

**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO  
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY  
FIELD FORM 1988-1989**

HIST. NAME: Smith, William S., House  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1868  
COMMON NAME:  
ORIGINAL USE: Residence  
ADDRESS: 737 Ash Street  
OWNER: Davisson, Paul W.  
PRESENT USE: Residence  
ARCH./BLDR.: Unknown  
T/R/S: 2S 1E 10DB  
TAX LOT: 5500

STYLE: Vernacular  
RESOURCE TYPE:  
Building  
THEME: Architecture  
ADDITION: South  
Oswego  
BLOCK: 4  
LOT: 7,8  
QUAD: Lake Oswego  
LOT SIZE: .23  
ZONE: R-7.5

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangle w/rear wing  
NO. OF STORIES: 2  
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete  
BASEMENT: Yes  
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Gable; wood shingle

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood  
STRUCTURAL FRAME: Unknown  
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Six-over-six and four-over-four double-hung sash, some with prominent architrave molding  
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Shiplap w/rake and cornerboards  
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Flashglass on door, s. elev.

OTHER: Gabled single-bay porch supported by large square posts on w. elevation; shed porch on s. elevation; one-story gabled wing on rear elevation; gabled wall dormer on rear elevation

CONDITION: Good  
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Windows altered on s. elevation, (n.d.); original front porch replaced, (n.d.); large endwall chimney added on e. elevation, (n.d.); gabled dormer added, (n.d.)

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Mature deciduous trees  
ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

SETTING: Located on north side of Ash Street in residential area approximately 2.5 blocks east of McVey Avenue, a heavily trafficked thoroughfare; set well back from street on double lot

NOTES:

RECORDER(S): Koler/Morrison  
SHPO #: 339

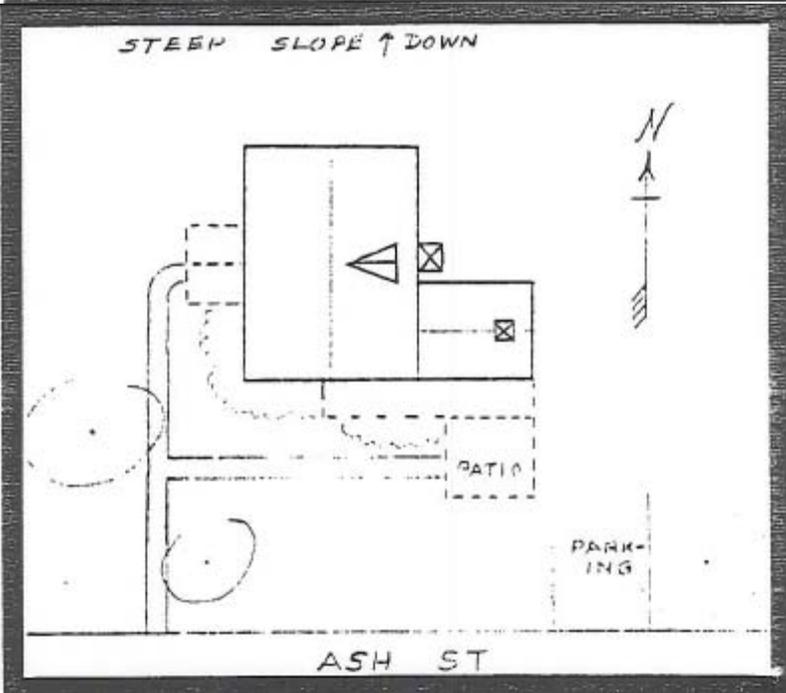
DATE: January 1989  
FIELD #: 99

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 737 ASH STREET

TAX MAP/LOT 2S 1E 10DB/5500

SHPO# \_\_\_\_\_ ROLL/FRAME# \_\_\_\_\_



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: 737 Ash Street

Historic Name: Smith, W.S., House

According to the current resident this Vernacular style house was built circa 1868 and moved to its current site. It is believed to have been relocated by 1890 when the parcel was owned by W.S. Smith. He and his wife Emma continued ownership for fifteen years before selling to Sam and Agnes E. Cox, the sister of Nellie Nelson Kyle. Mr. Cox excavated a basement for the house.

The house is sited along side a creek; it is originally believed to have been located on the hill above the creek. The original entrance is the west or side elevation. The entrance with a flashglass window on the southeast corner of the house is believed to have been constructed in the 1890s.

In 1922 William S. and Gertrude Ewing purchased the property. William Ewing served as 13th Mayor of Lake Oswego between 1931 and 1939. He worked for Meier and Frank Company in Portland. Ewing died in 1939 and his wife remarried and, as Gertrude Schrock, sold the property in 1944.

Architectural evidence supports the theoretical date of construction. The facade and window treatment--which is quite simple--is associated with early Oregon buildings. Elongated four-over-four double-hung sash windows are located on all elevations of the building and are commonly linked with late Victorian-era architecture. The bilateral symmetry and six-over-six windows on the original facade are characteristic of the Classical Revival style which was built primarily in the 1850s and 60s. These elements were-also in use during the early years of the 20th century. Flashglass of the type which is found on a side door was popular during the 1890s; however, this is believed to have been added after the house was built. Despite the lack of a definitive construction date, the house is a well-preserved and fine example of a vernacular building type.

South Town, one of Oswego's earliest neighborhoods, was platted in 1883 by Matthew Patton. The plat remained relatively undeveloped until the early 1890s when growth was stimulated by the expansion of the Oregon Iron and Steel Company which reached its peak of production and employed as many as 300.

There is a possibility that the subject dwelling was the house of Henry Gans. In any event the house is significant as a well preserved example of the Vernacular building type. It is also important as one of the oldest houses in the South Town area.

Bibliography: Clackamas County Cultural Resource inventory,  
Department of Transportation and Development, 1984, #20.  
Current resident. Unrecorded interview with Jane Morrison, 4/89.  
Ticor Title Company Records, Oregon City, OR.  
Truchot, T. nones, "Houses of Interest in Oswego."