

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

HIST. NAME: Worthington, James K., House  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1875  
COFLMON NAME:  
ORIGINAL USE: Residence  
ADDRESS: 885 McVey Avenue  
OWNER: Carpenter, Ted  
PRESENT USE: Vacant  
ARCH./BLDR.: Unknown  
T/R/S: 2S IE 10DB  
TAX LOT: 4000

STYLE: *Vernacular*  
RESOURCE TYPE:  
Building  
THEME: Architecture  
ADDITION: South  
Oswego  
BLOCK: 1  
LOT: 5-8  
QUAD: Lake Oswego  
LOT SIZE:  
ZONE: R-7.5

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Asymmetrical  
NO. OF STORIES: 2  
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete  
BASEMENT: Unknown  
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Intersecting gables

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood  
STRUCTURAL FRAME: Unknown  
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Double-hung sash w/ simple surrounds  
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Shiplap with rake and cornerboards  
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Paneled door with scalloped course

OTHER: Two-story encircling porch with turned posts and decorative brackets; brick chimney with corbeled caps

CONDITION: Fair/poor

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Concrete foundation; some porch posts replaced (n.d.); balustrade partially removed (n.d.); staircase to 2nd story porch added on e. elevation (n.d.)

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Two large cedars flank walkway to entrance on e. elevation; some historic plant materials exist but are largely overgrown

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: One-story, gabled garage to west of house

SETTING: Located on southwest corner of McVey and Bickner Streets on northern periphery of historic South Town neighborhood; surrounding area characterized by post World War II houses

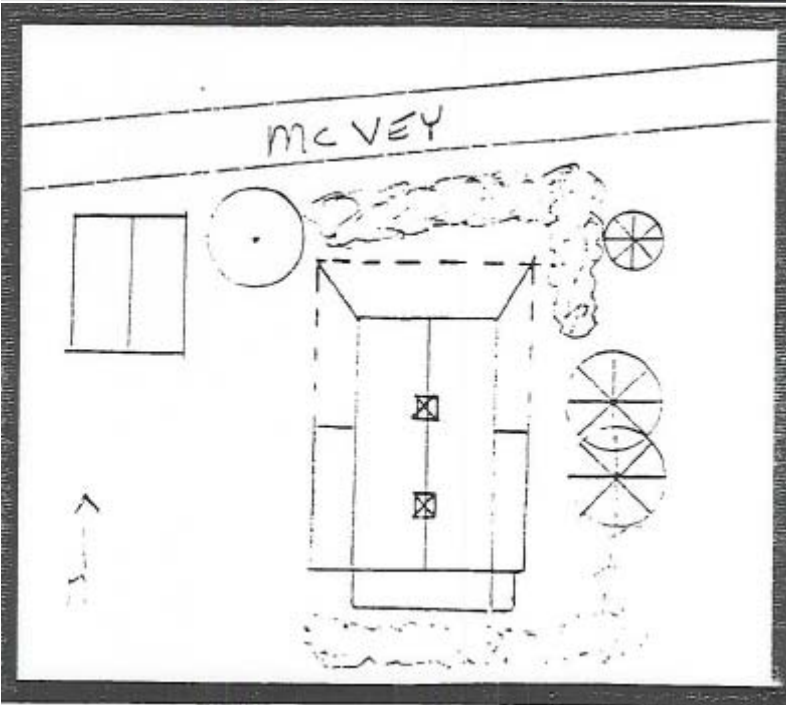
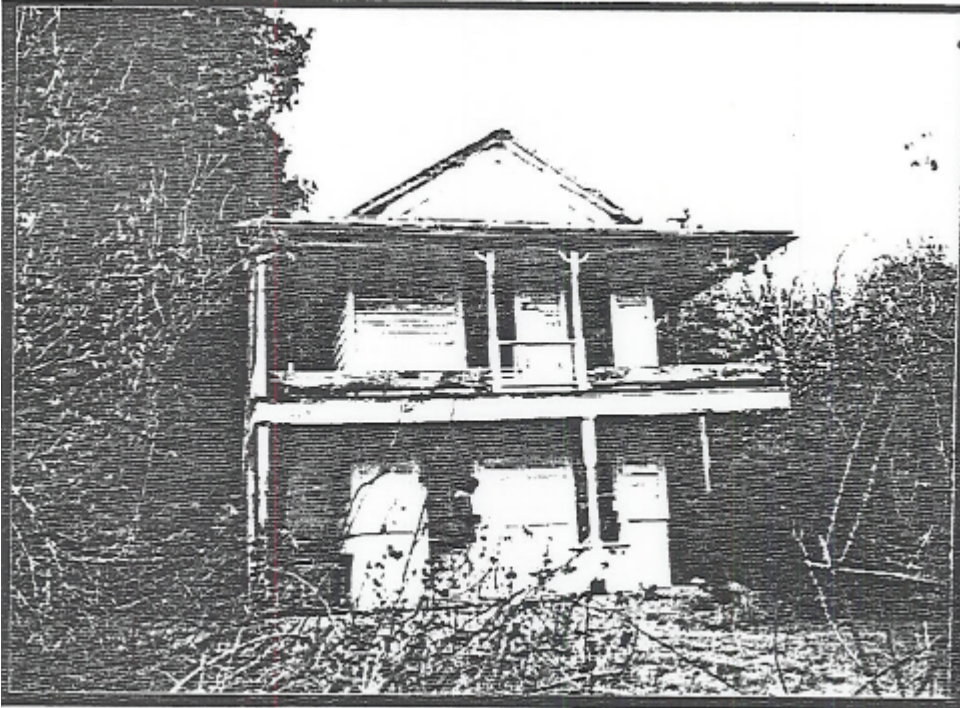
NOTES:

RECORDER(S): Koler/Morrison  
SHPO #: 352

DATE: January 1989  
FIELD #: 125

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 885 MCVEY AVENUE.  
TAXI/VIAP/LOT 2S IE 10DB/4000  
SHPO# \_\_\_\_\_ ROLL/FRAME# \_\_\_\_\_



## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Address: 885 McVey

Historic Name: Worthington, J.K. House

According to Allene Laidlaw of Lake Oswego, her grandparents, James K. Polk and Ella Worthington, built this house in the 1880's, perhaps earlier. James Worthington, a builder, traveled from Ironton, Ohio to Oswego to work at the iron smelter. Ella was actively involved in the Methodist Church.

Vernacular in style, this two story house Was built circa 1870. It appears to retain a fair amount of its historic character. Although the precise date of construction has not been determined clues to the age of the structure are found in the window arrangement, overall volume and massing, and turned porch posts. These features are commonly associated with dwellings constructed prior to 1900. The dwelling is distinctive for having the only double veranda in the city and the low pitch of the roof and the cross plan are also unusual. Old fruit trees in the yard attest to an early occupation of the site, and a garage adjacent to the west of the house appears to have been constructed in the early 20th century.

Local informants indicate that the subject dwelling was the home of the Worthington family. Theodore Worthington organized an immigrant train to bring iron and charcoal workers to Oswego.

Bibliography: Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory Dept. of Transportation & Development, 1984  
Ticor Title Company, Oregon City, OR