVE: Wendall Wyatt  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon First Congressional District  
 COUNTY: Multnomah CODE: 051

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>Unoccupied</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Eric Ladd  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1411 SW Davenport  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland 97201  
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Multnomah County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland 97205  
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem 97310  
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon  
 COUNTY: Multnomah  
 ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 5 1974  
 DATE: NOV 5 1974  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jacob Kamm house, removed from its original site in 1950 and now located at 1425 SW 20th Avenue in Portland, is the earliest and one of the finest examples of the French Second Empire (or General Grant Boroque) style of architecture extant in Oregon. Built in 1871 by Jacob Kamm, a prominent shipbuilder, it is not known if the architect was A. E. Jordan or W. W. Piper, though the house has many characteristics in common with Piper's work. L. Therkelsen was the builder. Very popular in the East from the mid-1860s, The Second Empire style is somewhat uncommon in Oregon.

Though it appears to be of masonry, the two-storey house is built of carefully fitted wood with wooden quoins at the corners and a string course-like band between the first and second floors. Windows are surrounded with architraves which project in the low relief and have a molded "arched eyebrow" cornice with a large keystone inset. Sills are supported on several brackets. The arched windows are double-hung solid panes with exterior lowered shutters. The one-storey bay window on the east facing front has a bracketed cornice and a ballustrade, and there is a two-storey bay window on the south side with a bracketed cornice on the first level and a matching molded but unbracketed cornice on the second. The transomed double front door has a cantilivered and bracketed arched-eyebrow portico with engaged urns against the wall of the house, free standing urns on the outer corners, and an antifix centered on each of the three open sides.

The whole of the asymmetrical mass is surrounded by a plain freize on which are set volute brackets supporting the projecting molded cornice. The cornice is surmounted by a low molded parapet into which are set arched-eyebrow dormers which are flanked by volutes. The dormers protrude from a straight-sloped manusard roof which is capped by a small molded cornice. The exterior retains its original appearance,

The interior of the Kamm house has been greatly altered. Though the plan is much the same as originally, most of the woodwork and architectural detailing is from other notable Portland structures now demolished. Most notable is the burlled ash panelling from the great hall of the Knapp house, a block-sized Stick Style house erected in 1882 and demolished in the 1950s, and the carved oak lobby pilasters, dated 1889, and leaded glass from the Portland Hotel, designed by McKim, Mead and White, also demolished in the early 1950s. In addition, the ornamental ironwork from the courtyard of "The Portland" is now installed around the front perimeter of the Kamm house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

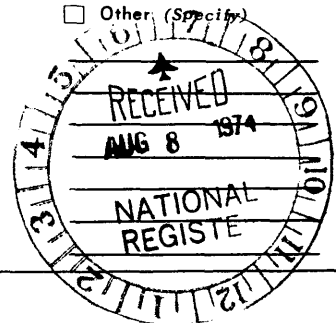
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1871

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In addition to being the earliest surviving and one of the finest examples of Second Empire Baroque architecture in Oregon, the Kamm house was Portland's first "mansion" and long remained one of Portland's most prominent houses. Built in 1871 on a 14-acre tract of land outside the city limits, by the turn of the century it was on a 14-acre island of greenery in the heart of the city. It was also the first house in the city to be centrally heated, Kamm having installed a ship's boiler to provide steam heat. In addition, the house had a sort of "air-conditioning" system which brought cool air from the basement and released it through ornate round cast iron vents near the ceilings of the rooms. The piping for this system is still in tact though it does not work.

Jacob Kamm was born in Canton Glarus, Switzerland in 1823, the son of a Swiss army officer. When he was eight years old, his father resigned his commission and the family immigrated to America; his father dying in New Orleans of yellow fever when Jacob was twelve. When he was fourteen he journeyed to St. Louis and began work as a cabin boy aboard a steamboat. Learning the mechanics of the engines he was granted a license as engineer at the age of twenty. When he was twenty-six, poor health and the discovery of gold in California lured him to the West. Kamm discovered he could make more money as a steamboat engineer than as a miner and accepted a job on the Sacramento River. Lot Whitcomb, who was promoting the town of Milwaukie, Oregon, an early rival of Portland, hired John Ainsworth as captain and Kamm as engineer for a steamboat he wanted to build on the Willamette River. Kamm installed the boilers and machinery using tools he had forged by a local blacksmith. They ran the steamship Lot Whitcomb on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers carrying passengers and supplies until the ship was sold in 1854.

Kamm, in conjunction with Captain Ainsworth, constructed other steamboats. The Carrie Ladd, built by them in 1858, formed the nucleus of the Union Transportation Company, later the Oregon Steam Navigation Company. On June 14, 1879 the Oregon Steam Navigation Company was succeeded by the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company with a capital of \$6,000,000. In addition to being a major stockholder in that company, he organized the Vancouver Transportation Company. He also continued to construct steamboats for these and other transportation companies.

(Continued)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

2210  
 E 523930  
 25040360

"The Landmark that didn't Vanish," Oregonian, June 12, 1955, Mag. Sec., p. 8-11.

"Doomed to meet the Wrecking Ball," Oregonian, March 21, 1971, Mag. Sec., p. 14-18.

Wolfe, Enid, "End of a Famous Mansion," Oregonian, March 12, 1950, Mag. Sec. p. 4.  
 (Continued)

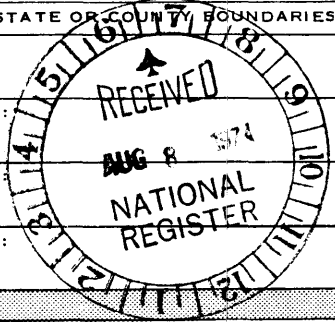
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	N45°	31'	06"	W122°	41'	07"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .344

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Hartwig, Park Historian and D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: July 11, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem 97310 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: David B. Talbot

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: August 2, 1974

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

R. R. Winters  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/5/74

ATTEST:  
Charles D. Henry  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.1.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Oregon
COUNTY		Multnomah
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	NOV 5 1974	

(Number all entries)

KAMM (JACOB) HOUSE CONTINUED

2. Location

The Jacob Kamm house is located in the NW 1/4 Sec. 4, R.15, T.E, on the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon, on Block D, sub lot 8, of Carter's addition to Portland.

8. Significance

While practically his whole life was devoted to navigation, Jacob Kamm also participated in non-transportation business ventures. He was at one time vice-president of the United States National Bank of Portland and also a prominent stockholder in several other Portland banks. His interests extended to Astoria, where he was an important factor in the building of that community. He was president of the First National Bank of Astoria and a large land owner. He also possessed valuable property in San Francisco and Portland. In Portland he owned a large business block which bore his name.

Scheduled for demolition in 1950, the house was purchased from the wrecker by a Portland preservationist and removed to a temporary site where it stood for a while before; after many complications, it was located on its present site. It was opened as a restaurant in 1955 but was forced to close several years later. The house, which is in good condition, is empty today. The property is for sale and its future is uncertain.

9. Bibliography

"A Unique Elegance" Oregonian, June 5, 1955, Mag. Sec., p. 44.

Vaughan, Thomas and McMath, George A., A Century of Portland Architecture, (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967), p. 22-23, 183.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Multnomah	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 5 1974	17

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kamm (Jacob) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1425 SW 20th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Portland

STATE:

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY:

Multnomah

CODE

051



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Oregon State Highway Division

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Parks and Recreation Section, State Highway Building, Salem, Oregon 97310

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of the Jacob Kamm house from the northeast.

# 1041

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER