United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in Haw to damplete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Rom (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, meterials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NES Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Van Vleet, Lewis and Elizabeth, House
other names/site number _ Yee House
2. Location
street & number 202 NE Graham Street not for publication city or town Portland vicinity state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97212
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X 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 _X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) July 6, 2001 Signature of certifying official /Deputy SHPO 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 for additional comments.) Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau
4. 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):

Multnomah, OR County and State

5. Classification		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) _x	Category of Property (Check only one box) x building(s) district site structure object	Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing 2 buildings sites structures objects Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a mul Historic and Architectural Resources in the		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling) (En	rent Functions ter categories from instructions MESTIC: Single Dwelling
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne) (En _ fou	erials ter categories from instructions) ndation Brick ls Asbestos Cement
	roo	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Stat	ement of Significance	
(Mark "x	ble National Register Criteria " in one or more boxes for the criteria ng the property for National Register listing) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Politics and Government Architecture
<u>x</u> B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
<u>x</u> C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information Important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates 1894 1894 1894 1894 1894 1910
	a Considerations X" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Van Vleet, Lewis Cultural Affiliation
В	removed from its original location.	
c	a birthplace or a grave.	
D	a cemetery.	Architect/Builder
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Unknown
F	a commemorative property.	
	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. ve Statement of Significance n the significance of the property on one or more cont	inuation sheets.)
	r Bibliographical References	
(Cite the	books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on or	e or more continuation sheets.)
prel: has l prev: prev: desig reco: # reco:	iminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) been requested. iously listed in the National Register iously determined eligible by the National Register gnated a National Historic Landmark rded by Historic American Buildings Survey	rimary Location of Additional Data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency X Local government University Other Name of repository:

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Burdet, Reperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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name of property

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<u>Historic and Architectural Resources in the Eliot Neighborhood</u>
Name of Multiple Property Listing

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Van Vleet House

The Van Vleet House is a Queen Anne style residence located at 202 NE Graham Street, constructed in 1894 according to Portland city building records, in the original plat of the town of Albina. The two-and-one-half-story expansive residence was built for Lewis Van Vleet, a prominent government land surveyor and engineer, in then-fashionable "upper Albina". The house is a City of Portland Historic Landmark, designated in 1979 for its architectural and historical significance. It is one of the few remaining Queen Anne style houses of its era, size and integrity in the original Albina plat. City of Portland building records and Multnomah County tax records indicate a continuity of ownership (four owners, three of who were Van Vleet family members) that have helped maintain the historic and architectural integrity of the house.

SETTING

The Van Vleet House is located in the "upper Albina" area of the Eliot neighborhood in northeast Portland, facing north at 202 NE Graham Street, a street characterized primarily by single-family homes. The property is 175 feet from NE Rodney Avenue to the west, which is characterized primarily by other single-family, duplex, and modest multi-family residences. Several historic churches are located on NE Rodney at the corners of the blocks to the north and south. The house is located 375 feet from NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (formerly Union Avenue), a heavily traveled north-south arterial (Highway 99E), which is primarily commercial in character and undergoing rapid redevelopment. A commercial bank is located at the southwest corner of NE Graham and Martin Luther King. Immediately to the south of the Van Vleet house is the County mortuary on NE Knott Street, and the former Albina Public Library across Knott Street.

SITE

The Van Vleet House is situated on a 7,500 square foot lot (50 feet wide and 150 feet deep) with narrow side yard setbacks. A concrete drive immediately east of the house provides one offstreet parking space, ending at a fence and gate. There are single-family homes to the east, and one single-family home to the west, then the parking lot for Cox Funeral Home.

A large Douglas fir tree sits at the northwest corner of the house, obscuring its visibility along with other overgrown gold dust, azalea, and hydrangea shrubs along the front of the house. A row of arborvitae and laurel bushes sits along the westerly property line, with several pine, cherry and other fruit, magnolia and bittersweet trees further south. Several flowering fruit, holly, birch, and elderberry trees sit along the easterly border. An early but extremely dilapidated garage/storage shed sits at the southeast corner of the property.

EXTERIOR

The wood frame Van Vleet House is two-and-one-half story with basement, asymmetrical in plan, and is approximately 28 feet wide and 52.5 feet long, with a continuous parged foundation. The wall finish is asbestos cement siding, covering wide drop siding, with a narrow

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vertical frieze dividing the second story from the attic level. Imbricated shingles are seen above the second-story porch and at the attic level throughout. It has a hip roof with numerous projecting cross gables and boxed eaves. The roof consists of composition shingles over wood rafters. Gutters are half-round galvanized, connecting to downspouts. A full-width one-story shed roof porch runs along the front (north) elevation with a projecting gable with diaperwork and paneled barge boards above the entry. The paneled bargeboard treatment is repeated on all gable ends. The porch stair balustrade running the length and sides is turned and continues on either side of the wide set of wood steps of four risers. The balustrade terminates with a carved 6" by 8" newel, enhanced by applied molding. The porch deck is painted fir. Turned posts support the porch with massive fan brackets with pendants meeting at the porch corners. A second-story porch rises above the projecting gable at the northwest corner of the house, supported by central turned posts with fan brackets and pendants, matching the full porch. A wood ramp for handicapped accessibility, added in 1998, extends from the porch deck to the walkway and is not structurally attached to the house.

The double entry doors are oak with Povey Brothers stained glass lights with panels below. Bronze door hardware is a leaf and flower pattern, manufactured by the Nashua Company c. 1885. A stained glass transom is fixed above the doors. The doors are currently protected with aluminum outer storm doors. On the façade at the first story, a bay with three windows is east of the entry doors. The central bay widow is fixed with a stained glass upper transom. The windows on the adjacent bays are double hung. West of the entry doors is one fixed window with a stained glass upper transom.

At the second story, a central bay with similar window treatment but with a square center bay projects above the porch roof, with a gabled and bracketed overbay above, illuminated with a pair of two multi-light casement windows.

On the east and west elevations, projecting bays extend from both stories with like window treatment, fan brackets, and a gable roof. Fan light windows with colored glass illuminate the upper gables. On the east elevation, a recessed basement entry is accessed from concrete steps with concrete walls extending below grade, topped with a small gable roof supported by plain wood brackets. To the south, a small walled-in rear porch with beadboard inner wall extends at the southeast corner, with a hip roof and simple wood stair rail.

On the south elevation, one-over-one windows illuminate the first and second stories with a pair of one-over-one windows in the upper half-story. A shed-roof cellar entry bulkhead extends near the southeast corner; cellar doors that extend to the east have been covered over with asphalt shingles. Adjacent to the west, a later simple shed-roof extension sits just above the foundation, providing cover to a basement window. At the southeast corner of the property a double garage/shed with two sets of paneled doors, one with Z-braces, is accessed from a paved but overgrown drive.

On the west elevation a massive paneled and corbelled brick chimney pierces the gable near the northwest corner. Another exterior brick chimney is located near the southwest corner. A shed roof extension over a basement window is near the southwest corner.

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Two interior brick paneled and corbelled chimneys rise near the center and southerly portion of the house. Dormers extend in the upper half-story from the central hip roof facing north and mid-way facing west. Their windows, bargeboards, and fishscale shingles match the primary projecting bay on the primary (north) façade.

All of the stained glass windows in the Van Vleet House are from Portland's Povey Brothers Studio. Of note is the circular Povey window with spiderweb motif that lights the interior stairway at the west wall.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Van Vleet house reflects the open asymmetrical plan of the Queen Anne style. The ground floor includes six rooms: the hall, parlor, sitting room, dining room, study and pantry as originally configured. The house enters into a partially enclosed vestibule, clad with cherrywood wainscot, which is intricately paneled and molded, with chamfered edges surrounding each panel, which enters into the hall. Within each of the openings to the vestibule, alcove and parlor, and above the stairway, is a frieze which consists of a series of arches carved from 4 X 6 lumber; each arch is separated by a turned knob. The frieze is surmounted by a serrated jiqsawn panel. Below the frieze at the staircase and flanking it are screens filled with a lattice of spindlework and dowels. Adjacent to the vestibule is an alcove to the west, which has a fixed window with stained glass upper transom. An oak fireplace at the west wall is faced in tile with a bird and floral motif, with a rope bordered iron firebox, and a carved mantel and overmantel with a center mirror and upper and side shelves. The hearth has a floral tile border, repeating the tiles in the frontispiece. The grand open staircase to the upper floor features two newel posts that are elaborately carved, paneled and outlined with beaded molding, with molded multi-tiered caps. A carved floral and grape motif is inset on three sides of the newel posts. Wainscot clads the walls throughout the hall, above tall molded mopboards. The staircase balustrade is composed of a series of geometric elements; each has a turned member supported and surmounted by circular openings. The original light fixture hangs from a circular ceiling medallion in the entry hall. A deep closet opens under the stairs. The first square landing is six risers up, continuing two risers up to a rectangular landing with a circular Povey Brothers stained glass window with spiderweb motif on the west wall. Another nine risers lead to the central upstairs hall.

The entry hall opens east to the parlor (now blocked with removable louvers) with a cherrywood frieze above the opening, and a bay of three one-over-one windows with a stained glass upper light in the center bay. There are original wall sconce lights with painted glass shades between the central and adjacent bays. The original light fixture hangs from the circular ceiling medallion. The picture rail is painted.

The parlor opens into the sitting room which features a similar bay of three windows with Povey Brothers stained glass upper transom in the center bay, a matching light fixture and ceiling medallion, and original wall sconces. Two-inch oak flooring matches that of the parlor and hall. In the southwest corner of the sitting room is a fireplace with leaf-patterned tile border and a diamond-patterned tile hearth. The cherrywood mantel and overmantel include a mirror and built-in clock; slender brackets support the upper mantel shelf. The mantel is lettered with "EAST-WEST-HOME'S BEST" and is reputed to have come from New York. A center door in the sitting room's south wall enters into a back hall which accesses the back stairway; three risers lead to a rectangular landing with a fixed window in the east wall, then thirteen risers lead to the upper hall.

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The study, which has been converted to a kitchen, is accessed from the back hall and features simple tongue-and-groove wainscot with a chair rail throughout, along with picture rail. The mopboard has been replaced with vinyl. A pair of two one-over-one windows opens on the south wall. The east wall includes the access door to the back porch, and a fixed window with an etched glass transom light with a central oval and floral pattern. The kitchen fixtures are utilitarian and include formica countertops and simple modern cabinetry. Vinyl flooring covers the original oak flooring which remains in the other rooms.

The study/kitchen opens through a door at the northwest corner to the original pantry, which has been converted to a bathroom with modern fixtures. The white hexagonal tile floor with blue and white border remains throughout, along with remnants of the original wainscot, and one-over-one windows in the upper west wall and at the south wall. All woodwork is painted. A central chimney extends from the east wall of the former pantry.

A door from the pantry/bathroom enters into the original dining room, which is now used as a bedroom. This room is similarly finished with a bay with three windows, fixed center window with a stained glass transom matching the sitting room window, and 3 ½" fir flooring. It is the only primary room on the main floor where some of the woodwork is painted and without its original hanging light fixture, but with its original ceiling medallion which is larger than the others. A door from the back hall which entered into the former dining room has been plastered over in the room itself; the door is fixed in place in the hall. A door in the northeast wall leads into and from the entry hall.

The original kitchen was located in the basement, which is accessed through a door in the back hall. Ten risers lead down to a square landing at the basement exit door. One riser to the north leads to the primary basement area, where the gas furnace is located, along with a built-in cabinet and closet. One riser to the south leads through the laundry area to a set of French doors and the original built-in kitchen wall cabinet with glass doors set in an angled wall, other cabinetry, beadboard wall, and wood flooring. A door to the bulkhead is at the south wall; another opening leads to an auxiliary furnace and a bearing wall.

The second floor of the Van Vleet House is composed of five bedrooms matching the floor plan below. A central hall is 39" in width running north to south, and accesses the rooms. In the northwest corner a bedroom is used as a sitting room, which features a fireplace with tile border similar to the sitting room fireplace below, matching hearth tile, and a similar cherrywood mantelpiece and overmantel with mirror and shelves. A door with nine lights in the upper half and horizontal panels below enters onto the second-story porch.

The other four bedrooms feature window, floor, and wall treatments that match those of the floor below: stained doors and window casings with bullseye corner blocks, painted picture rail, Nashua Company bronze door hardware with black ceramic doorknobs, ceiling medallions, and most original ceiling light fixtures and wall sconces. Several of the bedrooms have basin sinks, possibly added c. 1918. The bedroom above the parlor has a square projecting center bay with a matching Povey stained glass window. The bedroom above the sitting room contains a fireplace and mantel. This bedroom and the remaining two bedrooms have windows configured as in the rooms below, but without stained glass.

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The bathroom is situated near the southwest corner of the second floor, and features painted wainscot along the east wall, and built-in cabinets including a recessed alcove cabinet adjacent to the pedestal sink. A one-over-one window is situated above the bathtub at the west wall. An original gaslight wall fixture is mounted on the north wall.

Access to the upper half-story is through a hallway adjacent to the back stairs, through an access door (not original) opening from the upper hall. The corridor ends at one riser to a rectangular landing with a fixed window matching the window treatments of the house, but painted. Sixteen risers lead to the original attic which was refinished for a billiard room in 1921, according to city building records. A simple railing with no balusters runs along the floor to the north of the stairway, ending in a simple square and pointed newel post. An open entryway accesses a small room to the south, containing a closet and a sink added c. 1918, with eaves sloping east to west. Doors, trim and hardware match those of the house; a pair of plain windows face south. Most woodwork is painted black as is the flooring.

The rest of the upper floor is a large open room with ceilings sloping beneath the central hipped roof. Two gabled alcove dormers at the east and west walls feature fanlight windows with colored glass at the floor above the base. Square alcove dormer along the north and west walls and one gabled alcove at the north wall have sets of two multi-light casement windows, painted black. Walls are painted red. The fir floors are stained and varnished.

The free-standing chimney to the north of the stairway has a simple mounted mantel shelf with mirror above, a built-in radiating heat fireplace, and tile hearth. Twenty-four single light socket fixtures are mounted in the ceiling throughout the room, with a variety of vintage glass shades.

ALTERATIONS

Significant alterations to the house are few and well-documented. On the exterior, asbestos siding applied in 1962 covers the original drop siding but all decorative trim is intact. The bulkhead at the south (rear) of the house has been covered with asphalt shingles (date unknown) but drop siding is evident underneath. The ramp for handicapped accessibility was added at the entry in 1998, but is not structurally attached to the house. The roof cresting was removed at an undetermined date.

On the interior, on the main floor removable louvers block the opening from the entry hall to the parlor. The original study, later used as a bedroom, was converted to a kitchen c. 1956; the mopboard was replaced with vinyl and the oak floors are beneath the vinyl. All other woodwork is intact.

The major portion of the original pantry, later used as a kitchen, was converted to a bathroom in 1956; the walls in the bathroom portion have ceramic tile and it is unknown if any of the original wainscot remains beneath it. When the original dining room was converted to a bathroom in 1956, a door opening from the back hall was plastered over in the bedroom; the door itself is fixed in place in the hall and is visible within the plastered wall.

On the second floor, carpeting has been installed over the fir floors. Two bedrooms are missing their original light fixtures. Fixtures in the bathroom were changed in 1932. An access door was

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added at the west end of the corridor leading to the attic stairway, probably to conserve heat, at an unknown date.

At the upper level, the attic was plastered in 1921. Sinks were added in the small attic room in 1913.

COMPARISON TO OTHER QUEEN ANNE STYLE HOUSES IN THE ELIOT NEIGHBORHOOD

The Eliot Neighborhood Multiple Properties Listing discusses the preponderance (30%)of Queen Anne style houses in the neighborhood, but does not cite specific properties. A comparison of the subject property with other Queen Anne style houses in the Portland Historic Resources Inventory for Eliot demonstrates that the Van Vleet House is a more "pure" and high-style Queen Anne in form and features.

The one and one-half story residence at 2145 NE Rodney Avenue, built in 1898, retains most of its original exterior materials but is more modest in scale. The two story four-plex at 3026 N. Willaims Avenue, built in 1904, also retains most of its original exterior materials, but is a more simple Queen Anne Vernacular style. The Montgomery Residence at 22 NE Graham Street, built in 1892, is a Queen Anne Vernacular cottage, as is the residence built in 1895 at 206 NE Sacramento Street. The two and one-half story duplex built in 1880 at 212 NE Sacramento is also Queen Anne Vernacular in style. Other Queen Anne style houses further south, such as the Bannon Residence at 27 NE Thompson Street and the 1898 residence at 76 NE Thompson, have been altered. The 1896 Miller Residence at 89 NE Thompson (at Rodney), is more high Queen Anne in style than those cited previously, distinguished by its polygonal tower, but without the decorative spindlework of the Van Vleet House. The residence at 131 NE Thompson, built in 1898, is a good example of the Queen Anne style, but has been altered and is more modest in scale than the Van Vleet House. The residence at 131 NE Tillamook Street, built in 1902, is an excellent and distinctive example of the Queen Anne style, but with a less formal entry and without the stained glass windows of the Van Vleet House. The condition and integrity of the interiors of the comparison properties are unknown.

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HISTORY OF PROPERTY AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House is eligible for listing as it relates to the multiple property listing Historic & Architectural Properties in the Eliot Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. It is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Lewis Van Vleet, who played a significant role in politics and government as an elected official in the Washington Territory, and as U.S. Deputy Surveyor for forty years, beginning in 1856. Although the major period of Van Vleet's government activities precede his purchase of the subject property, he remained Deputy Surveyor for two years after constructing the Graham Street house. It is the only extant property in Oregon or Washington associated with him. It is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Queen Anne style residence of the period, in the context of the development of the Upper Albina area of the original Albina plat.

With Albina's incorporation as a city in 1887, substantial residences gradually began to rise in Upper Albina, along with more modest homes in Central Albina and brick commercial buildings in Lower Albina during the Progressive Era. In 1891, the Van Vleets purchased the subject property and the adjacent lot near the northeast corner of the block, erecting the house in 1894, three years after Albina's annexation to the city of Portland. They lived here with several of their children for the rest of their lives.

Lewis Van Vleet was born in New York in 1826, the seventh of thirteen children of well-to-do parents, descendants of 17th century New York settlers from Holland. The family relocated to Michigan (then a territory) when Lewis was a child; he was educated there, working for his father until age 21. He moved to New York where he learned the barrel-making trade, and then attended Oswego Academy. In 1852, planning to emigrate to the Pacific Northwest, he went to Hannibal, Missouri and reached Oregon City, Oregon in 1853. He moved to Clark County, Washington in 1855 where he secured a Homestead Claim, erecting a fine home in 1861-62 (no longer extant) that was noted for its fine fireplaces. (The house was moved from Fern Prairie, north of Camas to a property that is now a park known as Parkersville Landing; the house itself was destroyed by fire in 1979 during a protracted community effort to prevent its demolition by the Port of Camas-Washougal). He lived here with his family until 1868. He helped plat the city of Camas, Washington then lived for a time in Kalama, Washington, moving to Portland in the mid-1870s.

Van Vleet enlisted for service in the Yakima Indian War of 1855-56, for which he later collected a military pension. In 1856, Van Vleet married Elizabeth Coffey in Oregon City. She was born in Missouri in 1836 and came to Oregon with her family in 1852. The Van Vleets had seven children, including two who died in early childhood. Van Vleet represented Clark County in the territorial senate from 1856 to 1859. In 1860, he was a Clark County representative and from Cowlitz County in 1871. In 1856, he was appointed United States Deputy Surveyor and held that position for forty years. He also worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad for its land department, doing appraisals of land grants. A prominent Mason, he organized three Washington lodges and joined the Albina Lodge Number 101 of Portland in 1891, and was active there until his death in 1910. The period of significance begins with Van Vleet's construction and occupancy of the house in 1894, ending with his death in 1910.

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Van Vleet was described in appearance as distinguished looking, nearly six feet tall with snow white hair from the age of 40. A 1901 newspaper article describes him as the oldest Mason in Oregon and an owner of considerable real estate where he put up a number of dwellings. (One other property, on SW Taylor, identified as owned by Van Vleet is no longer extant). Elizabeth Van Vleet died in the Graham Street house in 1905. Lewis Van Vleet died in 1910.

The subject property was built on the easterly lot of the two they owned near Rodney Avenue. The home they built in 1894 was grand, even for its day. The Van Vleets love of fireplaces is clearly evident in the house, and great expense was obviously incurred in the lavish hall woodwork and the Povey Brothers Studio stained glass throughout the house.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for 1901 (corrected to 1908) show the house in its present configuration with an outhouse in the location of the present garage/storage shed. The street was lined with single-family homes, all with similar setbacks, and most of which are extant; all are more modest in scale and style. By 1908, the only near-by commercial uses were a store with dwelling at the northwest corner of Union and Graham, and another at the northwest corner of Northeast Knott and Union. The German Methodist Episcopal Church (now Saint Paul Church of God in Christ) was established at the southwest corner of Northeast Rodney and Stanton, and the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church (now Mount Gillard Missionary Baptist Church) was established at the northeast corner. Both churches are one block to the north of the subject property.

In 1905, Lot 5, on which the subject property is located, was deeded to daughter Stella Van Vleet and the adjacent vacant Lot 4 was deeded to daughter Edith Van Vleet. Sanborn maps for 1909 (corrected to 1923) show a garage in the former location of the outhouse, and another two-story house constructed on Lot 4 (extant). Within this period, the Eliot Public School was established at the northeast corner of Rodney and Knott, and the Rodney Avenue Christian Church (replaced in 1941 by Saint Philip Episcopal Church) was at the southeast corner. Commercial uses are evident in this period at Russell and Union, including a theater and billiard hall, along with growing commercial uses along Russell to the west and across Union at Russell.

When the Van Vleet family relocated to Portland, two of their adult children remained in Clark County (one of them was Dr. Louisa Wright, the first woman physician in the area). Three of their five surviving children lived with them as young adults in the subject property: Edith Van Vleet was a schoolteacher who never married, and died suddenly in 1912 at the age of 47; Lewis Van Vleet, Jr. enlisted in the Spanish American War in 1898 and was one of the honor guard that raised the first American flag in the Philippines. He married twice and worked as a linotype operator for the Oregonian from 1913-42. He established a home at 83 NE Holman Street(extant) and died in 1957 at age 82, survived by a widow and two children; Stella Van Vleet was also a schoolteacher, at the Williams Avenue School until it closed when she moved to Eliot School (one block south of the subject property, now the Matt Dishman Center). She was an active member of the Corinthian Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

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In 1914, at the age of 47 and after two years of living alone at the subject property, Stella Van Vleet married William Freeman, who was born on Sauvie Island and raised eleven blocks from the Graham Street house. Upon their marriage, William relocated from 3618 North Gantenbein Avenue (extant) to the Van Vleet house. Stella ceased teaching after her marriage. William worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, beginning in 1889 in the Union Pacific Albina Shops, in lower Albina. When he retired in 1937 he was conductor of the streamliner City of Portland. He was a long-time member of the same Masonic Lodge as Lewis Van Vleet. Marrying later in life, Stella and William traveled extensively in the 1920s, filling journals of trips to Niagara Falls, Quebec, and Mount Vernon, Virginia. They filled scrapbooks with marriage and death announcements of other family members in California and Arizona, along with letters and housekeeping-related clippings.

Stella and William completed a number of improvements to the subject property during the historic period. They updated plumbing, adding sinks in the attic and making changes in the pantry in 1918; they plastered the attic for a billiard room in 1921, and replaced the bathroom fixtures in 1932. Building records refer to a permit to restore fire damage in 1951, but with no description of the work. Stella and William lived in the subject property until their deaths; she died at the house in 1948 at age 81 and he died in 1955 at age 85.

After William Freeman's death, the property passed to Edith Spicer O'Rourke, a granddaughter of Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet, who lived in California. In 1956, she sold the property to Rozelle and Loy Yee.

Rozelle Jackson Yee was an African American born in Gonzalez, Texas in 1913. After graduation from Booker T. Washington High School in Gainesville, Texas (where E.W.D. Love, the grandfather of the present owner of the subject property, was Principal) she pursued education as a hairdresser at Madame Coleman's Beauty School in Dallas, gaining her state Hairdresser and Cosmetologist certification in 1938, then owned and operated a beauty shop in Gainesville. After her marriage to Giles Smith, they owned a beauty shop, barbershop, and restaurant which she managed while he served as Ensign in the US Navy during World War II. They divorced and in 1947 Rozelle Jackson relocated to Portland, joining her sister Mildred and husband Finnis Love and their children, who lived in Vanport. She moved into northeast Portland and worked briefly at La Vivianne, the salon of Vivianne Barnett, before establishing her own business, Personality Beauty Bar at 2529 North Williams (extant) in 1948. The shop became a popular gathering place for women in the community. In 1952 she married Loy Sing Yee, who was born in China in 1899 and immigrated to the United States by the mid-1920s. As an interracial couple, they had to go to Vancouver, Washington given Oregon restrictions on interracial marriages.

Loy Yee was working in Seattle by 1926. In 1937 he was working in Roseburg, Oregon as a cook at the Hotel Umpqua. In 1938, he moved to Portland and worked at the Portland Air Base in the early 1940s. In 1948, he purchased Van's Café, at 2600 North Williams Avenue (no longer extant) in the thriving African American commercial center of Albina. He re-opened the restaurant as The Chinese Kitchen where he cooked Chinese and American food. The restaurant soon became a popular spot for good food at affordable prices, and he continued operating until the 1972 planned Emanuel Hospital expansion forced the closure of most businesses and the destruction of the commercial district.

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The Yees attended many functions in Portland's Chinese American community; due to Mrs. Yee's influence, The Chinese Kitchen became the first non-African American business to hire African American employees. Prior to purchasing the subject property, Rozelle and Loy Yee purchased several rental properties on the north side of Northeast Graham Street, across from the subject property, and Mrs. Yee closed her salon in the late 1950s to manage them. She maintained a high degree of involvement in the controversies of community development battles that destroyed much of lower and central Albina in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 1962, a public housing project was proposed in the Eliot neighborhood, extending east of Williams Avenue past Rodney Avenue and including the Van Vleet house. As an advocate of affordable housing, Rozelle Yee was torn by the potential destruction of her own home. Due to the considerable public controversy, the Housing Authority backed down on the project in that location. In 1968, Rozelle Yee was elected to the Citizens Planning Board of the new Model Cities program, along with several other women friends who were fellow-civil rights activists. The Model Cities program became mired in on-going controversy over the control maintained by the Portland Development Commission over citizen involvement activities and programs that were intended to be community-based. Rozelle Yee resigned from the Citizens Planning Board in protest over its inaction. She became involved in efforts to establish a Neighborhood Development Project for Eliot, a program that would focus on the rehabilitation of buildings in the neighborhood, as part of Model Cities. Speaking in favor of the new program approach, Rozelle Yee was quoted in the Oregon Journal in 1968: "Let's try it one more time and see if they will do what we want, instead of what they (PDC) want. We've been used, abused and accused, interviewed, surveyed and X-rayed. Now maybe we can get some action".

Mrs. Yee remained immensely proud of the architecture and history of her house. When Rozelle and Loy Yee purchased it in 1956, it was vacant and full of dust and cobwebs, but also contained many historic furnishings that had belonged to the Van Vleet family, along with a collection of family papers which Mrs. Yee carefully conserved. They made some alterations to the house, converting the small pantry/kitchen into a bathroom on the main floor, and converted the former study from a bedroom into a kitchen. They installed a new furnace and completed some electrical work, painted the house and hung new wallpaper in the sitting room, re-roofed the house, and tuck-pointed the chimneys and fireboxes. They later applied asbestos siding to the house after difficulties with the results of the painting work, but none of the decorative house trim was removed. Rozelle and Loy Yee remained at the subject property for the rest of their lives. Loy Sing Yee died in 1992, and Rozelle Jackson Yee died in June, 2000. In 1995, wishing to retain the house in her family's ownership, Rozelle Yee transferred ownership of the subject property to her niece, Freda Love McEwen.

Freda Love McEwen was born in Gainesville, Texas in 1937 and attended kindergarten at Booker T. Washington Grade School, where her paternal grandfather was the principal. The Love family moved to Vanport, Oregon in 1942 and then to Portland. Freda Love McEwen attained a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology. After a summer studying Russian at Reed College in 1957, she was among the first ten women and the first African American woman to be hired as a permanent employee at the U.S. Post Office in Portland, Oregon. She retired from the Social Security Administration in 1969. Mrs. McEwen's niece, Estelle Love, is the occupant of the subject property. Freda Love McEwen intends to retain the house and gradually undertake preservation-related work to ensure its survival.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Eliot neighborhood, located in northeast Portland, Oregon, is locally significant as the original townsite of the City of Albina. Settled in three separate parts, the City of Albina is generally categorized in terms of Lower, Central, or Upper Albina. Lower Albina refers to the area from the Willamette River to Mississippi Avenue. Central Albina follows Mississippi Avenue, Russell Street, and Williams Avenue. Upper Albina consists of the area north of the intersection of Russell and Williams Avenue, up to Union Avenue/Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The subject property stands in the heart of Upper Albina, and is among the few extant properties of the area's earliest grand residences. Given the documented destruction of 1379 houses in the Eliot neighborhood between 1959-1972, for urban renewal and other public transportation projects (Interstate 5 and the Fremont Bridge), only 18% of the properties still standing in the neighborhood were built before 1900.

SETTLEMENT: 1872-1880

Platted in 1872, the original townsite of Albina developed along the eastern banks of the Willamette River. It was located on a donation land claim originally owned by J.L. Loring and Joseph Delay, pioneers who took advantage of the economic opportunity afforded by the Donation Land Act of 1850. Loring and Delay eventually sold their shares to William W. Page who, in turn, sold it to Edwin Russell and George H. Williams, former senator, U.S. Attorney General, and future mayor of Portland. The town was named after Page's wife and daughter, both of whom were named Albina. NE Russell Street and N. Williams Avenue still bear the names of the community's early pioneers.

Edwin Russell, for whom the Russell Street is named was an aristocratic Englishman who emigrated to America to run the Portland branch of the Bank of British Columbia. Occasionally called Lord Russell, he was described as "a man of hustle" who was also one of the best-dressed men in Portland." Russell managed the downtown bank, located on Front Avenue, but foresaw greater personal success in financing a town on the other side of the Willamette.

While Williams platted the community's general dimensions, Russell, who had controlling interest in the venture, oversaw Albina's development. He built a sawmill and shipyard along the river's edge and organized machine and engine shops. In 18.73, he negotiated a contract with the U.S. Government to build a \$92,000 revenue cutter in his shipbuilding yards. Russell envisioned overtaking the nearby City of Portland where a fire that same year had destroyed a large portion of its business district, predicting Albina's future as the "premier city of the Pacific Northwest." Unfortunately, Russell had invested all of his savings and borrowed heavily for his new enterprises and the bank panic of 1873 was disastrous for him. By 1874, unable to pay the interest on his mortgaged properties, Russell left town and moved his family to San Francisco.

In 1874, James Montgomery and William Reid took over the donation land claim, which, despite Russell's business risks, was still essentially a pastoral wilderness. They began developing residential sites, a move that met with success. Montgomery and Reid were also able to complete Russell's revenue cutter. It was the first U.S. Government vessel built in Oregon.

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The fire in Portland influenced the real estate market, and caused sales in Albina to rise dramatically. It grew from a town of 143 persons in 1880 to one with a population of nearly 3,000 by the time of its incorporation in 1887.

CONSOLIDATION: 1880-1891

The primary reason for Albina's rapid growth in the 1880s was the advent of the railways to the area. It was chosen to become the western terminus of a line operated by the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company (ORNC) in 1882. The arrival of the railroads caused a flurry of industrial, commercial, and residential growth in Albina. In 1883, William S. Ladd capitalized on the increased foreign trade in wheat and expanded his small Albina Flour Mills into the seven storied Portland Flouring Mills. It was soon the largest milling operation in the Northwest. Between the ORNC and Ladd's mill, two miles of Albina's waterfront were devoted to large corporate businesses. Until the time of its incorporation in 1887, Albina's growth as a community would be largely controlled by private business interests with headquarters on the west side of the river. Few cities in America were as dominated by corporate interests as was Albina.³

The City of Albina was already busily creating a social infrastructure to support its potential. Developers' attention had been further focused on the east side with the opening of the Morrison Bridge in 1887 and then the Steel Bridge in 1889, which connected the east and west sides of the river. In 1889, the first electric streetcar in the City of Portland began operation in Albina and soon became the dominant mode of transportation for the entire east side. The street railways produced an accelerated pace of growth for the east side, especially in Albina. Social institutions such as schools and churches appeared in the growing town, as did residences.

The City of Albina also expanded physically. West side interests and local realtors pressured the state legislature to allow Albina to annex territory that was nine times greater than its original size at incorporation. Upon annexation, Albina covered more land than incorporated East and West Portland combined. The City of Albina consisted of 13.5 square miles with a population density of 450 per square mile.

With so much land at stake, Albina's consolidation with the City of Portland became a focal topic for policy makers of both cities. Consolidation made sense for the City of Albina, since it would relieve its city council of the burden of providing municipal services with funds it did not have. As the City of Portland developed, industrial and residential areas began to dot the landscape of the east side. Soon, Portland's business district was the financial downtown of the three cities. Consolidation with the City of East Portland and the City of Albina seemed a wise move for the City of Portland, as it would make Portland a city of some 25 square miles in area. Nine years after consolidation passed, Portland's population had increased by 50 percent and its geographic area by 40 percent. Consolidation, promoted by Portland businessmen, was also supported by Albina's citizens who, lacking funds for municipal services, had their own economic interests at heart. In 1891, consolidation was approved, and citizens of Portland were faced with the formidable task of taking on former obligations of the City of Albina.

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COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT: 1880-1923	
Russell Street and its surroundings developed in step with the City of Albina. Since the beginnings, Russell Street had been a crucial part of Albina's growth. The avenue's proximate river had naturally brought it to prominence as Albina's main street. With the river operating at the base of Albina Avenue — about three blocks from Russell Street — shopked favored sites along the town's emerging transportation gateway. In 1884, the only way to from Albina to Portland was via the Albina Ferry. That changed during the Streetcar Era, residential development skyrocketed and the community's economic base expanded.	mity to ferry pers get
For the commercial district of Albina, the street railways were undeniably transformative Commercial centers tended to flourish near or on such transit nodes, as was the case for Street, in both Lower Albina and Central Albina, at Williams Avenue. In the 1920s, commercial development dramatically expanded on Russell Street, and near and on Union Avenue. The firmulation, which traveled north on Interstate Avenue and south on Williams Avenue, caused Russell Street to become the arterial east-west thoroughfare since it ran between the two avenues. Russell Street was now able to connect the river and railroad yards to the west the residential sector to the east.	Russell cial rst
ETHNIC MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN ALBINA: 1880-1920s AND LATER	
Beginning in the 1880s and into the teens, Albina would continue to absorb an increasing of immigrants relative to the rest of the city. Predominantly from eastern Europe, immigration Italy, Greece, Hungary, Poland, and Russia would join established immigrants from Gerand Ireland, as well as a Scandinavian community that had settled along the corridor of NI Seventh Avenue. This concentration of immigrants would remain, even as Portland experience a phenomenal growth rate from 1900 to 1910 that diluted its foreign-born population. The Araca would come to serve as a gateway for immigrants newly arriving to Portland.	ants rmany E ed
Beginning in 1919, the Portland Realty Board adopted a policy restricting the sale of proposed to "Negroes and Orientals" to Albina. Most African Americans were forced to find housing area bounded by the River to the west, Union Avenue to the east, and Fremont Street to the north. The restrictive policy held until the 1950s. After the Vanport Flood in 1948, Africans were forced to relocate into Albina, aided by White flight to new suburbs that developed on Portland's outskirts.	in the e
CHANGES IN COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: 1920s-1960s	
Future changes in land use drastically altered the environment of the Albina district. For business sector, the changes in land use patterns were tied to the growing popularity of a America's favorite means of transportation. As more and more clients and customers arrived car to do their business, building orientation and land use patterns were adjusted to suit needs. Commercial districts that had flourished in the time of streetcars now struggled to compete with the retail opportunities offered by the automobile. Regional shopping malls drained commercial traffic from businesses located along the old streetcar lines.	cars as d by t their
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Union Avenue's commercial economy went into decline in the 1940s when the auto dealerships decided to relocate to the up-and-coming Interstate Avenue, a street primed for the automobile. Union Avenue had been widened in 1929, resulting in the removal of some buildings. Interstate Avenue remained an arterial thoroughfare well into the 1950s but took a downturn with the opening of the Minnesota Freeway (I-5) in 1964. The construction of I-5 did for Interstate Avenue what it had for Union Avenue. Russell Street and other nearby streets were likewise substantially impacted. The Williams Avenue commercial area was largely destroyed by both construction of Memorial Coliseum in 1959, and then the planned expansion of Emanuel Hospital in the early 1970s.

In these eras, new housing construction was virtually nonexistent within the former Albina city boundaries. It was already densely settled and most public efforts focused on clearance of vintage properties, beginning in the 1950s. As a result, the Eliot neighborhood lost almost half of its residents between 1959-1972. The massive destruction of housing throughout Albina during earlier eras has resulted in a more recent appreciation of vintage houses in the neighborhood, along with an increased recognition of their historic and architectural significance. The Eliot Conservation District (which includes the subject property) and the Russell Street Conservation in Lower Albina were designated in 1993. The Eliot Multiple Properties National Register nomination was approved in 1997.

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VERBAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

SE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 27, Township 1 North, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, in Multnomah County, Oregon and is legally described as Block 15, Lot 5, Albina

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Portland City lot, (50 x 150 feet) occupied by the Van Vleet House, original lot lines.

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PHOTO KEY

Photo #1: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000

PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: MAIN (NORTH) FACADE, AND PORTION OF EAST ELEVATION

Photo #2: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: MAIN (NORTH) FACADE

Photo #3: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: WEST ELEVATION

Photo #4: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: WEST ELEVATION

Photo #5: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: WEST ELEVATION, SECOND AND UPPER STORIES

Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Photo #6: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: WEST ELEVATION - DETAIL OF UPPER STORY

Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Photo #7: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: SOUTH (REAR) ELEVATION

Photo #8: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: SOUTHWEST CORNER AND SOUTH ELEVATION

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Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Photo #9: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: EAST ELEVATION

Photo #10: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: DETAIL OF FRONT (NORTH) PORCH

Photo #11: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: FRONT (NORTH) PORCH AND ENTRY

Photo #12: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: ENTRY DOORS (NORTH ELEVATION) WITH POVEY BROTHERS STUDIO STAINED GLASS

Photo #13: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: GARAGE / STORAGE SHED, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF PROPERTY

Photo #14: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: ENTRY HALL INTERIOR

Photo #15: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: STAIRCASE IN ENTRY HALL

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Photo #16: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: HALL STAIRCASE, FROM SECOND FLOOR, SHOWING POVEY BROTHERS SPIDERWEB

WINDOW AT LANDING

Photo #17: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: PARLOR INTERIOR

Photo #18: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: FIREPLACE IN SITTING ROOM

Photo #19: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: DOOR IN SITTING ROOM, WEST WALL (DOOR IS TYPICAL THROUGHOUT HOUSE)

Photo #20: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: KITCHEN (FORMER STUDY)

Photo #21: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: DOOR TO SECOND STORY PORCH, IN SECOND FLOOR SITTING ROOM

Photo #22: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: FIREPLACE IN SECOND FLOOR SITTING ROOM

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Photo #23: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293

View: NORTHEAST BEDROOM, SECOND FLOOR, POVEY BROTHERS STAINED GLASS TRANSOM,

ORIGINAL LIGHT FIXTURE

Photo #24: Lewis and Elizabeth Van Vleet House

Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Bosco-Milligan Foundation 11/2000 PO BOX 14157, Portland OR 97293 View: ATTIC LEVEL, SOUTH ROOM

¹ William Swing, "Edwin Russell's Albina Dream Cost Fortune, Never Came True" (Oregonian, 9 Jan. 1961) Sec. 2, p. 6, c.1.

² Paul Pintarich, "Albina Residents Celebrate New Life" (*Oregonian*, 20 Feb. 19972) 2M.

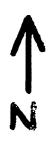
³ E. Kimbark MacColl, The Shaping of a City: Business and Politics in Portland, OR, 1885 to 1915 (Portland, OR: The Georgian Press, 1976) 126.

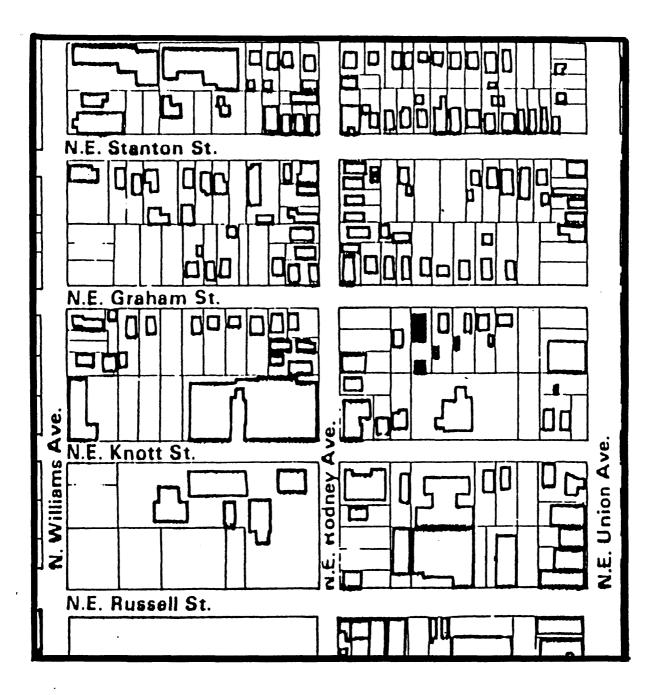
⁴ Op. cit., p. 117.

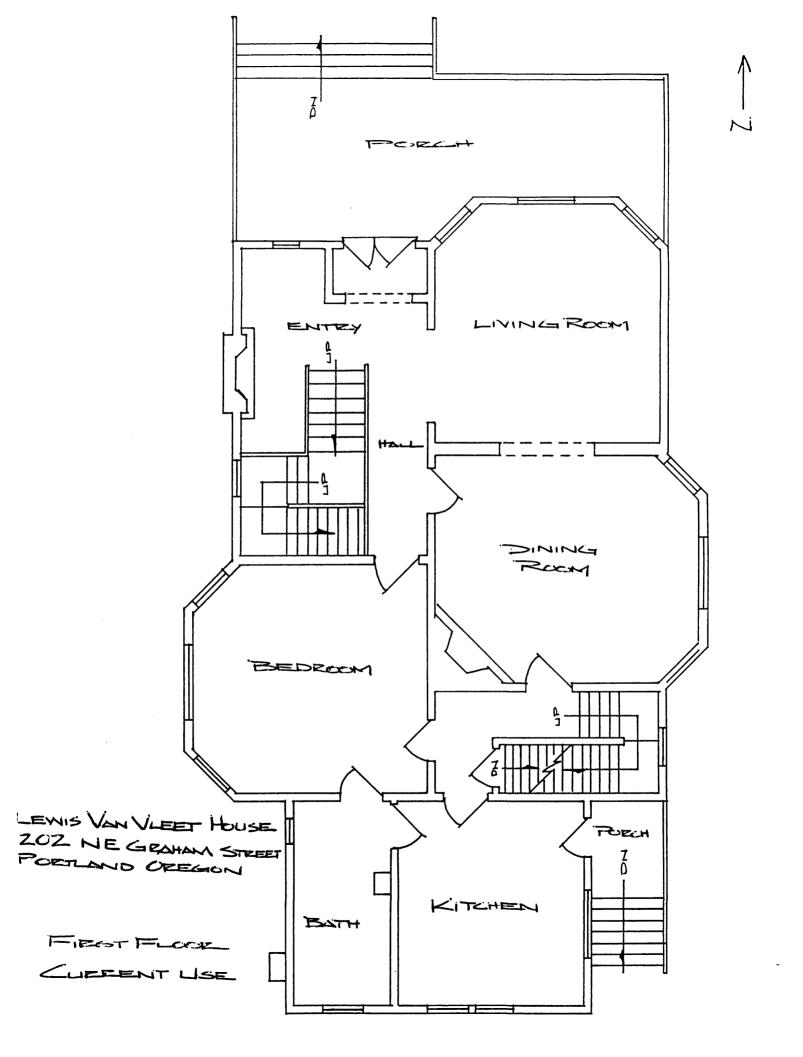
⁵ Richard H. Engeman, "and so made town and country one": The Streetcar and the Building of Portland 1872-1920. (B.A. thesis, Reed College, 1969) 13. ⁶ Op. cit., pp. 111-112.

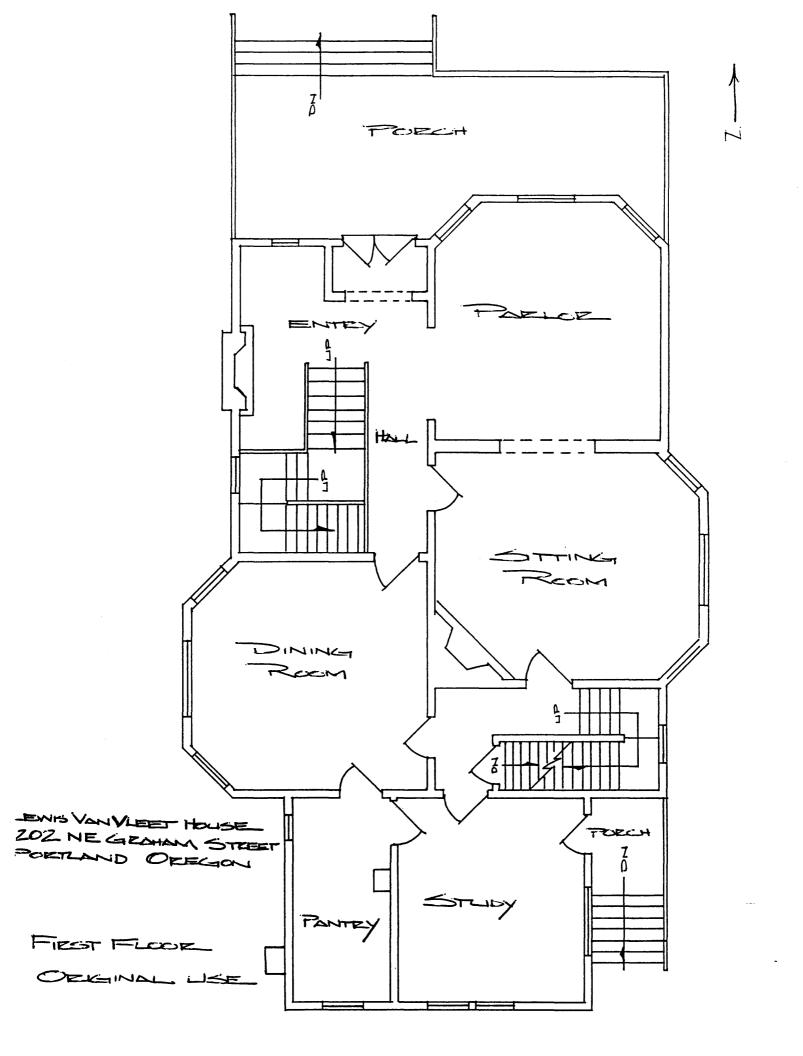
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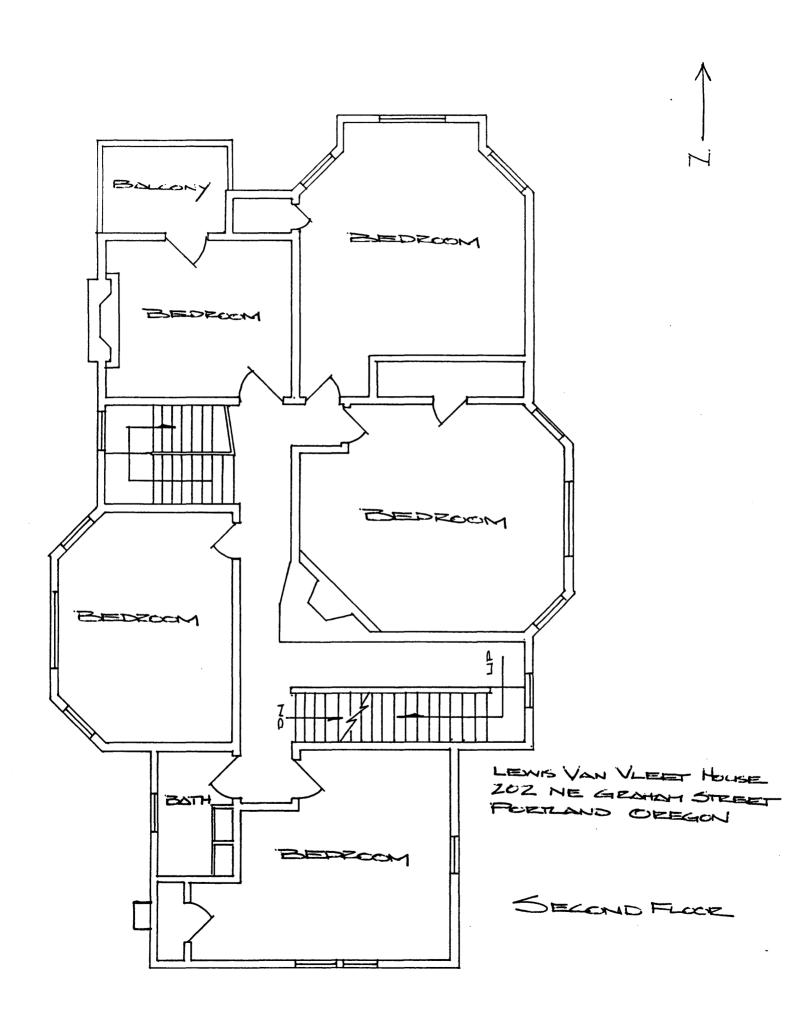
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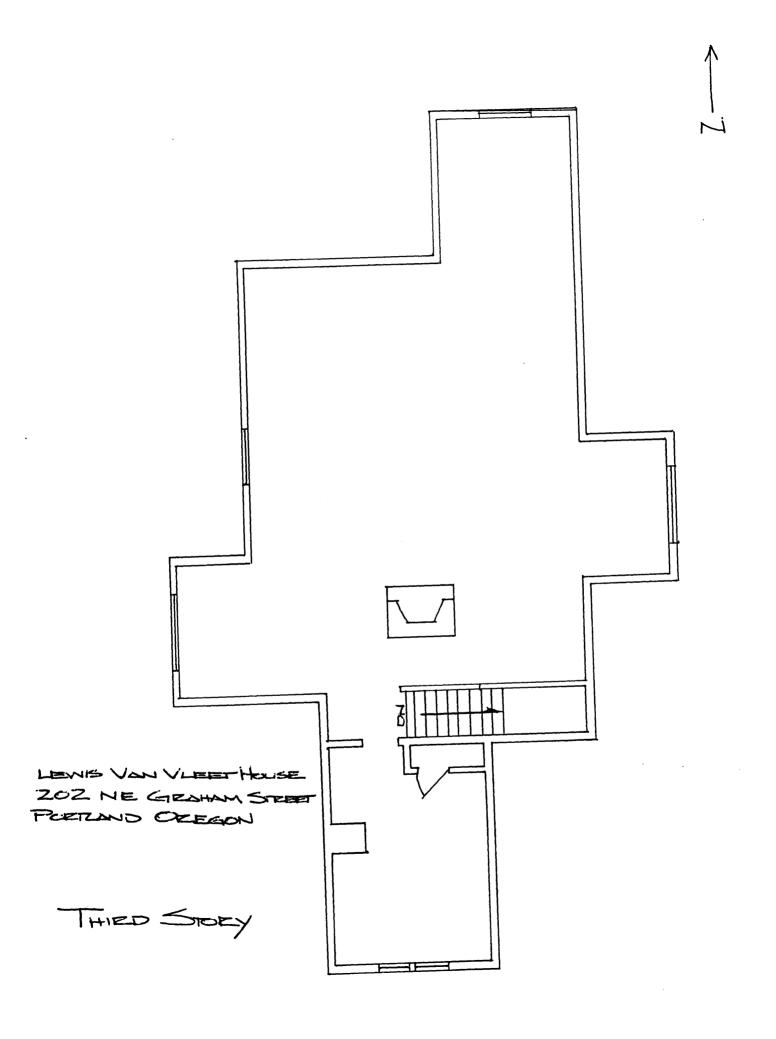




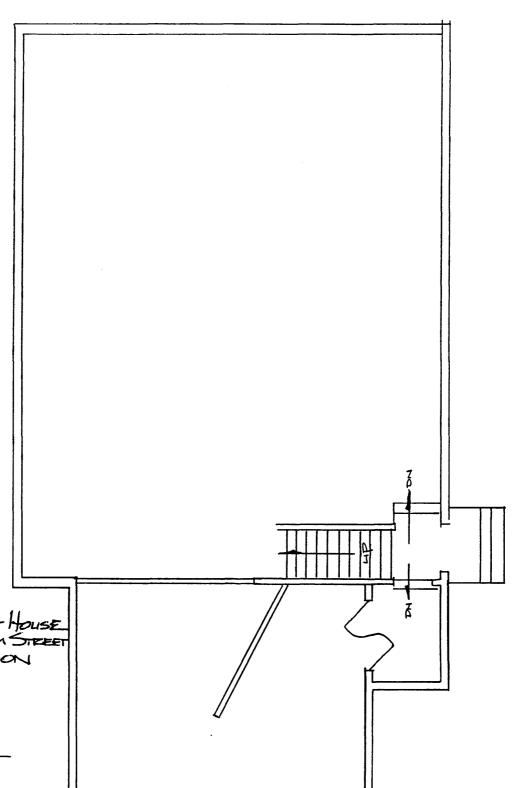








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