

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM

HIST. NAME: Benson House
COMMON NAME:
ADDRESS: 137 High Street
OWNER: Hank and Fran Dearborn
137 High Street, Klamath Falls
T/R/S: T38sR9e S32
MAP NO.: 38 09 32BD TAX LOT: 5100
ADDITION: Ewauna Heights
BLOCK: 5 LOT: 10 QUAD: Klamath Falls

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890-1892
ORIGINAL USE: residence
PRESENT USE: residence
ARCH./BLDR.:
STYLE: Queen Anne
BLDG. STRUC. DIST. SITE OBJ. (CIRCLE)
THEME: habitation

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: T-shape NO. OF STORIES: 2
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: stone and concrete BASEMENT (Y/N):
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: gable, wood shingles; towers flared hexagon
WALL CONSTRUCTION: frame STRUCTURAL FRAME: wood
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: 1-over-1 double hung
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: clapboard
DECORATIVE FEATURES: scalloped shingles in gable, stained glass window, cornice mouldings,
OTHER: turned pillars on porch
CONDITION: X EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED MOVED (DATE)

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): door - reproduction

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: -0-

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: -0-

KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES: -0-

SETTING: residential

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Historical and/or architectural importance, dates, events, persons, contexts). USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY:

The house at 137 High Street was built in 1892 for Judge Henry L. Benson, circuit judge for the First Judicial District of Oregon, including Josephine, Hackson, Klamath and Lake counties. By the 1920's the house had been broken up into apartments and remained so until its recent restoration to its original glory by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. H. Dearborn.

The house, now in excellent condition, is of an eclectic Queen Anne style, two-story, T-shape plan with twin hexagonal towers at the front joined by a narrow gable to form the cross member of the Y. Each tower has a hexagonal shingled roof, slightly bell cast profile. The stem of the T is the rear of the house, a simple two-story structure with a gable roof and a one-story, possibly modern addition. A wide, shallow gable roof covers the front entry between the towers.

SOURCES: Klamath Falls Directory (Klamath Falls: Smith-Bates, 1930)
Klamath Herald and News, January 5, 1986

NEGATIVE NO: P1-15
SLIDE NO.:

RECORDED BY: Margaret Queary
DATE: May 13, 1986

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: 254

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
 HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - TWO

NAME:
 ADDRESS 137 High Street

T/R/S: T38sR9e S32
 MAP NO.: 32BD TAX LOT: 5100
 QUADRANGLE: Klamath Falls

* * * * *



NEGATIVE NO.: P1-15

* * * * *

PLEASE PLACE HERE:

SITE MAP SCHEMATIC DRAWING
 SHOWING INVENTORIED BUILDING(S)
 AND INCLUDING OUTBUILDINGS,
 STRUCTURES, ROADS, AND HISTORIC
 LANDSCAPING, IF APPROPRIATE.

INDICATE NORTH BY AN ARROW

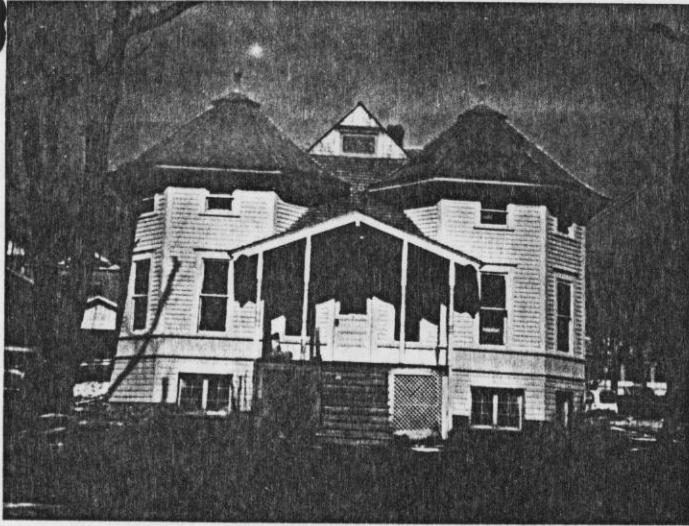
* * * * *

GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES:



SHPO INVENTORY NO.: 254

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97331



County Klamath

Theme _____

Name
(Common) Dearborn residence

(Historic) Judge Henry Lamdin Benson

Address 137 High Street
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Present Owner L.H. (Hank) and Frances Dearborn

Address 137 High Street Klamath Falls

Original Use residence

Date of Construction 1890 - 1892

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Judge Henry L. Benson home is a unique Queen Anne residence built about 1890-1892. It is a two story wood frame building with a basement. We the owners occupy the house. It is in excellent condition yet the rehabilitation work is not complete. The house is located in the Ewauna Heights addition to what is now Klamath Falls, formerly Linkville, Klamath County Oregon. This Ewauna Heights addition comprises a portion of lot 5 section 32, township 38 south of range 9 east of Willamette base and meridian. This addition was platted in September 1900. The house is located on lot 1 block 5 at the intersection of Second Street and High Street. The front view of the house faces south east overlooking downtown and Lake Ewauna. This neighborhood is one of the oldest in Klamath Falls.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Frances Dearborn Date July 1980

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

CASA FILE AVAILABLE

Please enclose map. Township N S Section E W

Viewing the house from the front, the left and right sides each are two story octagonal towers with octagonal cupolas. The entryway in the center leads to a square living room between these towers. The rear of the house is basically a rectangular shape. The basement walls and floors are concrete except the walls in the south corner tower room, they are of rock crib construction. The walls in the rest of the house are of wood frame construction. An unusual aspect for this area is that the lath is grooved 1 in. x 6 in. pine, secured with square nails. Due to years of neglect and mistreatment the plaster that was left was in such poor condition it had to be removed. The new roof is of cedar shingles. The items of interest on the exterior starting from the ground up, begin with; drop siding that changes to vertical tongue in groove siding and goes on to lap siding. The numerous tall narrow windows are capped with a simple cornice. They are one over one double hung wooden windows. The front porch and stairway is skirted by lattice work. The porch rafters have a decorative circular and notch cut on their ends. The soffits are boxed with tongue in groove, flanked by a decorative moulding. The gable is sided with octagon butt shingles. It has a new stained glass window to replace the old one. The cupolas are both completed with witches caps. The witches caps are topped with a spire and finial both of solid wood. The only masonry is the two corbeled capped flues.

The entry opens into a square living room which is flanked by clipped octagonal rooms. The room on the southwest corner is entered through a five panel pocket door. All three of these rooms have the original mouldings and nine foot ceilings. Every window and every doorway is adorned with symmetrically moulded frames with circular corner blocks. The baseboards are all capped with a simple moulding. The rooms are entirely encircled by a 2 in. wide picture moulding that starts at the eight foot mark. The original ceiling in the kitchen area is of pine planks. The inside stairways which had once been removed during the 1930's remodeling have been put back in their original places. The upstairs tower room on the southeast corner is the only room that boasts the full octagonal shape. The remodeling that we have done has been successful in adding to the convenience of modern living, but, at the same time not detracting from the original charm.

This application also includes the out building that sits on the northeast corner of the lot. It has the original lap siding and has been newly roofed with cedar shingles. The feature of interest on the interior is the pine sheathing that is 1 in. thick and has random widths up to 18 in.

The Henry Landin Benson home is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for two major reasons: It is a well preserved and locally unique styled home; and it is associated with the life of Judge Henry L. Benson who was a well known and honored jurist in the state of Oregon.

The Benson home is an excellent example of Queen Ann architecture. The octagonal towers alone make this house an outstanding one, especially with their octagonal cupolas. A single family dwelling in the 1930's, it was remodeled into three apartments. It was again remodeled in 1951 to serve the apartment house use. At present, it is again a single family dwelling. Alterations have done little to change its original outer appearance. A 600 sq. ft. addition put on the rear, follows the style and character of the rest of the house very closely.

Judge Henry L. Benson when first elected to the office of Circuit Court Judge, lived in Grants Pass Oregon: 1892 to 1896, he was District Attorney of Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Lake counties. In 1896 he was elected member of the Legislature and made Speaker of the House, 1897. In 1898 he was elected Circuit Court Judge of the four counties of the old First District. Hanna was an associate judge in the same district. The law required that one of the two judges should live "east of the Cascades" and Judge Hanna also lived west of the divide, Judge Benson then took up residence in Klamath Falls. He was re-elected in 1904, and kept this position until 1915. Not only was he an achiever, noted for his integrity and capability in Oregon government but, Henry Benson had a brother; Frank W. Benson was for many years a leading figure in public affairs of Oregon, serving as Secretary of State and later becoming Governor. " Klamath Falls then -- 16 years ago -- was a village of 300 or 400 inhabitants. It has a population of more than 6,000 now. Judge Benson has had an active part in the growth and development of his home city." Jan. 14, 1914 Oregonian Newspaper "Honorable H.L. Benson, of Klamath Falls, one of the best known jurists in the state and is now justice of the Supreme Court of Oregon" pub. 1915 Pictorial Oregon the Wonderland.