

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

HIST. NAME: Waldorf, Alonzo, House

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: C. 1900

COMMON NAME:

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ADDRESS: 938 SW Oak Street

OWNER: McGirr, Robert

PRESENT USE: Residence

ARCH./BLDR.: Alonzo Waldorf (attrib.)

T/R/S: 2S 1E 10DB

TAX LOT: 9600

STYLE: Vernacular

RESOURCE TYPE:

Building

THEME: Architecture

ADDITION: South

Oswego

BLOCK: 12

LOT: 1,2

QUAD: Lake Oswego

LOT SIZE:

ZONE: R-7.5

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Asymmetrical

-NO. OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Unknown

BASEMENT: Yes

ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Intersecting clipped gables; composition shingle

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood

STRUCTURAL FRAME: Wood

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Double-hung sash with modest architrave molding

EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Shingle

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Patterned shingles; bracketed hoods at some doors and windows; leaded glass

OTHER: Shed roof dormers; three brick chimneys; paneled and glazed door; full-width porch supported by battered square posts

CONDITION: Good

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Endwall chimney added (n.d.) porch balustrade replaced, (n.d.)

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: None

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

SETTING: Located on southeast corner of Oak and Erickson streets in historic South Town Neighborhood, area characterized by turn- of-the-century-residences

NOTES:

RECORDER(S): Koler/Morrison

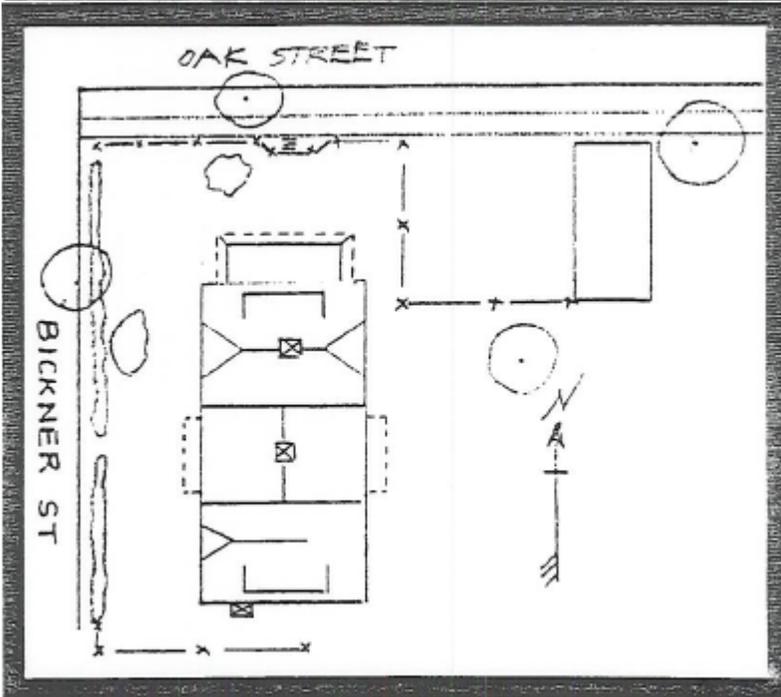
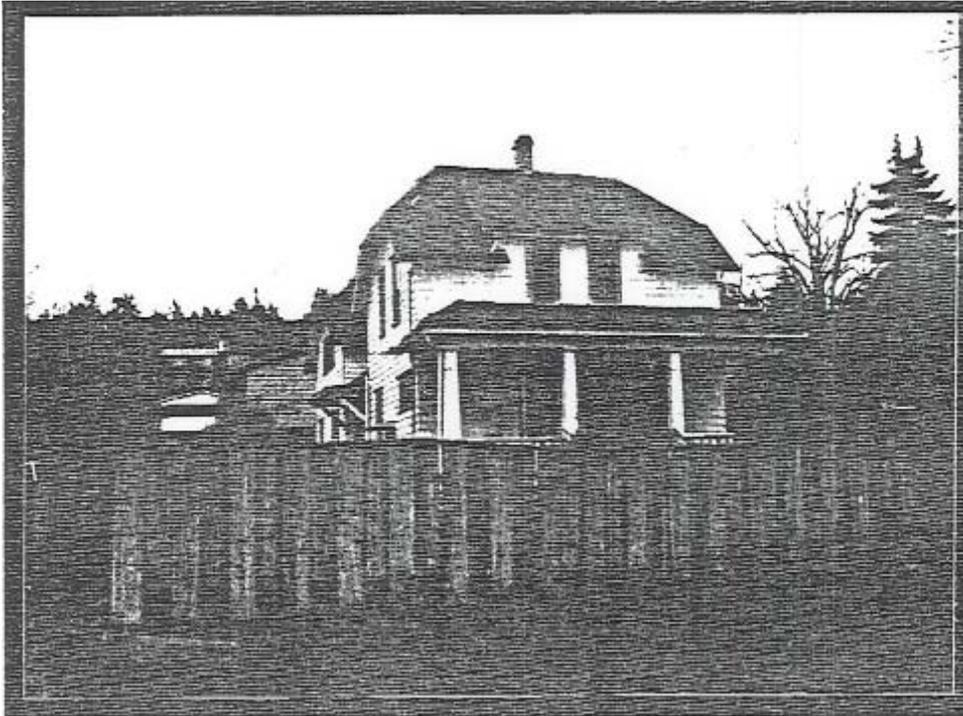
SHPO #: 360

DATE:

FIELD #: 141

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 938 OAK STREET  
TAX MAP/LOT 2S 1E 10DB/9600  
SHPO# \_\_\_\_\_ ROLL/FRAME# \_\_\_\_\_



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: 938 Oak Street

Historic Name: Waldorf, Alonzo, House

in 1904 Alonzo Waldorf, an Oswego builder, purchased four lots on Oak Street from Robert Jackson. He remodeled the existing house, believed to have been built circa 1900 (one account maintains that Waldorf built this house for himself) on lots one and two (938 Oak Street).

According to Waldorf's grandson, Wayne Larson, Waldorf "seemed to want to make it (the property) a self-sustaining unit, for it was almost self contained. The property had a barn, machine shop, . forge, bellows, chicken house, pig sty, bee hives, smoke house, fruit trees, berries, grapes. The main Waldorf house had a complete carpentry shop in the upstairs with a derrick that could be swung out over the alley to pick up and lower lumber or finished wood assemblies. The property had walnut trees on three sides, and when the trees were in their prime, walnuts galore." The house also featured a deep 12-foot basement with potato bins and a dumbwaiter to the first floor.

In the early twenties Waldorf built the neighboring house on lots three and four (904 Oak Street) for his daughter, Edna Larson, to whom he had deeded the lots.

Alonzo Waldorf brought his family west to Oswego in 1894 from Grant County, Iowa. After their arrival they rented the Kline family house in South Oswego for a period before purchasing the Oak Street block for \$700. Waldorf chose not to become involved in the iron industry. He was carpenter by trade and traveled as far away as St. Johns to find work. As Gordon Clinefelter, longtime Oswego resident, remembered in an oral history for "In Their Own Words", most of the houses in Oswego then were built by either Arthur Davidson or Waldorf or my grandfather or my father..."

The "South Town" neighborhood chosen by Waldorf is one of the earliest areas of residential development in Oswego. Platted by pioneer Matthew Patton, construction picked up in the early 1890s in the area adjacent to Henry Gans' store, one of the earliest buildings in the neighborhood.

This house, deeded in 1936 to Waldorf's sons, Eugene and Glenn, is an unusual and large two-and-one-half story Vernacular style dwelling. It appears to have been constructed in two major phases. The front half with its widely spaced, long double-hung sash windows is presumably the earliest portion. The imbricated or fishscale shingles, located in the gable ends, are hold-overs from the Queen Anne style. The clipped gable roof is also a feature frequently associated with this late 19th century style. The truncated front porch cover is a~ unusual feature.

The rear portion of the building mimics the form and massing of the front; however, the fenestration suggests that this volume was constructed after 1910, when banks of multi-light windows, such as those seen on the side elevation, came into favor. The rustic shingles in which the building is/clad are typical of a Craftsman rather than Queen Anne style building. It seems possible that the house was re-shingled after the second portion was completed. The nearly flat pent roofs which shield the side porch and first floor window bays seem to be Craftsman in influence.

The house is important as an example of a turn-of-the-century building type and for its contribution to the historic character of the South Town area.

### Bibliography:

- Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, Department of Transportation and Development, 1984, #20, p.14.
- Larson, Edna Waldorf, Recorded Interview for "In Their Own Words," oral history project for Lake Oswego Library, 1974.
- Larson, Wayne, correspondence, 3/89.
- Ticor Title Company, Oregon City, OR.
- Oregon's Iron Dream, Mary Goodall, p. 88.