

Historic  
Resource  
Inventory  
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



9-016-00135

135 S.E. Sixteenth Avenue

Aikens, Block 318, East 67' of Lot 5  
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3032  
Buckman

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Residence

DATE BUILT: 1900

STYLE: Queen Anne Vernacular

ORIGINAL OWNER: Polhemus, J.S. (?)

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-00510-1330  
ZONING: R2.5

Rank III

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Buckman (potential)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Gable end spindlework decoration. Bracketed hood over second floor window.  
Bracketed polygonal bay under projecting second floor. Wrap-around porch with  
turned posts, brackets and spindlework.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

931

3908

9-016-00135

*BIBLIOGRAPHY:*

*City of Portland Buildings Bureau microform and card files.*

*Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, automated data files, and card files (Portland, 1980).*

*Portland Block Book (Portland, Oregon), 1907.*

*OLD ADDRESS: 15 East Sixteenth*

*Present owner as of May 1980: Peter R. Thacker*

*MAILING ADDRESS: 135 S.E. Sixteenth, Portland*

*No Preservation Funding*

*Negative: 308-3*

*Score - Design/Construction: 12*

*Score - Historical:*

*Score - Rarity:*

*Score - Environment: 6*

*Score - Integrity: 10*

*Score - Intrinsic: 12*

*Score - Contextual: 16*

*Score - Total: 58*

026

3908

NEIGHBORHOOD: Buckman  
CLASSIFICATION: Building

STATUS: Eligible

1988 OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY  
CENTRAL SOUTHEAST PORTLAND

COMMON NAME:	HIST. NAME: Polhemus, James S., House
ADDRESS: 135 S.E. 16th	DATE BUILT: c.1900
EARLY ADDR: 15 E. 16th	ORIGINAL USE: Single Dwelling
OWNER: Peter R. Thacker	PRESENT USE: Single Dwelling
ADDR: 135 S.E. 16th Ave.	ARCH./BLDR.: Unknown
Portland, OR 97214	STYLE 1: Queen Anne
TRS NO.: 1N, 1E, SE 1/4 Sec. 35	STYLE 2:
ADDITION: Aikens	INTEGRITY: Very strong merit
BLK: 318 LOT: 5	THEME 1: 19th Century Architecture
TAXCODE: R-00510-1330 ZON: R25	THEME 2:

PLAN SHAPE: Asymmetrical  
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Brick  
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Hip surmounted by gable & intersecting gable.  
WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood  
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Narrow double-hung sash.  
EXT. SURFACING MATERIALS: Bevel channeled shiplap. Shingles.  
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Wrap-around porch with wooden frieze. Polygonal bay with brackets. Gable ornamentation. Turned posts support porch roof. Alternating rows of various type shingles.  
OTHER:

CONDITION: Good  
EXT. ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATE): Aluminum gutters (n.d.).

MOVED:

DATE MOVED:

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Large maple on treelawn. Many small bushes surround house.

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES: None

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION & IMMED. SETTING: On southeast corner of block, situated two feet above street level. Neighboring house is very similar. Located in a residential neighborhood of similar houses from early 20th century.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: See attached.

SOURCES: A, B, D, E, F

ROLL/NEG. #: J1-19-21, S21-12-14

PRODUCED BY: Hawthorne Blvd. Bus. Assoc.

SLIDE NO.: 844-847

RECORDED BY: W. Alan Yost  
DATE RECORDED: 07/21/88  
RESEARCH BY: Julie Koler  
FIELD INVENTORY NO.: 171  
STATE INVENTORY NO.:

5320

**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

c.1900  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c.1900  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 J.S. Polhemus House is locally significant under criterion C as a well-preserved and excellent representative of a Victorian period dwelling which incorporates elements of both the Queen Anne and Stick styles. Constructed in 1900, it is one of the latest examples of the type in the study area. The date of construction was established by deed records and confirmed by Sanborn Insurance maps and city directories.

This large, single-family residence exhibits the asymmetrical massing and decorative features characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Of particular note is the complex roof form with hip-roof core and projecting gables which is crowned by a large corbeled chimney. An encircling porch with delicate turned posts, denticulated cornice and scrolled consoles accentuates the northeast corner of the house. Ornament found in the porch is repeated in the upper gable end.

Stick style features are confined to the applied stickwork on the polygonal bay and the horseshoe-shaped gable end ornament. The rectangular shingles which sheath the second story are more commonly associated with the Craftsman style which followed the Victorian era and illustrate the transitional nature of buildings built during this period. The interior finishes are also of note, particularly the open staircase with handsome newel post and turned balusters.

The original owner of the house was James S. Polhemus. Polhemus was born in Astoria, Queens County, New York on March 26, 1852. In 1872 he received a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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degree from the University of Pennsylvania in civil engineering. Between that time and 1880 Polhemus worked as a government engineer on federal projects throughout the country. In 1880 he was selected as project manager for the construction of jetties at the mouth of Yaquina Bay on the Oregon Coast. In the following years he served as assistant engineer for the first Portland district and practically all of the Willamette and Columbia river harbor improvements during this time were made under his supervision. He retired from the position in 1925. Polhemus was married to Mary C. Daly in 1884. The Polhemus' had several children, one of whom, James H. Polhemus, served as longtime president of the Port of Portland. The Polhemus family lived in the subject house until 1921 when it was sold to Edward and Charity Wright.

**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, 1900-1910.
- . Ticor Title Company Records, Portland, Oregon.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Aikens addition, E. 67' of Lot 5, Block 318

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

5320

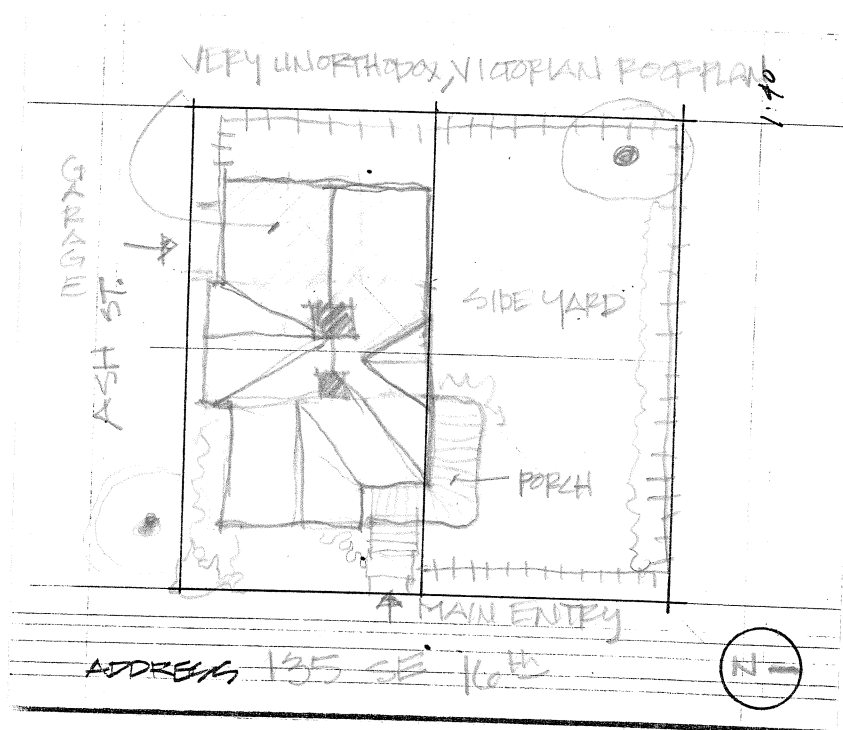
1988 OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY  
CENTRAL SOUTHEAST PORTLAND

ADDRESS: 135 S.E. 16th



ROLL & NEG. NO: S21-12

SLIDE: 844-847



SITE PLANS DRAWN BY: David Bales, Phil Eschtruth

FIELD SURVEY NO.: 171  
STATE INVENTORY NO:

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