

DATA SHEET
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0695661
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 13 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

House
Nicholas-Lang ~~Residence~~

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2030 SW Vista Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Oregon

VICINITY OF
CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ann L. Webb

STREET & NUMBER

2030 SW Vista Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97201

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

1021 SW 4th

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Portland Historical Landmark

DATE

July 1, 1970

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Portland Bureau of Planning

CITY, TOWN

424 SW Main Street

STATE

Portland

Oregon 97204

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Upon its completion in 1885, the Nicholas-Lang House, a three story wood frame building on stone basement was an imposing example of fashionable Queen Anne architecture complete with flare-top brick chimneys, asymmetrical plan and roof forms, a wrap-around veranda, various bays and projections (including a pyramidal-roofed observation tower on the northeast corner), bands of variegated shingling capping clap-boarded exterior walls, an assortment of turned balusters, spindles and spool work, and other mechanically reproduced ornament in the Eastlake tradition. The observation tower, which commanded an impressive view from the Heights overlooking downtown Portland, was removed around 1924. It was at this time, also, that the veranda was removed and replaced with a wrap-around porch with overhanging eaves and arched uprights in the Tudor Gothic vein. The northeasterly portion of the porch was enclosed with glazing. The rest, extending from the front entry to the NW corner, remained open. The double-leaf oak door of the front entry was modified slightly in that solid lower panels were removed and the centers of either leaf were fully glazed. The eaves of roof and dormers were revised to overhang the walls rather than rest atop the former freely-interpreted classical friezes. Vergeboards in the Tudor Gothic vein were added to gable ends. The introduction of a minor Tudor Gothic theme into an inherently eclectic design scheme was by no means inept. The west elevation, which is the facade most seen by the public from the thoroughfare of Vista Avenue, appears very like the original, and the period treatment of the gable gives added emphasis to the focal point of this facade -- a massive outside end chimney with richly variegated surface treatment which is centered in a projecting bay.

Beautiful woodwork, five fireplaces, a commodbus hall and staircase, are the outstanding interior features of the house. The first floor rooms are all spacious, with twelve foot ceilings and large windows. The living room, dining room and library, and hall have handsome parqueted floors, with a different inlaid border design in each room. The rooms have wide, solid woodwork and heavy, paneled doors--cherry in the library, oak in the dining room and myrtle on the living room fireplace mantle. A feudal oak table and chairs, built to match the dining room, were removed by the last owners. The formal rooms on the first floor are heated by radiators under the floor, which are covered by artistic grill work. The house is wired for a bell system, an intercom, and a burglar alarm, all of which are early equipment. The manual dumwaiter still is operable between the basement and third floors.

The house was originally equipped with gas lights, which were replaced with electric. Some old lighting fixtures are still in the house. The kitchen has been modernized. The old hotel-size stove was donated to the Blanchet House, and the original kitchen converted to a family dining area. The old cold pantry is now a modern kitchen. The basement is complete with custom grilles on the windows, a wine cellar large enough to hold wine between those long voyages around the horn, and an extremely dingy chauffer's apartment. (continued)

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The house has been maintained in excellent condition. A two-story southwest corner addition added a half bath to the first floor. A two-car garage was built in 1967, and a driveway leading to that garage was resurfaced in 1969.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1884-85

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nicholas-Lang Residence, at 2030 SW Vista Avenue in the Portland Heights neighborhood was built for Horace Brown Nicholas in 1884-85. It is generally understood to be the oldest large house still standing on Portland Heights. Eclecticism was the fashion in architecture in 1884, and the Nicholas-Lang House combines elements of the Queen Anne and Eastlake Styles. In 1924 the front porch was replaced and the roofline was given its present form with projecting eaves and vergeboards.

Alfred Staehli, in Preservation Options for Portland's Neighborhoods, writes: "Upper Carter's Addition and Portland Heights have the Nicholas-Lang, Thomas Mostyn and Edward Burke Residences and the Diocesan Episcopal Library and Ascension Episcopal Chapel as Portland Historical Landmarks. The area of middle Vista Avenue is rich with some of Portland's finest homes ranging from mid-1880s to the present and is a most important landmark district."

In 1978, other dwellings shared the block with the Nicholas-Lang house; but, originally, Nicholas had bought fifteen blocks in Carter's Addition. In 1878, at the Courthouse auction of Carter's estate, Nicholas paid \$99.50 in U. S. Gold coin for the land. In the financial panic of 1893, when more than half the real estate in Portland changed hands, Nicholas lost the house in two separate judgements to a Portland financier and golf enthusiast Percy Blyth; the house was valued at \$15,310. One of the other houses on the block, on the corner of Clifton and Nineteenth streets was built on the foundation of the original barn and garage.

Horace Brown Nicholas was born in 1850 in Davis County, Missouri of an old Virginia family (His grandmother was a niece of Thomas Jefferson). Nicholas was educated in the common schools of Washington County, Oregon, after coming to Oregon in 1864. He was admitted to the bar in November 1875 and practiced law in the firm of Catlin & Nicholas, located at 26 Union Block. He was a trustee of the Unitarian Church in Portland, a member of the Portland Common Council 1891-92, Kentucky Klick, Sons of the American Revolution and the Democratic Party. He married Nancy Katherine Hunsaker in July, 1878. (continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vaughan, Thomas, and McMath, George. A Century of Portland Architecture (Portland; Oregon Historical Society 1967), 46-47.
 Staehli, Alfred M., Preservation Options for Portland's Neighborhoods; A Report on the History of Portland's Neighborhoods and their Historic Centers (Portland: NEA-assisted study, 1975) 67.
 Ruyle, Mrs. James. Unpublished Manuscript. Available from the Portland Junior League.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one.

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	5	23	74	0	5	03	9	6	80	B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING					
C																	
D																	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 3 and the southerly 40 feet of Lot 2, Block 47, Carters Addition to the City of Portland, County of Multnomah, and State of Oregon, Except that portion described as follows: (continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allen Webb Jr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

August 27, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

2030 SW Vista Avenue

TELEPHONE

(503) 223-0500

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97201

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Allen Webb Jr.

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 15, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles Adams

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-13-79

ATTEST:

W. Ray Lane

DATE

3/12/79

for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Mrs. Nicholas was the daughter of Jacob and Emily Hunsaker, who had crossed the plains from Illinois to Molalla, Oregon in 1846. Jacob Hunsaker built the first bridge over the Clackamas River, a toll bridge at Clark Place. Nancy Hunsaker was graduated from a private girl's school in Oregon City and taught at the old Harrison Street School, where Governor Julius Meier and his brother Abe were her pupils. Mrs. Nicholas died on September 28, 1931, nine years after her husband.

Isadore Lang, a successful pioneer Portland wholesale grocer, and a colorful figure of Portland's early days, and his family occupied the Nicholas house for about fifty years. Consequently it is known by his name also. Lang was born at Waterville, California in 1859, the year Oregon became a state. He came to Portland in 1883, and started a grocery business. His brothers followed him, and his father also had an interest in the business, which grew from the first small store at Oak and Front streets in Portland. Lang Co. was subsequently merged with Allen & Lewis and Mason-Ehrman & Co. to form the General Grocery Co. of which Lang was President. Lang also traveled in Europe and wrote of his observations for The Oregon Daily Journal. He was known for his Elco Dairy in the Tualatin Valley, one of the finest on the Pacific Coast. Partly as a hobby, he invested in the most modern equipment and healthy animals, under the best conditions possible to produce model for milk supply. When Lang died in October 1931, his funeral was held at his home, with many of the prominent men in Portland as his honorary pall bearers.

Lang's wife, Lillian Jacobs was the daughter of Issac Jacobs, founder of Oregon Woolen Mills.

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Beginning at the Southeast corner of said lot 3; thence North $69^{\circ} 27'$ West along the Northerly line of S. W. Clifton Street 58 feet to an iron pipe; thence North $20^{\circ} 33'$ East 31 feet to an iron pipe; thence North $28^{\circ} 14'$ East 89.81 feet to an iron pipe; thence South $69^{\circ} 27'$ East 46.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence South $20^{\circ} 33'$ West along the Westerly line of S. W. 19th Avenue, 120 feet to the point of beginning.