

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 22 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Latourette, Charles David, House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 683 "D" Street N/A not for publication

city, town Gearhart N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Wendy Latourette Wells 2827 NE 24th, Portland, Oregon 97212

street & number Carole Latourette Wells 3630 SW Dosch Road, Portland, Oregon 97201

city, town William Rosasco Wells 1330 NW 10th, Corvallis, Oregon 97330
N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorders Office, Clatsop County Courthouse
Deed Records, Vol. 424, Page 841

street & number Clatsop County Courthouse PO Box 177

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Gearhart Oregon Comprehensive Plan (Goals and Policies, page 2)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Morgan Ryan and Associates - City of Gearhart, OR
date November, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Gearhart City Hall

city, town Gearhart state Oregon 97318

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Charles David Latourette House, erected in 1892, was the first house built in Gearhart, Oregon, an area which developed into a favorite vacation compound for many Portlanders. Designed in a modest Queen Anne style by an unknown architect/builder, the house retains integrity of material and setting.

The Latourette House was a part of the original "Gearhart Park" platted in 1890 on a portion of pioneer Philip Gearhart's Donation Land Claim two miles north of Seaside across the Necanicum River. The fear of storms and the significantly flat terrain caused most of the early building to take place in this area. Eventually, it became known as "the meadow."

It is located in Block 10 on Lots 14 and 16, further described as Township 6N, Range 10W, Section 10BC, Tax Lot 4200. Tax Lot 4200 is two lots combined for a total size of 95' x 100'. The house also abuts what is known as the Ridge Path along the east property line. The Ridge Path is a portion of the Gearhart Park plat designated as a 25' wide foot path running in a north-south direction through the heart of Gearhart. There are two additional historic homes adjoining the Ridge Path within 75' of the Latourette House, the Wills House and the Brougher House.

The Ridge Path and its surrounding neighborhood creates a unique and special landscape in Gearhart. The path runs along a north-south ridge between the Pacific Ocean and the Neacoxie Creek for about seven blocks. The earliest homes were built along the path, an area which offered some protection from the often severe winter storms from the south. This part of Gearhart is heavily wooded with tall Fir, Spruce, Western Hemlock and Shore Pine and thick underbrush. The path is recognized as a recreational asset and as a portion of the Oregon Coast Trail.

The city is committed to the retention and maintenance of the trail. Nearby Neacoxie Creek is also an area with a high concentration of wildlife and is one of the most important habitats in the city.

The Latourette House in the meadow adjoins the quiet and wooded Ridge Path area to the east and looks west to the Pacific Ocean over the community of Gearhart. Sheltered somewhat from the strong winter winds and the unstable dunes on the shore, this first house in Gearhart, built in 1892 still stands.

House Plan and Alterations

The Latourette House is a two and one-half story residence that measures 2500 sq. ft. It includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, full bathroom and a utility room on the first floor; three bedrooms, two full bathrooms and a sleeping porch on the second floor; and an attic with two rooms. The house stands on concrete blocks for its foundation. Original wall construction inside is tongue-and-groove boards. The attic reveals the original 2" x 4" fir framing and the original brick fireplace. The roof was originally shingled, which is exposed in the attic. The roof is now of composition shingles to achieve a longer life.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

LATOURETTE, CHARLES DAVID

item number

7

Page

2

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The plan is a modified T-shape. Double-hung, one-over-one windows of differing dimensions are dispersed on the shingled elevations. The three intersecting gables are moderately pitched and embellished with simple sawn and turned ornament on the ends. A two-story porch once covered three sides of the entrance gable. In the 1930s, John R. and Sally Latourette enclosed a portion of the first floor porch in order to enlarge the living and dining rooms. Original paired double-hung sash were attached to the west end, while multi-paned fixed windows were added to the south. A sawn frieze on the second floor is echoed in the design of the balustrades, one of which has been shingled. Turned posts support the porch structure. A small portion of the second floor porch was enclosed on both the north and south sides to add a bathroom and a closet to the master bedroom.

The wood shed on the east side of the house was enclosed and converted into a bedroom and a utility room downstairs and a sleeping porch on the second floor.

Finally, the lap siding on the entire exterior of the house was covered with shingels, so characteristic of most of the summer homes in Gearhart. The shingles are of wood.

Interior

Salient features inside the Latourette House include the tongue-and-groove walls, the two fireplaces, the double-hung windows, the relatively high ceilings on the second floor and the well lit attic due to the three gables on the third floor.

Interior alterations include enlarging the dining and living rooms and increasing the amount of window coverage as mentioned previously. This work was done in the 1930s by John and Sally Clay Latourette. At the same time the stairway upstairs was relocated due to the new dining room layout.

The kitchen was remodeled and expanded into the new dining room, either in the late 1930s or the early 1940s.

In summary, the significant alterations to the house were done to enlarge the interior living spaces, as the house was used for vacations and summer visits always involving lots of family members. Additionally, throughout the years there have been many new roofs, trim paint, replaced porch floors, improvements to the foundation, new bathroom and kitchen floors, new interior paint, a new back door and minor improvements.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1892 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Charles David Latourette House is significant to the city of Gearhart as its first permanent residence. It is also significant for its association with Mr. C. D. Latourette, former mayor of Oregon City. We feel the property is eligible under criteria "b" and "c".

Constructed in 1892, the house was built on a part of the original "Gearhart Park" plat in an area known as "the meadow." Fear of storms caused early inhabitants of this resort community to locate away from the beach, which today comprises the most desirable acreage. The equally historic Ridge Path abuts the Latourette House and was set aside historically for beach access from the more sheltered inland conclave of buildings.

Accessibility by train from Portland provided the spark which flamed into a proliferation of vacation and second homes for prominent Oregonians in Gearhart and other coastal resort towns. One of these was James Sykes Reed. An early city librarian, he also established one of Oregon's first insurance companies.

James S. Reed married Mary Cargill and came to Oregon in 1869. His mother Anna came from England and was very involved in church affairs. James was schooled in Washington, D. C. He and Mary had a son named Medford Reed who was interviewed by the Oregon Historical Society in 1976. During the interview, Medford spoke of the Gearhart beach house in detail, especially remembering the porches, the upstairs and the Ridge Path. During their ownership of the house, the Reed's would leave Portland for the cottage as soon as school ended and remain there all summer. Medford said he would put his bathing suit on when they arrived and didn't take it off until the fall. He also referred to the unstable ridge of dunes on the ocean. When he first went there no one ever thought of building where the wind blew so hard. Finally someone had some sod brought in to hold the sand and proceeded to build the first house up there. From then on everyone built on the ridge overlooking the ocean, known today as Ocean Avenue (aka Gin Ridge).

From the mid 1920s, the house has been associated with C. D. Latourette, successful attorney and former two-term mayor of Oregon City. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri and moved to Fentonville, Michigan at age five. He received an LL.B degree from Michigan State University at Ann Arbor in 1878.

A college friend, John Magers, was from Oregon and thus encouraged Charles David Latourette to look at the West "to hang his single." He was intrigued about this possibility as he knew other family members were in the west. So in 1879, following graduation, he explored the Corvallis area but selected Oregon City, probably with the aid of his close friend and Uncle Lyman D. C. Latourette. Several years later it was Lyman D. C. Latourette's son, Dewitt Clinton Latourette, who joined his cousin C. D. Latourette and established the law partnership to be known as C. D. and D. C. Latourette.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached Bibliography

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 95' x 100'

Quadrangle name Gearhart, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	2	8	9	5	0	5	0	9	6	5	8	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 10, Lots 14, 16, Township 6 N, Range 10 W, Gearhart, Clatsop Co., Oregon

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Latourette Wells
Carole Latourette Wells

organization Owners date

street & number 2728 NE 24th & 3630 SW Dosch Road telephone 288-2040 and 295-2777

city or town Portland state Oregon

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

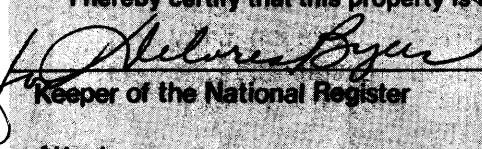
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/16/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register


Keeper of the National Register date 3/22/84

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LATOURETTE, CHARLES DAVID Item number 8 Page 2

D. C. Latourette was the father of Kenneth Scott Latourette, the internationally recognized authority and author on far eastern Asian history and religions.

The third member of these first generation lawyers was Lyman Ezra Latourette. He received his LL.B from Columbia University in 1899 and was admitted to the Oregon Bar the same year. He served as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Portland from 1910 to 1938 and in 1938 became the City Attorney for Portland.

In 1888, C. D. and D. C. Latourette erected the Commercial Bank of Commerce in Oregon City, Oregon, and in 1907, after purchasing the stock of Henry Failing, who was an interested shareholder in the bank, the bank was renamed the First National Bank of Oregon City and later became a chain of the First National Bank of Oregon

The second generation of lawyers in the Latourette family were all sons of C. D. Latourette. The oldest of the sons was Mortimer Latourette, who practiced a very short period of time and was the president of the First National Bank of Oregon City. He was also a successful farmer. It has been rumored that Mortimer Latourette became very disgusted after losing his first case and while en route from the courthouse to his law office, tossed his lawbook into the Willamette River and forever quit the practice of law.

Howard Latourette was the second of C. D.'s sons and received his LL.B. in 1905 from the University of Oregon. Howard was quite active in Oregon politics and served as Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

John Randolph Latourette was the third son to enter the practice of law. He received his LL.B. from Columbia University in New York in 1910. He later joined his brother, Howard, in the firm of Latourette and Latourette, and practiced in the City of Portland. He also was a member of the House of Representatives and was very instrumental in the passage of the Oregon Workmen's Compensation Bill in 1913.

The fourth son in the second generation of practicing Latourettes was Earl Cornelius Latourette, better known as "Sap." When he died he was the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, and was widely known for his sense of humor and brief legal opinions.

John Randolph Latourette's son, John Randolph II, was the only member of the third generation and is still an active member of the Oregon Bar. He still maintains a law office in Portland, Oregon, but most of his time is spent in Santa Barbara, California, where he resides and has various business interests.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LATOURETTE, CHARLES DAVID

Item number

8

Page

3

Charles David Latourette was the first of the family to own the Gearhart residence. He eventually gave the house to two of his four sons, Earl C. and John R. The latter eventually gained full ownership of the house by a toss of the coin with his brother. John's wife, Sally Clay, was a direct descendent of Henry Clay, the well known politician in American history. John was born in Oregon in 1884 and attended the University of Oregon Law School. John gave the cottage to his daughter Carole Latourette Wells who later granted the house to her three children, Wendy, Carole and William Jr.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LATOURETTE, CHARLES DAVID

Item number

9

Page 1

Blumenson, John. Identifying American Architecture. American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, 1977.

Eminent Judges and Lawyers of the Northwest, 1843-1955.

Lockley, Fred. History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea.

Morgan, Ryan Associates, Gearhart Oregon Comprehensive Plan, City Hall, Gearhart, Oregon.

Oregon Historical Society Pioneer Files.

Oregon Historical Society Biography Files.

Oregon Historical Society Cassette 92 R352D, 1976.

Oregon Historical Society Scrapbooks.

Seaside Signal, 4-9-79.

Vaughn, Thomas and Ferriday, Virginia Guest, Space, Style, and Structure: Building in Northwest America. Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

see Map 6 IO 9AD

1	2000	6	8	10	12	14	16
2		2200		2500		2700	
3	2100						
4		2300	2400	2600		2800	
		5	7	9	11	13	15

18	20	22	24	26
3100				3403
3000				
2900		3300		3
17	19	21	23	25

D 10-05

1	3602	6	8	10	12	14	16
2	3600	3601	3800		4100	4200	4300
3	3604						
4	3603	5	7	9	11	13	15
			3700	3900	4001	4000	4300

18	20	22	23	26	28
4500		4700			4900
4400	4600				4800
17	19	21	23	25	27

COTTAGE

PARIA

E

1	5300	6	8	10	12	14	16
2			5800	5801	6000		
3	5400						
4	5500	5600	5900		6100		
		5	7	9	11	13	15

18	20	22	24	26	28
6201		6500	6600	6800	6900
6200	6400		6700		6901
17	19	21	23	25	27

GEARHART

F

Latourette, Charles David, House
683 "D" Street
Gearhart, Clatsop Co., Oregon

8800	8700	8600	8500	8400	8300
------	------	------	------	------	------

AVE.

GER

G

See Map 6 IO 10