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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 27 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Munsell, William O., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1507 S.E. Alder not for publication
city, town Portland vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97214

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources
of Eastside Portland

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] January 23, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] Entered in the National Register 3/8/89

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC; Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC; Single Dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/CraftsmanColonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls WeatherboardShingleroof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

This one-and-one-half story house is situated on the southwest corner of the block, on a spacious lot elevated some three feet above the street. It is roughly square in plan, with a hip roof of composition shingles surmounted by four pedimented gable dormers facing the cardinal points. The surrounding yard is well-landscaped, with rhododendrons, fruit trees, roses and bamboo plants. A garage once stood on the southeastern corner, but only the concrete foundation remains. There is also a sunken concrete arch in the side yard, of unknown purpose.

From the front, or southern, elevation an attached porch spans the full length of the house and is covered by a shed roof with Doric columns set on square pedestals. Square balusters compose the balustrade. A rear porch to the south has similar treatment, but the eastern part has been enclosed to accommodate a bathroom addition. A full basement lies beneath. There are two chimneys, one to the central rear, and the other partially exposed on the west wall. Decorative wrought iron supports protect the chimney.

The house is clad with a number of sidings emphasizing the different levels of the house. The first level has wide shiplap with Ionic capital cornerboards. The gable faces are covered with rectangular shingles around pairs of double-hung sash windows. The pedimented gable ends are covered with shingles. The primary window type consists of one-over-one double-hung sash with architrave surrounds, as well as large tri-part picture windows on the first floor of the south elevation. On the roof of the east elevation is a small eyebrow dormer. Below it, on the first floor, is an oriel composed of a round-headed window with the upper panel of leaded glass. The western elevation has a projecting polygonal bay on the first floor, the center section of which is occupied by a transom light in the upper portion. In the center of the main elevation, to the south, lies a two-panelled door with a single square pane. Flanking the door are two large picture windows. In the lower portion of the projecting gable, a set of one-over-one double-hung sash windows have pairs of square pilasters on each side. This pedimented gable end is the only one with a window in it, in the form of an oval with four slender stylized keystones each at its cardinal directions.

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Presently, this house has storm windows on all windows and doors. The owners are in the process of restoring the exterior. The house is well-maintained.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building has three rooms above and four rooms on the main floor. The focal point of the front hall is an open staircase with turned balusters which rise to the ceiling. An oriel window flanked by classical columns and molded pilasters is located on the east wall of the hall. The living and dining rooms are separated by pocket doors and each has an elaborate fireplace. The ceramic tile front of the dining room fireplace has been removed. The wainscoting, plate rail and picture molding are intact.

The upstairs rooms are arranged around a polygonal hall. Both bedrooms have ample closet space under the eaves. One closet in the rear chamber is illuminated by an eyelid dormer.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902

Significant Dates

1902

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The William Munsell-Henry Adams House is locally significant under criterion C as a well-preserved and fine example of an eclectic stylistic type incorporating elements of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman/Bungalow styles. Dwellings of this type were constructed throughout the southeast Portland neighborhoods from approximately 1900 through 1926; however, most of those within the subject study area were built prior to 1913. The Munsell House is one of the earliest representatives of this style and unique in terms of overall form and ornament. The date of construction is based on deed records and Sanborn Insurance maps.

Prominently sited on the northeast corner of the intersection of 15th and Alder, the house acts as an important visual element anchoring the western periphery of the potential Buckman historic district. Predominantly Colonial Revival in character, the most striking features are the oversized, pedimented dormers on each elevation. The facade dormer is accented by an oval window with keystones at the cardinal points--a characteristic decorative element found in Colonial Revival style buildings. The builder further enhanced the building by the application of a dentil course and consoles at the eaveline as well as pilaster moldings at the dormer windows.

There are fifteen buildings of this type represented in the survey of which three are considered to be potentially eligible for the National Register.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The original owner of the house was William O. Munsell who lived there for two years after its construction. Munsell was a prominent local businessman. Born in Indiana in 1870, he spent his youth in Missouri. Munsell came to Portland in 1896. Shortly thereafter he bought the lot on which the subject house was built. His first position in Portland was as a clerk with Acme Harvester. He soon rose to the position of assistant manager. In 1906 he went to work as manager for Mitchell, Lewis and Staver, an agricultural implement business located on Morrison Street, in the heart of the rapidly growing east side wholesale and warehouse district. By 1932 Munsell was president and general manager of the company and had become a prominent figure in the east side business community: vice-president of the East Side Commercial Club; president of the Rotary Club; and, longtime member of the Board of Directors of United States National Bank.

The second owners of the house were Henry B. and Ellen Adams who lived in the house from 1904 through 1931. Henry came to Portland from Ohio in 1898. Educated as an attorney, he served as deputy district attorney from 1904 to 1909. From that time to his death in 1926 he was in private practice.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- . City of Portland Building Bureau microform and card files.
- . City of Portland Bureau of Planning, Portland Historic Resource Inventory, 1983.
- . Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, and card files, Portland, 1980.
- . Polk, R. L. and Co., Portland City Directories, 1910-1920.
- . Ticor Title Company Records, Portland, Oregon.
- . Oberschmidt, Nancy, current owner. Correspondence, March 28, 1988.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre Portland, Washington-Oregon 1:62500

UTM References

A

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

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

East Portland addition, Exc. E. 40' of Lot 3 & 4, Block 323

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Taxlot lines

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title K. Zisman, J. Koler, J. Morrison, A. Yost, B. Grimala
organization Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association date August 15, 1988
street & number 615 S.E. Alder telephone (503) 234-4801
city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97214

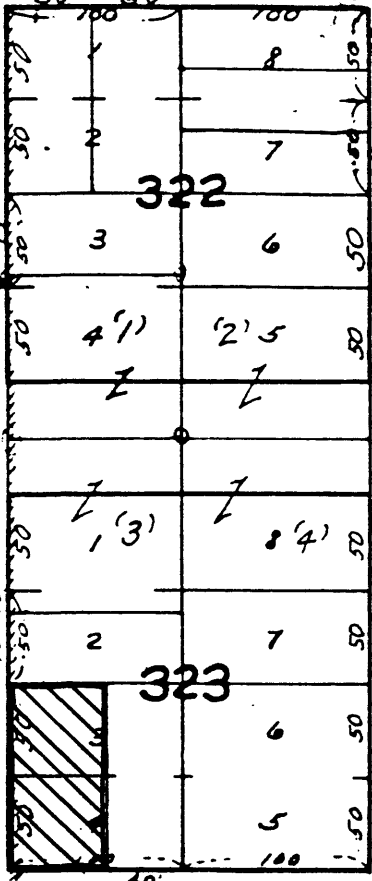
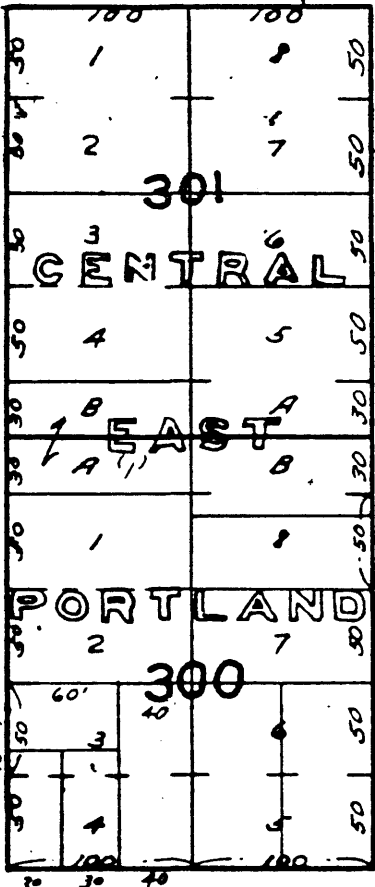
BURNELLS

ADD

S.E. STARK



282



283

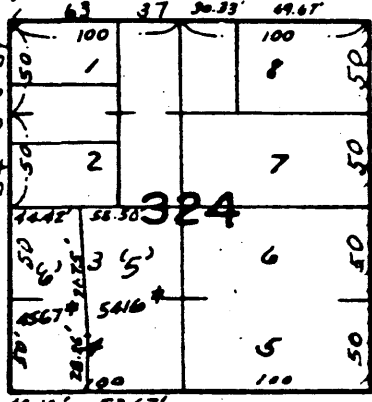
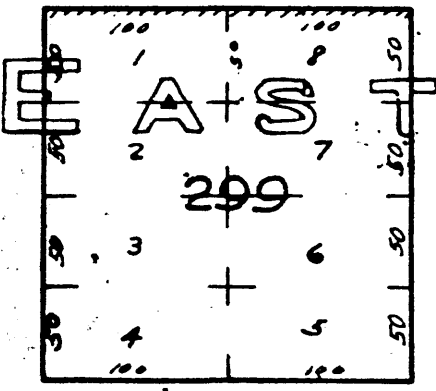
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S.E. 15th Ave

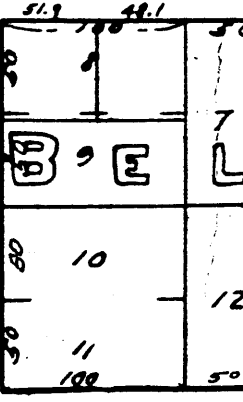
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S.E. WA.

284

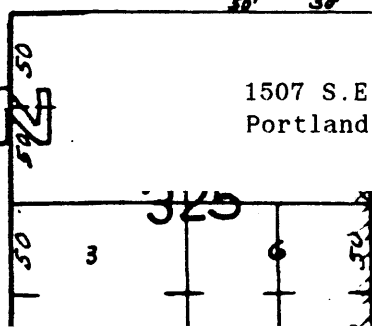
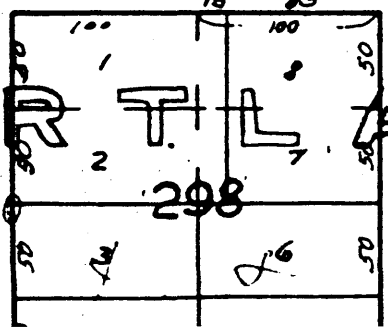


S.E. ALDER

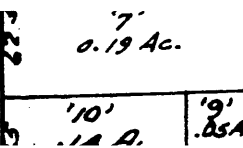


S.E. MORRISON

285



1507 S.E. Alder
Portland, OR 97214





- 1 Munsell, Wm. D. House / 1507 S.E. Alder
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Smith, Patrick
- 4 August 1988
- 5 Roll S-11 #36A
- 6 Looking north at south elevation
- 7 # 1 of 4

Portland Eastside MPS



- 1 Munsell, Wm. D. House / 1507 S.E. Alder
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Smith, Patrick
- 4 August 1988
- 5 Roll S-11 #35
- 6 Looking northeast at west and south elevations
- 7 #2 of 4

Portland Eastside
MPS



- 1 Munsell, Wm. O. House / 1507 S.E. Alder
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Morrison, Jane
- 4 July 1988
- 5 Roll J-3 # 5
- 6 Interior: Front hall and stairs
- 7 # 3 or 4

Portland Eastside MPs



- 1 Munsel, Wm. D. House / 1507 S.E. Alder
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Morrison, Jane
- 4 July 1988
- 5 Roll J-3 # 7
- 6 Interior: main fireplace along western wall
- 7 #4 of 4

Portland Eastside MPS