

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 27 1989

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 Polhemus, James S., House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 135 S.E. 16th  not for publication  
city, town Portland  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97214

3. Classification

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

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Shingle

Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Located on the southeastern corner of the block, the lot is elevated roughly three feet above grade, allowing for a partially exposed basement with windows. A one-and-one-half story house, built on a brick foundation, it is crowned by a hip roof, surmounted by a small gable. Various cross gables intersect the main roof. The roof is covered with composition asphalt shingles. There are two chimneys rising from the center of the roof; one corbelled outward, the other corbelled inward and narrowing at its top. The east and south elevations have clipped corner bay windows on the first floor ornamented with hood brackets and pendants. The northeastern corner is dominated by a wrap-around porch with a square balustered course below the architrave; Turned wood posts ornamented by scrolled brackets which support its shed-like roof. The main entry door consists of molded panels and a single, square glass pane with transom above. A recessed back porch provides entry to the rear of the house. A 1928 garage addition lies to the west of the southern elevation.

The exposed foundation is finished with horizontal bevelled shiplap, and the first floor level has bevel-channelled shiplap. Water table molding defines the division, as occurs similarly above the first floor by a shingle belt course and change in the exterior surfacing material. The second floor is primarily covered with rectangular shingles except for fishscale shingles along the bottom row, at the line between the first and second floors, and in the arched face of the shed roof above the main porch. In the gabled ends, shingles surround a pair of windows, topped by a decorative gable ornament supported by two ornate brackets that are fastened to the faceboards around the windows. The bargeboards are ornamentally detailed. The primary window type is one-over-one double-hung sash. The house and yard are well maintained.

The house is surrounded by a medium-sized yard. The back has been fenced with tall vertical boards for privacy, and there is a small hedge running along the northern boundary. Two large trees, located to the northwest and southeast, on the property supply ample shade.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Each floor has four rooms. In addition, the first floor has a foyer and half bath. Finishwork consists of baseboards with crown molding, and picture molding. The door and window surrounds are ornate; the corner blocks are a cannonball design with floral motif incised at each corner of the block. The floors are oak. The hardware is original. Several ceiling flanges for light fixtures are extant. The foyer has a molded, panelled wall treatment along the staircase. The newel post has a square, panelled shaft with a small urn-like cap. There is a simple square post with a turned cap at the turn of the stairs, as well as a turned baluster. The sitting room has a ruddy, buff colored brick fireplace with a simple mantelpiece supported by architrave molding. The dining room has a built-in china cabinet, which has glass doors and four drawers. This cabinet is back-to-back with a similar unit in the downstairs bathroom. The kitchen has built-ins as well.

The upstairs is arranged around a center hall. The bathroom has bevelled tongue-and-groove wainscoting, a combed chair rail and a small built-in cupboard.

**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

---

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 Portland, Washington-Oregon 1:62500

**UTM References**

A 

1	0
---	---

5	2	7	4	7	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	0	4	0	7	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

See continuation sheet

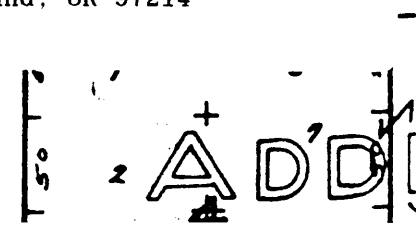
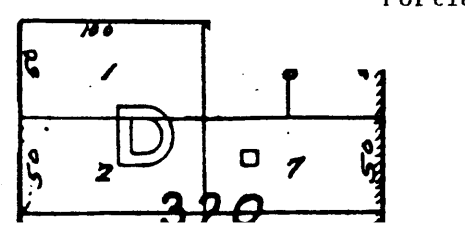
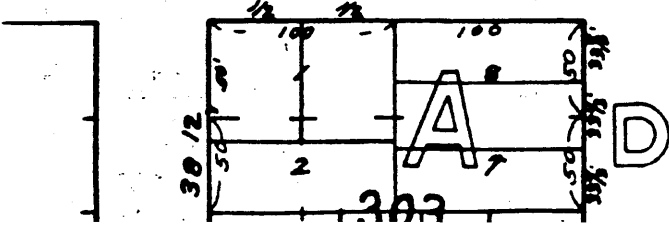
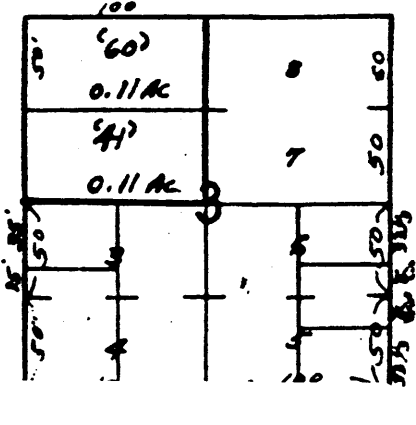
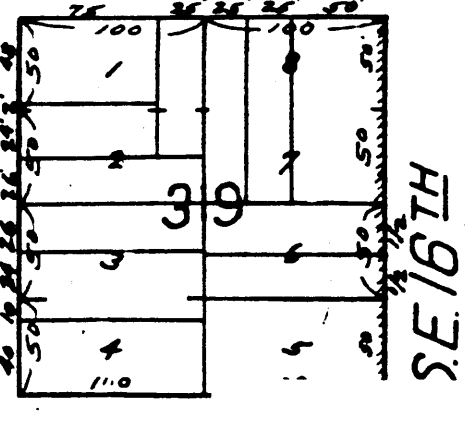
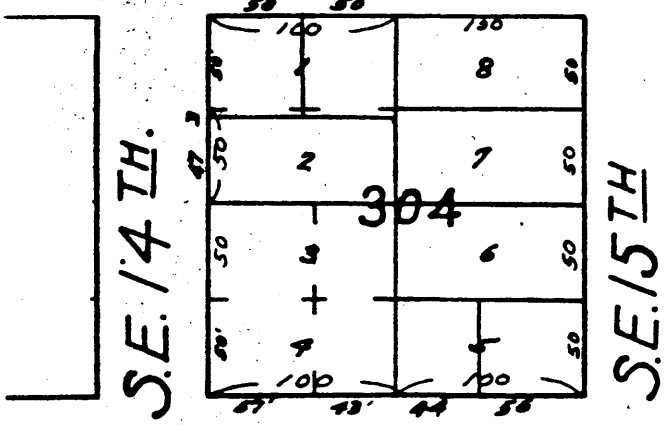
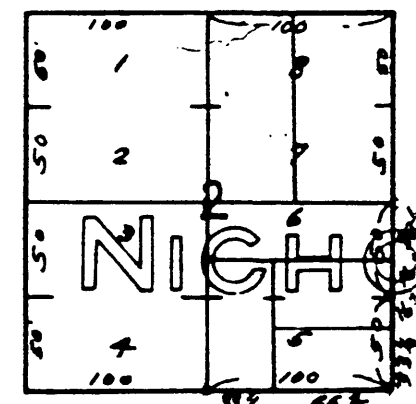
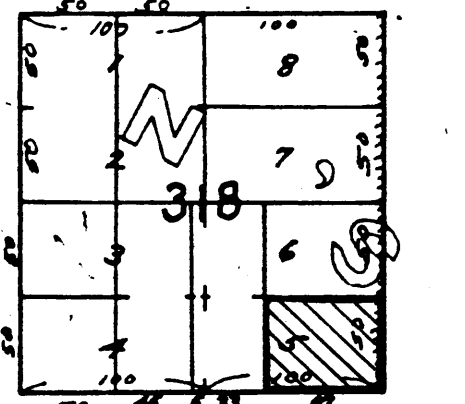
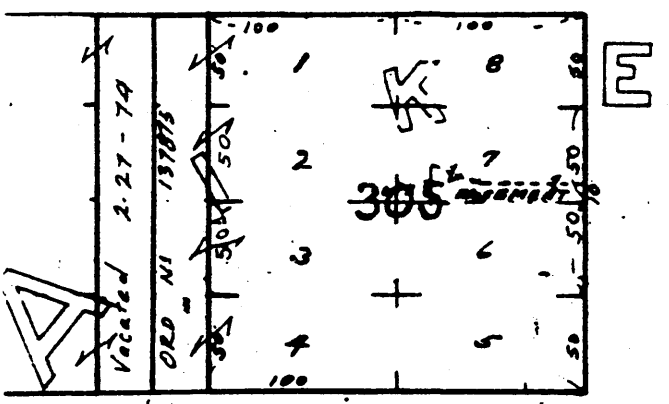
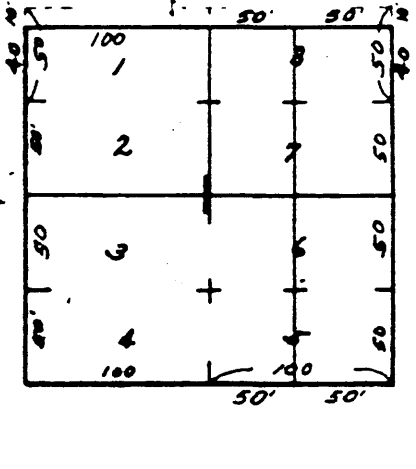
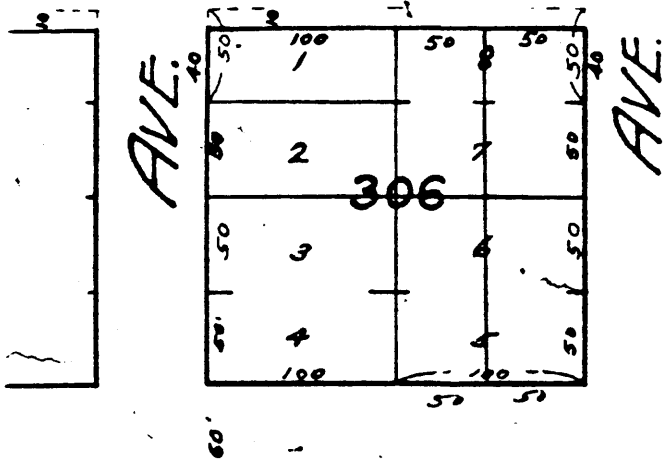
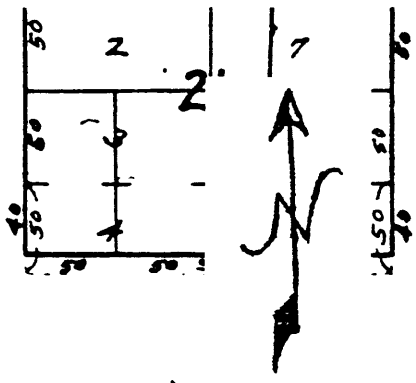
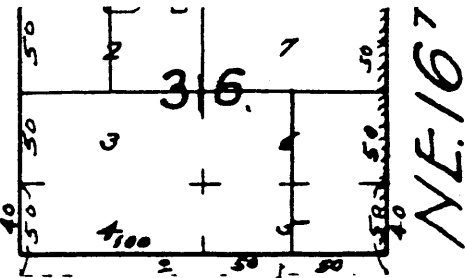
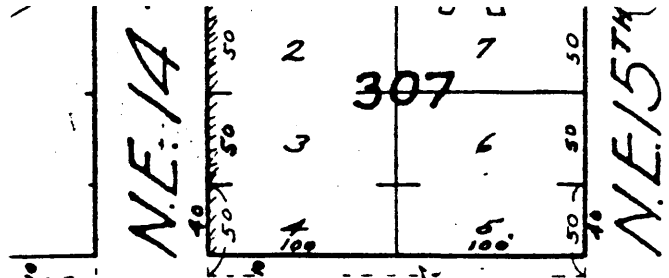
**Boundary Justification**

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



135 S.E. 16th  
Portland, OR 97214



1 Polhemus, James<sup>S.</sup> House / 135 S.E. 16<sup>th</sup>

2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County

3 Smith, Patrick

4 August 1988

5 Roll S-21 # 12

6 Looking southwest at north and  
east elevations

7. # 1 or 3

Portland Eastside  
MPS



- 1 Polhemus, James <sup>S.</sup> House / 135 S.E. 16<sup>th</sup>
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah
- 3 Smith, Patrick
- 4 August 1988
- 5 Roll S-21 #13
- 6 Looking west at east facade
- 7 # 2 OF 3

Portland Eastside mps



- 1 Polhemus, James<sup>S.</sup> House / 135 S.E. 16<sup>th</sup>
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Jane Morrison
- 4 July 1988
- 5 Roll J-1 #17
- 6 Interior: Looking through living room doorway  
into entry hall; stairway
7. #3 of 3

Portland Eastside MPS