

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 25 1986

date entered OCT 23 1986

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

1. Name

historic Ellis-Hampton House Number of contributing resources: 1

and/or common Same Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number 711 SE Byers Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Pendleton N/A vicinity of Second Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Umatilla code 062

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Eugene and Michele Hallman

street & number 711 SE Byers Avenue

city, town Pendleton N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Umatilla County Courthouse

street & number 216 SE 4th Street

city, town Pendleton state Oregon 97801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ellis-Hampton House is a two-story, wood-frame house embodying a symmetrical T-shaped plan and executed in the Colonial Revival style. It was built for Judge W. R. Ellis in 1901 and was for a few years the most expensive home on fashionable Lewis Street (now SE Byers Avenue). The Ellises' new house appears to have been the first Colonial Revival house built in Pendleton. The Colonial Revival is thought to have marked a turning point in house fashions among the wealthy away from the asymmetrical, medieval-inspired Queen Anne to the symmetrical, classically-inspired styles of the late Colonial period and early Republic. The Ellis-Hampton House has survived essentially intact architecturally, and remains in excellent physical condition. It is one of several distinctive houses on SE Byers Avenue.

Site and Setting

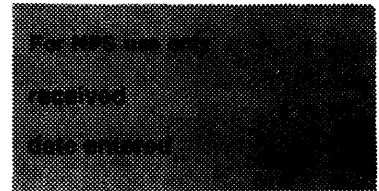
The Ellis-Hampton faces due south on a square, 10,000 square foot parcel, located on the northwest corner of SE Byers Avenue (formerly Lewis Street) and SE 8th Street (formerly Lee Street). Lewis Street was the eastern extension of Water Street, and together, the once rambling street comprised the most fashionable neighborhood in Pendleton from about 1895 to 1910. Lewis/Water Street parallels the Umatilla River, which forms the neighborhood boundary one block to the north. Growing out eastward along the river from Main Street, the neighborhood was already developed as a residential area within ten years of Pendleton's founding in 1870. However, beginning in the 1890s, properties fronting on Lewis/Water Street were bought up, lots were consolidated, and the existing smaller homes were moved off onto the adjoining side streets or elsewhere in town. Then, large houses, the closest thing to "mansions" in Pendleton, were built in a row all along the narrow street. As the street trees and private landscaping grew up, this neighborhood developed a park-like atmosphere, thus approaching in a rural Eastern Oregon town the "garden suburb" ideal then in vogue in the metropolitan areas.

Most of the big houses of the late 1890s, such as the Sommerville House (1899) and the Tallman House, at what is now SE 5th and Byers, were constructed in a restrained, vernacular version of the Queen Anne style, complete with patterned shingles, low turrets, and wrap-around porches, albeit with considerable "free classic" influence. Then in 1901 came the Ellis-Hampton House in full-blown Colonial Revival trappings, form, and floor plan. The next phase of the building in the neighborhood from 1903-1905 was entirely in the Colonial Revival style, although some houses continued to exhibit certain Queen Anne traits. Records are inadequate to precisely date the construction of most houses in Pendleton. But it is fairly certain that Judge Ellis built in 1901 the first Colonial Revival in Pendleton. Certainly it is more fully-developed and refined than either of two other possible contenders, the transitional Judd House at 3 NE Ellis, and the boxy G. Byers House on SE Court. These houses were built between 1901 and 1903 and were located outside the most fashionable neighborhood, in contrast to the Ellis-Hampton House.

By about 1910, the Lewis/Water Street neighborhood was largely built out, and a new upper class neighborhood began to develop on the lower North Hill. Groups of

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fine homes were also built on the South Hill and Locust Hill. Nonetheless, Lewis/Water Street held its own, continuing to attract influential families, such as those of Judge James Fee, Mr. Howard, Editor of the East Oregonian, and Bishop Remington of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. Following World War II however, the area began to slip, and by the early 1970s, it was quite deteriorated. The City had widened the street, chopping down all the old trees. Some houses were converted to apartments, and others were abandoned altogether. Then, in the early 1970s, some new "pioneer" families began moving in and fixing up the grand old homes, such as the Arndts in the Sommerville House, the Hoggs in the E. M. Temple House, and the Harshmans in the Ellis-Hampton House. Today, SE Byers, as it is now known, is again an area the City is truly proud of.

In its immediate environs, the Ellis-Hampton House includes among its neighbors across both SE Byers and SE 8th as well as along SE Byers one block to the west the following notable homes: three large Colonial Revivals, those of Dr. Ralph Swinbourne (a friend of Ellis' from Heppner), E. M. Temple, and Jurgen Mumm; two fine bungalows, the hybrid Colonial Revival Bungalow of Douglas Belts, and the Gilliams' two-story farmhouse Queen Anne. It is anticipated that in the not-too-distant future, SE Byers will be nominated to the National Register as an historic district. The City has deemed it the next in importance after the South Main Street Commercial area for nomination to the Register, but as yet no civic funds have been set aside for that purpose. One home, the 1899 Sommerville House, a fine Queen Anne, was enrolled on the Register in 1979.

Structure

The house is of wood-frame construction on a dark, rough-cut basalt stone foundation. It contains a full two stories, with attic above, and a full, partially-finished basement beneath. The house is sheathed in wide drop-lap siding.

Roof

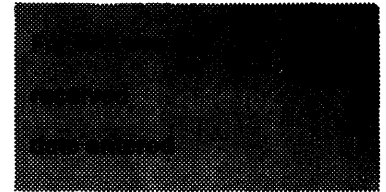
The roof is hipped and of an average pitch. There is a flat area crowning the roof for an open "widow's walk" or "belvedere," which was once provided with a balustrade in the common "grillwork" pattern utilizing upright, horizontal, and diagonal cross members within a post and rail frame. The main roof was originally of wood shingles, but is now covered with brown, composition shingles. The flat front and side porch roofs are tinned. There is a single, corbelled brick chimney rising out of the center of the house.

Mass/Plan

In form, the house is a T-shaped, two-story volume. The base faces Lewis Street as a three-ranked, one room deep, central hall volume with a one-story, classical front portico. A large, wide, two-story "wing" extends north from (behind) the base. From the central hall, which is an open, balustraded stairwell, the north

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wing is tied directly into the base on the second floor, but much less so on the first. Though the form of the house is regular and symmetrical, the floor plan is more "free-form", true to the Colonial Revival type, being a blend of old architectural ideas and new.

On the main floor, the parlor, to the right of the central entry hall, opens north out into the sitting room, which in turn opens north to the dining room, both rooms being located on the east side of the north wing. A single, paneled, and rather inconspicuous door leads from the entry hall directly to the sitting room. The side porch, the entrance more commonly used for day-to-day life, opens into the sitting room, which also houses the only fireplace in the house. This room then is the real family living room, and is a cross between "great hall" and "inglenook."

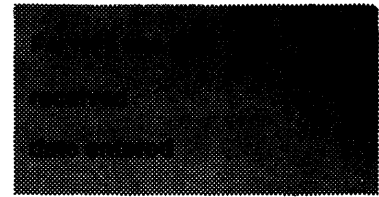
The west side of the main floor begins with the large room to the left of the entry hall, which was Judge Ellis' library and the Hamptons' master bedroom. To the north of this room, are the more mundane areas of the house; bath, pantry and kitchen, all lined up along the west side of the north wing. The kitchen was not large, and has recently been added onto to suit modern needs and to provide a breakfast nook.

Upstairs, three large bedrooms and a bath open off the central, balustraded stairhall which is wide and open. A narrow hall runs north to what were servants quarters and household storage areas, but is now the Hallmans' master bedroom suite.

Exterior Styling

The Ellises did not select a design with the exaggerated features so often found on the Colonial Revival homes of the 1890s. Rather, the design reflects the trend toward refinement and greater accuracy that was then developing (c. 1900). The basic motif that they chose consists of a full classical entablature with a simple frieze and egg-and-dart molding under a projecting cornice, framed on the corners by flat pilasters with recessed center panels and molded bases and capitals. The latter are vernacular simplifications of the Roman Doric order that were popular elements of the Greek Revival style. At the rear of the house the pilasters were simplified to mere corner boards.

The architectural high points of the house are the two entrances, especially the front. Here, a one-story Roman Doric portico with a bowed center section extends across half the width of the front facade. The classical treatment is rich here; a full entablature with simple frieze remains, but the four columns are standard, round, and fluted, with true capitals and bases, as are the two engaged columns joining the porch to the house. Also, a fine dentil cornice molding is substituted for the egg-and-dart. A balustrade once crowned the portico and probably consisted of low upright piers above each column with square balusters

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and a molded rail in-between, based on the existing side porch railing. Projecting out 7', the portico shades the front door which is framed by side lights and a split, full-width transom. This ensemble projects out 1.5' from the front wall and is richly molded.

The side entrance is shaded by along, single-story porch flush with the east wall of the stem of the T-shaped volume. Here, the "order" of the pilasters is carried on in paired square columns and a projecting pilaster against the side wall. Again, a full entablature is provided, this time without any special cornice molding. A porch railing consisting of plain, square balusters with a molded rail is apparent. This is probably the same pattern as the original balustrade atop the porch which has vanished. This balustrade may have been punctuated by low, square piers above each porch column, but just as likely may have been simpler since this was the secondary entrance and facade. The side door arrangement is similar to the front, though the side lights are double the width of the front and the three-part transom contains panels of leaded glass in a curvilinear pattern.

The windows on the house are primarily large, wide, one-over-one, double-hung sashes, singly or in pairs. Well-executed architrave trims with plain sills adorn each window or window set. The windows are arranged symmetrically in the basic volume, but not so in the perpendicular north wing, yet another Colonial Revival adaptation different from the Colonial originals. Anodized-frame storm windows are now in place and detract not at all.

The house was originally painted white, undoubtedly with black or dark green sashes, perhaps to emulate Greek Revival buildings back east. Tom Hampton had it painted pale yellow with white trim and dark sashes, which his daughter Vera Stanton reports was considered quite daring at the time, c. 1915. During the 1970s, the house was painted cream with black sashes, and it is currently medium charcoal brown with light tan trim and dark brown sashes.

Interior Styling

The focal point of the interior of the house is logically located just behind the exterior focal point, namely the entry hall and grand staircase. The hall is sheathed in raised-center wood paneling, probably softwood. A fine set of matching sliding pocket doors opens into the parlor. The staircase features turned newel and corner posts, a broad, curving rail that sweeps up to each post, and ogee-curve decorated stringer blocks. The underside of the staircase is enclosed with paneling, and the balusters are grouped in threes, featuring square shafts at each end with turned work in the middle. The stairs rise along the west side of the entry hall, turning 90 degrees right at a landing half way up. The stairwell is open, and the balustrade extends around the stairwell opening on the second floor. This ensemble appear to have been crafted from native softwoods for the flat work and mill-ordered hardwood turned work. The staircase and entry hall were originally stained and probably grained to simulate oak,

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since Mrs. Stanton remembers the finish being much lighter than now. Sometime after the Hamptons' occupancy, the woodwork was painted. The Harshmans had it stripped in the 1970s, but some of the wood was permanently darkened. Nonetheless, the hall and staircase are magnificent tributes to the carpenter's art, and today the entry to the home glows with a dark sheen that takes your mind back in time, so that you half expect Judge Ellis to walk out of his library, pipe in hand.

The rest of the woodwork in the house appears to have been originally painted and consists of classically-inspired moldings around doors, windows, ceilings, and paneled doors. The walls in the main rooms were plastered, and Mrs. Stanton remembers them being painted in solid colors. In fact, the children named the upstairs bedrooms, which they shared, two or three to a room, according to their colors: green (west), pink (east), blue (north), and yellow (northwest, now Hallmans' dressing room). Downstairs, she remembers only a light color, probably cream applied in all the main rooms. Since then, all the rooms have been papered, the most recent decor utilizing large-pattern Colonial/Late Victorian motifs or Laura Ashley's subdued "Country Victorians." The kitchen and upstairs baths have all been renovated recently. No original lighting fixtures remain, but beautiful brass hardware and Judge Ellis' claw-foot bath tub have been retained and restored.

The most significant loss the house has suffered over the years was the removal of the high overmantle of the fireplace. This was a magnificent carved wood arrangement featuring a large mirror framed by tall columns. This feature was torn out prior to the current owners' tenure, leaving the bricks of the chimney exposed. The oak mantle shelf, trim of green tiles and built-in bookcase remain. Mrs. Stanton also tells of a large silver "doorbell" that once was mounted high on the wall alongside the fireplace, as Mrs. Ellis was hard of hearing.

Hardwood floors are found throughout the main rooms, and Mrs. Stanton reports that it was her father, not Judge Ellis, who had them installed. This is surprising given the Ellises wealth. However, perhaps Mrs. Ellis had large carpets or did not feel that hardwood floors were necessary.

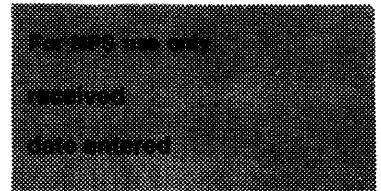
The basement was historically only partially finished with wood storage at the front and later coal storage, and beneath the north wing, a cement-floored area for laundry, fruit room, and overflow sleeping quarters. Gene Hallman converted the southwest corner to a wine cellar.

Styling Comments

The early versions of the Colonial Revival style featured rather free adaptations of late 18th century and early 19th century American architecture. This theme is reflected many times in the Ellis-Hampton House. For example, the form and placement of the windows are wide, lacking muntins, and placed farther apart than

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found normally on the archetypes. Also, all the features cannot be attributed to a single style phase of that era. The architectural finish of the house is very fine and excellently wrought, suggesting that millwork was "imported" from back east and applied to a "box" sided in common materials and built by local craftsmen. Almost certainly an architect had a hand in the design, but as to whom or from where, we have not a clue.

Historic Era Alterations

The Hamptons rebuilt the interiors on the west side of the north wing. Originally, the pantry and back stairs were flush against the back wall, with the kitchen where the pantry and stairs are now. Only a pass-through went directly from the kitchen to the dining room. Upstairs was a servants hall, their rooms, and linen storage. With servants no longer used, Nina Hampton wanted a bigger, brighter kitchen, no doubt more like those normally found in farmhouses. So the many changes were made. Upstairs the two servants rooms were converted to family bedrooms.

The Hamptons also built exterior back stairs to the basement at this time, and the back porch was enlarged to cover them. A coal chute was added too.

Alterations 1943-1980

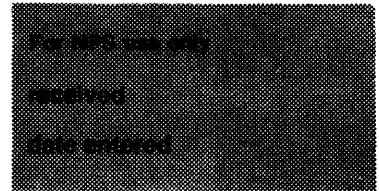
- Front and side porch steps replaced with concrete.
- Balustrades removed from widow's walk, side and front porches (they were probably rotting). Vera Stanton said that the children used to sleep outside under oilcloth atop these porches.
- The entry hall and staircase were painted and later stripped.
- The overmantle was torn out.
- The front door arrangement may have been changed. This is not at all certain, but Vera Stanton recalls "French" doors there instead of the existing single door.
- The sliding doors were moved from the dining room to the west side of the parlor. Curtains were used across the other openings.
- The original doorbell was removed.

Alterations 1980-1985 (by the Hallmans)

- Kitchen addition, 10' x 13', on the north side of the house; single story, skylighted; original windows were reused and original siding and molding were matched.
- The old servants area on the second floor was once again rearranged, this time to a master bedroom suite. Two small bedrooms, a small hall, linen closet, and other excess space are now a large bedroom with bathroom and spacious walk-in closet and dressing room.
- All the bedrooms, the upstairs bath, and the kitchen were redecorated, and the house was repainted in a new color scheme.
- Anodized-frame storm windows were installed all around.
- Creation of wine cellar in basement.

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Proposed Alterations

- Recreation of missing balustrades atop the widow's walk and front and side porches.
- Recreation of an appropriate overmantle.

Landscaping

The Ellises planted many shrubs and a couple of Linden trees, an unusual species for this region at that time. One still remains, towering over the west sideyard of the house. Mature lilacs, pruned up as small trees, still line the west property boundary, providing privacy, and shade the side porch. A screen of fruit trees and pine trees in the east yard, and a large ailanthus tree on the corner, accent the property. The Hallmans plant colorful borders of bright flowers each year.

Outbuildings

Tom Hampton built a 12' x 32' brick garage/shed with a hipped-roof and exposed rafter ends, sometime in the 1920s. It is located at the back of the property, just north of the new kitchen addition. It is intact, in good condition, and still utilized, but is not counted as a feature contributing to the significance of the property.

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
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1901	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built in 1901 for Circuit Court Judge William Russell Ellis on southeast Byers Avenue in Pendleton, Oregon, is believed to be the earliest example of Colonial Revival architecture in the Umatilla County seat. While the architect of the house is unknown, the design is distinguished by academic detailing typical of high-style Colonial Revival houses, such as a full entablature with ovolo molding, Classical pilaster corner boards, and a colonnaded portico of the Doric order replete with shadow engaged columns, full entablature and bowed central bay. With its truncated hip roof and shiplap siding, it is a modest version of contemporary archetypes on the eastern seaboard, estate and town houses designed by such firms as McKim, Mead and White and Coolidge and Shattuck. In fact, it has been suggested that the millwork for the Ellis House was imported from the East Coast. Whether architect-designed or carpenter-built with applications of imported millwork, the house is noteworthy under criterion "c" as an early and locally distinctive example of its style. The house is equally significant, however, under criterion "b" for its association with William R. Ellis (1850-1915), Oregon's first delegate to the U. S. House of Representatives from the Second Congressional District, formed in 1892. Ellis first served in Congress from 1893 to 1899. During the 12 years Ellis occupied the house on Byers Avenue, he was Circuit Court Judge for the 6th District (1900-1906) and was returned to Congress for two consecutive terms commencing in 1907. The period during which the Ellises occupied the house was coincident with the zenith of the Congressman's career. The Ellises left Pendleton in 1913, and Ellis died in Portland two years later. The dual title of the property to reflect the occupancy of the Thomas Hamptons is justified by the prominence of the couple in Pendleton business and social life. The Hamptons made various compatible alterations to the house from 1914 onward. Thomas Hampton occupied the house until his death in 1937.

Early History of the House

William R. and Ida Ellis acquired the building site on Lewis Street (now SE Byers Avenue) from W. S. and Sophie Byers, wealthy mill owners, and Walter Pierce and his wife, in 1901 for a total price of \$1,500. The resulting property measured 100' on Lewis Street, and extended northward 182' along the west side of Lee Street (now SE 8th) to the Umatilla River. The Lewis/Water Street neighborhood was rapidly becoming fashionable, and an existing small house on the property facing Lewis Street was only one of many that were moved or torn down to make way for Pendleton's first street of mansions. Reputedly, the Ellis' new house was built at a cost of \$5,000. At any rate, in 1911, it was assessed at \$4,000, making it the most expensive house in Pendleton at the time it was built, but somewhat less in value than several large Colonial Revival mansions built nearby

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Pendleton, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	3	6	1	4	6	0	5	0	5	9	3	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 Ellis-Hampton House occupies the South 100 feet of Lots 3 and 4; Block B; Jacob's Addition to the Town (now City) of Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve Randolph, Planning Consultant

organization N/A date December 14, 1985

street & number Star Route, Box 845 telephone (503) 278-0366

city or town Pendleton state Oregon 97801

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 

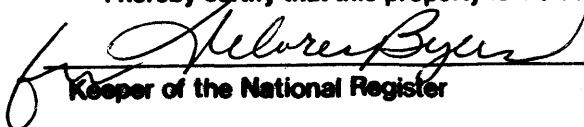
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 18, 1986

For NPS use only

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

entered in the National Register

date 10-23-86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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c. 1903-1905. The house was built in 1901. We know that the Ellises purchased the property in the spring of 1901, and that at the beginning of the year they lived in Heppner. We surmise construction during the summer of 1901, for we know the Ellises moved to Pendleton during 1901. We do not have Sanborn Insurance maps for 1901 and 1902, but the new house is on the 1903 issue.

It would appear from the City's recent (1985) historical inventory, and from deed and biographical research conducted for this nomination, that this house was the first in the city built in the Colonial Revival style. Certainly, on Lewis/Water Street, Queen Anne-style houses in a "free classical" motif were all the vogue in 1899, but by 1903-05 the Colonial Revival reigned supreme. It is indeed probable that the Ellis family set a trend with their new home, thereby accelerating a style transition that would have occurred within a few years anyway. After all, Judge Ellis was one of the most prominent persons in all northeast Oregon, and since the Ellis family had spent considerable time back east in a more cultured environment, it would have been normal for other families to emulate the architectural style they adopted for their new house.

The Ellises were of considerable financial means by 1901, and it appears that the home was designed for entertaining and housing guests, all with the assistance of live-in servants. Class consciousness and refined taste were expressed by the very form of the house as well as by its interior and exterior finishings, yet the home was not ostentatious.

When the Ellises moved to Portland in 1913, the house was put up for sale. Thomas and Nina Hampton purchased the home to accommodate their large family after their former home burned to the ground that fall.

The Hamptons adapted the house to suit their own needs. First off, the servants quarters were converted to an extra bedroom, and it was not long before Mrs. Hampton decided that the kitchen arrangements designed for servants' use, were simply too dark and unsuited to her own needs. This was now a middle class home, and there were many family hands to clean, cook, and do chores. Indeed, a popular anecdote about the house is that when the hardwood floors needed polishing, the children would invite over friends, all would put on cloth soles over their shoes, and they would dance merrily away to the music of the phonograph.

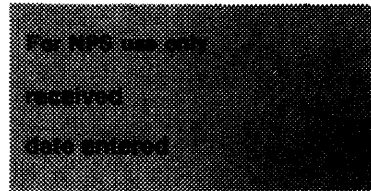
Beyond improving the working areas of the house, the Hamptons changed it very little. The Judge's library, to the left of the front door on the main floor, was converted to a master bedroom, but the living and entertaining rooms were always beautifully decorated and well used. Thus the house lived on amidst day-to-day living and the social whirl around seven growing young ladies and Mrs. Hampton's community work.

Biographical Sketches

William Russell Ellis was born in Waveland, Montgomery County, Indiana, on April 23, 1850, to James and Susan (Stine) Ellis. His father died when William was but

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18 months of age, and when he was five, his mother moved to Guthrie County, Iowa, apparently with a new husband by the name of Roberts. William attended school there and assisted on the farm. For awhile he also taught school, and at age 21 enrolled at the Iowa State Agricultural College, at Ames. He graduated from the Law Department there in 1874. Upon being admitted to the Bar, he commenced the practice of law in Penora, some 40 miles west of Des Moines. The first expression of his political career began there with election as Mayor for one term. He then moved on to Hamburg, on the Missouri River in the southwest corner of the state, where he set up a law practice and also became a newspaperman. He was selected as City Attorney for two years, and was then elected Mayor from 1880-1881. During this time at Hamburg, he met Jennie Edwards, and they were married on March 31, 1880.

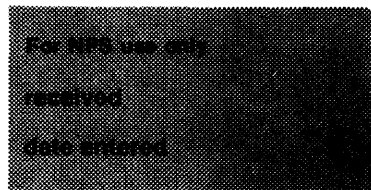
Jennie died a short two year later, and this may have prompted him to go west to start a new life; we do not know for certain. It appears that he first arrived in Walla Walla, Washington, (45 miles northeast of Pendleton) in late 1882, where he taught school and probably met Ida J. Stott, a widow with two children. He then moved to Heppner, Oregon, (45 miles southwest of Pendleton) in 1884, or 1883, perhaps specifically to assume the position of Morrow County Superintendent of Schools, a position he held during 1885 and 1886. On June 11, 1885, he was admitted to the Bar and five days later he and Ida were married. Later that year, he was appointed "Prosecuting Attorney" (District Attorney) for the 7th Judicial District by Governor Moody. In 1886 he was elected to the post, and again in 1888, serving continuously from 1885 to 1891.

During this time period, Ellis became involved in statewide politics, being elected as Morrow County representative to the Republican State Central Committee from 1886-1892. He also represented the County at the state conventions of 1886, 1888, 1890, and was formally endorsed by the party in his run for office as District Attorney. He was a member of the Morrow County Republican Club of Heppner, and together with James Fee of Pendleton (later Circuit Court Judge), he helped found the "Republican League of the State of Oregon," a splinter organization formed in 1888 to align with the National League. The Republican League Register of 1896 downplays the League, calling them "in no way an active organization after the fall elections. . . nor a force of much power." Nevertheless, with Ellis in one of three Vice President positions, a takeover attempt was engineered by an outsider trying to gain a political power base. The League was dissolved, its membership largely joining the Young Men's Republican Club.

In 1890, Ellis was promoted as Congressional material, but since Oregon's one seat in the House of Representatives was held by a strong personal friend, Binger Hermann, he refused to allow himself to be considered for nomination. The circumstances changed however in 1892, when population growth and reapportionment brought Oregon a second seat. Ellis became the Republican nominee for that post

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and was elected over ex-Senator James Slater as the first representative for Oregon's new 2nd District. Ellis was reported as being a "firm protectionist" and in "full accord with the views of the administration and with those of the Republican majority in Congress." The platform that year supported a boat railway at The Dalles, use of silver coinage, coastal defenses, and a better navy.

The Ellises continued to make Heppner their home base as William was re-elected in 1894 and 1896. He served from 1893-1899 in the 53rd, 54th and 55th Congresses. However, in 1898 he was unsuccessful in his bid for re-election, and devoted his time to the law firm he had established in Heppner with G. W. Phelps (later Circuit Court Judge). His period out of the limelight was short-lived, however, as late in 1899, he was appointed Circuit Court Judge for Oregon's 6th District, a function he ably performed from July 10, 1900 to July 1, 1906. As the 6th District was seated in Pendleton, Ellis bought land on fashionable Lewis Street, built the home which is the subject of this nomination, and moved there late in 1901.

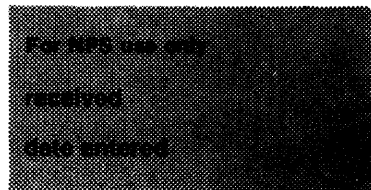
In 1906, Ellis resigned his judgeship to once again run for Congress from the 2nd District, and he was elected to the 60th and 61st Congresses, serving from 1907 to 1911. He was unsuccessful in bids for renomination in both 1910 and 1912, but he resumed his law practice. Perhaps to be closer to the political center of Oregon, the Ellises moved from remote Eastern Oregon to Portland in 1913. He acquired a farm near Cathlamet, Washington, putting his son Edgar in charge. In January, 1914, the big house in Pendleton was sold, and not long thereafter, William and Ida built a new house at 1089 E. Everett in what is now northeast Portland. On the morning of January 18, 1915, Ellis went down into the basement of his new house to tend the furnace. When he did not return in reasonable length of time, Ida went downstairs to see what was wrong. She found him unconscious. He died at 10 o'clock that morning of a brain hemorrhage, at the age of 65. He had been in good health.

Pendleton was shaken by Ellis' death, and the East Oregonian, on the 18th, reported that the news was common knowledge on the streets by that afternoon and that it came as a profound shock to his "great number of friends in Pendleton." He had lived in Pendleton for 12 years, and in the region for a total of 30, and Judge Ellis had been a prominent figure in the community nearly the entire time. The next day, at a meeting of the Umatilla County Bar Association, the Circuit Court, over which Ellis had resided for six years, adjourned for the funeral. Bar members would attend the funeral as they were able, and Col. Raley, Judges Phelps, Fee and Lowell, and Frederick Steiwer were appointed to prepare a resolution of condolence. The East Oregonian reported "the death of Judge Ellis is keenly felt by his former associates here," and the following editorial appeared:

At 65 a man is no longer old and therefore the death of ex-congressman W. R. Ellis may be considered untimely, and it is an additional reason for sorrow on the part of his many friends. But it is the way of the world that sometimes we have to go with no chance to say goodbye.

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The Ellis-Hampton House had been built by a powerful, influential man in the zenith of his career. Architecturally, it is believed to express the Ellises exposure to architecture of the eastern seaboard and to the Colonial Revival style in particular while W. R. was attending Congress in Washington, D.C. during 1892-1899. In its spacious rooms and fine appointments, the house provided a fitting setting for social entertaining. Yet it is reserved, not flamboyant, perhaps reflective of Ellis' humble beginnings and his grass-roots power base. This house, so much unchanged from when Ellis lived there, is a fitting memorial to an important man.

Thomas Randolph Hampton came across the Oregon Trail with his family in 1874, at the age of 17. He was born on May 12, 1859 in Dade County, in southwestern Missouri. The Hampton family was of English lineage from Virginia. Upon arriving in Oregon, the family first settled at Independence in the Willamette Valley, but shortly thereafter most members retraced the Trail back to Umatilla County, which was rapidly being settled at that time. Thomas and his brother Steve went off to run a stage line between Boise and Salt Lake City, a trip that took three months each way. They returned to Pendleton about 1880 and began wheat farming in the South Cold Springs and Missouri Gulch districts on the rolling plains some ten miles north-northwest of Pendleton. On January 16, 1895, at the age of 37, Thomas married Nina McCulley, 20 years his junior. They were blessed with eight children, seven daughters and a son.

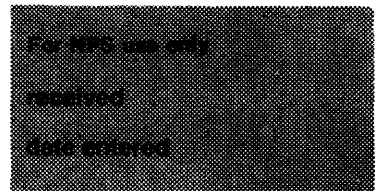
Tom's farming brought prosperity, and in 1906 the family moved to town, to a large house on Owens Hill just north of the Umatilla River. Then came the fire of 1913, and the move to the grand Ellis House in 1914. Tom became active in politics, although he never ran for office, and in lodgework, particularly with the Knights of Pythias. He died on August 4, 1937 at the age of 80. His front-page obituary in the East Oregonian noted that he was "one of the most prominent wheat growers in the County."

Nina L. McCulley Hampton was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1878. When she was a child, her folks moved to Nebraska, where she grew up. Her family was of Scotch-Irish descent. In the early 1890s, the family moved to Umatilla County via the newly-opened Union Pacific Railroad line. Her father worked in the flour mills.

Following her early marriage to Tom Hampton in 1895, she began raising a large family. She was most concerned for the future well-being of her seven daughters, and lavished considerable care on their upbringing and training. Once the family moved to town, Nina became very active socially, even more so than her husband. In particular, she was a pioneer member and long-standing worker in both the PTA and local Red Cross chapter, and was a leader in the Presbyterian Church. She retained these functions even after moving back to the country shortly before her husband's death. When she in turn died on July 10, 1945, at the age of 67, the East Oregonian honored her as a "well-known Umatilla County pioneer" with a front page obituary and these words: "Mrs. Hampton played a large part in Pendleton's community life."

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Several of Nina and Tom's daughters still live in Umatilla County, and together with the families descended from Tom's other brothers, continue to play a significant role in the community life of Umatilla County. (Mrs. Vera Stanton, Mrs. Mary Rugg: Pilot Rock; Mrs. Lois Owens, Mrs. Dorothy Bissinger: Pendleton).

During the Hampton's tenure, they filled the house with joy and life. Physically, they made a number of minor improvements to the house, particularly in the kitchen wing. The house continued to function as a center for family and community social life.

Recent History of the House

By the late 1930s, all but two of the Hampton children had grown and left home. The big house was no longer needed, and shortly before Tom's death, he and Nina moved back out to the ranch. The house was something of a "white elephant" because few could afford to buy or maintain it, so it was difficult to sell. But in 1943, Nina sold the home to Fred and Myrle "Peg" Perkins. Peg was a nurse at the State Mental Hospital and Fred worked in support services there as well. They raised their family in the house, and when the children had grown up, they sold it in June, 1959 to Robert and Elda Lyons for \$10,000. Several years later, the couple divorced, and in June, 1973, the house was sold to Raymond and Ruth Bradley for \$16,000. The next year, in October, Bill and Judy Harshman, a professional couple, bought the house for \$22,000. They were among the first to recognize the character and potential of the now-aging mansions on SE Byers, and began restoring the house which neighborhood children called "haunted"

The Harshmans lavished considerable attention on the house, stripping and refinishing the woodwork, repapering, repainting, and generally fixing things up. When Bill was transferred by the State, the house was once again sold, this time in July, 1979 to Gene and Michele Hallman, two young attorneys, for \$75,000. They were preparing to start their own family and fell in love with the house. The Hallmans continued the redecorating work, remodeled the bathrooms, added onto the kitchen, repainted, created a master bedroom suite, and improved the yard. Gene and Michele now have three children and propose to continue restoration of the missing balustrades and overmantle.

Over the years, the house has actually suffered very little real deterioration, and the restoration and maintenance work conducted by the last two owners has insured its healthy condition for many years.

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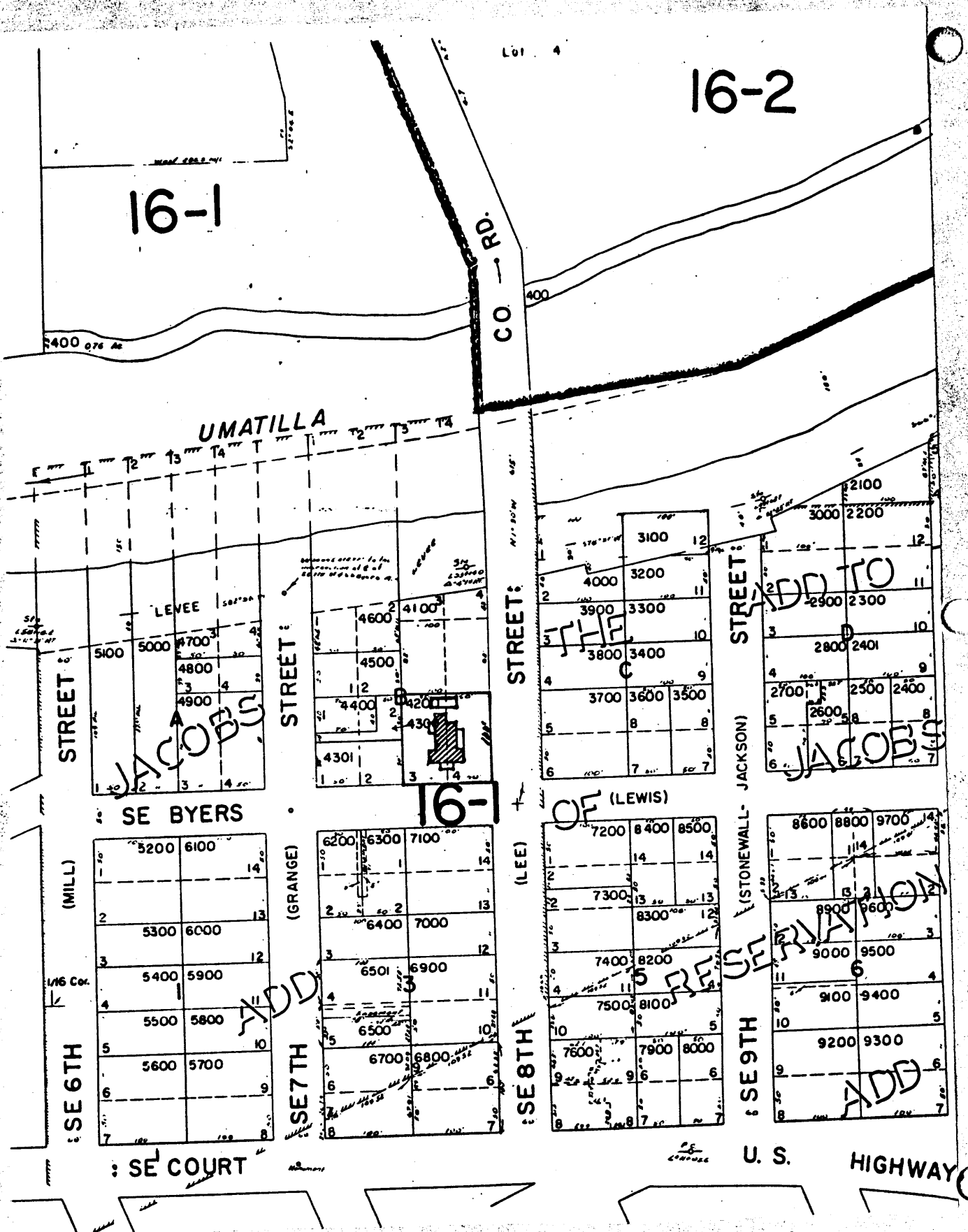
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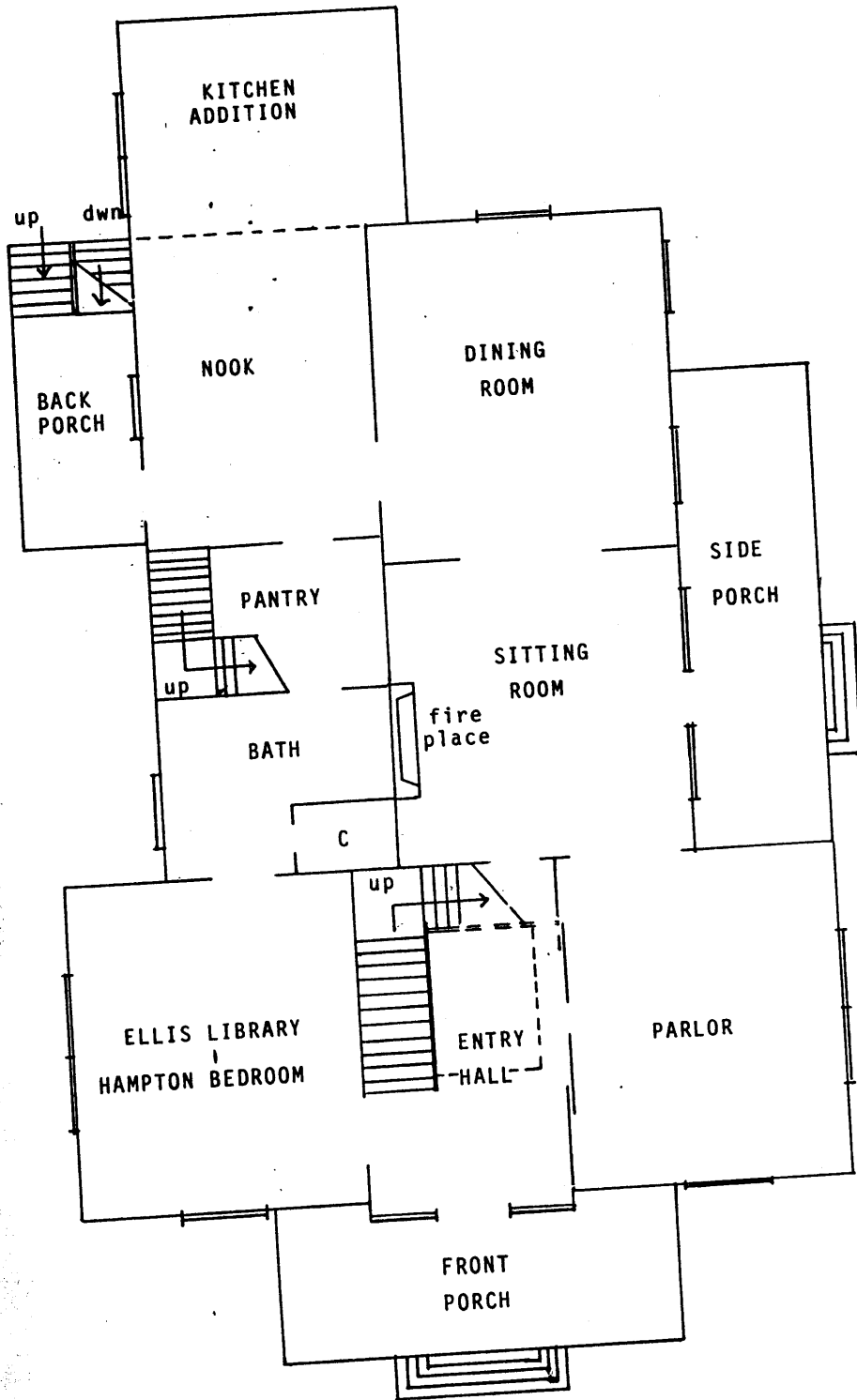
Polks City Directories: 1893, 1896, 1901-2, 1914 and 1920.



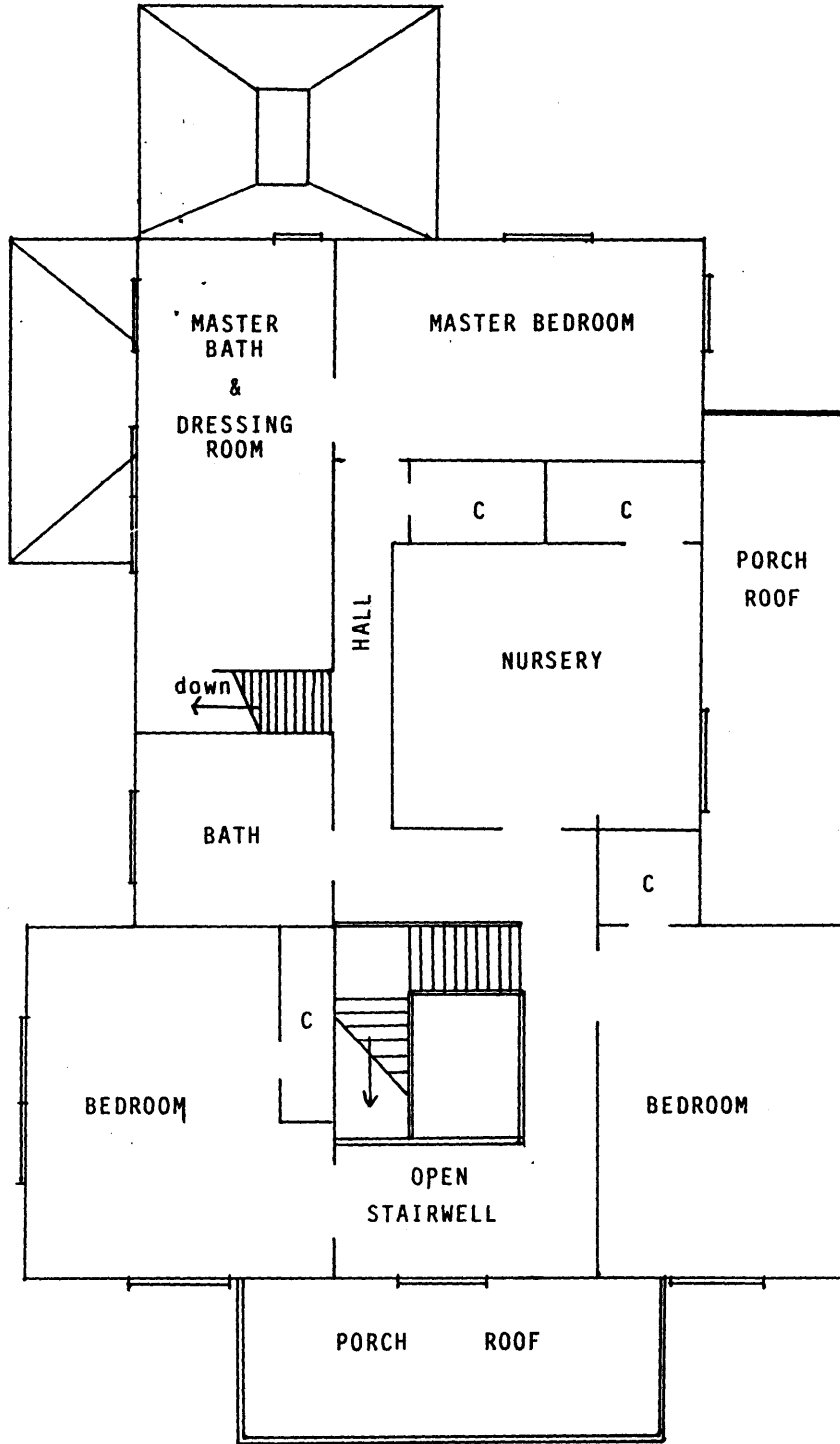
LOCATION ON UMATILLA COUNTY PLAT MAPS
Tax Lot 4200 of Map #2N 32 11BB
north is at top

ELLIS-HAMPTON HOUSE
Pendleton, Oregon

map 11-11-193-



MAIN FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN