

James White House
702 11th Street
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HABS No. CA-2054

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. CA-2054

JAMES WHITE HOUSE

- Location: 702 11th Street, Oakland, Alameda County, California.
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates; 10.563630.4184200.
- Present Owner: State of California (1978).
- Present Occupant: Vacant.
- Present Use: Vacant, to be moved to Preservation Park in the Oakland City Center Area and placed on a new foundation due to the construction of the Route 980 freeway.
- Significance: Built in 1875 for James White, a leader of the Seventh Day Adventists and the founder of the Pacific Press, the structure's simple Italianate details are common to the area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. History of the Structure: James White purchased the land in 1874 shortly before leaving Oakland for a trip across the country. During his absence the house was constructed and completed in 1875. The Whites lived there until 1878 when they moved to Heraldsburg, California. The house is the last standing structure associated with White in Oakland.

James and his wife Ellen were important leaders of the Seventh Day Adventists. During James' stay in Oakland he founded the Pacific Press and was a leading member of their religious community. A large percentage of the Whites' time, however, was spent attending various camp meetings across the country.

- B. Bibliography:

Robinson, Virgil. James White. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1976.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The James White House is rectangular in plan, with numerous pavillions and projecting bays. The two story structure has a two-bay front. It is of wooden frame construction with coved rustic siding, corner boards and a water table around the entire building. There is a multi-hipped roof with a bracketed cornice. The building sits on the north corner of Eleventh and Castro Streets.

The entrance bay of the southwest (front) elevation is recessed; the other portion of the facade has a projecting two story, three-sided bay. There is a flat-roofed entrance porch with square wooden posts and brackets. Five steps lead up to the porch. The molding of the upper corners of the doors is rounded. Above the porch is a window with a cornice and brackets. There is a similar window on the southeastern face of the facade. All windows are double-hung sash, one over one lights. The bay projection has a cornice with brackets at the roof line. The windows have rounded upper corners and are separated by colonettes. All bay windows have a recessed panel below; the first story windows have a panel with an incised design, and a cornice with brackets above. The corner boards act as pilasters and terminate at the cornice with a bracket. The southeast (Castro Street) elevation has a similar bay projection. The single windows on this elevation are similar to those on the front elevation.

Prepared by Mary Beth Betts
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

From research compiled by
Federal Highway
Administration
Caltrans
1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the construction of the Route 980 Freeway. John A. Burns, AIA was the HABS project coordinator. The written data was prepared in the HABS office by Mary Beth Betts in June 1979 from research compiled by the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans in 1978. Photographs were taken on May 31, 1978 by Pete Asano.