



CITY of THE DALLES

313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

(541) 296-5481

AGENDA
CITY OF THE DALLES
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
313 COURT SREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058
CONDUCTED IN A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE MEETING ROOM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2001
(Changed from May 30, 2001)
4:00 P.M.

- I. **Call to order**
- II. **Roll call**
- III. **Approval of minutes – April 25th, 2001**
- IV. **Approval of agenda**
- V. **Public comment: The public is invited to comment on any topic that does not appear on the agenda.**
- VI. **Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial)**
 - A. HLC #58-01, Construction of a Carriage House at 608 West 6th Street.
 - B. HLC #59-01, Construction of a foundation wall and rebuild a rear porch at 503 W. 3rd Place.
- VII. **Discussion Items.**
 - **GIS Grant Status**
 - **Annual Grant Cycle**
- VIII. **Special Recognition for Pat May's 17 Years of Service.**
- IX. **Next meeting date: June 27, 2001 – 4:00 p.m.**
- X. **Adjournment**

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 25th, 2001

City Hall Council Chambers
313 Court Streets
The Dalles, OR 97058
Conducted in a handicap accessible room.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair John Lambert called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present: John Lambert, Bob McNary,
Francine Havercroft, Pat May.

The following Commissioners were absent: Eric Gleason

Staff present: Bob Paul, Senior Planner
Dorothy Davison, Council Rep.
Denise Ball, Administrative Secretary

Pat May made the announcement that her commission expires on May 31, 2001, and she does not wish to be reappointed. She has enjoyed being on the Commission for many years. Due to her health, however, she needs to step down. She reminded everyone that she is a visual historian and has photographs that are a legacy she and her husband created. These are available at her home.

May also wanted to thank the Mid-Columbia Healthcare Equipment company for supplying the wheelchair at no charge during the Historic Landmarks Commission 1st Street walk through with the Mural Society.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

McNary moved that the minutes of February 28, 2001, be approved. May seconded. The motion was passed unanimously; Gleason absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Havercroft moved the agenda be approved. McNary seconded. The motion passed unanimously; Gleason absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bev Wilkerson, 609 W. 11th, The Dalles, Oregon spoke about St. Peters Landmark. She thanked the Historic Landmarks Commission for all their support and help. On June 2,

from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. and June 3, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., St Peters Landmark will be holding an open house for their 30-year anniversary. She invited everyone to come and enjoy the scheduled entertainment and participate in the opening of the treasure box they have found in the basement of St. Peters Landmark. They will also be recruiting a new generation of volunteers for continued work on the preservation of our historic landmarks. The current volunteers will be honored at the open house.

Havercroft commented that she had attended the St. Patrick's Day event at St. Peters. She felt there was an incredible turn-out and was very impressed with the performance and atmosphere. She wished Bev Wilkerson the best on the St. Peters open house.

PUBLIC HEARING (QUASI JUDICIAL)

HLC #58-01: Construction of a Carriage House at 608 West 6th Street. This hearing is rescheduled for May 30th, 2001.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. PRESENTATION BY THE DALLES MURAL SOCIETY

Gary Honald and Rusty Hampton, representing the Mural Society, showed the Commissioners some pictures of buildings on which murals might be placed.

During Honalds' presentation, Lambert stated that the Commission did not feel comfortable making any decisions on these buildings without Commissioner Gleason being present.

Bob Paul, Senior Planner, further explained that the Mural Society would need to approach the building owners first and receive permission from them. An application for each building would then need to be submitted to Bob Paul at the Planning Department. There would then be a public hearing for each application. At that point, the Historic Landmarks Commission would decide which buildings could have murals.

Honald apologized for not understanding the sequence of approval. He had understood that the 1st Street walk through would allow the Commissioners to view the proposed buildings and give preliminary approval for those buildings on which they would allow murals. Honald would then approach those building owners for permission. He felt the Mural Society would be spending unnecessary time tracking down building owners of structures the Historic Landmarks Commission would then not approve.

2. OLD POST OFFICE

Paul advised the Commission that the building has changed hands and is now owned by Amerititle. They will be paving the parking lot.

May stated that the Post Office Building holds two types of landmark status, one for the exterior of the building and one for the interior.

Paul added that they are preserving all necessary interior items due to this landmark status.

3. PIONEER CEMETERY

Paul said that a water tap will be installed at the Pioneer Cemetery. He introduced Earline Wasser, Community Volunteer, to speak about the cemetery.

Wasser told the Commission about the Clean-Up Day scheduled for May 12th, 2001. They will be picking up debris and doing some landscaping. They will not be doing anything to the headstones. Wasser also wanted to acknowledge that an Eagle Scout has painted the fence and another Eagle Scout is making a sign so people will recognize the cemetery.

Dorothy Davison left the meeting at 5:09 P.M.

Lambert moved on to the next discussion item. GIS Grant Status.

Paul said that it was getting late in the day and the last two discussion items could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting date of the Historic Landmark Commission will be May 30th at 4:00 P.M., in City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Ball, Administrative Secretary.

John Lambert, Acting Chair
Historic Landmark Commission



**STAFF REPORT
HISTORIC LANDMARK REVIEW #58-01
John and Bobbie Backstrand**

TO: The Dalles Historic Landmarks Commission

FROM: Bob Paul, Senior Planner

HEARING DATE: May 16, 2001

ISSUE: Construct a carriage house at 608 West 6th Street, The Judge Alfred S. Bennett House.

SYNOPSIS:

APPLICANT	John and Bobbie Backstrand
PROPERTY OWNER	Applicant
LOCATION	608 West 6 th Street
ZONING	High/Medium Density Residential RH
EXISTING USE	Residential
SURROUNDING USE	Residential, Green Space (parkland/creek)
HISTORIC STATUS	Trevitt's Addition Historic District, National Register of Historic Places (home), Contributing resources for both the wrought iron fence (primary) and garage (secondary).

NOTIFICATION: Published advertisement in local newspaper; notification to property owners within 100 feet, SHPO.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, with conditions.

BACKGROUND: The historic name of this home is the Bennett House. This Queen Anne style home is large and enjoys a prominent location adjacent to Mill Creek and the 6th Street Bridge.

The applicants are proposing a carriage house. This structure will have similar exterior finishing materials as the smaller, existing carriage house.

ANALYSIS: The HLC is responsible for conducting hearings dealing with design issues on historic properties and the Design Guidelines will serve as a tool to help them make these decisions. The purpose of the HLC, the Historic Ordinance and the Design Guidelines are to:

- *Protect historic and cultural resources from destruction, inappropriate alteration, and incompatible adjacent development;*
- *Stabilize and improve property values in historic districts and citywide;*
- *Enhance the city's attractiveness to visitors and residents, and stimulate business, industry and tourism;*
- *Educate The Dalles' citizens and visitors concerning the city's heritage;*
- *Preserve the historic housing stock of The Dalles;*
- *Comply with The Dalles comprehensive Plan.*

ORDINANCE 1194—AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO HISTORIC RESOURCES WITHIN THE CITY OF THE DALLES

Section 7, Subsection A. Review Criteria:

"Secretary's Standards. Commission decisions shall be based on the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties." The following are pertinent standards from the "Guide".

- *The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alterations to features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

FINDING-1: No modifications are proposed to the existing structures. The inclusion of a carriage house is primary to provide off-street vehicular parking. During the era of construction of this home, the automobile was not a factor in the overall property design.

- *Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.*

FINDING-2: The proposed architectural style is identical to the existing carriage house. No features are conjectural. Rather, they are copied from the existing structure and increased in size to accommodate automobiles.

- *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

FINDING-3: No historic materials are being disturbed. Due to the siting and size of the Bennett house, this proposal is for an accessory structure subordinate to the primary use.

CONCLUSIONS: This proposal maintains the historic integrity of this site and provides a modern amenity not required during the initial construction of this

home. In all respects this application meets the intent of our historic district design guidelines.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

1. Work is completed in substantial conformance to the plans as submitted and reviewed.
2. Exterior paint finish shall be from a historic color palette or matching existing carriage house.
3. All building permit requirements are the responsibility of the applicant and include a separate process.



HC 58-01
CITY of THE DALLES

313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

(541) 296-5481

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS APPLICATION

Application is required for modifications and/or alterations to the exterior of certified historic structures and all structures within certified historic districts. Additionally, new construction within established historic districts are also required to appear before the City of The Dalles Historical Landmarks Commission.

Name	John + Bobbie Backstrand
Address	608 West Sixth Street
Site Address	608 W Sixth Street
Telephone	(541) 506-5040

Please describe your project goals.

See attached letter

How will your project affect the appearance of the building and or site?

**See attached letter Enhance

What efforts are being made to maintain the historic character of this structure?

**See attached letter All efforts are being made.

What is the current use of this property?

Residence

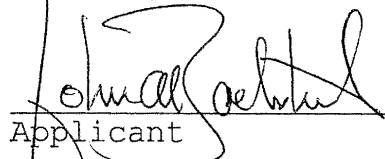
Will the use change as a result of approval of this application? Yes/No

List any known archeological resources on site.

None

The review criteria for each application are the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. These standards have been adopted by City Ordinance 94-1194 as local review criteria.

I certify that the above information is correct and submit this application with 9 copies of a site plan including 9 current color photographs (4X6 inch minimum) of the building/structure front.


Applicant

28 MAR 01
Date

Owner (if not applicant)

I have reviewed the above application and certify that it is complete and accepted for processing.

Secretary, Historical Landmarks Commission

Proposed Carriage House to be built near Judge A. S. Bennett House
 Owned by John and Bobbie Backstrand,

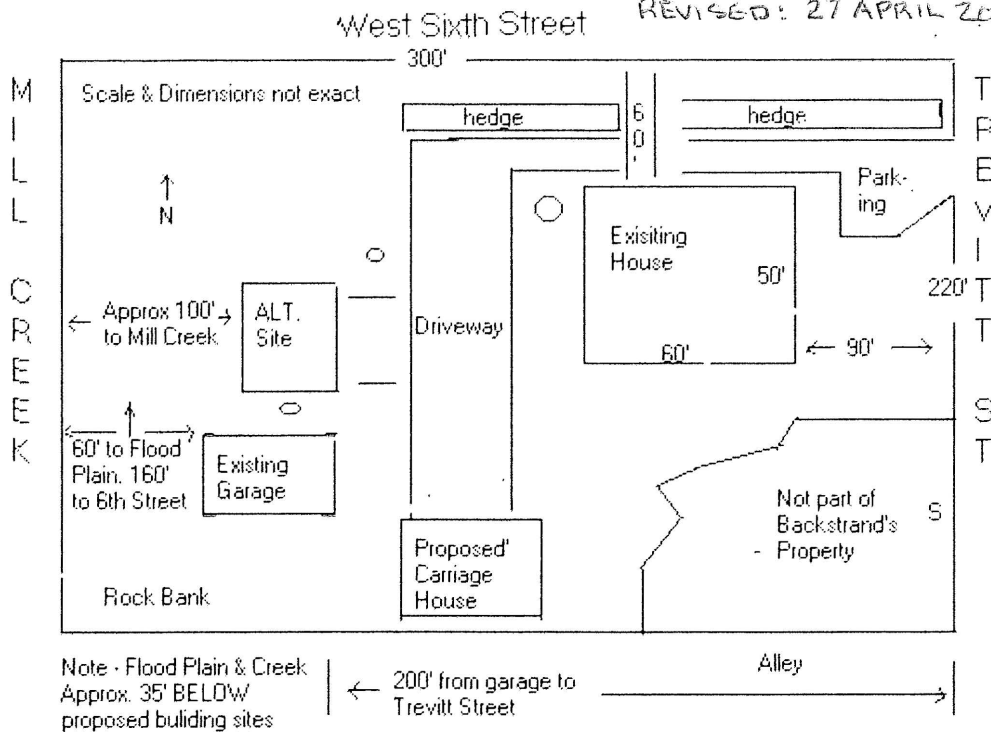
Submitted: 1 March 2001

REVISED: 27 APRIL 2001

RECEIVED

APR 27 2001

The Dalles Community
 Development Department



Existing
 CH/Garage



Proposed Garage/
 Carriage House

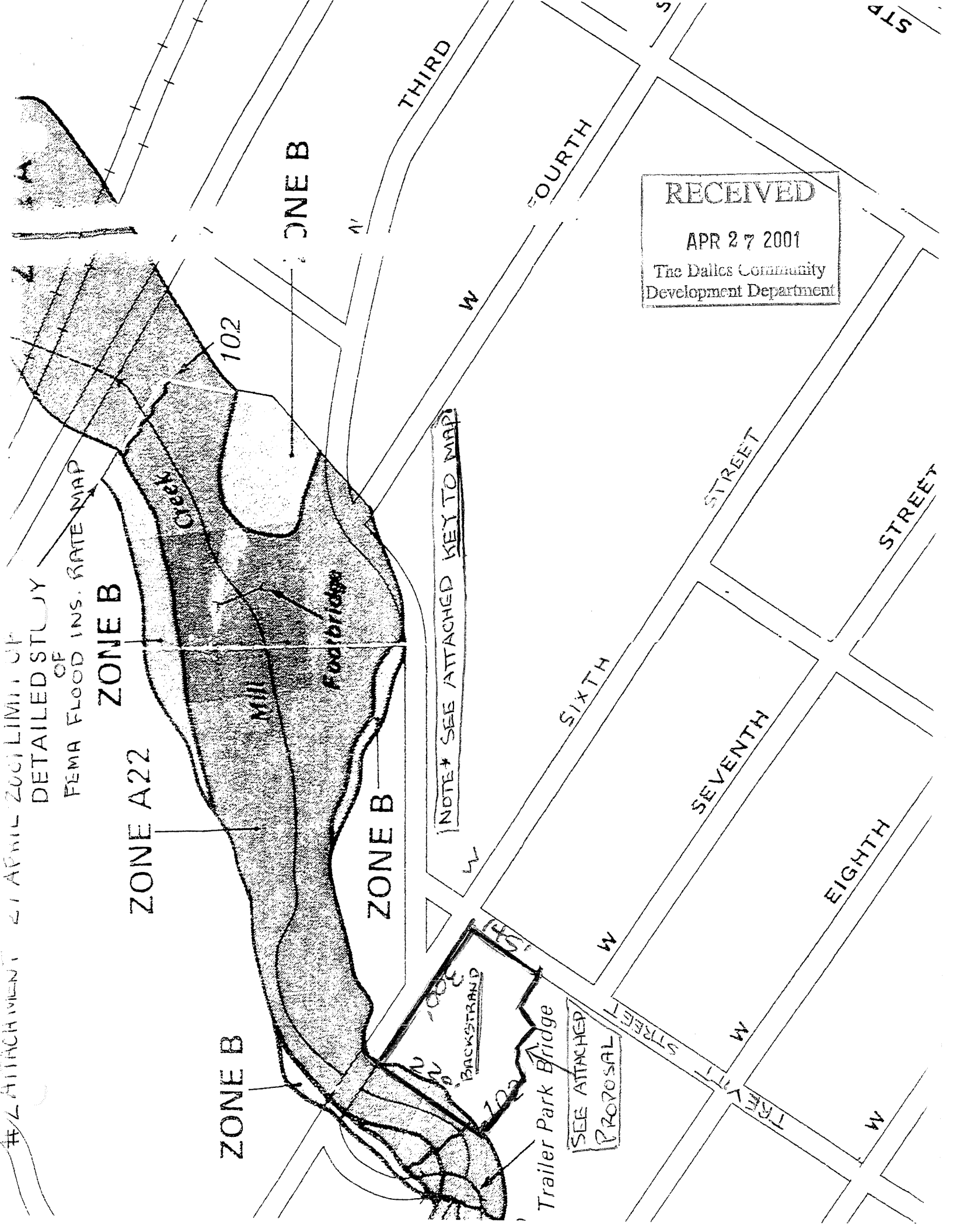
31' wide
 24' deep

Style, Materials and
 Color to match
 existing structures



#3 ATTACHMENT 27 APRIL 2001

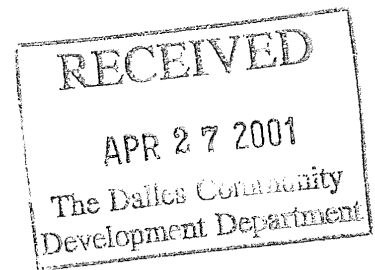
#2 ATTACHMENT 21 APRIL 2001 LIMIT OF
DETAILED STUDY
OF
FEMA FLOOD INS. RATE MAP



RECEIVED
APR 27 2001
The Dalles Community
Development Department

NOTE: SEE ATTACHED KEY TO MAP!

SEE ATTACHED
PROPOSAL



KEY TO MAP

100-Year Flood Boundary	→	ZONE B
500-Year Flood Boundary	→	ZONE A
Zone Designations*		ZONE A
100-Year Flood Boundary	→	ZONE B
500-Year Flood Boundary	→	ZONE B
Base Flood Elevation Line With Elevation In Feet**	~~~~~	513
Base Flood Elevation in Feet Where Uniform Within Zone**		(EL 987)
Elevation Reference Mark		RM7X
Zone D Boundary	—	
River Mile	•	M1.5

**Referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

*EXPLANATION OF ZONE DESIGNATIONS

ZONE	EXPLANATION
A	Areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.
A0	Areas of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet; average depths of inundation are shown, but no flood hazard factors are determined.
AH	Areas of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet; base flood elevations are shown, but no flood hazard factors are determined.
A1-A30	Areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined.
A99	Areas of 100-year flood to be protected by flood protection system under construction; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.
B	Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and 500-year flood; or certain areas subject to 100-year flooding with average depths less than one (1) foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile; or areas protected by levees from the base flood. (Medium shading)
C	Areas of minimal flooding. (No shading)
D	Areas of undetermined, but possible, flood hazards.
V	Areas of 100-year coastal flood with velocity (wave action); base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.
V1-V30	Areas of 100-year coastal flood with velocity (wave action); base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined.

NOTES TO USER

Certain areas not in the special flood hazard areas (zones A and V) may be protected by flood control structures.

This map is for flood insurance purposes only; it does not necessarily show all areas subject to flooding in the community or all planimetric features outside special flood hazard areas.

For adjoining map panels, see separately printed Index To Map Panels.

#1 ATTACHMENT 27 APRIL 2001



**STAFF REPORT
HISTORIC LANDMARK REVIEW #59-01
Janet Hillstrom**

TO: The Dalles Historic Landmarks Commission

FROM: Bob Paul, Senior Planner

HEARING DATE: May 16, 2001

ISSUE: Reconstruct rear porch and foundation.

SYNOPSIS:

APPLICANT	Janet Hillstrom
PROPERTY OWNER	Applicant
LOCATION	503 West 3 rd Place
ZONING	High/Medium Density Residential RH
EXISTING USE	Residential
SURROUNDING USE	Residential, Green Space (parkland/creek)
HISTORIC STATUS	Trevitt's Addition Historic District, Primary Contributing Resource.

NOTIFICATION: Published advertisement in local newspaper; notification to property owners within 100 feet, SHPO.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, with conditions.

BACKGROUND: The historic name of this home is the Maier House. This Queen Anne / Eastlake style home is large and enjoys a prominent location adjacent to Mill Creek and the footbridge to the Natatorium.

This structure has sustained considerable damage during recent flooding of Mill Creek. The house was inundated throughout the lower level. Additionally, very little care and maintenance have been undertaken since this catastrophic incident.

Jan Hillstrom acquired this property recently. She has been working on this home for approximately two years. Her intent with this application is to reconstruct the flood damaged foundation and rebuild the rear porch.

ANALYSIS: The HLC is responsible for conducting hearings dealing with design issues on historic properties and the Design Guidelines will serve as a tool to

help them make these decisions. The purpose of the HLC, the Historic Ordinance and the Design Guidelines are to:

- *Protect historic and cultural resources from destruction, inappropriate alteration, and incompatible adjacent development;*
- *Stabilize and improve property values in historic districts and citywide;*
- *Enhance the city's attractiveness to visitors and residents, and stimulate business, industry and tourism;*
- *Educate The Dalles' citizens and visitors concerning the city's heritage;*
- *Preserve the historic housing stock of The Dalles;*
- *Comply with The Dalles comprehensive Plan.*

ORDINANCE 1194—AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO HISTORIC RESOURCES WITHIN THE CITY OF THE DALLES

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- *The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alterations to features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

FINDING-1: The original porch suffered serious flood damage. This porch has since been removed, as it was dilapidated. This proposal is to reconstruct this rear porch with two modifications. First, the exterior staircase will not be restored. Second, the projected awning will be made of glass rather than shingled. Interior stairs will substitute for the exterior stairs. The glass awning will enable sunlight to illuminate the kitchen. It should be noted that this elevation is to the North with minimal natural sunlight available.

As this porch has been destroyed, there is no issue of removing historic features that could be preserved.

- *Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.*

FINDING-2: The exterior architectural features are proposed to be custom milled to match the existing exterior woodwork. The exception is the glass awning. However, this feature is distinct and not of a historic nature. A false sense of historical development is avoided as this element will not be confused with other historic architectural styles.

- *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall*

be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

FINDING-3: Existing historic materials have been destroyed by flooding and poor upkeep. The replacement work will not expand the building footprint from the original design.

CONCLUSIONS: This proposal maintains the historic integrity of this site and provides a modern amenity not required during the initial construction of this home. In all respects this application meets the intent of our historic district design guidelines.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

1. Work is completed in substantial conformance to the plans as submitted and reviewed.
2. Exterior paint finish shall be from a historic color palette ~~or matching existing carriage house.~~
3. All building permit requirements are the responsibility of the applicant and include a separate process.
4. ~~X~~ Exterior glass is of a non-reflective material and does not have an exterior "mirror" appearance. Dark tinting is acceptable.



CITY of THE DALLES

313 COURT STREET

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HISTORICAL LANDMARKS APPLICATION

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Name	San Hilstrom
Address	2967 SE 13th Ave. Portland 97202
Site Address	
Telephone	(503) 219-8705 (8-5)

Please describe your project goals.

Replace rear porch to match existing architecture

How will your project affect the appearance of the building and or site?

Same footprint as previous

What efforts are being made to maintain the historic character of this structure?

Replace similar porch. Same roof style as front porch. Match trim, windows, siding to existing

What is the current use of this property?

Senior Center

Will the use change as a result of approval of this application? Yes/No

List any known archeological resources on site.

None Known

The review criteria for each application are the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. These standards have been adopted by City Ordinance 94-1194 as local review criteria.

I certify that the above information is correct and submit this application with 9 copies of a site plan including 9 current color photographs (4X6 inch minimum) of the building/structure front.

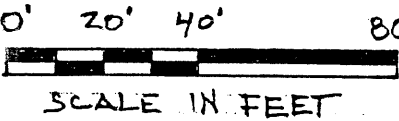
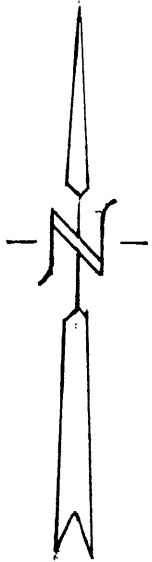
Janet F. Hillstrom
Applicant

04/03/01
Date

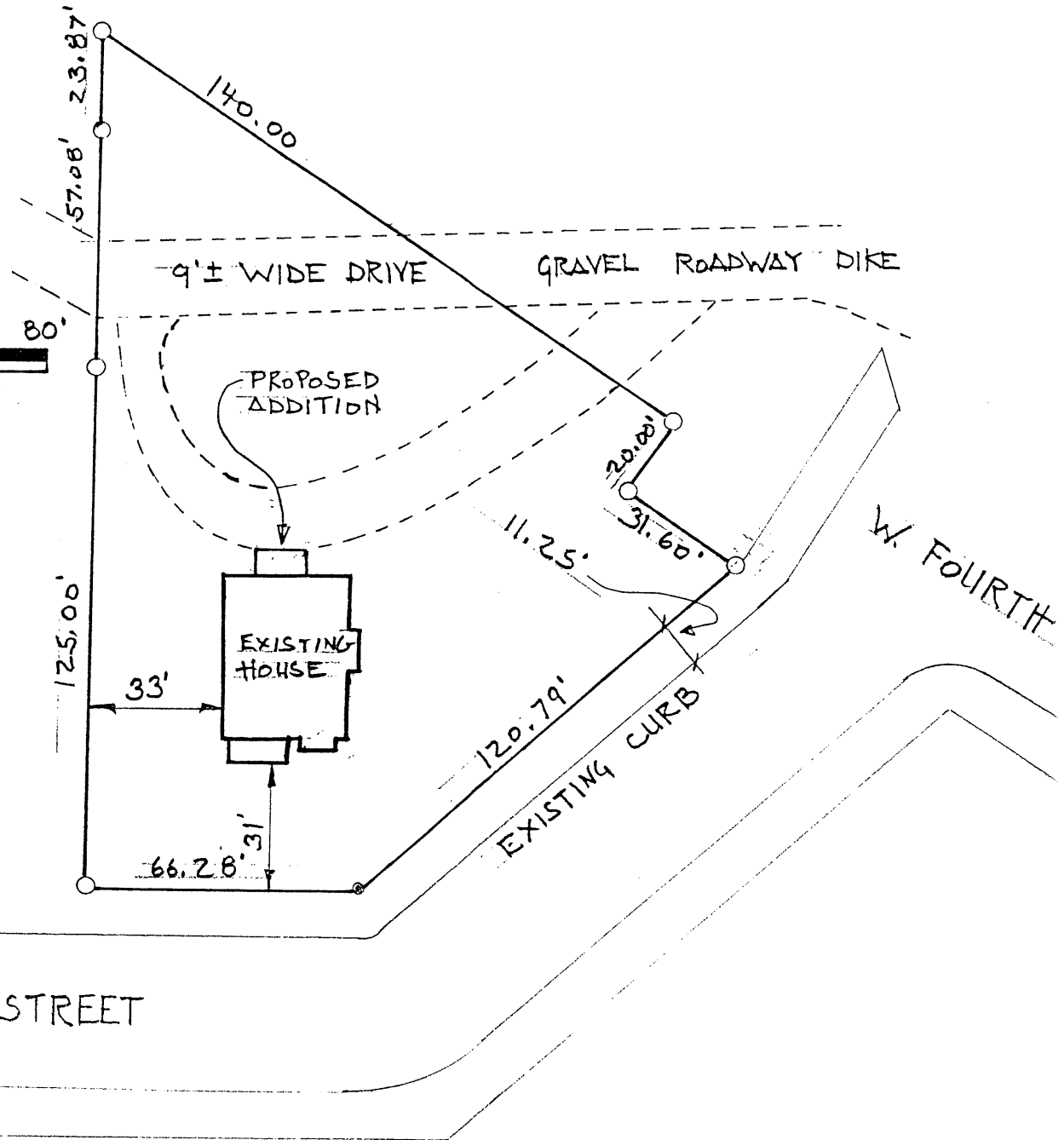
Owner (if not applicant)

I have reviewed the above application and certify that it is complete and accepted for processing.

Secretary, Historical Landmarks Commission



SCALE IN FEET

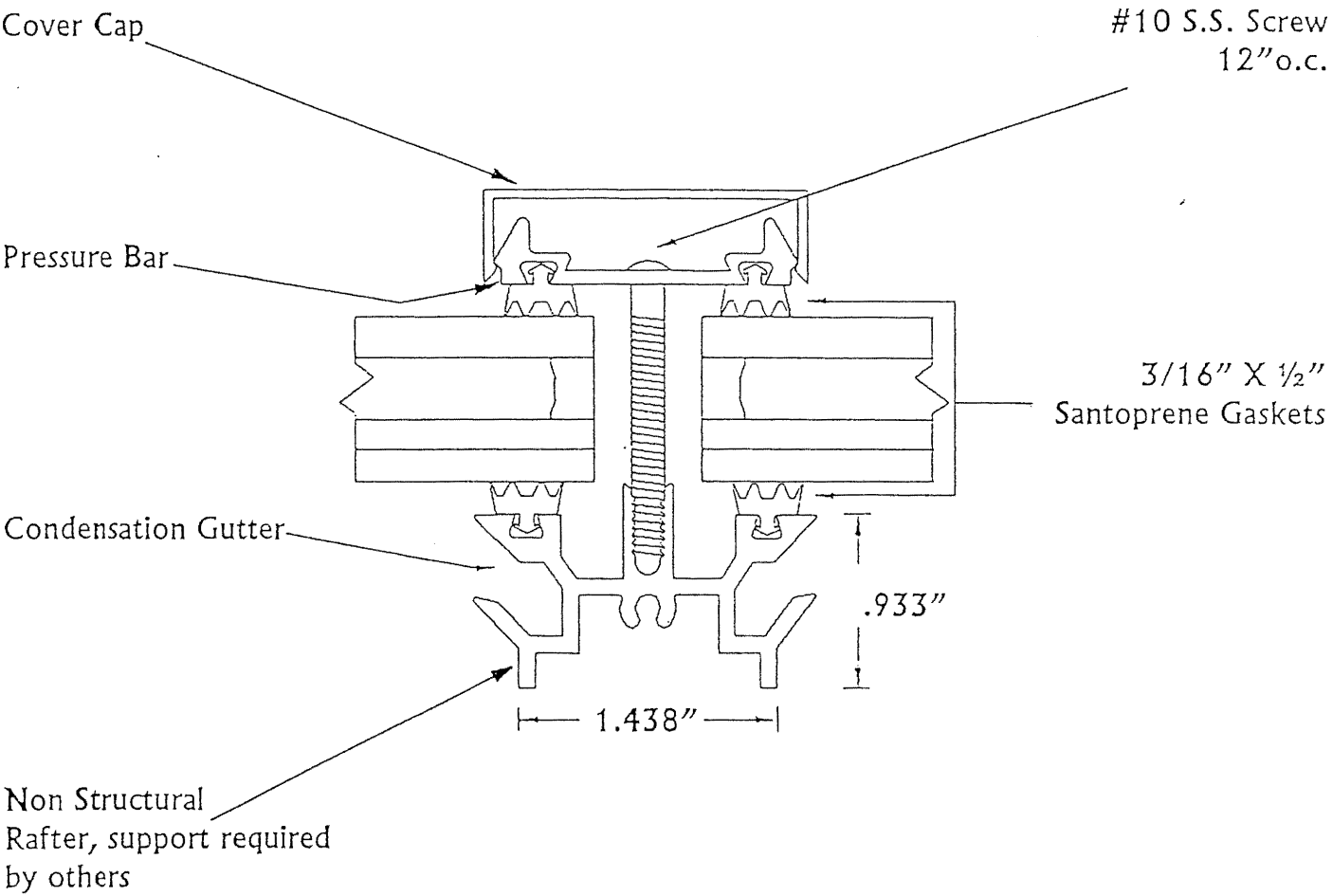


TAX LOT 2200 20180 S.F. = 0.46 AC.

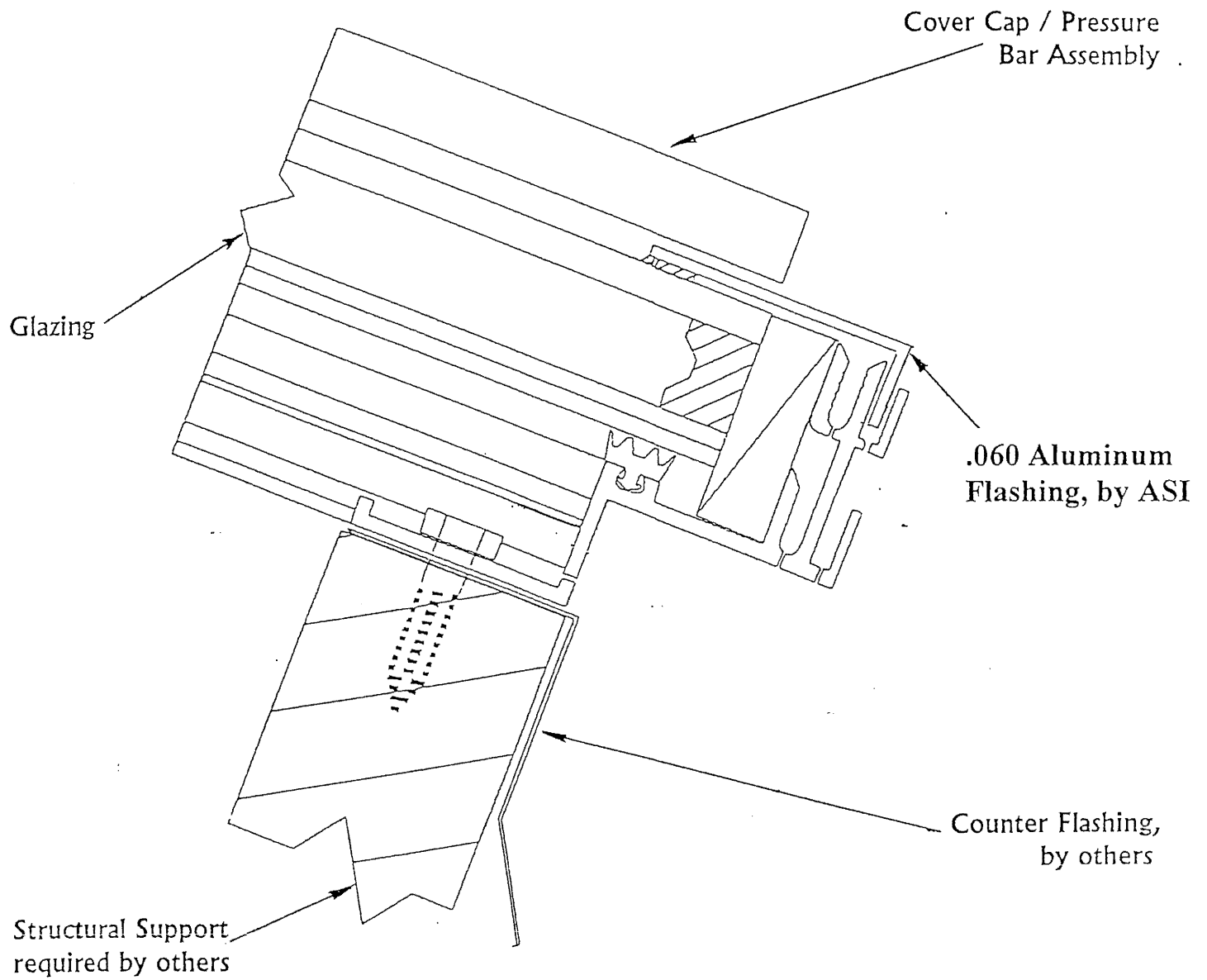
PORCH/POTTING ROOM ADDITION FOR
JANET HILLSTROM RESIDENCE AT
503 W. 3rd Pl.
The Dalles, Oregon 97058 4/16/01

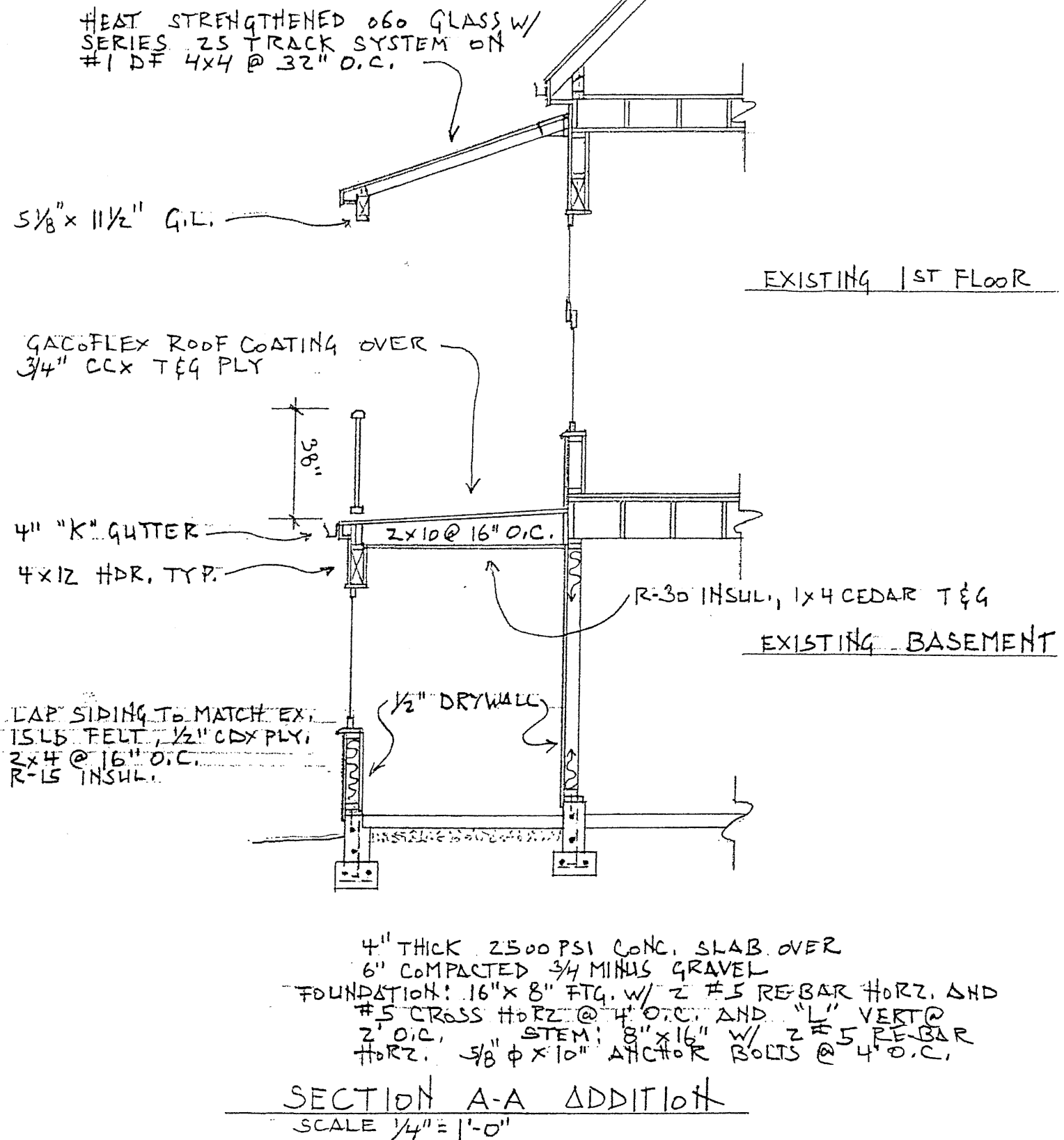
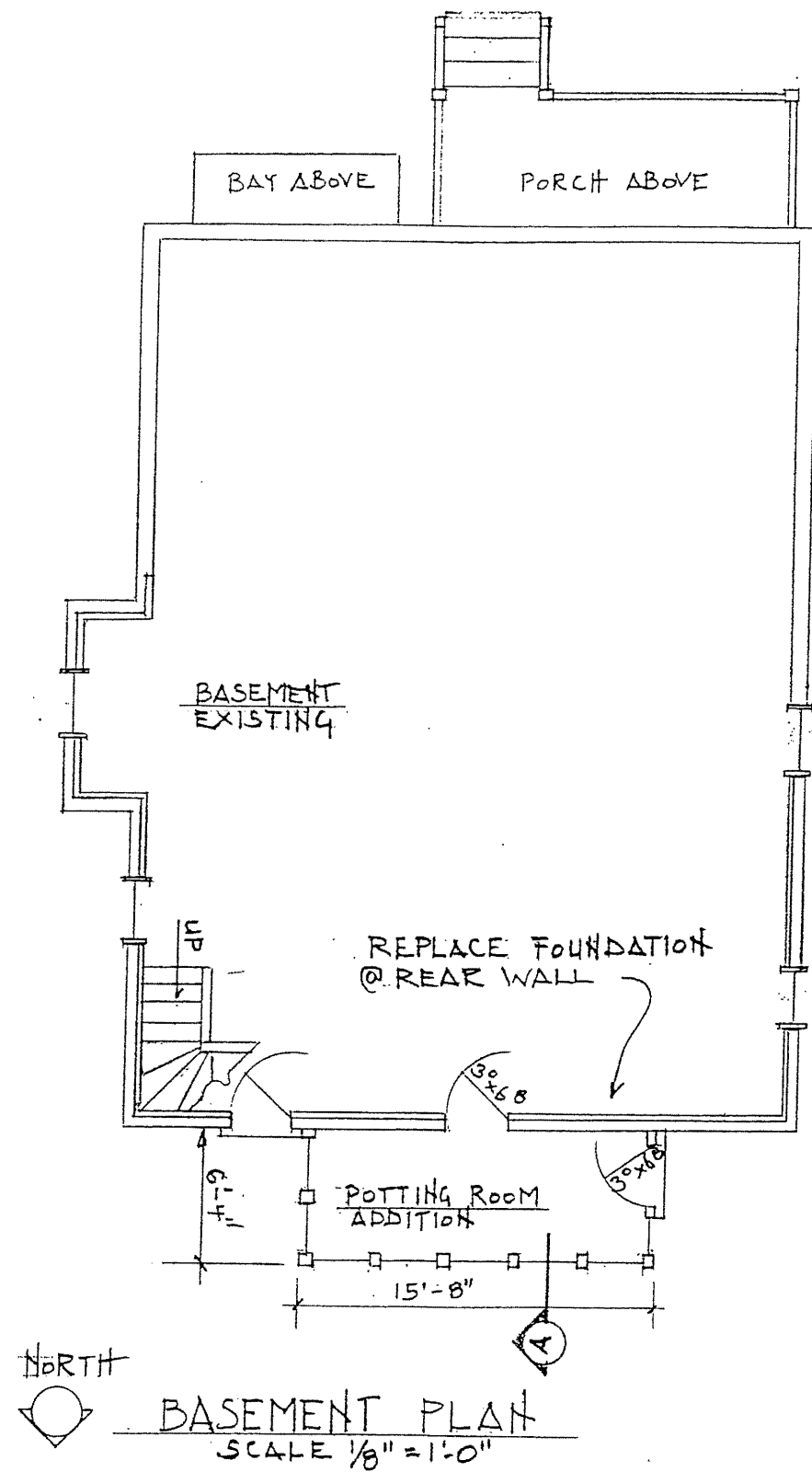
DAVID F. WADLEY, *MURP*, DESIGNER/CONTRACTOR
dba, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY OCCB #98511
6244 Washington Ct.
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035 503-543-2154

Series 25
Rafter Detail



Series 25
90 Degree Sill Detail



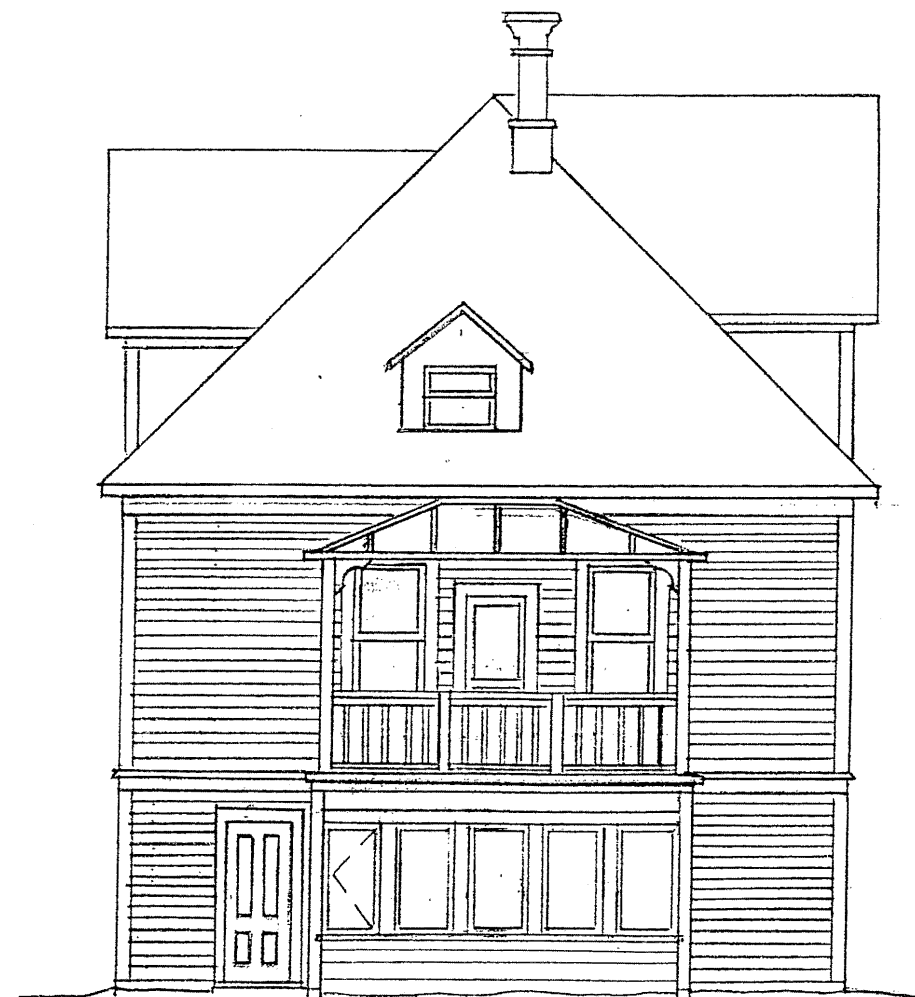


PORCH/POTTING ROOM ADDITION FOR
JANET HILLSTROM RESIDENCE AT
503 W. 3rd Pl.
The Dalles, Oregon 97058 4/16/01

DAVID F. WADLEY, MURP, DESIGNER/CONTRACTOR
dba, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY OCCB #98511
6244 Washington Ct.
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035 503-543-2154

HEAT STRENGTHENED 060
GLASS ROOF W/ ARCH. SPECIALTY
SERIES 25 METAL TRACK SYSTEM

ALL DETAILS: WINDOW SASH, SIDING,
TRIM TO MATCH EXISTING



NORTH (REAR) ELEVATION
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$

PORCH/POTTING ROOM ADDITION FOR
JANET HILLSTROM RESIDENCE AT
503 W. 3rd Pl.
The Dalles, Oregon 97058 4/16/01

DAVID F. WADLEY, *MURP*, DESIGNER/CONTRACTOR
dba, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY OCCB #98511
6244 Washington Ct.
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035 503-543-2154

MAYS BUILD LASTING LEGACY

*Carrying on work
begun with her
husband, Bill,
Pat May tells the
Mid-Columbia's
story in pictures*

■ By DAN SPATZ
of the Chronicle

If a picture is worth a thousand words, Pat May offers an encyclopedia beyond compare.

She and her late husband Bill spent years compiling Wasco County's unique photographic archive, the "picture boards" of the Old Wasco Pioneers Association. It's a resource often taken for granted here, since the collection has become the source material for a wide range of displays and publications around the area.

Yet the very existence of this collection is no accident, particularly given the fragile nature of the subject material. All too often, old family photos are tossed aside by younger generations without a second thought; they often end up moldering away in the nearest landfill.

Not so locally, thanks to a story that began with a young Army recruit's basic training during World War II.



PAT MAY talks about her life with husband, Bill, and the photo boards they accumulated

Bill May was born in Spokane but soon moved with his family to Wamic, where he grew up and where his great-grandfathers had settled, then to The Dalles in 1934, where he attended high school. He received his draft notice in 1942, and arrived for basic training at Camp Robinson, Ark.

At a local Methodist Church function, he met Little Rock native Pat Place, and joined her and her mother for Christmas dinner.

It was the beginning of a lifetime together.

"They could see the kind of quality he had, and they sent him right from basic training to officers' training school at Fort Benning, Ga.," explains Pat. "I went to see him there."

They were married one month later.

"That was an act of faith on my part," Pat says, joking that she married a corporal who would soon be wearing a second lieutenant's bars.

Pat had never met her new in-laws when she took a train west from hot, humid Little Rock to Oregon.

"This is what you do when you're young enough," she says.

That was in 1943.

"His mother was a card," Pat recalls of their first meeting.

When she visited Portland, people used to poke fun at her southern drawl — until she pointed out that Down South, nobody had ever heard of Portland, Ore. The only "Portland" worthy of note was in Maine.

The young couple would move many times during Bill's four years with the Army, from Corvallis to California, before Bill received his orders to Europe.

This was soon after Normandy — the Germans were in retreat, but "the war was far from over," Pat recalls. Bill May and other soldiers worked to consolidate the Allied victory, conducting village-to-village operations and overseeing German prisoners who defused unexploded bombs.

Many of those prisoners were turned over to the Russians — still among the Allies in those brief years before the rise of the Iron Curtain —

bound unknowingly for oblivion in Stalin's gulags.

Pat's mother joined her in Oregon during the two years Bill would spend overseas, and they lived in an apartment; Pat had no other relatives in Arkansas, and she never returned to that state.

Bill May's four-year tour of duty ended after the war, and he came home in 1946.

and other tasks.

Pat saw to the family — their son, born in 1948, and daughter, born nearly a decade later, in January 1957.

"There was such a blizzard — it was 13 below zero the day we brought her home," she recalls.

Helen (May) Brookman now lives in Boise, Idaho; Danny Jack "DJ" May (named for his two grandfathers) is a mobile x-ray technician based in Portland.

One of Pat's first entries into local social activities — the beginning of a long story of service — would be as a Scout den mother (a job she was assured would take a day a week, though it turned out to be far more demanding).

When Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980, Pat and Bill collected ashfall one of the blasts deposited on their front porch; Pat still has it in a bottle on a shelf, with a note carefully describing the date. They drove winding forest roads to visit the volcano itself, still smoldering.

But the enduring legacy for which both Bill and Pat May would be known came into their lives in 1983, when Bill's cousin asked them to take over a collection of 146 "picture boards" assembled by local historian William McNeal. Bill was an amateur photographer. Both he and Pat enjoyed history, and the project was appealing. They worked closely with another historian, the late Fritz Cramer.

"We could not have asked for a better person anywhere," Pat recalls of Cramer.

Their first task was to photograph the photos already mounted, but they soon started making their own boards. Old photographs came in by the dozens, by the hundreds, from family attics and trunks and drawers.

They came from the elderly, who didn't want to throw them out.

"Those dear old souls would give us their pictures — they didn't know what to do with them," says Pat.

And they came from young family members, often rescued from other young family members intent on throwing out the "old junk" from their late parents' or grandparents' home.

One woman brought in her dad's collection of



THE MAYS, Pat and Bill, began life together as a result of Army basic training at Camp Robinson, Ark.

"He was a fine gunsmith," Pat says, and his first job after the Army was with E.B. Young in The Dalles. But he would spend most of his career in the aluminum industry, working on the potlines of Harvey Aluminum and later, after the plant changed owners, Martin Marietta. He would later transfer to the "tool crib," conducting inventory

May

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photos accumulated during his 55 years with the Union Pacific Railroad; once mounted, they comprised 15 separate picture boards. Photos of the Great Southern Railroad, which ran between The Dalles and Shaniko, appear on 13 boards.

To continue only with the railroad theme — one of myriad topics represented on the boards — there are also represented the Ruckle Railroad (which ran near Cascade Locks), the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, the Dalles-Celilo Railroad, Oregon Portage Railroad, and many others.

There are photos of depots and train wrecks and old communities long vanished from the map.

Hundreds of other boards are devoted to schools, riverboats, fish-

wheels, main streets, families, events, outings — a photographic record of everyday life in the Co-

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—Pat May

lumbia River Gorge and surrounding countryside, saved from demise.

“We’ve had people in their 40s come and say to us, ‘We’re cleaning out our parents’ house, we’re hauling this to the dump — it’s my family, and I want you to save it for us.’ That was told to us time and time again — and we did, we saved all that,” Pat said.

With every delivery, Bill would retreat to his darkroom. He would photograph each print with a large, stationary camera, creating an archive of negatives.

Then, he and Pat would mount the originals on acid-free paper supplied by their son from his work as an x-ray technician. They worked on their dining room table.

“He had his glue gun, which set up real fast, and I’d be at the kitchen table, typing up captions on an electric typewriter,” Pat recalls.



They would then attach these mounted photos to the picture boards, heavy wooden sheets several feet square. Bill would lean each board by their fireplace until the glue dried, then cover it with a protective layer of plastic.

Pat cataloged everything, developing a three-volume file of carefully cross-indexed references.

There are dozens of subjects, and the index tells where to find each subject on the hundreds of picture boards Bill and Pat May constructed through the years.

Pat says it was satisfying work, even when somebody grumped — as some people will always grump — about their choice of photos for a particular board.

“It took a long time,” says Pat.

And the work didn’t end with the boards’ construction. Bill would spend days each week maintaining the boards, keeping them in good

repair.

Yet their great project together would all too soon come to an end.

Bill May died ten years ago, of cancer.

Near the bottom of the last picture board he made, Bill wrote a brief message, saying “goodbye” to Pat, in French. They had been married 47 years, and had two grandchildren, both still quite young.

Pat May carried on the work.

Although she couldn’t continue Bill’s photographic archive of the prints, Pat continued to assemble picture boards, compiling 23 boards on her own. Still working on the kitchen table, she weighted each newly-mounted picture board beneath a blanket with a heavy cross-section of iron rail.

Today, Pat maintains the meticulously typed record of negatives and picture boards, which are stored safely by Wasco County whenever they’re not on public display. The archive tells her the location of every subject on every board.

“We knew why we were doing it — other people were bringing us these pictures and they wanted them saved, and we wanted them saved,” Pat said.

“It was a feeling of deep-seated satisfaction.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Pat May was honored by the Wasco County Pioneers’ Association earlier this month with a lifetime service award, recognizing her contribution to the preservation of the area’s history.