

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received AUG 1 1983  
date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Fenton, Frank W., House

and/or common Fenton, Frank W., House

## 2. Location

street & number 434 North Evans Street N/A— not for publication

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

state Oregon code 41 county Yamhill code 071

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Jack F. Temple, Mark S. Temple, Richard B. Temple

street & number Route 1, Box 252A

city, town Amity N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97101

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yamhill County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Evans Street

city, town McMinnville state Oregon 97128

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Colonial Revival style house built for McMinnville attorney Frank W. Fenton in 1909, is located at 434 North Evans Street in McMinnville, Oregon, the county seat of Yamhill County. The house occupies a double lot measuring 100 X 120 feet at the southeast corner of the intersection of Evans and Fifth Streets, near the city's commercial core. The Yamhill County Courthouse dating from the 1950s occupies the block to the north. The United States Post Office (1935) lies immediately to the south on the same block occupied by the Fenton House. The surrounding neighborhood is one in which civic and commercial buildings are mixed with fashionable houses of an earlier day and modern apartment buildings as well.

Originally, the Fenton property was lined with an iron fence and dotted with plantings fashionable at the turn of the century, including such exotic plant materials as pampas grass. Steps in a concrete walk leading from Evans Street to the front entrance were flanked by stately maples, no longer standing.

The house, of balloon frame construction, is two and a half stories in height and rests on a concrete foundation and basement. The ground course is of concrete block molded in imitation of rock cut ashlar. The rectangular ground plan measures c. 36 X 40', excluding the depth of a front veranda. The house is oriented in a westerly direction, with the main facade facing Evans Street.

The house is clad with narrow lapped weatherboards and trimmed with a string course, frieze and bold, rusticated quoins. The low, hip roof has broadly overhanging eaves on outriggers which are supported in turn by a plate carried by paired, triangular brackets having a curved bracing member. The roofline is broken by two tall, broad, brick chimneys with corbelled necking. The more important of these is an outside chimney serving the south parlor and master bedchamber. It has a stepped profile on one side. The attic is lighted by a pair of gable-roofed dormers in the front which have cornice returns and double-hung windows with segmental arch heads.

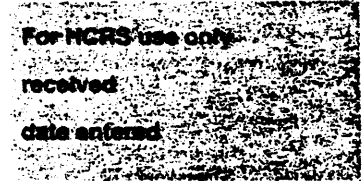
Typical fenestration consists of double-hung windows with one-over-one lights trimmed with simple architrave moldings. The north side elevation is distinguished by a second story oriel window lighting a front bedroom. The south side elevation is distinguished by a single-story polygonal window bay with solid balustrade clad with weatherboards.

The west, or principal elevation is distinguished not only by its dormers and veranda, but by window treatment as well. The upper facade is organized into three wide bays with exceptionally wide, double-hung windows with generous-sized lights, one-over-one, lighting bedrooms on either side of the central bay. The center bay consists of a segmental-arched window with sidelights topped by a deep frieze and a sheltering hood of corresponding configuration which has straight ends supported by console brackets. Openings employing a low, segmental arch with straight ends is something of a signature detail of the architect responsible for the house plans, David L. Williams.

A major element of the facade is the full-length veranda with low, hipped roof carried on exposed rafters. Its square columns are detailed with cap molding and are linked by delicate railings and grille-work. The base of the veranda is screened with panels and grilles. In the center, marking the location of the front entrance, is a classical portico supported by square piers with inset panels.

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Originally, it had Ionic columns between antae supporting a barrel vault crowned by a curvilinear pediment and deck with substantial balustrade having vasiform balusters and urn finials atop corner posts. The portico was simplified, presumably during the 1930s when the house was converted to a duplex, or perhaps as a result of upper story fire damage, which occurred in 1961. Today, the portico has a simple, full entablature. The Ionic columns and pediment are gone, and so too, until recently, was the balustrade. The balustrade was reconstructed in recent months as part of the current adaptation to professional office space. Originally, the formally-placed front dormers were connected by a railing.

The interior plan was formal, with living spaces divided by a central hall. The configuration of rooms remains essentially intact except for the hallway, which was revised in the 1930s when the house was converted to a duplex. The division was made along the hallway axis, with upper and lower stories making up separate living units on either side. To make the units self-contained, a kitchen and bath were installed in former back porch space on the south, and on the north, an upstairs bedroom was subdivided. The original master bedroom on the south, over the south parlor, was damaged by fire in 1961 with resulting loss of the fireplace and original finish and trim.

Under remodeling plans provided by Portland architect Roscoe Hemenway, the original staircase was removed and replaced by two separate, enclosed stairways to the second story. The front of the stairhall thus became an entry vestibule.

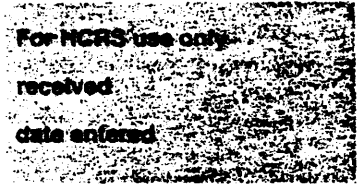
Typical ceiling heights on the ground floor are 8'2". Walls and ceilings are finished with plaster and trimmed, in the major rooms, with cornice molding. Door and window openings have simple architrave moldings, and the main parlor has a wainscot 21" in height. All flooring is oak. The parlor chimneypiece, which may have been revised in the 1930s remodel, has a hearth and surround of glazed ceramic tile trimmed by simple ogee molding and a mantel shelf with dentil molding. Sliding pocket doors connect the main parlor and dining room. Originally, a pass-pantry connected dining room and kitchen at the rear of the central hall. Ceiling heights on the second story are 9 feet.

The attic is one large, undivided space accessible only from the south side on very narrow makeshift stairs. The walls are plaster and are finished with baseboards. The basement, of concrete construction, is a large space with an entrance on the east, or rear of the house and an entrance on the north side, now closed. Previously, offices were located in the basement, with the result that some areas are sectioned off into small rooms with office doors. The rear elevation is irregular with two projecting pavilions on differing heights; one accommodates a back porch and entrance.

Although no plans for the Frank W. Fenton House labeled as such are known to exist, it is clear that the architect was David Lohead Williams, who maintained his office in the Chamber of Commerce Building in Portland at the time he prepared plans for a nearly identical house for Fenton's brother, Dr. H. C. Fenton. The H. C. Fenton House still stands at 1705 NW 32nd Avenue in Willamette Heights in Northwest Portland. While the plans are undated, it is family tradition that the H. C. Fenton House was built first and the Frank Fenton House in McMinnville was patterned after it.

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The house for Fenton's physician brother in Portland also has a foursquare ground plan, clapboard siding and a hip roof with overhanging eaves, but its eaves are carried on exposed rafters and purlins instead of outriggers and brackets. Also, its dormer windows have hip roofs with exposed rafter ends as opposed to gable roofs with cornice returns. Its foundation is brick, as opposed to concrete block. The house is, therefore, considerably more Craftsman-style in feeling, but it nonetheless has the earmarks of the Colonial Revival which are common to either house: the weatherboard siding and rusticated wood quoins, and the full-length veranda with central portico. Large, ground story front window bays fitted with plate glass are common to either, as are many other features of plan and detail. The essential difference between the two houses is that the Frank Fenton House in McMinnville was carried out with more elegant detail in the tradition of the Colonial Revival, an idiom with which architect D. L. Williams was well-acquainted.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1909 **Builder/Architect** David Lohead Williams

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival style house of balloon frame construction at 434 North Evans Street in McMinnville, Oregon, the county seat of Yamhill County, was erected in 1909 for prominent local attorney Frank W. Fenton. It was patterned closely after undated plans for a nearly identical house in Portland designed by David L. Williams for Fenton's brother, Dr. H. C. Fenton. The Frank Fenton House occupies a conspicuous site at the southeast corner of Evans and Fifth Streets near McMinnville's commercial core. It is directly south of the courthouse square, originally occupied by a Second Empire Baroque courthouse of the 1880s. The current courthouse dates from the 1950s. The house is a rectangular volume with shallow hip roof with broadly overhanging eaves supported by outriggers and brackets. A veranda incorporating a central, balustraded portico extends the full length of the main facade. The house displays the particularly elegant detail which is characteristic of Williams's work. The finesse of detail, most of it in the Colonial vein, is seen in rusticated quoins, oriel and bay windows, a segmental-arched, hooded, second story window with sidelights, pedimented dormers with cornice returns, and delicate grillework between porch posts. Externally, the house is remarkably well preserved, though the portico was revised, possibly when the house was converted to a duplex in the 1930s. In recent months the missing portico deck balustrade was reconstructed on the basis of an historic view of about 1920. Remodeling of the 1930s was planned sympathetically by Portland architect Roscoe Hemenway and resulted chiefly in modification of the central entry stairhall to accommodate the new circulation pattern.

The Frank W. Fenton House is locally significant under National Register criterion "c" as an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival style in a conspicuous setting between the Yamhill County Courthouse and the United States Post Office. The immediate neighborhood, zoned general commercial, is an area in which civic and commercial buildings and fashionable residences of an earlier day are mixed. It is one of a small but growing number of imposing period residences attributed to David L. Williams (1866-1937), who is noteworthy in Oregon architectural history as the grandson of San Francisco architect Stephen H. Williams and the son of Warren H. Williams, a leading architect in Portland during the 1870s and 1880s. As more is known of the body of work by D. L. Williams, the third generation member of the architectural dynasty takes on lustre of his own. David and his brother, Franklin, were apprenticed to their father's firm and, following Warren Williams's untimely death in 1888, the brothers worked in partnership for a time. After 1894, however, and for the remainder of his career, David Williams practiced independently for the most part.

The Fenton House is significant, also, under National Register criterion "b" as the property most intimately associated with Frank W. Fenton (1859-1940), a native of Missouri who crossed the plains with his family as a child in 1865. Fenton was educated at Christian College in Monmouth and was graduated in 1880. After reading law for several years, he opened his legal practice in McMinnville and pursued a long and successful career. Fenton was a leading figure in the business, professional, and social life of the Yamhill County seat for over 50 years.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name McMinnville, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

C 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

D 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

E 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

F 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

G 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

H 

Zone			Easting						Northing												

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The Frank W. Fenton House occupies Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Rowlands Addition to the City of McMinnville, in Yamhill County, Oregon. The property is also described as Tax lot 3000, Yamhill County Assessor's Map reference: 4 4 21BC. The parcel measures 100x120 feet.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack F. Temple

organization N/A date March 4, 1983

street & number Route 1, Box 252A telephone (503) 835-3843

city or town Amity state Oregon 97101

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

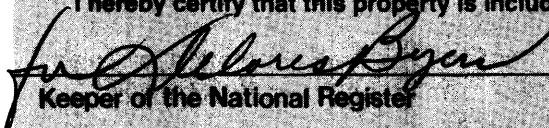
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 23, 1983

**For NPS use only**

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

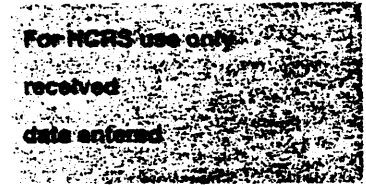
  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9/1/83

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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Frank W. Fenton was born January 27, 1859 in Scotland County, Missouri. He was one of ten children who crossed the plains in 1865 with his parents. He received his education at the Christian College at Monmouth, Oregon and was graduated in 1880. After reading law for four years, he practiced his profession in McMinnville for 50 years, commencing c. 1884.

Frank Fenton was a firm believer in his community. His investments in McMinnville and Yamhill County real estate grew with the years, and his counsel was sought in all matters pertaining to civic affairs.

For a period of 12 years, Frank Fenton served as a member of the board of directors of Oregon Mutual Fire Insurance Company of McMinnville and was a director of the old McMinnville National Bank. He was a member of the Oregon Bar, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, McMinnville Chamber of Commerce, and Al Kader Temple of Shrine. He was also a 32nd degree Mason.

In 1888, Fenton purchased the entire Block #1 of Rowland's Addition to McMinnville. In 1909, construction of his home was commenced on Lots 3 and 4. In 1935, he donated the lots immediately south of his house to the public domain for construction of the United States Post Office, a Half Modern building of brick in the Georgian vein.

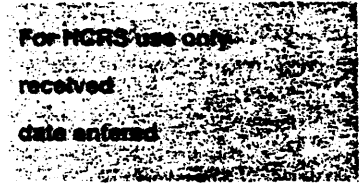
Fenton also was responsible for construction of the Oregon Hotel, a seven-story building which occupies a quarter of a block in downtown McMinnville, and the two-story building of B.P.O.E. Lodge #1283. He was a partner in several other commercial building construction projects as well.

Fenton died February 19, 1940. The house on Evans Street has remained under ownership of his heirs to the present day. Current owners of the property are Fenton's greatgrandsons who are rehabilitating the house for professional office use.

David Lohead Williams, the architect of houses for Fenton and his brother, Dr. H. C. Fenton of Portland, was a third generation member of a West Coast architectural dynasty. His grandfather was Stephen H. Williams of New York who moved his family to San Francisco, California when David's father, Warren Heywood Williams, was five years old. Stephen H. Williams's practice resulted in many distinguished buildings in San Francisco. Part of the time he practiced with Henry Cleveland. Warren H. Williams was apprenticed in their office in the "established atelier tradition, until he finally became a partner in 1865. In 1869 he became a partner in Williams and Son to oversee construction of the new Odd Fellows Building in Portland." Following the disastrous Portland fire of December 23, 1872, Warren H. Williams came to Portland to practice alone. He was one of the leading architects of the city until his untimely death in 1888. He had married Christina Lohead in San Francisco. David Lohead Williams, born in San Francisco on November 2, 1866, was their first child, and he naturally accompanied his parents to Portland in 1875 when his father was commissioned to design the residence of Senator H. W. Corbett on Southwest Fifth Avenue and Taylor Street.

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After graduation from high school, David entered his father's architectural drafting room and was trained as his father had been trained by David's grandfather. His brother, Warren Franklin Williams, also was being trained in the office at that time. David's father died unexpectedly at the age of 44 on January 7, 1888. David and his brother Franklin practiced together from 1888 to about 1894. David then went into practice with Edward Batwell for a short time then went into practice by himself. He practiced as D. L. Williams in Portland "until 1934, although he had been in ill health for some time before that date. He died September 28, 1937."<sup>2</sup> D. L. Williams married, had one son, David Carnahan Williams, who did not become an architect. D. C. Williams attended the University of Oregon, went to the University of Oxford, England as a Rhodes Scholar, and entered into a career of teaching. The best-known of Portland residences designed by D. L. Williams to date are the lavish Robert F. Lytle House (1911-1912) and the Frank C. Barnes House (1913-1914), both located in Northeast Portland and both distinguished by colossal classical porticos. The former is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The latter has been nominated.

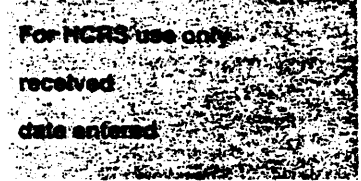
<sup>1</sup>Portland Friends of Cast Iron Architecture Newsletter, No. 17 (December, 1980).

<sup>2</sup>Oregonian, October 2, 1937.



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Come This Way: McMinnville, Oregon, McMinnville Commercial Club, 1910.

Family papers, including blueprints of construction drawings by D. L. Williams for residence of Dr. H. C. Fenton in Willamette Heights, in Northwest Portland, Oregon. The Frank W. Fenton House is based upon the plans for the house of Frank Fenton's brother, H. C. Fenton, in Portland.

Thompson, Polly Povey, and Raymond K. Thompson, AIA, National Register Inventory-Nomination Form pertaining to the Robert F. Lytle House by David L. Williams, September 15, 1982.

Oregonian , October 2, 1937. Obituary article, David Lohead Williams (1866-1937).

Portland Friends of Cast Iron Architecture Newsletter, No. 17, December 1980.