

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 instruction 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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, 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 Nerdrum-Conrad House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 979 South Fifth Street

not for publication

city or town Coos Bay

vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Deschutes COOS code 017 zip code 97701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.

James Hamrick
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO

April 26, 2004
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

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):

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
6/16/04
Date of

Nerdrum-Conrad House
Name of Property

Coos, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
X private	X building(s)	1	1
public-local	district		buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
		1	1
			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)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling</u>	<u>DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC/ Multiple Dwelling (Boarding House)</u>	
<u>LANDSCAPE/Garden</u>	<u>LANDSCAPE/Garden</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/</u> Other: <u>Craftsman/American Foursquare with some Colonial Revival</u> <u>and Arts and Crafts detailing</u>	foundation: <u>concrete,</u> walls: <u>wood frame, stucco exterior</u> roof : <u>composition shingles</u> other: <u>brick (exterior chimney)</u>

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

See continuation sheets

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Nerdrum—Conrad House
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SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Nerdrum-Conrad House, constructed in 1912, is a 2½ story residential single-family home built in the Craftsman/American Foursquare style with Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts detailing. It has a hipped roof with subtly flared eaves and three hipped dormers on the east, south and west sides. It is a wood framed structure, clad in stucco with painted wood trim and detailing, a composition shingle roof, deep overhangs and an off center entrance. The house fronts east onto Fifth Street with the entrance portico set off center to the structure, but centered under a hip roofed entry. A pair of solid wood entrance doors is flanked by two sidelights. A brick chimney rises full height along the east end of the north elevation. On the main level, the windows are primarily 6/1, while on the upper levels a 6/2 pattern is predominant. Two large oriel windows provide architectural interest on the south side of the house. From the front elevation of the house, a modestly landscaped lawn slopes to the street. The 32' by 54' footprint of the four-level house is set on the northeast portion of the four-25 foot lots it occupies, with a 12 foot wide driveway running adjacent to the north side of the house, along the full 140 foot length of the lots. A modern carport, which reflects the styling of the main house, has been built to the rear of the house and can be accessed either through the Fifth Street alley or from the driveway entrance on Fifth Street. The property is located in the historic Fifth Street neighborhood, an area well-known locally for its tree-lined streets, wide sidewalks and generously proportioned homes. The house has retained its original woodwork, windows, oak flooring and floor plan and is in good condition. The landscaped garden that sits on the two southern lots of this property is included as a contributing site due to the presence of the original formal brick path and circular pond. It is a separate tax lot from the house, but currently under the same ownership as the house. The property has historical integrity in its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Nerdrum-Conrad house at 979 South Fifth Street shares a common heritage with The Hjalte Nerdrum House at 955 South Fifth Street which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 27, 1993. The two houses were built simultaneously by two Finnish brothers who had come to Marshfield (which changed its name to Coos Bay in 1944) to supervise the construction and management of a pulp mill owned by C. A. Smith. The two houses, while not identical, feature many similar interior and exterior features. Windows, flooring, doors, hardware, and wood trim elements are identical in the two houses and unique in Coos Bay.

SETTING

The Nerdrum-Conrad House and garden site is located on Lots 23, 24, 25 and 26, Block 44, Railroad Addition to Marshfield (now Coos Bay), Coos County, Oregon. It is one of the premier houses in a residential historic neighborhood developed by the executives and associates of the C.A. Smith Lumber Company beginning in 1912. Situated on the higher

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west side of Fifth Street, it afforded views of the bay and mill industries to the east. As originally constructed, the house occupied only lots 25 and 26, but lots 23 and 24 were acquired by the Conrad family in 1921 to allow for the garden expansion to the south of the house. Although divided into two tax accounts, the property has been unified since 1921. In all, the property measures 100 feet by 140 feet.

The house has a rectangular plan, approximately 32 feet by 54 feet, with the shorter dimension facing the street. A paved driveway is located directly north and runs the entire 140 foot length of the property, accessing a drive-through garage and carport which exits to the alley. The main floor of the house is raised several feet above ground level, allowing for high basement windows to light the basement level. The four-level structure includes a full concrete basement divided into work and storage areas and a partial bathroom; a main floor housing the entry, living, entertaining, kitchen, and utility areas plus a small bathroom; a second floor consisting of five bedrooms, two bathrooms and a linen closet; and a substantial attic volume containing two finished rooms and large storage areas.

The area south of the house has been developed into a garden area including an original U-shaped brick walkway that showcased the well-known tulip gardens of Mr. W.J. Conrad. Roses have replaced the tulips and contemporary plantings are interspersed among the older rhododendrons planted around the perimeter of the garden area. At the western open end of the brick walk, a circular shallow pond remains as well, but due to the development of several large cracks in the concrete basin, it is currently filled with soil and utilized as a planter. A large Norway maple growing at the eastern edge of the garden begins the transition from the more private residential garden area to the expanse of sloping lawn and plantings visible from the street. A six-foot high cedar fence, set back 45 feet back from the street, separates the two areas.

EXTERIOR

Viewed from Fifth Street, the Nerdrum-Conrad house exhibits a rectangular form. Although Architect Steven Clay has described the house as a “restrained Colonial Revival”, its unadorned presentation appears to be more Craftsman/American Foursquare in nature. The original architect and builder of the two Nerdrum houses are unknown, but particular design elements of the two houses and use of materials is unique in the area, perhaps reflecting their Finnish heritage.

The use of stucco as an exterior treatment on private residences was not common in the area until after the 1920's. In an era and area of unlimited timber resources, wood was the ubiquitous building material. Thus, the use of stucco cladding on this house in 1912 represents one of the earliest local residential applications.

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The house rests on top of a poured concrete wall and basement. The exterior basement walls have a smoothed finish which no longer reveals the form imprints as the inner walls do. The seamless stucco walls rise a full two stories, then are topped with a hipped composition roof punctuated by three dormers, one each on the east, south and west aspects of the roof. The dashed texture of the stucco is applied randomly.

The streetside entrance to the house is off-center on the southeast corner. Two large solid doors are flanked by horizontally divided sidelites. Early photographs (1916) show only a single, larger glass door, flanked by single narrow sidelites. The door was likely replaced in the early 1950's when Dr. Eugene Sorum owned the home. A large open portico frames the entry, supported on two squared columns. The lower portion of the columns is poured concrete formed to resemble blocks while the upper section is wood. Each open wall of the portico is topped with flattened Tudor-arched stucco surfaced beams on which the hipped portico roof rests. Two sets of full-width stairs lead from the portico. One projects out to the street, while the other hugs the house and provides a sideways exit to the driveway. To the north of the porch is a large Chicago window (a large fixed center sash flanked by narrower movable sashes on each side). At the upper level of the front elevation are symmetrically placed, 6 / 2 double hung sash windows, representing placement of two of the bedrooms on the second floor. The roof slope is interrupted by a hipped dormer containing two small 3/2 windows.

The south elevation contains two oriel windows, placed at different levels. One is located midway between the stories and represents the middle landing of the interior stairwell. The second is placed on the lower level in a room which has been a dining room, a family room, or a game room over the years. When the house was built in 1912, it was placed on two 25 foot wide lots, leaving only a 5-6 foot space on the south exposure to the property line. At that time, another house occupied the neighboring lot. In 1921 the Conrad family purchased that lot and the smaller house was moved to another location. Subsequently, the formal garden area was developed with a brick pathway and a circular pond. A conservatory was added to the south elevation of the house by the Conrads in 1925, but was removed in the 1970's when an owner attempted to sell off the extra lot. On this side of the house, the stucco surface has scars from additions and subtractions, but is currently representative of the original appearance. Upper level windows are 6/2 double hung and display placement of bedrooms and a closet. The dormer at the roof level is not original to the house, but was built to match the design of existing dormers. A concrete exterior stairwell descends to the exterior entrance of the basement at the rear corner of the house.

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The rear (west) elevation is comprised of a glassed-in deck and porch, covered with translucent corrugated roofing material. This feature, although not original, is extremely functional and is not visible from either the street or the alley. The upper level remains with its original stucco cladding, punctuated by 6/2 double hung sash windows for a bedroom, closet and bathroom. The hipped-roof dormer on the roof level is original, with two small 3/2 double hung sash windows. To the rear of the house is a fenced off area, containing a dog run and fruit trees. A garage/carport combination structure is at the extreme rear (northwest) corner of the property.

The north elevation remains entirely in its original configuration. Its significant feature is the projecting brick chimney which extends from the basement past the roof level. Three narrow basement windows stretch along ground level, with other windows placed as appropriate. Between the house and its property line to the north is a 12 foot wide asphalt driveway that runs the length of the property.

The wood trim of all the windows in both of the Nerdrum brothers' homes exhibits a uniform design not seen elsewhere in older Coos Bay homes. By no means intricate, it is still unique. A single 1 inch by 6 inch board appears to have been run through a planer several times using different widths and depths. One pattern is seen on exterior molding, while a slightly varied design is used on interior trim.

For the most part, the Nerdrum-Conrad house is a boxy structure, lacking in frilly ornamentation. This perhaps represents a deliberate trend away from the preceding Victorian gingerbread era. The curious exceptions are the scroll-like rafter tails used as eave supports and the similarly scrolled modillions under the portico eaves. These were difficult to discern until a contrasting paint scheme was used to highlight them.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Nerdrum-Conrad house retains most of its original features, such as rooms and their use, flooring, doors, windows, hardware, crown molding and picture rail trim, baseboards, French doors, hot-water radiators that still heat the house, and some plumbing and electrical components. The original kitchen has been converted into a smaller utility room with a small bathroom added. A main level maid's room was made into a much larger, functional kitchen in the 1960's. The lath and plaster walls were wallpapered early and often, but are in good condition below the layers. A majority of the windows still function as double-hungs should and those that don't are being stripped and restored so that they do.

First Floor

The first floor contains an entry, a "great room" which lends itself to being a living room and a formal dining room, an informal living area that opens to the kitchen over a half wall, a utility room, a walk-through butler's pantry and a small bathroom. Interior stairs that descend

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to the basement are at the rear of the house, while the more elaborate stairway that accesses the bedroom level is at the front of the house, making a strong visual impression from the entry hall.

The double solid wood exterior doors on the west side of the portico open into a 12 foot by 14 foot entry room. The ascending stairway is at the open west side of the entry area. Two steps up is a landing from which the stair continues to the south and up five steps to an intermediate landing where the stair reverses and takes its final flight of ten steps to the top landing. The stairway has stained fir treads, each of which supports three, one inch square balusters, which in turn are capped by a stained fir rail. Three heavy square newel posts articulate and support this assembly through its direction changes. The treads have differing widths, with the stair becoming a bit narrower with each flight. The bottom tread in the entry hall is 80 inches across, the one up from it is 70 inches, while the four treads in the middle flight are 60 inches wide, and the last group of ten treads dwindles to a mere 54 inches across!

The living room (the eastern end of the 18 foot by 36 foot "Great Room") is accessed to the north of the entry through a pair of French doors flanked by narrow sidelites. The focal point of the living room is the brick fireplace on the north exterior wall. It is surrounded by tile trim and a simple wood mantle. On either side of the fireplace are symmetrical 6/1 double hung sash windows. A large three-part window occupies the greater part of the eastern end of this room, allowing cheerful quantities of warm morning light to enter.

The western end of this room is the natural location of a formal dining room. It is likely that a wall with 2 sets of French doors once separated the two rooms that are now one. A slight bulge on the ceiling would indicate this, but recorded evidence is lacking. At any rate, the crown molding at the wall and ceiling juncture is seamless, as are the floor baseboards. Picture railing was originally installed about 10 inches below the crown molding, but was removed long ago. Two large 6/1 windows are installed side-by-side on the north wall of this room.

The informal dining/leisure area is directly south of the formal dining room and is accessed through another set of French doors. A low wood paneled wainscot extending approximately 30 inches up from the floor is in place on three walls. A section is missing from one wall and the fourth wall has been reconstructed to create an open area into the kitchen. A trio of French door panels form an oriel window in this room that overlooks the garden area to the south of the house. At the northeast corner of this room is a door that opens to reveal an understair closet and storage area as well as a return to the entry area.

The southwest corner of the house originally served as the servants' quarters and bathroom, but was reconfigured in the 1960's to accommodate a larger, more functional kitchen.

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Between this area and the original kitchen to the north is the butler's pantry. There is no built-in cabinetry remaining, but it is likely that it was similar to the one existing in the Hjalte Nerdrum house.

The northwest corner of the house contained the original kitchen. Early photos show wood cabinetry, but painted steel cabinets are currently in place, suggesting an early remodel, perhaps in the 1930's. Linoleum flooring is still in place, both on the floor and on the countertops. A small bathroom has been built in a corner of this room and laundry facilities have been moved up from the basement into this area which is currently used as a utility room.

An interior stairway to the basement is located between the utility room and the formal dining room.

With the exception of the kitchen and utility areas at the rear of the house, the flooring throughout the first level is narrow oak laid in a concentric, diagonal pattern and interlaced at room junctions. It is in good condition and is well-maintained.

The ceiling height throughout the main level is nearly 10 feet. Suspended ceilings have been installed in the kitchen and bathroom, but original plasterwork is visible above the ceiling tiles.

Second Floor

The second floor is reached via the main stairway as described in the preceding section. The stair terminates in a central hall which traverses the house east to west. All second floor rooms are accessed from this hall.

The bedroom (#1) in the southeast corner of the house is located at the east end of the central hall. The room has two 6/2 double hung sash windows, one each on the south and east exterior walls. The eastern window has replaced an original French door that opened to a small balcony over the portico. The current owner hopes to reconstruct this feature based on old photographs. A small closet along the east exterior wall has been removed and replaced with built-in cabinetry closets that flank the southern window. The original flooring is exposed in this room, revealing 3 ¼ inch fir planks installed in east to west linear fashion. In the northeast corner of this room is a door that opens to the master bedroom to the north.

This was likely a nursery at one time or another, with passage through the small closet. The changes in this room were made by the Conrad family during the 1920's.

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The bedroom (#2) directly to the north of the stair terminus and located on the northeast corner is the master bedroom. This 14 foot by 20 foot room has two windows, located on the north and east exterior walls toward the northeast corner. The chimney from the fireplace on the main floor passes through this room, projecting into the room about 12 inches on the north exterior wall, about the middle of the room. The original closet of this room (located on the west interior wall) and that of the adjoining bedroom to the west were converted to a master bathroom by the Conrads in 1924, according to dates stamped into the plumbing fixtures. This bathroom is not directly accessible from the hall, but can be entered from either of the bedrooms that it connects.

The master bath measures 6 by 9 feet and contains two narrow casement windows that swing outward from the exterior north wall. The floor is tiled with 1 inch hexagonal "penny tiles", while the walls are tiled with 4 ¼ inch square white tiles to about 4 feet up from the floor. The bathroom is outfitted with a pedestal sink and 64-inch built-in cast iron tub, both of which date to the original conversion. The toilet is a modern one, replacing a model whose water tank was bolted to the tile wall in a higher location.

The north bedroom (#3) is located in the center of the second level. It contains one window and was Mr. Conrad's dressing room. When the closet for this room was removed to allow room for the bathroom, mirrored cabinetry closets were built-in on the west wall.

A linen closet measuring 5 feet by 6 feet is accessed from the hall, between the master bedroom and bedroom #3. A lace curtained glass panel door opens outward into the hall to allow entry to the storage shelves.

The main bathroom is located at the west end of the hall on the northwest corner of the house. It is large for a bathroom, measuring 12 by 14 feet. It has always been a single bathroom, according to a Conrad family member. It was remodeled in the 1950's by Dr. Sorum and his family who updated to the newest pink ceramic fixtures including double sinks, a square cast iron bathtub, a separate shower stall and a toilet. The bathroom contains a small linen closet as well as a laundry chute which opens to the utility room below.

A transom window at the far west end of the hall allows light from another closet to continue through and light the hall.

Bedroom #4 is at the southwest corner of the house and has two windows, one each on the west and south exterior walls. This room overlooks the garden below and gathers sunlight most of the day. A closet in this room contains a smaller 3/2 double hung sash window. The door to the closet is absent.

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The original laundry chute opens into the hall between bedroom #4 and bedroom #5. It is no longer functional due to the kitchen remodel below it, but remains intact.

Bedroom #5 is in the center of the house on the south side. Its single window on the south exterior wall looks directly over the garden below. When the window in this room was restored, the initials "R K C" were found inscribed under layers of paint on the panel cover for the window weights. Roger Kruse Conrad was born in 1918 and this was his bedroom as a child. Visible from the window, the large Norway maple blocks most of the view beyond the garden. This room also has a closet with a small window. The door has been removed from this closet as well. A narrow attic stairway occupies a portion of the interior north wall of the room, leaving it somewhat L-shaped.

Woodwork, doors, door trim and hardware on the second floor are all original, functional and in good shape, with the exception of 2 doors in the main bath. Picture rail is present in all bedrooms. In bedroom #5, the picture rail was repositioned to the top of the wall, probably in the 1920's, judging the clues layer of wallpaper and paint have left behind.

The fir floors throughout the second floor have all been carpeted, with the exception of bedroom #1.

Ceiling height in the second floor rooms is about 9 feet, somewhat lower than the main floor.

Two original light fixtures from 1912 remain in the hallway. They were initially installed in the entry and the middle landing of the main stair, but were moved to the hall later.

Attic Level

The attic stair can be accessed by two doors; one in the second floor hall and the other in bedroom #5. The two doors are at right angles to each other. The door opening to the hall appears to be a later addition, likely installed when the house became a boarding house in the 1930's. The attic could then be used for living quarters, independent of the second floor room.

When the Conrad's owned the house, the attic was unfinished and was a play area for Roger. His sister, Virginia Grant (now 86), says that because the door to the attic was in Roger's bedroom, he felt the entire attic was his. With a pool table in place, it became a game room.

At some point, the space was paneled with plywood stamped "Reject" from Coos Bay mills and divided into two rooms, each having a small closet. Light and ventilation came from the dormer windows, one in each room. The attic was not insulated, and the house radiator heat is not plumbed into the attic, so it must have been a cold place in the winter.

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At the middle of the area, where the ceiling reaches a flat point, it is over 8 feet high. The sloping ceiling extends down and becomes a wall at about 5 feet above the floor, giving the rooms a comfortable volume. Storage areas have been created behind the walls.

A third dormer was added to the south elevation of the house to provide for emergency exiting when the attic area is occupied. It is larger than the originals, but built in the same style.

Basement Level

The full basement served originally for laundry, canning, storage, boiler and fuel storage. Although a boiler has heated the house since its construction, boiler fuels have changed. Wood, coal, natural gas and oil have been available through the years and scars on the basement floor indicate coal storage. A natural gas line extends from the street into the basement, but it is not clear if it was utilized as a fuel. Clothes drying lines are still strung across the basement ceiling. Framing remnants of a dumbwaiter and a laundry chute are visible at the ceiling level. A small room in the northwest corner contains an original toilet with wall-hung tank and black enameled seat, although it is no longer used. Several "treasures" have been discovered in the basement including doors, oak flooring installed in the conservatory, wood paneling from the original kitchen and decades-old rolls of wallpaper. Also old wiring from an intercom system that Mr. Conrad used to communicate with the house staff was found.

The main level floor joists are visible from the basement. They are said to be western cedar and are a full 32 feet long, spanning the entire width of the house. A support beam rests under them at the mid point, but this explains why a movement made on the south side of the house can be felt on the north side. The ceiling height in the basement is about 7 feet from the concrete floor to the floor joists.

Some of the walls have been painted and it appears that a small basement apartment may have been in place at some time. With both interior and exterior stairs and plumbing already in place, it would have been logical.

Garden Site

The formal garden area to the south of the house contains two significant features which have been maintained since its creation. Although the property was previously a home site, it has been in use as a garden area since its purchase by the Conrads in 1921. The U-shape brick pathway remains in its original configuration, opening to the shallow circular pond at the east end. Early photographs show a single upright pipe as a fountain. The current owners have placed a removable concrete statue over the pipe, but continue to use it as a fountain.

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The brick walk is three feet wide and forms the perimeter of an area 65 feet long by 35 feet wide. The common red brick is laid in a running bond pattern with corners interlaced. A circular brick topped pond, seven feet in diameter, is centered at the open east end of the pathway. The shallow concrete basin has developed deep cracks and no longer holds water. It has been filled with garden soil and planted with water-loving plants that receive spray from the fountain.

It is not known which plants in the garden might survive from the historic period. An apple tree in the northwest corner is obviously quite old, judging from its thick, gnarled, lichen-laden branches and deeply rounded healed scars. Rhododendrons along the south border are over 11 feet tall. A prominent feature to the immediate east of the fountain is a tall Norway Maple, which towers over the two-story houses on either side of it. It may be the tree pictured as a seedling in an early photograph.

Based on recollections of Virginia Conrad Grant, who spent her childhood in the house, red tulips were in abundance throughout the garden. In the fall of 2002, approximately 200 red tulip bulbs were planted to recreate the visual impression.

There was no sign of the brick pathway when the current owners purchased the property in 1993. It lay buried below several inches of well established soil and lawn. In the process of refurbishing the lawn area, the top surfaces of just a few bricks were revealed. Throughout the summer, the pathway was uncovered. The brick tops are worn and rounded, but still maintain the feel of a solid walking surface.

The garden area was known to be the site of many social gatherings, including weddings, school plays and special events.

At one point in the 1970's, a realtor-owner of the property attempted to sell the garden lot (which is a separate tax parcel) as a building lot. Fortunately, this did not occur, as the large house benefits from the proportional addition of lawn and garden area. The current owner is exploring the feasibility of permanently joining the two tax lots.

Alterations to the House

Occupants of houses inevitably make changes to create an environment that reflects their individual preferences. W. J. Conrad and his family made several modifications in the 1920's, which are outlined below. During the "boarding house" phase of its life, the structure apparently saw little change in appearance, perhaps benefiting from this period of benign neglect. When Dr. Sorum and his family bought the property in the 1950's, it was returned to use as a single family residence and some updates were carried out. Large families were attracted to the house and subsequently in the late 1960's a kitchen renovation occurred.

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In the mid 1970's, the house was professionally redecorated, painted and carpeted, but structural change was minimal.

1920's

From early photographs, it appears that the first change the Conrad family made was to remove a fence that surrounded the property. Comprised of square concrete pillars placed about 12-15 feet apart and connected by wooden upright fence boards, the Conrad home and the two homes to the north employed the same fence style. These three neighbors (Conrad, Dr. Dix and A.E. Adelsperger) became friends and business associates. The removal of fences paralleled the melding of their lives in other aspects. Another early change was the removal of a 2-paneled French door that opened onto an exterior balcony above the entry portico. It was replaced with a window matching the existing one on the upper level, creating a symmetrical façade. Presumably, at the same time, a smaller central window was removed. The current owners believe this was probably a window into a closet between the two bedrooms, which was also removed. Virginia Conrad Grant, who was a newborn when the family moved into the house in 1916, remembers most of the changes made to the house, but does not recall this one.

The house as originally constructed probably had only two bathrooms; one on the main floor adjacent to the maid's bedroom and one large bathroom on the second level to serve the five bedrooms. The Conrads gutted two closets between the master bedroom and the bedroom to the west to create a master bath in 1924, according to dates imprinted on plumbing fixtures. It appears that the white hexagonal ceramic "penny" floor tiles as well as the square 4-inch white wall tiles date back to this time. The original closet doors were left in place, creating a walk-through to the master's dressing room, which had built-in mirrored closets.

Downstairs, the Conrad family removed a north-south interior wall separating the living room from the parlor area. A new "Great Room" was created, allowing space for their grand piano and generous seating around the fireplace.

The most impressive feature added during the Conrad tenure was a conservatory added to the southeast corner of the house in 1923. Measuring 15 by 25 feet, this room could be accessed by French doors to the south of the entry or from a single wooden door in the dining room. This room would have been sunlit most of the day. Photographs reveal that care was used to replicate the arches and decorative woodwork already in place on the front of the house. This addition of this room correlates with the acquisition of the additional lot to the south for a garden area. It was removed in the 1970's when the owner at that time wished to separate and sell the extra lot.

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1930's

After the Conrad family lost the house in a foreclosure action in 1933, it was rented out as a boarding house operated by Zella Bradburn and her husband Dr. George A. Bradburn. Local high school teachers are remembered as tenants. Dr. Bradburn died in 1937 and Zelda's 14 year old son, Arle, was accidentally killed in the house in 1938. The only alteration that can be credited to this time was the paneling of the attic area into two additional bedrooms and closets, presumably to house Zelda's children. Zelda (Bradburn) Gillespie became the owner of the property in 1943, selling it in 1953 to Dr. Eugene B & Norma Sorum.

1950's

It is known that the Sorums remodeled the main bathroom upstairs to accommodate their large family. The matching pink plumbing fixtures are imprinted with the date of July 22, 1958. A claw-foot tub, single sink and toilet were replaced by double sinks, a square bathtub, a separate shower stall and a toilet. In the basement they added sump pumps, making it a useable area year-round. They also built an entertainment patio behind the house. Only the concrete slab remains.

1960's

During the ownership of the John Whitty family, the most obvious interior change was made with the changing of the kitchen space. No longer needed, a maid's bedroom was converted into a larger, more functional kitchen at the southwest corner of the house. The previous kitchen was kept with its metal cabinets and linoleum floor as a utility room, but a space was subtracted for a new half-bath. The butler's pantry now became a main passageway and the cupboards that presumably lined the walls, as they are in the neighboring house, were removed.

1970's

In order to separate the two tax lots, the conservatory was demolished. The south side of the house was hastily repaired by installing large aluminum sliding windows, leaving large areas of mismatched stucco patches. The current owner removed the aluminum sliders and replaced them with three wooden French door panels, designed to duplicate the oriel projection of the stairway window on that side of the house.

Unknown dates

The front porch was shortened to include only the area covered by the portico. A second set of stairs was built to access this north side of the porch. The flat roof/balcony combination was reroofed into a hipped structure and the decorative railing was removed.

The original single garage was replaced by a modern double carport set further back on the northwest corner of the property.

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. (Locally)
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)

Commerce
Industry

Period of Significance

1912 - 1934

Criteria Considerations

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

- Property is:
A owned by a religious institution or used for Religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or 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.

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Nerdrum, Rolfe
Conrad, W.J.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets

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:

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SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The residence at 979 South Fifth Street, Coos Bay, Oregon (known as Marshfield until 1944), was built for Rolfe and Maja Nerdrum in 1912 and was later owned and occupied for many years by W. J. and Laura Conrad. It is proposed for nomination under Criterion B because it is associated with the lives of two individuals important in Coos County's history as it developed in the early years of the twentieth century. Rolfe Nerdrum and W. J. Conrad were among the principals associated with the development of the timber industry, initially for the C. A. Smith Lumber Company and later other firms. Although Nerdrum's stay in the community was brief, he left the legacy of a house still admired. Conrad committed himself to the timber and lumber industry for life and remained a resident of South Fifth Street until his death.

While the Nerdrum-Conrad house is not being nominated under Criterion A or C, it is possible that these could apply. The Hjalte Nerdrum House was nominated in 1992 under Criterion A and C as well. Criterion A was felt to be justified in that nomination because "it has contributed to the broad pattern of Coos County's history ... [and] ... is directly associated with the development of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, a firm which, by 1912, had become Coos County's dominant single economic force and largest employer, a position it and its successors retained until ... 1951". Criterion C was included because the house "embodies the distinctive characteristics of an urban, socio-economic, upper class residence of a type constructed in Coos County in the early 1900's". These statements are also true for Rolfe Nerdrum's home, constructed simultaneously and in tandem with that of his brother Hjalte.

The Statement of Significance begins by outlining the relationships between Nerdrum and Conrad, their roles in the C.A. Smith Lumber Company, the importance of the blending of business and personal friendships that occurred in this South Fifth Street neighborhood and the influence the house and its owners had in the early community of Marshfield. Biographical sketches of the Nerdrums and the Conrads will be presented next, followed by a brief history of Coos County's forest products industry. A concluding statement will present the essence of the Nerdrum-Conrad House's history.

Relationships

Hjalte and Rolfe Nerdrum were brothers recruited from Finland by Charles Axel (C.A.) Smith to build and supervise a new pulp mill for the expanding operations in Marshfield. The Nerdrum brothers had devised a system of using salt water to run a family pulp mill in Finland and Smith hoped to employ the same method in the Coos Bay mill. Hjalte, the older brother and manager of the project, purchased three 25-foot lots and had his house built at 955 South Fifth Street, while Rolfe, the senior supervisor, purchased a smaller piece of two 25-foot lots south of Hjalte's at 979 South Fifth Street. Two similar structures were built

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simultaneously and with many elements in common Hjalte's house, to reflect both his elder status in the family and employment, was proportioned somewhat larger to accommodate a grand stair and surrounding balcony. Both land purchases were completed in July, 1912 and grading and construction began immediately. Work on the new pulp mill began as well, but suffered construction setbacks and eventual technological and economic failure. The November 18, 1913 edition of the Coos Bay News reported:

"...the experimental work being done at the pulp mill was developing most satisfactory results. It is claimed that the pulp manufactured from the waste mill wood is of a much better grade than anticipated, and everything indicates that the enterprise will undoubtedly prove a complete success. This will probably mean the building of more pulp mills here, and eventually the construction of a large paper mill."

However, the salinity of the local bay water differed from that in Finland, creating corrosion difficulties. Additionally, the salt content varied with tides, seasons and rainfall. Along with the start of World War I and other financial difficulties, the pulp mill was short-lived.

In 1915, the Nerdrum brothers abruptly left town, leaving their fully furnished homes behind. Ownership was transferred to Coos Bay Pulp & Paper Company. It had been thought that the families returned to Finland, but a 1944 obituary for Hjalte reveals that his family moved to California, while Rolfe joined the Coast Guard.

William J. and Laura Conrad were the next owners of the house. W.J. Conrad had come to Coos Bay in 1907 from Minneapolis, Minnesota to take a position in the C.A. Smith Lumber and Manufacturing Company as secretary to Arno Merein, vice president of the company. As the company expanded, Conrad's positions and responsibilities increased. Ultimately, W.J. Conrad Lumber Company became its own entity, surpassing the C.A. Smith in community longevity.

Several other C. A. Smith Lumber Company executives and/or their heirs lived in the 900 block of South Fifth Street. Among these were Vernon A Smith, Treasurer (and eldest son of C.A. Smith); Albert H. "Al" Powers, Vice President and General Manager of the Smith-Powers Logging Company; A.E. "Gus" Adelsperger, Timber Superintendent; Ward Blake, Assistant Manager; and Dr. George Dix, Chief Physician. Other notable neighbors in the 900 block included: Dennis McCarthy, premier timber cruiser of the era; Wesley Seaman, prominent attorney; Ernest Harrington, office manager of Western White Cedar Company (a company formed by Adelsperger and Conrad), A. T. Forsythe, vice-president of Western White Cedar Company, and Clinton Going, a versatile and successful businessman. This block housed a veritable powerhouse of influential community members who occupied important commercial and political positions that guided early Marshfield in its development. Being the center of the elite society, their wives and families became a close-knit group whose long-term ties continue to the present day.

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SIGNIFICANT PERSONS

Rolfe Nerdrum

Rolfe Nerdrum and his older brother Hjalte, were well established in the Finnish pulp and paper business when they were recruited by C. A. Smith to build and supervise the operation of a pulp and ultimately a paper mill at Smith's Isthmus Slough manufacturing site. Their grandfather and father had spent their lifetimes establishing and managing two pulp mills in Finland. Smith announced plans to build a pulp and paper mill in the Coos Bay Times, April 24, 1912 edition. The plant was to be constructed under the supervision of Hjalte and Rolfe Nerdrum, with Hjalte being the general manager and Rolfe the senior supervisor. In the 1913-1914 edition of Polk's Coos County Directory, Rolf(sic) is listed as the superintendent of the Coos Bay Pulp & Paper Co., while Hjalte is listed as the treasurer. Their families were scheduled to join them in the United States, leaving Christiania, Norway on June 28, 1912.

The brothers traveled to Portland in early July to await their families' arrival and the entire group returned to Marshfield on July 10, 1912 aboard the U. S. S. Breakwater. They leased temporary housing on the corner of Tenth and Donnelley Street in Marshfield, while their new homes were constructed. The Coos Bay Times reported on July 23, 1912 :

"The Njerdrum (sic) Brothers started grading on their lots on Fifth street yesterday preparatory to the erection of their fine residences there. The contracts for the building have not yet been let but the plans are being figured today."

On July 27, 1912, Rolfe's wife Maja, gave birth to a nine pound son at Mercy Hospital.

"Mother and child are doing well and the father is proud as a candidate for president over this newly arrived young American citizen who some day may be president himself and is already that far ahead of this father."

"Mr. and Mrs. Nerdrum recently arrived from Finland to make their home in Marshfield, Mr. Nerdrum being one of the managers of the new Coos Bay Paper and Pulp mill being established at the C. A. Smith plant. Many friends will extend best wishes for the future welfare of this young American."

Coos Bay Times, July 27, 1912

Given that her ship travel occurred only months after the Titanic disaster, Mrs. Nerdrum must have been greatly relieved to have arrived and given birth successfully!

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The South Fifth Street area was proclaimed the "best boulevard in the city" by Reynolds Development Company in its advertisement to sell land in an adjacent neighborhood. The few remaining lots in the 900 block were purchased quickly and the Nerdrum homes became the standard that other new residential construction sought to emulate, as evidenced by news articles:

"C. M. Anderson is ... arranging to erect a new house on his other two lots on South Fifth Street between the two fine houses the Nerdrum brothers are erecting."

Coos Bay Times, September 11, 1912

"A. E. Adelsperger is arranging to rush a fine new home on South Fifth Street, opposite the Nerdrum homes to completion this winter. It will be strictly modern and one of the finest in town."

Coos Bay Times, December 23, 1912

"Architect Turpen has nearly completed the plans and specification for the fine modern bungalow, which Ward M. Blake will erect on South Fifth street, between Nerdrum Brothers' homes... ."

Coos Bay Times, April 16, 1913

Construction of the Nerdrum homes apparently occurred in a more timely and flawless manner than did the work at the pulp mill. One of the innovative features of the pulp mill was a concrete tower which was 200 feet tall. However, as the concrete was placed by the wheelbarrow load and pushed up multiple ramps, it was a time consuming endeavor. The machinery was shipped in and stored in a warehouse which burned, ignited by sparks from the nearby burner at the Smith mill. The damage was estimated at thousands of dollars with significant loss of machinery for the pulp mill. These and other setbacks delayed the opening and operation of the pulp mill until late in 1913. In the experimental operation, the pulp mill appeared to be successful, but corrosion and mechanical problems limited the life of working parts. A rather rapid decline occurred and by early 1915, the Nerdrum brothers and their families left Marshfield. Behind they left many belongings, their household furniture and two gracious homes which were signed over to the Coos Bay Pulp and Paper Company on April 16, 1915.

A death notice in Marshfield reported that Hjalte Nerdrum died at his home in Anaheim, California on September 4, 1944. His brother Rolfe was reported to have joined the Coast Guard.

As part of a business reorganization, the homes were transferred in 1916 to the C. A. Smith Lumber and Manufacturing Company. In April of 1916, W. J. Conrad, his wife Laura, and their two-week old daughter Virginia moved into the house.

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William Joseph ("W. J.") Conrad and Laura D. Kruse Conrad

While the Nerdrum family had the home built and were its first occupants, it is the Conrad family, the second occupants, who developed a long-term relationship with the house and the community.

W. J. Conrad was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on September 3, 1884 to Alexis and Ellen Conrad. He came to Marshfield in 1907 from Minneapolis to take a position in the C. A. Smith Lumber Company as secretary to Arno Mereen, Vice President and General Superintendent of the company.

An abbreviated biography of W. J. Conrad comes from a 1928 article honoring Conrad and highlighting his achievements. (Coos Bay Times -Golden Jubilee Annual, 1878-1928, pp.16 & 17.) His humble clerical beginnings with C.A. Smith Company, salaried at \$100 per month, provided the opportunity to establish himself in all aspects of the lumber business. His residency at 979 South Fifth Street gave him a more intimate access to, and the ability to become an influential member of, the early 20th century political and industrial powerhouse of the Marshfield area.

By 1912, W. J. Conrad's comings and goings were noteworthy and appeared often in the local newspaper. In January of 1914, a brief entry in the social calendar reported:

"Mr. And Mrs. T. B. James entertained a few friends at a duck dinner at their home in West Marshfield on Wednesday evening. Their guests were Miss Lillian Elmore and Miss Laura Kruse and Messrs. R. T. Kaufman and W. J. Conrad."

Coos Bay Times, January 3, 1914

The evening must have been memorable, as a year and a half later, Laura Kruse and W. J. Conrad were married. Laura was a daughter of K.V. (Knud Vladimar) and Mette M. Jensen Kruse. Her father was a partner in the Kruse-Banks Shipbuilding Company, the largest shipbuilder on the bay. She was born in San Francisco, California on August 17, 1890 and had moved to the area with her family in 1907, when her father took a position in Asa Mead Simpson's shipbuilding firm in North Bend. The wedding between W. J. Conrad and Laura Kruse took place on June 2, 1915, with W. J. Conrad being described as "one of the most popular young men of this city." Following the ceremony, a theatrical "kidnap the Bride" event was staged, courtesy of the Elks club.

In April of 1916, the Conrads took up residence at 979 South Fifth Street, along with their two-week old daughter, Virginia. Mr. Conrad was active in several areas of the local business arena. By 1924, Polk's directories list his credits as: President, Western Dredging Company; Secretary, Umpqua Timber Company; Secretary-Treasurer Coos River Farm Land Company; partner in the Adelsperger & Conrad Company; Secretary, Coos County Tax Association; Western White Cedar Company, and Corporation Finance Company. Diverse as the titles were, they involved a commonality: the lumber business.

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After only seven years with the C. A. Smith Lumber Co., W. J. Conrad had become a strong player in real estate acquisition. From buying small commercial lots speculatively, he moved into the timber brokerage business. With neighbor A. E. Adelsperger, he acquired the holdings of the Gardiner Mill Company on the Umpqua River, which were subsequently divided and re-sold to firms and individuals who established the community of Reedsport. In 1917, he and other businessmen organized the Coos Bay Shipbuilding Company which held contracts to build ships for World War I. By February 1918, the company employed nearly 500 men, while the Kruse (Conrad's father-in-law) and Banks shipyard continued in operation, employing a similar number of workers. The Coos Bay Shipbuilding Company ceased operations in early 1919, after the end of the War.

Following the decline of the C. A. Smith Lumber Co. and its eventual departure from the area, other timber-related businesses came into being. In 1922, W. J. Conrad, along with Adelsperger and others, formed Western White Cedar Company to supply the Japanese with Port Orford White Cedar logged from sites managed by Al Powers, another neighbor in the Fifth Street neighborhood. Conrad joined with Benjamin Ostlind (a former C. A. Smith Lumber Co. employee), to establish the Coos Veneer and Box Company which manufactured battery separators from the cedar.

In May, 1927, the W. J. Conrad Lumber Company was formed with Conrad as its president and Laura Conrad in the position of vice-president. The J. R. Thompson Mill was purchased and converted into a cedar mill, with Thompson directing sawmill operations. An advantage of the site was its waterfront location which allowed direct loading at the cargo dock. To assist with cargo handling, the Conrad Lumber Company owned and operated its own barges.

W. J. Conrad's successes resulted in improvements to the Conrad home as well. The 50 x 140 foot lot to the south was purchased by Laura Conrad in 1921 and on September 27, 1923, The Coos Bay Times considered it newsworthy that he had started "construction of a sun parlor at his home on South Fifth street." A 1928 promotional article ends by mentioning some of his other interests:

"In spite of his active business career, Mr. Conrad finds time to enjoy life as he goes. He is active in the Rotary Club, the Coos Golf & Country Club, the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Marshfield Athletic Commission and likes to see the Democrats win."

"Fortunate is the man who discovers a hobby in which he may completely lose himself. Mr. Conrad's hobby is flowers and he will tell you of those he himself is growing, with a true botanist's enthusiasm. To the rear of his home he has built an elaborate greenhouse, where buds both beautiful and rare receive constant attention."

Coos Bay Times-Golden Jubilee Annual 1878-1928, pp. 16-17.

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The garden area to the south of the house was home to a brilliant display of red tulips, one of Virginia Conrad Grant's vivid memories. Events such as school plays were staged there and recorded on an early movie camera by the proud father, W. J. Conrad. Undoubtedly, many social gatherings took place here where warm sunlight floods a wind-sheltered landscaped garden.

Laura Kruse Conrad is remembered as "a wonderful person", "civic-minded", and "a very generous lady" by those who knew her. In addition to raising her three children, Virginia (born in 1916), Roger (born in 1918), and Dorothy (born in 1926), Laura was active in educational, social, and political community affairs throughout her life. Title to the property at 979 South Fifth Street was held in her name alone, reflecting a fairly common practice at the time of vesting home ownership in a wife's name.

Mrs. Conrad's achievements are summarized in her 1974 obituary:

"Mrs. Conrad was active in community affairs, having been a member of the library board for 33 years, serving as chairman for a number of years. She was a past president of the Progress Club and the Women's Civic Club."

" She also participated in American Red Cross work, Camp Fire Girl Activities, was instrumental in obtaining the first ambulance for the Bay Area and had been prominent in other civic organizations."
The World, 10/23/1974

In an article published in the summer 2000 edition of Oregon Historical Society's Spectator, Mrs. W. J. Conrad is included in a 1929 photograph featuring past presidents of the Progress Club. Agnes Ruth Sengstacken, the subject of the article, is credited with being the persistent force that resulted in the Marshfield Public Library and obtaining the \$12,000 Carnegie grant to build it.

Virginia Conrad Grant, first-born of the Conrad children, remembers her early years with fondness and admiration of her parents. Before the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the subsequent Great Depression of the 1930's, the Conrad family holdings were sizeable. They had purchased the Sunset Beach resort from Louis Simpson which gave them ownership of all the ocean-front land between there and Bastendorff Beach. Along with business and timber lands, the family owned recreational property on nearby Ten Mile Lake and along the Coos River. However, the realities of the Depression spared few and the Conrads "lost everything" as Virginia puts it. The mortgage on the home at 979 South Fifth Street was foreclosed and the property was sold at a public Sheriff's auction on May 1, 1933. All that the Conrad family owned was gone, with the exception of an undeveloped waterfront lot which would become the site of the Conrad Lumber Company in the post-Depression recovery.

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Eventually, the Conrad family would recover financially, but the Conrad family association with the house at 979 South Fifth Street had ended. When finances were more stable for the Conrads, they purchased the original Alfred H. "Al" pierce home in the 700 block of South Fifth Street (known as 480 Hall Street) where W.J. Conrad lived until his death in 1953 at the age of 69. Laura Conrad remained in that house until 1974, selling it to its current owners. Conrad Lumber Company remained one of the area's larger commercial entities until it was purchased by Lumbermen's Corporation in the early 1990's. The land remains in family ownership and is leased to the new firm.

Unlike some other successful businessmen in the area, W. J. and Laura Conrad committed themselves to the development of Marshfield and the Coos Bay area for life. Like a long marriage, it was "for better and for worse". They were resilient and energetic, putting their combined talents to work in benefiting not only themselves, but their families, neighbors and community as well.

The significance of the Nerdrum-Conrad House as it relates to the development of the community ended in 1933, but its history continued. After foreclosure proceedings, the house became a rental unit that was used as a boarding house. Not until 1953 would the house become a single-family residence again when it was purchased by Dr. Eugene Sorum and his wife Norma. Fortunately, the interior and exterior details were not removed or damaged during the "boarding house" life of the structure. However, Mr. Conrad's "sun room" was removed in the 1970's by a short-sided realtor/owner who had hoped to divide the two lots and sell them independently. The plan was aborted by the Planning Commission, but not before the demolition of the addition. Fortunately, the garden area was left intact. Benign neglect actually protected the pond and brick pathways, as grass grew to cover the features. Not until 1994 did the current owners discover the treasure under several inches of well-established lawn.

Ownership has changed 12 times since 1953. The current owners purchased the property in 1993 and have made it their primary residence since 1994.

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HISTORY AND CONTEXT of COOS COUNTY FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Note: Nathan Douthit's book, The Coos Bay Region, 1890-1944, has served as an invaluable resource for the History and Context Statement. With his permission, passages have been borrowed and paraphrased. Where appropriate it has been quoted directly (see footnotes and bibliography). Additionally, much of this information was previously submitted with the nomination of Marshfield's South Fifth Street Historic District in 2001.

The Development of Marshfield (Known as Coos Bay after 1944)

The harbor of Coos Bay is situated approximately 450 miles north of San Francisco, California and 200 miles south of Portland, Oregon. This natural, U-shaped channel is fed by the Coos and Millicoma Rivers, which flow into it from the Coast Range to the northeast. The peninsula that extends northward into the bay is about three miles wide and four and one-half miles long. The city of Coos Bay (which was known as Marshfield until 1944) occupies the southern section, while the city of North Bend is at the north end.

The "Coos" (or "Coose", "Koose", "Cowse" or "Kowse" in other historical references) name originates from the Coos Indians who occupied about 40 different villages around Coos Bay. Although divided into two linguistic groups with the Hanis living on the north end of the bay and the Miluk on the south, the Coos Indians were peaceful and friendly inhabitants of the area.¹ Abundant natural resources of fish, game, roots and berries, along with a temperate climate contributed to the Coos being content within the bay area. Additionally, the treacherous outlet from Coos Bay to the Pacific Ocean delayed discovery of this bountiful land by earlier sea explorers. Not until the non-fatal wreckage of the U. S. three-masted transport schooner *Captain Lincoln* on January 3, 1852, would word spread of the beauty and richness of the area. As white settlement encroached, and the native population was either displaced or absorbed, it was lamented, "If ever God created a Paradise here on earth for the red man, it was certainly this locality. Truly for the Indian it was a Paradise lost and for the white man a Paradise gained."²

The townsites of Marshfield and Empire City were established in the summer of 1853 by the "Coos Bay Commercial Company", a group of investors and adventurers who had set out from Jacksonville for the purpose of establishing a settlement on Coos Bay. As the men made claims on the lands, James C. Tolman, chose the area that was to become Marshfield, naming it after his native hometown of Marshfield, Massachusetts. Another member of the company, Freeman G. Lockhart staked his claim to land where coal had been discovered, which would later become North Bend.³ As early as 1855, two sawmills were operating: those of H. H. Luse in Empire City and Ada Meade Simpson in North Bend. Both men incorporated shipbuilding into their businesses, as a means of insuring transportation of their lumber to other ports. By 1893, the Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eastern Railroad had been

¹ Melody J. Caldera, ed., South Slough Adventures, (Friends of South Slough, 1995), p. 45.

² Emil R. Peterson and Alfred Powers, A Century of Coos and Curry, (Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical Association, 1952), p. 23.

³ Orvil Dodge, Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties, (Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical Association, 1898 reprinted 1960) p. 122

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built between Marshfield and Myrtle Point, delivering coal from the Beaver Hill mine to the bunkers in Coos Bay and bringing the huge logs from outlying areas to the Coos Bay mills.⁴ Marshfield's population in 1890 was 1,461, nearly doubling since the 1880 census and making it the largest town in the region. The North Bend area, which had been purchased by A. M. Simpson in 1855 for \$500 became a company town until its incorporation in 1903 by Louis J. Simpson, son of Asa Simpson.⁵

In 1899, Asa Simpson had sent for his son, Louis, to manage his interests in the region. Louis arrived at age 21 with little experience in either the lumber or shipping businesses, but with great enthusiasm and a good business sense. He purchased the townsite just south of North Bend, known as Yarrow and soon developed the town of North Bend, adjacent to Marshfield along the same harbor, making plans for it to grow to rival cities the size of San Francisco and Portland. Until that time, Marshfield had been known as the undisputed largest and most important community in the region.⁶ Under Louis Simpson's leadership and benevolence, North Bend would have a hospital, library, public dock and other amenities in short order. These were the beginnings of civic competition that remains strong today between the two neighboring communities that developed in tandem.

The news of Simpson's success quickly spread along with rumors that a railroad line was coming to Coos Bay that would link it to inland markets of the state and the nation. Day laborers and businessmen alike were swept up in the land speculation fever during the first decade of the century. In 1905, the speculative fever reached a high pitch. Local newspapers carried reports of visits to Coos Bay by investors from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Duluth, Idaho, Spokane, Wisconsin, and even Scotland.

Among the investors who heard about the promises of the Coos Bay timber market was Charles A. Smith. Born in Ostergotland, Sweden, Smith came to the United States with his family around age 13 and settled in Minnesota. After finishing his public education, he went on to the University of Minnesota. As a college student, Smith worked part-time in a hardware store owned by John S. Pillsbury, the governor of Minnesota. Smith's association with Pillsbury led him into the lumberyard business and later into lumber manufacturing.

By 1893, the C.A. Smith Lumber Company had been formed in conjunction with the building of a new mill, which was the largest and most modern in Minneapolis. As his operations expanded, Smith became one of the leading businessmen in his home state. He held the positions of Vice President of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association and served as a regent of the University of Minnesota.

Smith's business acumen brought him to Marshfield, following the news of Louis Simpson's efforts in the timber market. The supply of timberland in the Great Lakes region was running

⁴ William G. Robbins, Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon, 1850-1986, (University of Washington Press, 1988), p.22.

⁵ Peterson, p.107.

⁶ Dodge, p. 152

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Nerdum-Conrad House
(Name of property)
Coos, Oregon
(County, State)

out, and the untouched forest in the Pacific Northwest was the last of the vast reserves of timber in the United States.

The future of Coos Bay's timber economy was shaped by timber land "acquisitions" of the C.A. Smith Lumber Company with 100,000 acres, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company with 27,075 acres, and Menasha Wooden Ware Company which owned nearly 100,000 acres, all purchased during the first decade of the 20th century. Although the manner in which Smith amassed his holdings was determined to be illegal, it was Stephen Puter, one of Smith's field agents who served jail time for the offenses. However, during his incarceration, Puter wrote a scathing expose' of the commonplace practices that placed more than 200,000 acres of land meant for homesteads in the hands of only a few wealthy businessmen and their companies. Puter described how Fred A. Kribs, Smith's Pacific Coast representative, met night after night in the closed Land Office with the Register to advantageously prepare the selections for the next day. Puter was very direct in his remarks:

" As a matter of fact, Smith has been involved with the Government upon numerous occasions, running through a long course of years, on account of his covetous proclivities, and he seems to be imbued with shoplifting instincts wherever the public lands or timber are concerned. He has been fined repeatedly for his offenses throughout the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and has upon more than one occasion undertaken to make scapegoats out of some unfortunate employees instead of shouldering the blame himself, as any honorable man should."⁷

Even after publication of Puter's report and demands that the government cancel the fraudulent claims, Smith's holdings were left intact.

Until the turn of the century, the Coos Bay region thrived with a well-established mix of economic bases which included agriculture, logging, milling, shipbuilding, coal mining, commercial fishing and various manufacturing businesses. After 1900, it changed to a predominantly forest-dependent economy. According to Nathan Douthit, a local historian, "The single most important event signaling the new era of forest industrial development on the South Coast was the opening in 1908 of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company mill on Isthmus Slough next to Marshfield. By 1920, about half of the sawmill and woodworkers in Coos County were employed by this mill and the Smith-Powers Logging Company."⁸

When the C.A. Smith Lumber Company opened its mill on the Isthmus Slough in Coos Bay in March 1908, a new era began in the history of Coos Bay. Smith prided himself on his progressive views of conservation, and felt the new mill should conserve all the forces of operation to result in the greatest possible economy of time, labor and material. The *Coos Bay Times* reported:

⁷ S. A. D. Puter, Looters of the Public Domain, (The Portland Printing House Publishers, 1908), p. 312.

⁸ Nathan Douthit, A Guide to Oregon South Coast History, (Oregon State University Press, 1999), p. 20.

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Nerdum-Conrad House

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"This mill is the marvel and mystery of all who see, and is looked upon by saw mill men who understand it as a sensation and a revolution in the manufacture of lumber.

It is the closest approach to perfection of any like concern on the round earth. It is the most effective labor-saving aggregation of devices ever put into operation on wood. Yet it is an economic necessity, for it has arrived when all the world begins to realize that the timber resources of all nations are nearing exhaustion, and when it is important to make every stick of timber count."⁹

The new mill and logging operations provided jobs for nearly one thousand men, many who came with Smith from Minnesota, and shared his Scandinavian heritage. The influx of workers and their families to the region caused the population of Coos Bay to swell from 1,391 in 1900 to 2,980 by 1910. According to the 1910 census, Scandinavians (foreign-born from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden) numbered 1,088 people or 6.1% of the total county population. The Scandinavian influence resulted in construction of churches and social halls that fostered a sense of pride and strength by keeping cultural traditions alive. Even today, that influence remains evident.

As substantial strides were made in the development of the vast natural resources of Coos Bay, the region was poised for greatness with the exception of one major element -- land transportation. By the turn of the century, the Coos Bay Wagon Road was the only major land route from Coos Bay to the Willamette Valley via Roseburg over the Coast Range. The jolting stage coach journey took an average of 60 hours. Travelers could also opt for a 2-day, 86-mile route, beginning with a beach stage from Coos Bay to Winchester Bay. Passengers then boarded a steam sternwheeler to go up the Umpqua River to Scottsburg. From there, a stage ran to Drain where passengers could board a north or south bound train.

In August 1906, the Southern Pacific Railroad began grading the first section of a new branch of their line from Drain, the gateway from the Willamette Valley to the Coos Bay region. However, the San Francisco earthquake and subsequent fire struck taking with it the maps and field notes for the Drain to Coos Bay line. It would be four years before another attempt was made to begin a railroad line and nine years until the first train came to Coos Bay over the Coast Range.

When World War I broke out in the summer of 1914, the building of the railroad, a bond issue for port improvements, increased coal mining activity and other signs of economic progress encouraged the temporary illusion that Coos Bay might be able to escape the war's effects. But by late December, the mills in Coos Bay shut down, joining those elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

The death of Asa Meade Simpson in 1915 and the subsequent sale of his holdings outside the family signaled the end of the Simpson family's leadership in the economic development of the Coos Bay Region. Although Louis Simpson, his son, stayed in the area, after losing the state gubernatorial election in 1918, his influence was diminished even further.¹⁰

⁹ Coos Bay *Times*, Feb. 29, 1908

¹⁰ Nathan Douthitt, *The Coos Bay Region, 1800-1944* (River West Books, 1981), p. 105

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Nerdum-Conrad House

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By the summer of 1917, however, the local economy boomed with the new demand for manufactured lumber. And although the age of wooden ships was thought of as nearly bygone, the war and increased demand for shipping breathed new life into an old industry. The Coos Bay Shipbuilding Company was founded, and it began to build government ships under contract. By the time the war ended, the shipbuilding companies in Coos Bay had contracted to build twenty-two ships.

The end of the war had severe repercussions for the regional economy. Suddenly the government canceled its orders for spruce and cedar. About 1200 men were laid off in February 1919 by the Coos Bay Lumber Company. Within weeks, 700 to 800 men left the region with their families. All things considered, however, the region's economy made the transition from war to peace time with less trouble than many other places on the West Coast. Employment recovered by the fall of 1919.

Between 1910 and 1920, the City of Coos Bay had undergone extensive changes in appearance. Much of the tidal areas had been filled in with dredging spoils. The business center shifted from Front Street, its main street for half a century, to the intersection at Central and Anderson. A fire broke out in July of 1922, destroying most of what had been the heart of the old business district on Front Street. A new City Hall was built in 1923 on Central Avenue.

By 1920, with a population of 7,302, the Coos Bay region ceased to be a coastal frontier, and its days of open ended urban and industrial opportunity were fast disappearing. The coal mining industry reached its peak production in 1904, then waited in vain for a railroad line to Coos Bay to help it recover. By the time the railroad did reach the area in 1916, fuel oil replaced coal. By 1924, this change in energy use forced the closing of the area's two largest mines in the region.

The major change in agriculture during the 1910s and 1920s was growth of the dairy industry. Farmers who had used their lands for raising cattle and sheep put their grazing land to use for milk cows when they discovered more money could be made from dairy production. Dairy farms accounted for nearly 60% of the regional agricultural income by 1925.

The biggest shift in the region's economy between 1900 and 1920 was the growth of the lumber industry. In 1904 the total value commerce in and out of Coos Bay was \$3,557,934; by 1920, it was \$9,747,510. Increased lumber production accounted for the major growth in Coos Bay's exports. In 1897 there were 28,124,700 board feet of lumber manufactured in Coos County; and in 1920, over 242,000,000 board feet.¹¹

Despite the appearance of the railroad line in 1916, most of the area's exports still went by ship. At the beginning of the 1920s, however, the region's shipping was threatened since the

¹¹ *Coos Bay Times (Greater Harbor Edition)*, Mar. 31, 1931, p. 28; Dodge, *Pioneer History*, pp. 205, 208, 209.

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Coos Bay ship channel was not deep enough to handle a new generation of ships. Each increase in the width and depth of the harbor had been followed by an increase in ship size.

The Port of Coos Bay requested Congressional funding for a new harbor project. The request was difficult to ignore since the timber volume of the region exceeded that of any of the other remaining west coast timber stand. Nowhere else was so much timber accessible to water transportation.

The project was approved in 1922, and by 1929, the bar's north jetty was restored and a south jetty was added. The depth of the bar was no less than twenty-two feet and after dredging it reached up to thirty-two feet. The bar improvements resulted in an increase in board feet of lumber shipped out of Coos Bay of 2 million in 1920 to 50 million in 1922, to nearly 400 hundred million in 1930.

Improvements in the Coos Bay harbor stimulated growth of commercial fishing. The industry had been shipping fish in refrigerated rail cars since the line came through in 1916. The jetty improvements now made it possible for fishing boats to safely enter the bay. By 1925, as many as 30 fishing boats at a time could be seen tied up at Coos Bay's dock, some from Washington ports. In 1928, there were 2,212,934 pounds of fish caught in the region's rivers and offshore waters.

Coos Bay's major new development in the forest industry in the 1920s was the production, manufacture, and export of Port Orford cedar. Although the trees had been used locally for construction for many years, a market developed in the late 19th century for railroad ties, pilings, and poles. During the First World War, cedar was used for building wooden airplanes. After the war, following the lead of C. A. Smith, several regional plants were built to meet the domestic market demand for building battery separators and venetian blinds.

In 1921, the country suffered a short depression, but the Coos Bay region kept in business through its Port Orford cedar production. The Japanese took an interest in the product for processing it into paneling for home construction. This offshore market took up the slack in domestic demand for the timber.

In 1922, the Western White Cedar Company was founded by A.E. Adelsperger (955 South Fifth), W. J. Conrad (979 South Fifth), W. L. Forsythe (942 South Fifth) and others. These three had also worked with the C.A. Smith Lumber Company, before starting their own business. The company built one plant in Myrtle Point followed by another in Coos Bay. It concentrated on the Japanese markets and handled most of the region's exports to that country. Two other lumber products companies opened in 1928 including the Evans Products Company which purchased the Western Lumber Manufacturing company plant in Coos Bay from Carroll and Vern Smith, sons of C. A. Smith to manufacture battery separators and the Sitka Spruce Pulp and Paper Corporation built south of Coos Bay.¹²

¹² Sandra Beebe, ed., The Company By The Bay: A Portrait of Edwards S. Evans and the People of Evans Products Company of Coos Bay, Oregon, 1928-1962 (By The Bay Press, 1999), p. 1

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Nerdum-Conrad House

(Name of property)

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These timber manufacturing facilities revived the region's economy, adding hundreds of new jobs, many of which were taken by women.

The Oregon Legislature approved a six million dollar bond issue for road construction in 1917, providing money for a permanent road from Coos Bay to Coquille. By the end of the 1920s, a new highway system had been completed in the region, later to become part of the Roosevelt Highway, and still later, the Oregon Coast Highway. With the advent of the automobile and a new highway system, residents of Coos Bay could make weekend trips, travels to work and socialize with surrounding towns in the region in ways unheard of only a decade earlier.

C. A. Smith died in 1925 and even though his company had changed hands, his passing, along with that Asa Meade Simpson in 1915, marked the end of the era of the powerful lumber baron.¹³ Industry would now be managed on multi-tiered corporate levels.

Changes in the Coos Bay region between 1900 and 1930 were enormous. Trains, automobiles and even airplanes had helped the city overcome its isolation. New forest industrial manufacturing processes had been added to the production of rough lumber. Coos Bay had grown into a major seaport rivaling Portland in its forest products exports. Social life in the region had become more civilized as the migrant work force of single, male loggers, miners, and mill workers gave way to a work force of married men and an increasing number of women. This slow but steady growth transformed the region from a coastal frontier into one of Oregon's major centers of population and industry.

The End of the Period of Significance

Beginning in 1929, life in the Coos Bay region would change. The year of the stock market crash and a nation in economic depression would have its effects felt here as well. Lumber production fell drastically in 1930, 1931, and 1932. Coos Bay Lumber Company (successor to the C. A. Smith Lumber Company) was the region's largest employer when it announced on July 31, 1931 that it would close until financial conditions became stronger. As a result, some of the homes on South Fifth Street were foreclosed and sold at Sheriff's auction. W. J. Conrad's home was a victim even though Mr. Conrad had widely diversified interests and holdings. Other owners found ways to economize, with several large homes becoming boarding houses while other owners partitioned off part of their houses to use as rentals. By now, most of the lots on South Fifth Street had been developed and construction was at a standstill. Aside from the rebuilding and enlargements of garages, only seven residences and a church were built in the years after 1940. The post Depression and World War II years would indelibly alter the character of the Coos Bay region as it did nationwide. Thus by 1930, the historically significant period of the South Fifth Street District had come to an end.

¹³ Douthitt, *The Coos Bay Region, 1890-1944*, p. 142

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Nerdrum-Conrad House

(Name of property)

Coos, Oregon

(County, State)

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Nerdrum-Conrad House

(Name of property)

Coos, Oregon

(County, State)

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The Coos Bay Times

Nerdrum-Conrad House
Name of Property

Coos, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UMT References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 401389 4801147
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Trumbull Netter

organization _____ date 2/15/2003

street & number 979 South Fifth Street telephone 541-269-7187

city or town Coos Bay state OR zip code 97420

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

name Dennis V. and Kathryn Trumbull Netter

street & number 979 South Fifth Street telephone 541-269-7187

city or town Coos Bay state OR zip code 97420

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 10 Page 1

Nerdrum-Conrad House

(Name of property)

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is located in NW1/4 SW 1/4 Section 35, Township 25 South, Range 13 West of the Willamette Meridian, in Coos County, Oregon, and is legally described as Lots 23, 24, 25, & 26 of Block 44, Railroad Addition to Marshfield (now Coos Bay), Oregon. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 5300 & Tax Lot 5301 at said location.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

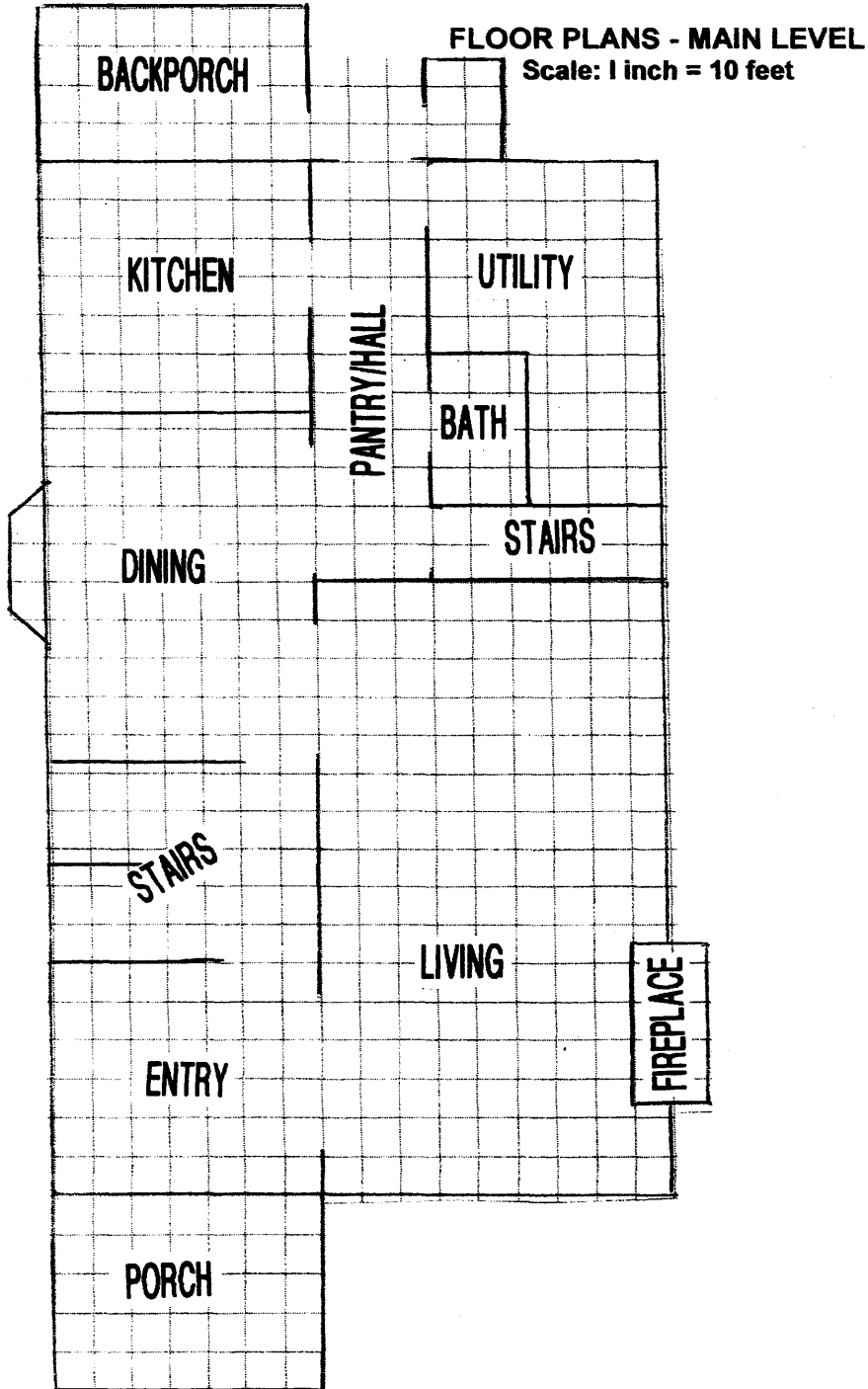
The nominated area encompasses the entire urban tax lots (100 x 140 feet). Lots 25 & 26 have been occupied by the Nerdrum-Conrad House since its construction in 1912. Lots 23 & 24 have been used as a formal garden area for the Nerdrum-Conrad House since purchase in 1921. Lots 23, 24, 25 & 26 have continued under a single ownership since 1921.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 1

Nerdrum- Conrad House
(Name of property)
Coos, Oregon
(County, State)



N →

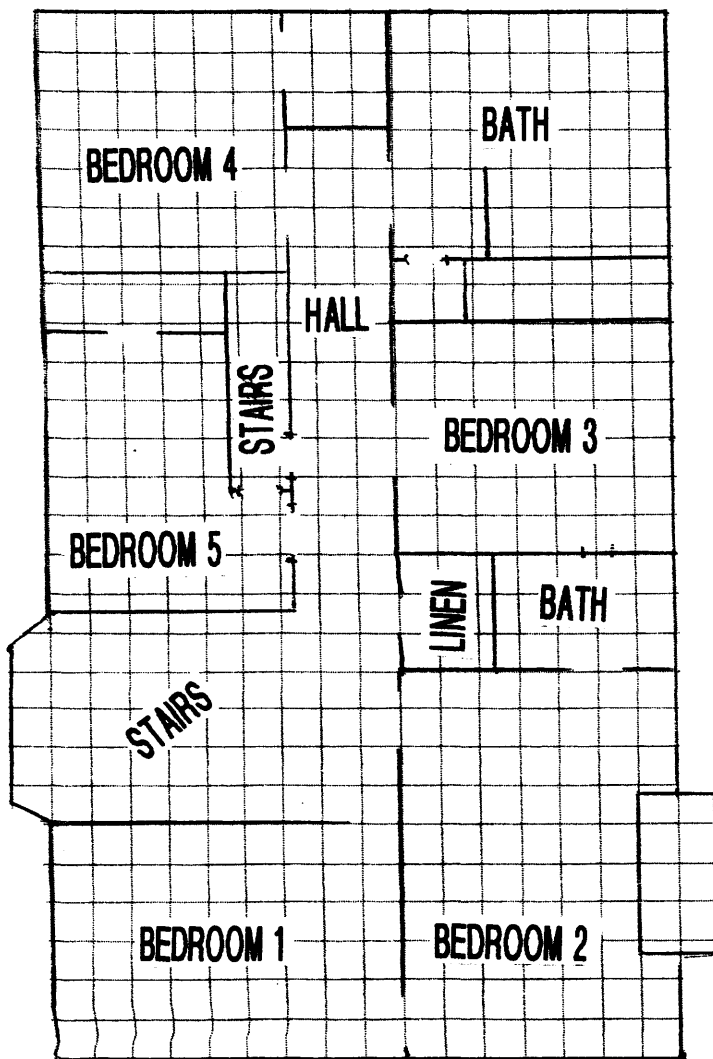
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plans Page 2

Nerdrum-Conrad House
(Name of property)
Coos, Oregon
(County, State)

FLOOR PLANS - BEDROOM (2nd) LEVEL
Scale: 1 inch = 1 foot



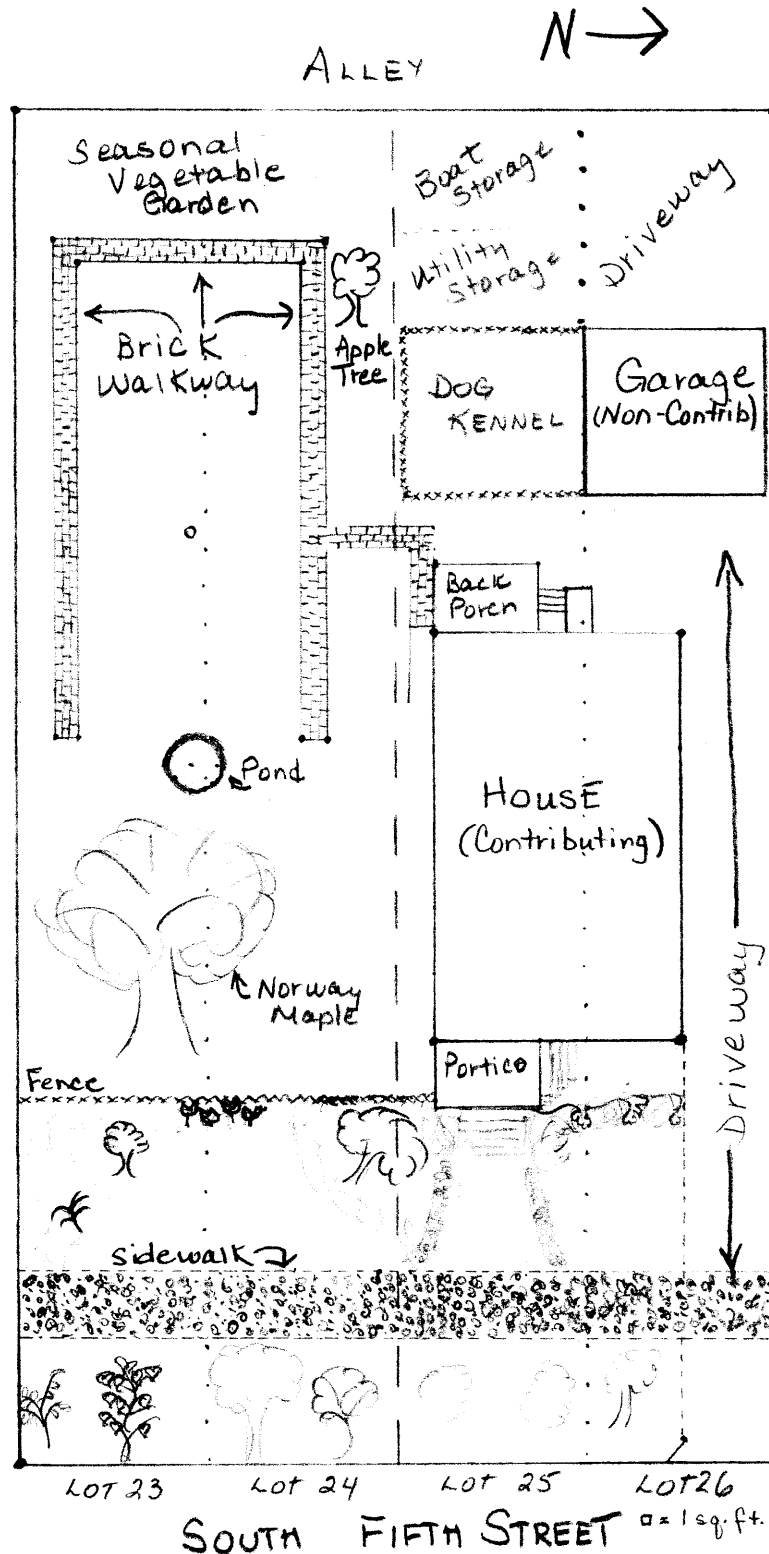
N →

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Site Plan

Nerdrum-Conrad House
Coos County, Oregon

Site Plan: Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Original Plat Map, Submitted by C.H. & Mary Merchant
October, 1890

Nerdrum- Conrad House
Coos County, Oregon



*Summary of
Plat Map
Submitted by
C.H. Merchant
October, 1890*

*1/2 block 100 ft. wide by 100 ft. deep
containing 10 lots each 50 ft. wide
by 100 ft. deep. The lots are
numbered 1 to 10. The streets
are Davidson, Bennett, Dean,
Seeley, Flanagan, Graham,
Baines, Burnett, Sheridan,
Broadway, and Miriam. A
cemetery reservation is shown
in the center of the block.
The plat was submitted by
C.H. Merchant on October 10,
1890.*

Scale 200 ft. = 1 inch.

C.H. Merchant

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Assessor's map : Railroad Addition to Marshfield
(NW1/4 SW 1/4 SEC 35 T.25S. R.13W. W.M.)

Nerdrum- Conrad House
Coos County, Oregon

N↑

INGERSOLL

(NEVADA)

1" = 100

SEE MAP 25 13 35BC

SOUTH SEVENTH STREET

1	6600	6500	1	4700	40
2			2		39
3	6400		3		38
4	6300		4	4800	37
5					36
6				4900	35
7	6200			5000	34
8					33
9				5100	32
10	6000	6000	44		31
11					30
12	5900			5200	29
13					28
14	5800				27
15				5300	26
16	5700				25
17	5600	5500		5300	24
18					23
19				5400	22
20					21

RAILROAD

SOUTH FIFTH STREET

1	4500	4600	1	4000	2200	40
2			2	3900		39
3	4400			2500		38
4				2400		37
5	4300			2600		36
6	See C.B. 638-1011					35
7	4200			2700		34
8						33
9	4100			2800		32
10			38			31
11	4000			2900		30
12						29
13	3900			3000		28
14						27
15	3800					26
16				3200		25
17	3700			2400	3300	24
18				2300		23
19	3600			22	3500	22
20				21		21

SOUTH FOURTH STREET

JOHNSON

(OHIO)

1	7000	6900	6800	6700	1	40	7800	7900	8000	40
2					2		39			39
3					3		38			38
4					4		37			37
5	7100				5	7700	7600			36
6					6					35
7	7200				7		7500			34
8					8					33
9	7300				9		7400			32

1	8100				20	9700			40
2									39
3	8200					9600			38
4									37
5	8300					9500			36
6									35
7	8400					9400			34
8									33
9	8500					9300			32

ADDITION

**Nerdrum-Conrad House Ownership Record
 (from Coos County Clerk)
 979 South Fifth Street, Coos Bay Oregon 97420-1201
 Lots 23, 24 (garden and lawn), 25 and 26 (house)
 Block 44
 Railroad Addition to Marshfield (now Coos Bay)
 Coos County, Oregon**

Platted October, 1890 by Charles H. and Mary L. Merchant (#4210)

<u>Date of Record</u>	<u>Vol./Page</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Name number</u>
02/16/1903	38/186	Mary E. & John L. Quick (lots 21-22-23-24-25-26)	5674
05/25/1906	43/009	George W. & Claudine Kaufman and Alva Doll (lots 23-24-25-26)	1121
10/16/1906	44/237	Edward Marsh (lots 23-24-25-26)	1122
10/03/1907	48/259	Anna H. & Carl Barkman (lots 23-24-25-26)	1151
11/30/1907	48/471	(correction of 10/16/1906)	
11/30/1907	48/490	D. J. & Hannah Rees (lots 25-26)	1152
11/08/1909	55/170	E. A. Nelson (lots 23-24), presumably builds house "...free from all encumbrances excepting the sewer which has been laid on (sic) the street in front of the above described property..."	5705
07/06/1912	63/324	Rolfe & Maja Nerdrum (lots 25-26) *House Construction Begins*	7032
02/17/1914	68/223	G. A. Bonebrake (lots 23-24)	3582
04/16/1915	71/297	Coos Bay Pulp & Paper Company (lots 25-26, Nerdrum House)	7441
08/30/1916	73/617	C. A. Smith Lumber & Mfg. Co. (lots 25-26, Nerdrum house)	958
09/22/1917	76/145	Laura D. Conrad (lots 25-26, Nerdrum house)	6450
03/24/1921	84/507	Laura D. Conrad (lots 23-24, Nelson house) House moved to South Fourth Street; Conrads establish garden areas and add conservatory.	6450

**Nerdrum-Conrad House Ownership Trail
(continued)**

<u>Date of Record</u>	<u>Vol./Page</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Name number</u>
05/01/1933	119/021	Investors Syndicate (Foreclosure & Sheriff's Sale) (lots 23-24-25-26)	11703
11/26/1941	142/241	E. Roy & Eva Jarman	number system discontinued
01/30/1943	145/153	Zella M. Gillespie "who was formerly Zella M. Bradburn and who is the survivor of George A. Bradburn, deceased."	
06/06/1953	227/578	Dr. Eugene B. & Norma Sorum	
	Microfilm Reel		
05/27/1963	301/463	John H. & Wilma Sindelar	
10/26/1966	66-10-13207	Kenneth & Nita Mae Salzman	
02/07/1968	68-2-25584	James F. & Donna Marie Whitty	
06/21/1977	77-6-09605	Anna Dubnoff (Anna listed her address as 979 S. 5 th when she bought the house. When it was next sold, she was living in California and her son, Peter Madian, sold the house with a Power of Attorney, listing his address as 979 S. 5 th St.)	
05/15.1979	79-2-7293 through 79-2-7302	Gary D. & Sue Ellen Rossi	
03/28/1983	83-1-7878	Sue Ellen Rossi and Nancy Borneman	
08/13/1984	Rnc#84-173	Nancy Borneman	
10/24/1986	86-5-1094	Gary D. Rossi (Bargain & Sale Deed dated 05/07/1986)	
12/29/1986	86-6-4746	Nancy A. Borneman	
05/09/1988	88-5-0462	Freedom Federal Savings & Loan Association (Foreclosure)	
09/31/1989	89-8-2319	Laura M. Janus	
07/19/1993	93-7-0561	Dennis Vernon Netter & Kathryn Trumbull Netter	

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

Nerdrum– Conrad House
(Name of property)
Coos, Oregon
(County, State)

The following information is submitted for all photographs; exceptions for copies of historic photographs as noted:

Name of property: The Nerdrum-Conrad House

Address: 979 South Fifth Street
Coos Bay Oregon 97420-1201
Coos County, State of Oregon

Photographer: Kathryn Trumbull Netter

Date of photographs: Various dates in 2002 & 2003

Negatives: Kathryn Trumbull Netter
979 South Fifth Street
Coos Bay OR 97420-1201

Exterior Photographs:

Photograph #1: Copy of historic photograph from the collection of Virginia Conrad Grant, c. 1916, showing street view of 979 South Fifth Street in its original configuration. (Photographer unknown)

Photograph #2: Copy of historic photograph from Coos County Historical Society, c. 1930's, showing addition of conservatory to south side of house by the Conrad family after purchasing additional lot. (Photographer unknown) Note that front facade has changed with removal of top center window and replacement of upper level French door with a window matching the one to the right.

Photograph #3: Current view of exterior, as viewed from Fifth Street.

Photograph #4: View showing front and north elevation of house.

Photograph #5: Close-up of north elevation rafter detail, showing scrolled design.

Photograph #6: Close-up of exterior window trim.

Photograph #7: South elevation as seen from garden area to the south of the house.

Photograph #8: South elevation as seen from sidewalk of Fifth Street.

Photograph #9: View of garden area on south side of house. Mossy brick path is difficult to visualize, but runs about 8 feet from either rose border.

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Section number Photos Page 2

Nerdrum— Conrad House

(Name of property)

Coos, Oregon

(County, State)

Photograph #10: Close-up of original shallow pond as constructed by the Conrad family. Statue was installed by current owner.

Interior Photographs:

Photograph #11: View of entry area and stairway as seen from the front door.

Photograph #12: View of living room, looking east to Fifth Street. Entry area is at right through French doors.

Photograph #13 View of dining room, located directly behind (to the west of) entry area.

Photograph #14: Looking into living room through French doors of dining room.

Photograph #15: View showing pattern of long oak flooring pattern used throughout the first level of the house.

Photograph #16: View into the kitchen, looking at the southwest corner of the house. This room was originally a maid's bedroom, but was remodeled in the late 1960's.

Photograph # 17: Looking down main stairway to the south from the second floor hall.

Photograph #18: View of central hallway on second floor, looking west. Main stairway is to the immediate left.

Photograph #19: Representative bedroom view. This is one of five on the second floor and is located at the southwest corner of the house, directly above the kitchen.

Photographs # 20
& 21: View of master bathroom as remodeled from two bedroom closets by the Conrad family in the 1920's. Tilework and fixtures are original to the remodel.