

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name PUTNAM, GEORGE PALMER & DOROTHY BINNEY HOUSE
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 606 NW CONGRESS STREET not for publication
N/A
city or town BEND vicinity N/A
state OREGON code OR county DESCHUTES code 017
zip code 97701

J. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hamm April 20, 1998
Signature of certifying official Deputy SHPO Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 of Keeper: _____ Date of Action: _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	buildings
	sites
<u>1</u>	structures
	objects
<u>3</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC
 Sub: SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC
 Sub: SINGLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENT
BUNGALOW /CRAFTSMAN

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LAVA ROCK
 roof ASPHALT COMPOSITION
 walls CEDAR SHINGLES
 other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNICATIONS

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1911-1914

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKOWN

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- Name of repository:
 _ Deschutes County Historical Society _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than One Acre or 0.29 acres _____ Bend, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>634760</u>	<u>4879460</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MICHAEL HOUSER: Associate Planner, Historic and Cultural Resources

organization Deschutes County Community Development Department date NOV 28, 1997

street & number 1130 NW Harriman telephone (541) 388-7927

city or town Bend state OR zip code 97701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name RICK DENTON & ROBIN VICKERY-DENTON

street & number 606 NW CONGRESS STREET telephone (541) 389-6427

city or town BEND state OR zip code 97701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 1

PUTNAM, GEORGE PALMER AND DOROTHY BINNEY, HOUSE (1911)
606 NW Congress Street
Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The Craftsman Bungalow of moderate scale built for Bend newspaper publisher George Palmer Putnam in 1911 stands at the northeast corner of the intersection of Congress Street and Kansas Avenue in the fashionable Park Addition of the Deschutes County seat. The neighborhood was populated by leaders in local business, industry, and the professions.

The house faces west onto NW Congress Street and is set back from the right of way behind two tiers of low rock walls. It is reached by a serpentine walk from Congress Street to the front porch. Situated at the southeast corner of the lot, parallel with the rear alleyway, is an 18 x 20-foot Craftsman-style garage with the gable roof with verge boards, overhanging eaves on exposed rafter tails, lapped weatherboard siding combined with shingles in gable ends that distinguish it as a companion development with the house. Thus, the house, garage, and the low, unmortared rubble walls of lava rock native to the region which border the yard are each counted separately contributing features of the nominated property.

The property meets National Register Criterion B for its association with the prominent original occupants. The historic period of significance, 1911 to 1914, is drawn to embrace the years the Putnams occupied the house, though they retained ownership to 1919. The bungalow is briefly characterized as a one-and-a-half story end-gabled volume on random ashlar foundation having ground plan dimensions of 36 x 43 feet. Overhanging eaves are supported on exposed rafter tails and gallows brackets at the gable ends. Gables are trimmed with plain verge boards. The house is clad with coursed shingles, now painted cream in contrast to the original natural stained finish. The front porch, offset to the south two thirds of the facade, is a lean-to attachment supported by tapered square columns resting on a solid shingle-clad porch railing. Porch steps and wing walls are mortared stone. A shed roofed dormer is centered on the front roof slope, and a wide shed dormer is centered on the rear. There is a shed-roofed window bay on the south elevation and a rectangular bay on the front that functions as a living room window seat. A lean-to back porch attachment gives access to the kitchen. Typical windows are double-hung, some with multi-light upper sash.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 2

Interior space is organized with the living and dining area across the front, scarcely separated by a double chimney. In the rear half of the ground plan, are the kitchen, a stairhall parallel with the long axis of the roof ridge, and a bedroom and bath suite. The upper story is arranged as three sleeping chambers radiating from the central hallway and a long, narrow bathroom along the rear elevation. Interior finish work consists of lath and plaster walls with good quality mill work in the Arts and Crafts tradition exemplified by dark-stained fir paneling in the dining area, cornice molding, and classical wood mantels on chimneypieces of native stone and brick. Original ceiling light fixtures remain in the living and dining areas.

Notwithstanding modifications of later years, including a minor window replacement and removal of a sun porch on the south elevation, raising of dormer roofs, and elimination of a kitchen partition, the house would be readily recognized by its original owner today. The house is a good, clear-cut example of its stylistic type, a Craftsman bungalow, but it is not documented in this application for significance in the area of architecture under Criterion C.

George Palmer Putnam (1887-1950) is prominent in the annals of central Oregon history as the dynamic publisher and editor of the Bend *Bulletin* from 1910 through 1914. He also was an early mayor and one of the most ardent promoters at time when the townsite was young and positioned to become a major lumber manufacturing and trading center in the pine forest region newly connected to main line shipping by the Oregon Trunk Railway. Although it is not stated here whether Putnam worked in cooperation with the backers of the development company known as the Bend Company, it is clear that his significant contribution was in promoting Bend's potential to a statewide and national audience through his articles and promotional pieces at a critical stage in the town's evolution.

Putnam was the scion of the head of the distinguished New York publishing house, Putnam & Sons. In 1909, having been educated at Harvard and the University of California, the 21-year old gravitated to central Oregon, bound for an adventuresome life. He began his career as a correspondent for the Portland *Oregonian* and drew notice for his coverage of the competition between the Great Northern Railroad Company and the Union Pacific to be first to complete a line up the Deschutes River canyon 142 miles from the Columbia to central Oregon in the years 1908 to 1911. The race was won by the Great Northern. Putnam concurrently entered into promotional work of long standing with the Bend Board of Trade and eventually did promotional pieces for the Great Northern. With the help of his father, he purchased *The Bulletin* and developed the four-page weekly into a 16-page publication, introducing state-of-the-art printing technology and sophisticated advertising and marketing strategies that dramatically boosted circulation. Putnam was an outspoken editorialist and used his paper to agitate for good roads

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 3

and other causes he thought necessary to the town's advancement. As newspaperman, he used *The Bulletin* as Max Lueddemann only a few years earlier had used the *Madras Pioneer* to plump for another developing community on the projected route of the Oregon Trunk Railway.

In 1912, Putnam was elected mayor of Bend at the age of 24. In the previous year he had married Dorothy Binney of Connecticut, daughter of the developer of Crayola crayons, and brought her home to the newly-built bungalow they dubbed "Pinelyn." Over the next several years the house would be the setting of important social occasions for the community, but, by 1914, the Putnams were entering the end of their brief but eventful span in Bend. Putnam had lately branched out into real estate, creating with a partner a new 12-acre subdivision on the west side of the Deschutes, opposite the Park Addition. In 1915, however, he placed managing editor Robert Sawyer in charge of *The Bulletin* and left for the capital city, Salem, to become private secretary to Governor James Withycombe. He joined the National Guard in the mobilization for the First World War and, following the war, returned to New York to take up the reins of his family's publishing business. It was in 1919 that Putnam relinquished ownership of *The Bulletin* and "Pinelyn." It was long after his association with the nominated property ended that Putnam's destiny was linked to the ill-fated pioneer aviatrix Amelia Earhart, whom he married in 1931 after divorcing his first wife. As is well known, Earhart went down with her plane during the legendary trans-Pacific flight attempt in 1937.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 1

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Narrative Description:

SETTING

The George Palmer Putnam House is located on the east side of Congress Street in Park Addition. The home faces northwest on the northeast corner of Kansas Avenue and Congress Street in Bend, Oregon. The neighborhood is occupied by large-to mid-size single-family residences. When Park Addition was platted in 1905, it was billed as Bend's upscale residential neighborhood. Close to the downtown core, Congress Street acted as home to store owners, mill managers, bankers and engineers.

Within the 140' x 90' lot, the house sits approximately in the middle of the property upon a flat shelf of lava rock some six feet above Kansas Avenue. The site gently slopes towards Congress Street at the front of the home. The yard is divided into smaller sections by meandering, dry laid lava rock walls. Additionally to the rear of the home, next to the alleyway, is a 5' high dry laid lava rock wall (see attached site plan). Landscaping on the site consists of a few flower beds, several large ponderosa pine trees, numerous lilac bushes and a couple of cherry trees in the side yard.

EXTERIOR

The George Palmer Putnam House is a one-and-a-half story, single-family residence in the Craftsman style. Retaining its original character and charm, a majority of the historic fabric in the house is intact. Built in 1911 ("Pushing Ahead") for George Palmer Putnam and his family, the house is rectangular in plan. The 36'0" x 43'0" footprint is broken by the attachment of a large, 9'6" x 25'0" rectangular, open porch on the southwest corner. The porch is held up by three, truncated columns resting on a solid wall. Two rectangular bay windows, one on the south facade, the other under the porch, also break up the rectilinear plan. On the east facade, at the rear of the house, is a small enclosed, shed roof covered porch which allows direct access to the kitchen from the outside. The Craftsman style of the home is emphasized by the use of coursed shingles on all of the exterior walls. Originally left natural to weather over time, today the shingles have been painted a cream color. The home rests on a foundation of lava rock which is exposed on all sides of the house. This porous rock, laid as uncoursed rubble, establishes a firm foundation for the house. Here, standard cement and lime mortar joints were used.

The house is capped with a side facing gable roof covered with composition asphalt shingles. Typical of the Craftsman style, the eaves are left open to expose the tails of the rafters. The raking trim, or bargeboard, has a plain cut as it comes to the eave line. Five A-frame-style eave brackets support a large, two-foot roof overhang at the gable ends. Second floor shed dormers on the east and west facades boast similar details to the main roof. Piercing the roof are three brick chimneys. One for the living/dining room fireplace, one for the wood burning furnace and the other for non-existent kitchen stove.

There are two basic window types in the Putnam House. The first type, found at the first floor level, are one-over-one double-hung windows, either grouped as pairs or set individually. The second type are six-over-one double-hung windows found within the shed roof dormers and gable ends. All windows are original to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 2

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Narrative Description: Cont' d

home, except for one non-compatible long rectangular fixed window on the south facade. Two small leaded glass windows found on the north facade add some variation to the basic window types. These unusual windows, executed in a geometric design, offer a romantic interlude to the dark paneled walls of the interior dining room space. Window and door surrounds are simple milled boards, mounted flush with the shingled walls. Believed to be original, the front door is a paneled solid core door with a half-light of four panes of glass.

INTERIOR

Most of the interior walls of the Putnam House are clad with lath and plaster. A few places have been patched with sheetrock. True to the Craftsman style, the dining room walls are covered with fir paneling to the top of the windows, creating a cozy, intimate space. Original light fixtures hang from the ceiling of the living and dining rooms. Central to the home are back-to-back fireplaces that divide the dining and living room spaces. In the living room the oversized fireplace is faced with lava rock. In the dining room it is faced with brick. A built-in window seat along the west living room wall allows for a convenient place to gaze outdoors. Floors throughout the living and dining room are covered with 3" tongue-and-groove oak decking, while the kitchen has fir decking. The rest of the home has been covered with carpet. All interior doors are five panel in design and have simple rectangular brass hardware.

The 36'0" x 43'0" basement is unfinished with a dirt floor. Within that space, a 20'0 x 25'0" hole, has been excavated to 5'6" high for storage, the rest of the area acts as a crawl space. No windows puncture the lava rock foundation walls. A cellar door leads directly to the exterior from this space.

OUTBUILDINGS

A single garage is located on the site. The 18'6" x 20'6" structure is located at the far southeast corner of the lot adjacent to the alleyway. Constructed using balloon frame construction, the walls are clad with 4" exposure horizontal clapboards. The gable roof is covered with asphalt composition shingles and has exposed rafter tails and simple bargeboard trim at the gable ends. Four carriage doors, with original strap-hinge hardware, swing outward to allow access to the space. Each side elevation has a single multi-pane fixed window which allows light into the garage. The rear facade is punctured by a single board-and-batten style door. Automobile entrance to the garage is via Kansas Avenue.

ALTERATIONS AND REHABILITATION PLANS

Some alterations to the Putnam House have occurred over the last 80 years. On the exterior they include the removal of a sun porch on the south facade, the raising of the shed roof dormers (approximately 1') on the front and rear facades to allow for additional headroom in the upstairs, and the addition of a non-compatible fixed glass, narrow window on the south facade. On the interior, the only apparent changes are a reworking of the kitchen which included the removal of a wall and an upgrade of the upstairs bathroom space.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 3

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The George Palmer Putnam House is historically significant for its association to George Palmer Putnam, newspaper owner, editor and publisher of the *Bend Bulletin*, early mayor, and promoter of Bend, as classified under criterion "B". Leaving his mark on early-day Bend, George Palmer Putnam wrote prolifically for a variety of publications telling the stories of Central Oregon. His desire to do good helped shape the growing town of Bend during the first part of the twentieth century.

In 1909, with the sage advice of "Go West, Young Man!", George Palmer Putnam headed for the Pacific Northwest looking for wild adventure and success. The best place to do this, he later wrote in his autobiography, was Bend, Oregon. Bend was located at the geographic center of the state, and at the time was one hundred miles from the nearest railroad, truly one of the last places to find the "wild west". Born in 1887 into the wealthy New York publishing family of Putnam & Sons, George came to Bend with the aristocratic ensibilities of a New York businessman, and the best educational background that money could buy; Harvard and the University of California. His arrival in Bend on May 12, 1909 did not go unnoticed. The local newspaper, the *Bend Bulletin*, wrote, "Mr. Putnam has spent about a year on the Pacific Coast representing Putnam and Sons, Publishers, of which his father is head."

At the time George was only 21 years of age. Well dressed and full of confidence, great things were in store for Putnam. Local historian James Crowell writes "Putnam was the right man, in the right place, at the right time." George Palmer Putnam began his career in Bend as a freelance correspondent for *The Oregonian* newspaper. His news breaking articles that covered the fierce battle up the Deschutes River by the Great Northern and the Oregon Trunk gave him instant respectability. With the two railroads racing towards Bend, the town was set for a boom. Putnam's first full-time position was secretary of the newly created Bend Board of Trade, forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce. Today the job could best be described as the towns public relations manager. One of his first tasks was to publish 5,000 copies of a leaflet extolling the brilliant promise and inevitable prosperity of Bend. He then went on to place numerous articles about Bend in the Portland Chamber of Commerce Bulletin, the Pacific Homesteader, and full page articles in *The Oregonian*. Additionally each month he published a newsletter about Bend which he sent to all the major northwestern newspapers.

That year Putnam returned home to New York for Christmas to visit his fiancée, Dorothy Binney, whom he had not seen since May. Dorothy, a Wellesley College graduate, happened to be the daughter of the man who invented the Crayola crayon. Together they would make a powerful civic couple in Bend. While home, George was anxious to discuss with his father a project that fueled his ambition, the acquisition of the local newspaper, the *Bend Bulletin*.

The *Bend Bulletin* at the time was a typical small town newspaper, powerful in its monopoly and circulation. Putnam was reportedly irritated by its parochial style and sensed that it could be improved upon. By the fall of 1909 the paper was operating at a loss for owner Don Steffa and he was anxious to sell. Putnam apparently borrowed some money from his father and by March of 1910, Putnam was sole owner the *Bend Bulletin*. He would remain owner until 1919. Now editor and publisher of the paper, Putnam became the stereotypical battling frontier newspaperman, declaring war on unnecessary bureaucracy, tackling important local

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 4

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont' d

attacking local corruption. When he suspected the local judge of dishonesty he wrote one of his "blistering editorials" under the headline THE COURTHOUSE STENCH. The longer Putnam remained in Bend, the wider breadth his boosting activities became. In March of 1911 he gave much attention for the need to construct a road from Bend to Burns, a 150 mile distance.

In two short years Putnam had thrust himself into the limelight as the top promoter of his chosen town and editor of its local newspaper, he was full of confidence and ambition. But he had not forgotten his fiancée Dorothy Binney. On October 26, 1911, George and Dorothy married in South Beach, Connecticut at the bride's parents' house. The newlyweds spent four months honeymooning in Central America. As usual, Putnam's talent for making important connections surfaced. While on their trip the Putnam's met and dined with the President of Panama and Costa Rica. Additionally while on their trip George sent articles to *Sunset Magazine* about the progress of the Panama canal. They returned home to Bend in February of 1912 to their newly constructed Bungalow on Congress Street. The Putnam's called the home "Pinelyn".

A true workaholic, George had been writing diligently while on his honeymoon. Once he returned to the states he managed to produce his first book, In the Southland of North America, which was compiled from his notes and photographs of his trip. The *Bend Bulletin* ran a front page piece on Putnam's honeymoon but this announcement was eclipsed by George's two-column headline that he had purchased A MACHINE THAT WILL SET ITS TYPE. The new model 10 Mergenthaler Press was the finest typesetting machine made at the time and was reportedly the only one of its kind in Oregon or Washington. The press was capable of producing 1,600 pages an hour, and as a result, the enterprising young owner turned the revenue loss concern into a profitable one. George kept writing for *The Oregonian* and wrote editorials and articles for the *Bend Bulletin* each week. He continued to work as the secretary for the Bend Board of Trade and wrote a pamphlet about Central Oregon for the Great Northern Railroad Company. Over 75,000 copies of the pamphlet were distributed nationwide. The Bend Company also hired him to write their leaflet about Bend which saw 15,000 copies printed.

As if his writing and editorial duties were not enough, in June of 1912, at the age of twenty-four, George was elected mayor, Bend's youngest to date. George had already served as mayor pro tem in August of 1910 in the absence of the incumbent mayor so the duties were not new to him. George's term of office lasted a year and a half and included several brushes with Oregon's Governor. During his term George limited the saloons in town to five and issued them with licenses of \$1,200 a year. He started a civic project for a main sewer line, issued \$4,500 worth of street improvements, licensed reality dealers, called for the installation of fire hydrants and authorized a pest house and hitching place.

In all of his work, George was supported by his wife Dorothy. She encouraged him constantly and even helped him at the newspaper office when necessary. Dorothy too was an organizer. She quickly established their home "Pinelyn" as a social center. Her dinner parties were the talk of the town. Often she orchestrated her parties with musical acts and dancing. Some Putnam parties even required costumes and often prepared skits were attached to the invitations. Dorothy Putnam founded the local Glee club and the women's suffrage club, helped at the local Red Cross chapter and raised money for cancer patients, an unusual endeavor for the time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 5

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont' d

On December 3, 1912, Dorothy proclaimed the honor of being the second woman to cast her vote in Oregon history (the wife of the governor had the first vote).

On May 20, 1913, Dorothy gave birth to a son, David Binney Putnam, at Pinelyn. The boy's birth coincided with the tenth birthday of the *Bend Bulletin*, and George was proud to reflect on the success he had brought. Under his leadership in just three short years he had taken the paper's weekly circulation from 450 copies to almost 1,650. Putnam reportedly did the work of three men. He wrote copy, sold ads, handled local news, and wrote editorials. When he took the paper over it was a four-page production, but by 1913 it contained sixteen pages.

In December 1913, George decided not to run for reelection but to concentrate instead on his beloved paper. For the next year George occupied his time running a fierce and eventually successful campaign for irrigation, on behalf of the settlers. But the pressure of the job was beginning to have an effect. In the Spring of 1914 at the age of twenty-seven he writes, "editing a newspaper in a small town is a wearying pursuit, full of petty trials and tribulations, hedged by irritating routine and woefully limited by the tools one has to work with."

Perhaps looking for some relief from the day-to-day activities, Putnam joined with fellow businessmen to establish a new subdivision on the west side of the Deschutes River in Bend, Pinelyn Park. The 12 acre subdivision was advertised as being in the business center of Bend, and having more than half the lots with river frontage. Within the plat, local lore records that Dohema Road was named by Putnam after the first two letters of Putnam's wife and two sister; Dorothy, Helen and Mary. In May of 1915 the *Bend Bulletin* stated that Putnam planned to build a home within the subdivision, however having left Bend by this time, he never actually constructed a home within Pinelyn Park.

By December of 1914 George Palmer Putnam's life had moved on to the next phase. He had been selected from a field of twenty candidates to become the private secretary to Oregon Governor James Withycombe. The Putnam's left Bend in January 1915 after George wrote an emotional farewell editorial stating that his family's removal to Salem was merely temporary. Over 100 businessmen from Bend and Laidlaw (Tumalo) gathered for a banquet in his honor bidding him a grand farewell. Before he left he appointed a managing editor for the *Bend Bulletin*, Robert Sawyer, and instructed him to "turn out the best paper he could." George Palmer Putnam's second book In the Oregon Country was being published as he left to take up office in Salem.

At the time Oregon had no lieutenant governor, so George's position as private secretary held great promise. George looked forward to making a tangible contribution to the citizens of Oregon and expanding his own self worth. Apparently though, Governor Withycombe had appointed Putnam against the advise of GOP state leaders who would have preferred an appointee of more political influence. Putnam, a man of action, was unfortunately forced to the simple duties of representing the governor at trade fairs and prisons, and handling publicity. He continued to feed articles to local and national newspapers about Oregon while in Salem. Much to George's relief he was relieved of his duties in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson issued orders to mobilize the National Guard at the height of WWI. Putnam had joined the Oregon National Guard just the year before.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, 9

Page 6

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont' d

Ready to see some action, Putnam was again disappointed when his main activity while serving in Mexico was to provide feature stories for Oregon Newspapers.

In 1919 after his discharge from the National Guard and a short stint at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., Putnam returned to New York to take the helm of his families publishing concerns. The illustrious publishing house authors included Washington Irving, James Fenmore Cooper, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edgar Allen Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne and William Cullen Bryant. His new job would now thrust George Palmer Putnam into the national spotlight. Over the next 30 years Putnam continued to write articles for national magazines and publish his own books and others. Perhaps his most famous deal was when his firm paid Charles Lindbergh \$100,000 for the right to publish his book WE. It sold 60,000 copies.

Excited about the future publishing possibilities Putnam went on to gain considerable fame as an explorer on his own right. Always looking for ways to make a buck, he hand picked Amelia Earhart as the first woman to cross the Atlantic. After he divorced Dorothy in 1929, George Palmer Putnam married Amelia Earhart in 1931. George Palmer Putnam died at the age of 63 in Trona, California. Dorothy Binney Putnam lived to the age of 93, passing away in 1982.

RESIDENTIAL HISTORY

The Putnam's kept ownership of their beloved "Pinelyn" house in Bend until 1919. They sold the home to M.W. Wagner that year who eventually sold it to Frank M. Gasbar in 1925. Gasbar sold the home to Florence Pitman ten years later in 1935. The Pitman family owned the property until 1973 when they sold to Frank A. Scott. The current owners, the Denton's, purchased the home from Scott in 1983.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9

Page 7

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Bibliography: Cont' d

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10

Page 8

GEORGE PALMER & DORTHY BINNEY PUTNAM HOUSE
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Township 17S, Range 12E, Section 32, Lot 5 and the southerly 40 feet of Lot 4, Block 10, Park Addition to the original townsite of Bend.

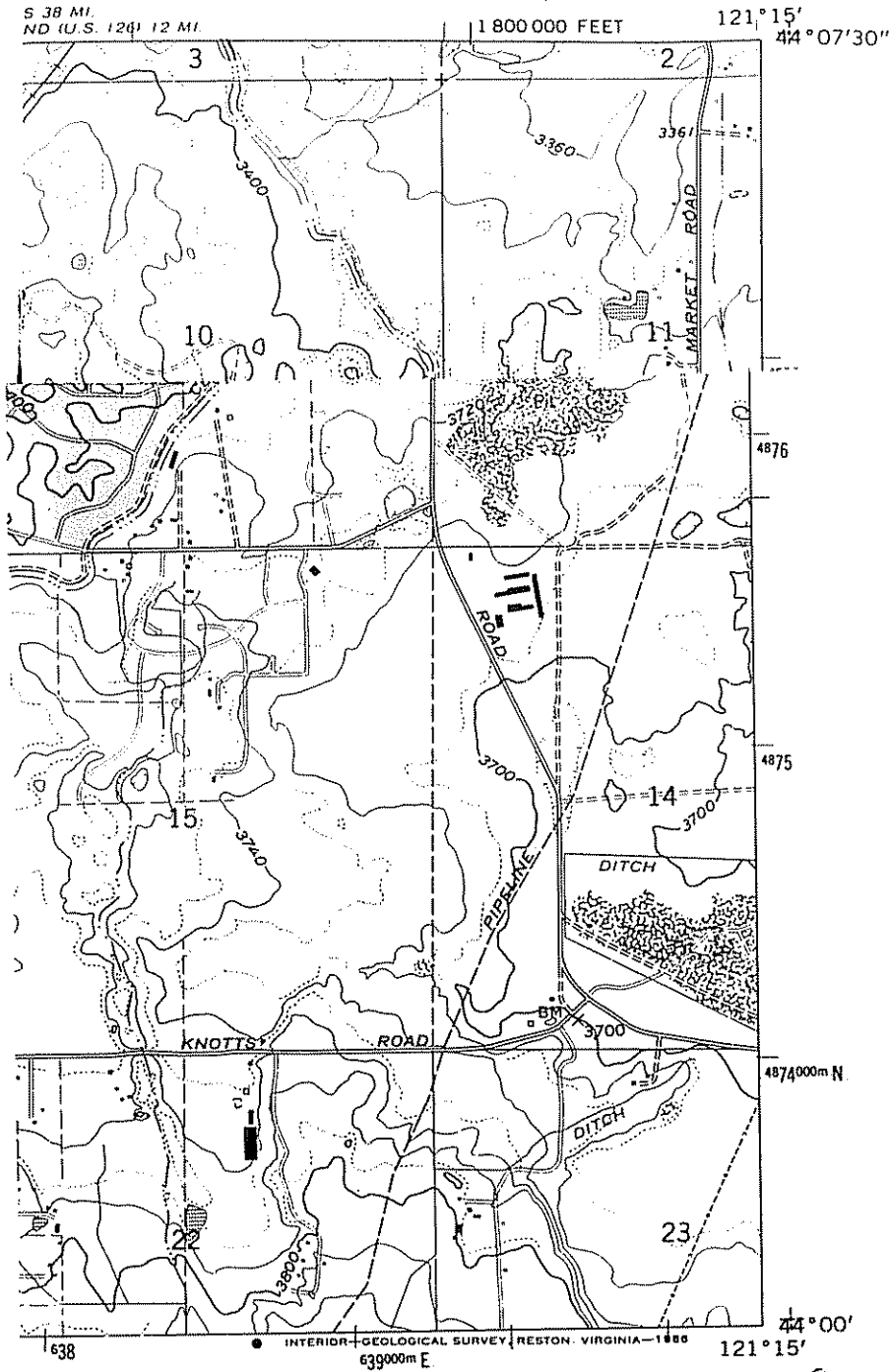
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the George Palmer Putnam House.

(TU)

BEND QUADRANGLE
OREGON-DESCHUTES CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1772 II NW
(FORKED HORN BUTTE)



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----

U.S. Route

PUTNAM, GEORGE PALMER AND DOROTHY
BINNEY, HOUSE

BEND, OREG.
44121-A3-TF-024

10/634760
4879460

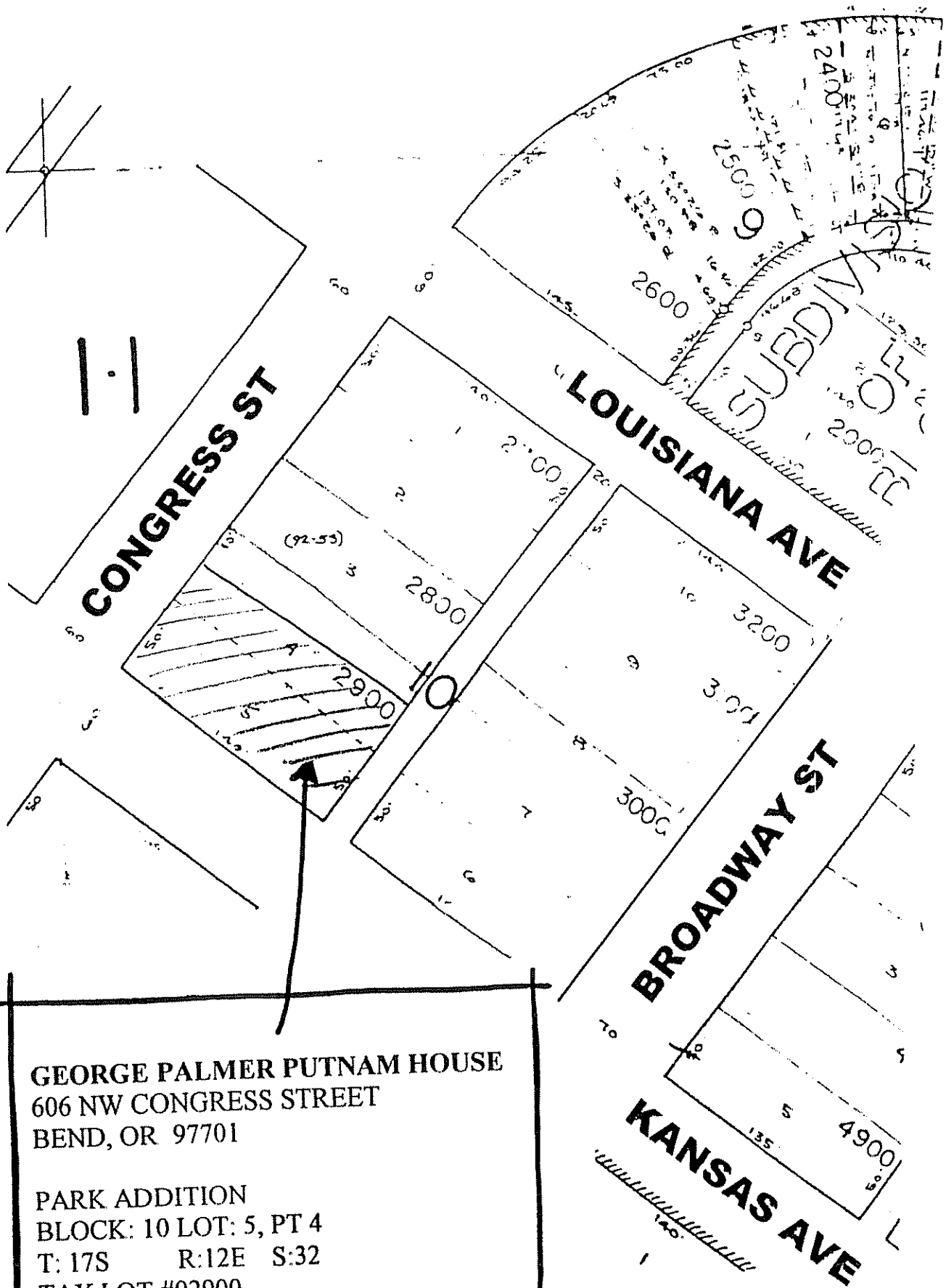
Map compiled from aerial photographs
Source data. This information not
dated 1981

1962
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 1772 III SE-SERIES V892

Division of urban areas

(KELSEY BUTTE)
1771 I NW

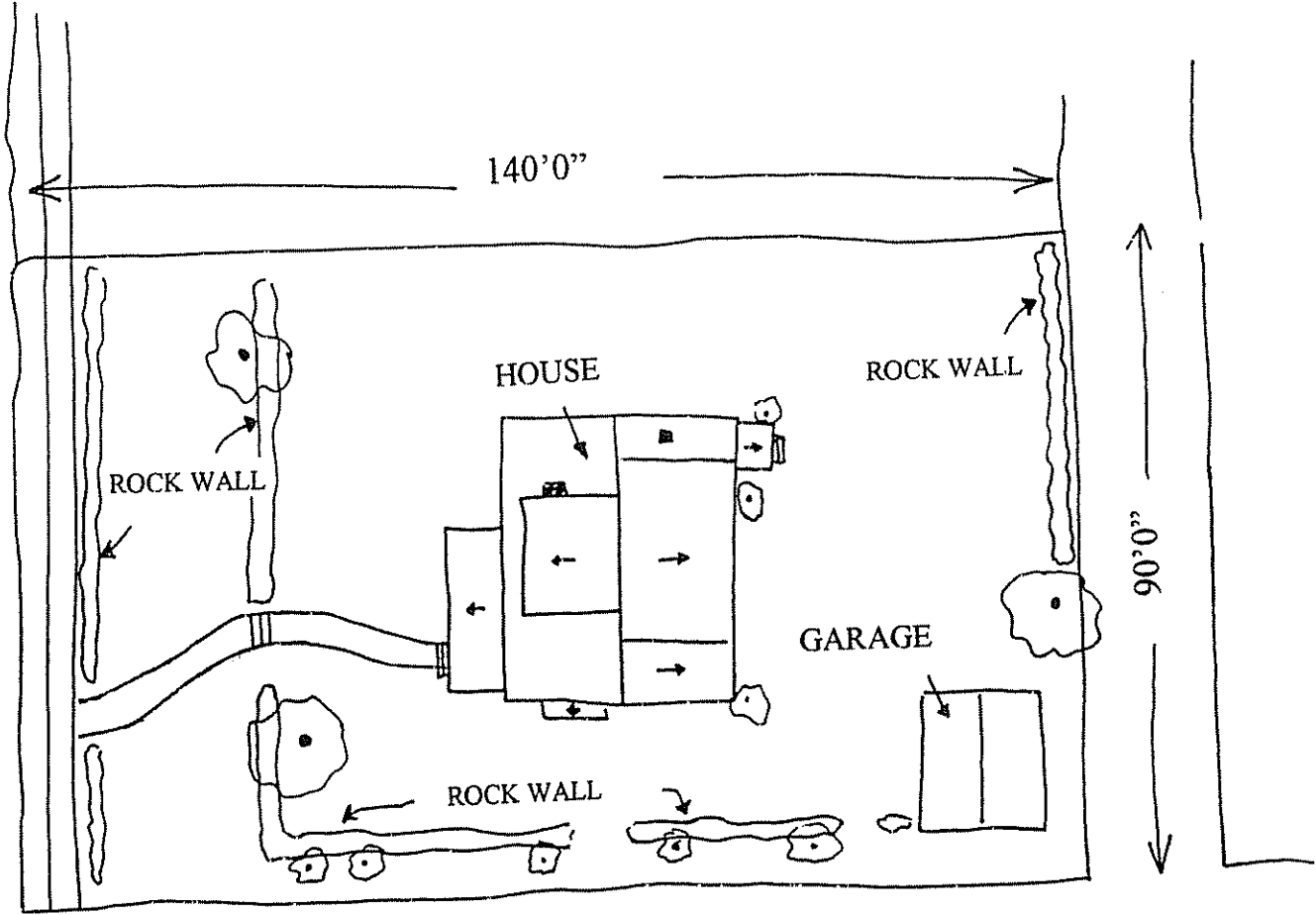




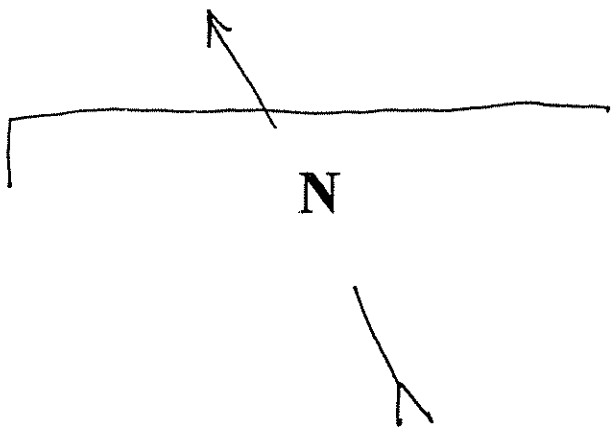
GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM HOUSE
606 NW CONGRESS STREET
BEND, OR 97701

PARK ADDITION
BLOCK: 10 LOT: 5, PT 4
T: 17S R: 12E S: 32
TAX LOT #02900

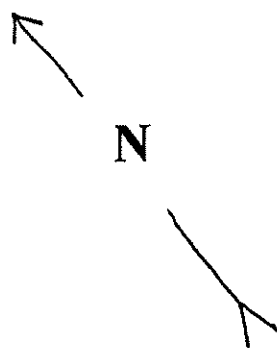
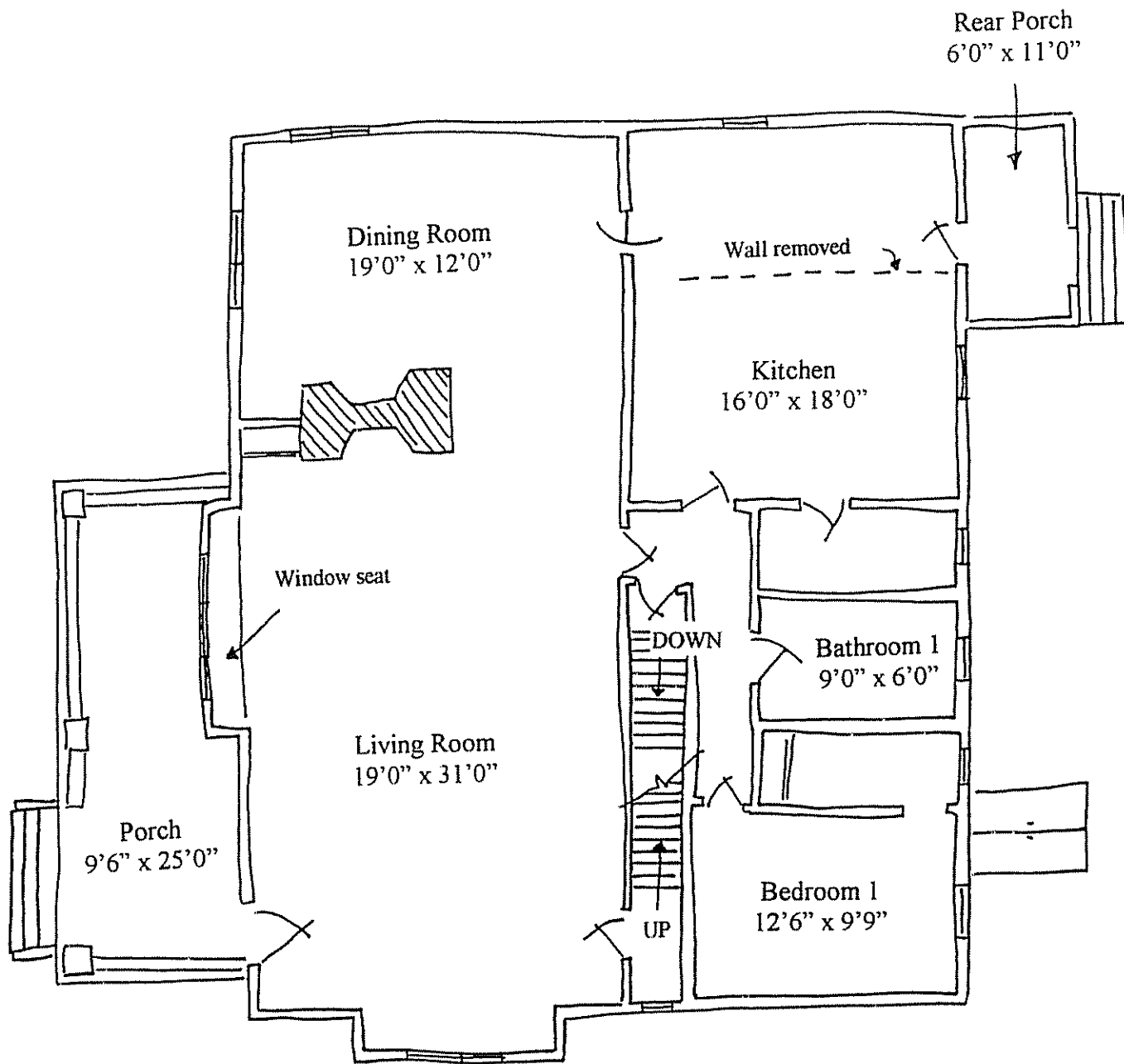
CONGR_35 ST



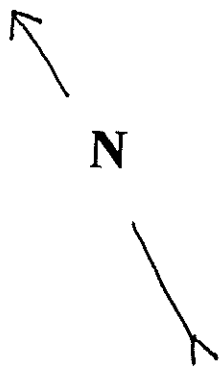
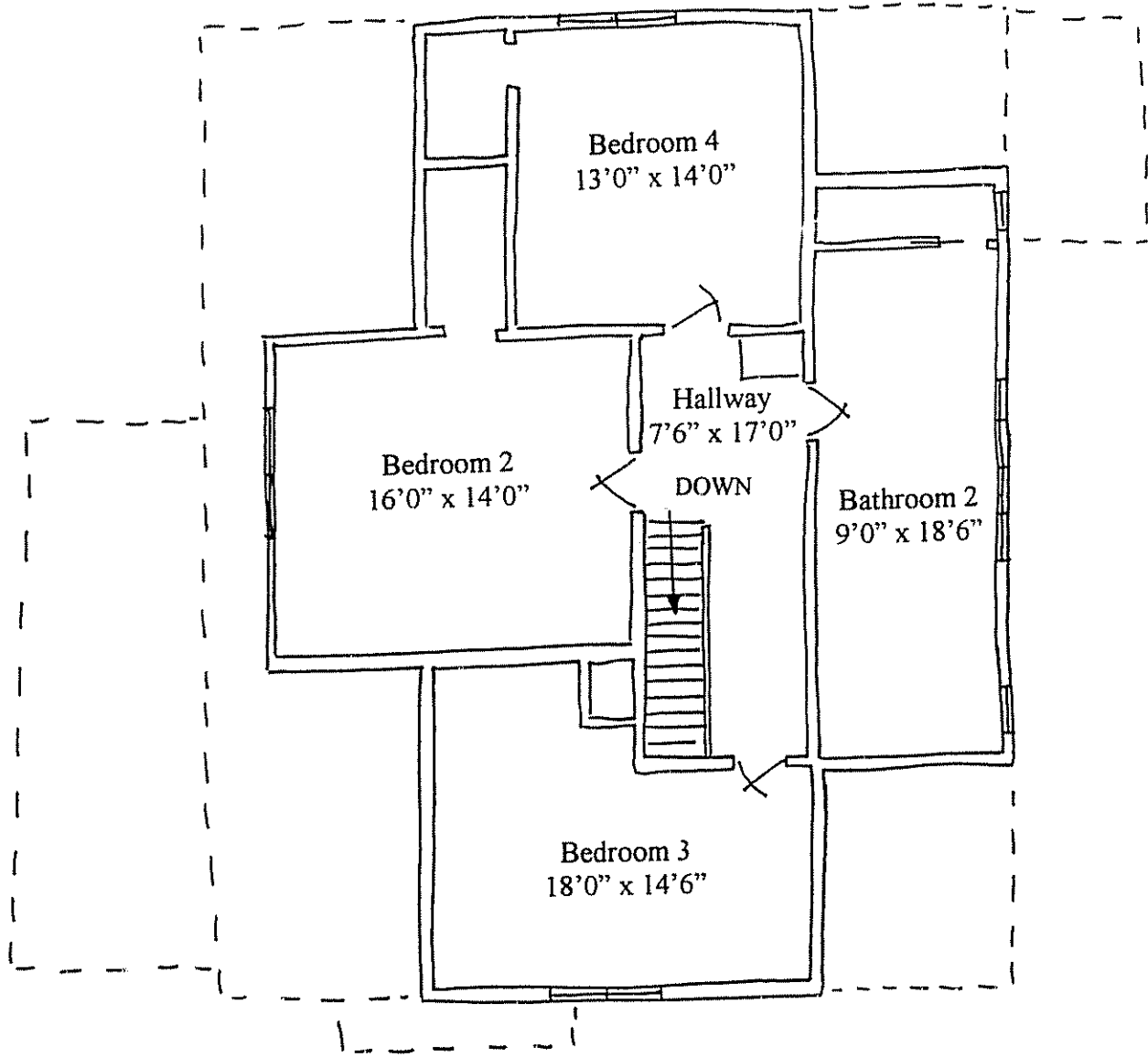
KANSAS AVE



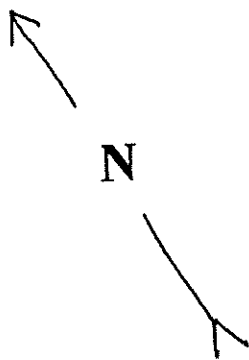
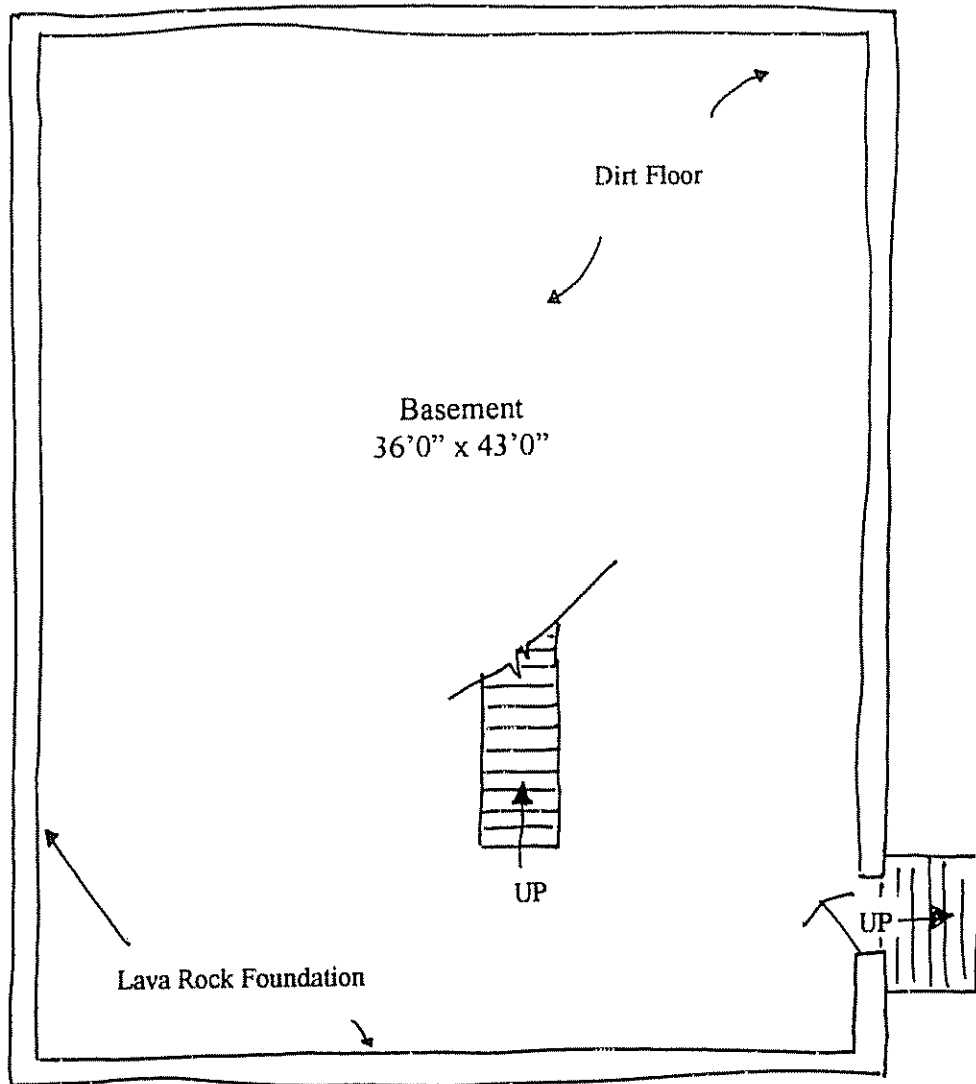
George Palmer Putnam House
606 NW Congress Street
Site Plan
Not to Scale



George Palmer Putnam House
 606 NW Congress Street
 First Floor
 Not to Scale



George Palmer Putnam House
606 NW Congress Street
Second Floor
Not to Scale



George Palmer Putnam House
606 NW Congress Street
Basement
Not to Scale



