

1866

SEP 29 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Menefee, L. B., House
other names/site number Archbishop's Residence, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

2. Location

street & number 1634 SW Myrtle Street
city, town Portland
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [x] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing buildings 0, sites 0, structures 0, objects 0, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Date: September 1, 1989

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[x] 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:)
Entered in the National Register: 10/30/89
Signature of the Keeper:
Date of Action:

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:

Tudor Revival (Arts and Crafts)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls shingles

stucco

roof cedar shingle

other windows: leaded glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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THE SITE

The L. B. Menefee residence was constructed in 1908 on the northeast quadrant of the block at southwest Myrtle and Sixteenth Street in Portland Heights (see plot plan) . The original site included the quadrant to the south which had a tennis court. This half was sold in 1956 and a house constructed on it. In 1909, one year after erecting the house, Menefee acquired the quadrant of the block to the west and constructed a detached garage. This was sold in 1946 and is now a residence. The only quadrant of the block not owned by Menefee was then site of a nursery and now of a modern house. An aerial photo of 1912-1920 gives a good impression of that earlier time when the Menefee house enjoyed a sentinel command of the entire block as did many of the other stately homes of that era.

THE HOUSE

The original house was built in the latter half of 1908 from plans by the architects Bennes, Hendricks and Tobey. A short article in the weekly Real Estate section of the Oregonian, August 31, 1908 gives the following account:

"J. O. Trembly has the contract to erect a \$6,000.00 dwelling for L. B. Menefee in Myrtle Street, between Sixteen and Seventeenth Street, Portland Heights. The permit has been issued. Bennes Hendricks and Tobey are the Architects."

The Bennes design is a typically fanciful, if eclectic, marriage of a Colonial Revival interior, wrapped in an Arts and Crafts exterior set off with Prairie style planters that have a touch of Art Nouveau. A contemporary newspaper photo (Oregon Journal, 3/28/09) gives a good impression of the original appearance. The house has a full basement out of a then new material (concrete). The ground floor features an entry, living room and dining room. Bedrooms occupy the second floor. Servant rooms were located in the third floor.

Three years later, in 1912 the Menefeas constructed a major addition to the west. This included a large modern kitchen in the basement, a large living room on the first floor and more bedrooms upstairs. Judging especially by the consistency of the interior

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detailing this addition must also be by Bennes. After 1938, the basement kitchen was remodeled into a housekeeper's apartment and the kitchen moved upstairs. Various other minor remodelings have been done throughout the years.

In later years, perhaps after acquisition by the Catholic Church in 1921, the basement kitchen was remodeled into a housekeeper's apartment and the kitchen moved upstairs.

The exterior is of cedar shingles and stucco. The elevations are characterized by steep gables with vertical half timbers and deep eaves supported by several brackets. The front (north) side features a wide porch with octagonal columns and a tile floor. The large urns at the entry are another notable feature. They are very similar to those used by Bennes in the DeLahunt house (1909). These are still in existence and have been relocated at the base of a new entry stair from the public sidewalk.

In 1987 new owners began an extensive renovation of the home under guidance of the architectural firm Fletcher Farr Ayotte of Portland. Maintenance items over the entire exterior were attended to including changing the brown and red paint scheme to a beige and white scheme closer to the original. The landscaping was refurbished by the landscape architect firm of Huntington and Keist. This retained several of the large plantings and involved construction of a new entry stair from the sidewalk.

The major rooms of the interior (ground level living room, entry, dining room) have been simply repainted and renovated maintaining the pristine charm of the original Bennes design. The kitchen addition of later years was completely and tastefully refurbished. Upstairs bedrooms have been relieved of later wallpaperings and decorations. Floors have been refinished and walls and ceilings repainted in an uncomplicated style in keeping with the original character.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A. Overview

1. Original Use: The original use of the Menefee house was as a private, first residence for the L.B. Menefee family.
2. Style: Arts and Crafts exterior, Prairie-style entry planters. Colonial Revival interior.
3. Dates of Construction:
 - a. Original structure: 1908
 - b. Western addition: 1912
4. Architects: Bennes, Hendricks & Tobey, Portland.
5. Current Condition and Use: Throughout its history, the house has served as a residence for a number of owners and tenants. These included two archbishops and their house staff. For a time it served as the business location for "Yours Truly Catering" until zoning regulations (and neighbors) encouraged its relocation downtown.

Currently it serves as a single family residence and has been extensively rennovated to its original condition.

B. Site

1. General Description: As was typical of the first homes of the Portland Heights neighborhood, the Menefee once presided alone over the entire block, possessing fully 3/4 of it. The block is bounded by S.W. 16th & 17th, Myrtle and Laurel. Now the site has been parcelled off so only the northeast quadrant remains.

This current lot extends some 86' along Myrtle and 50' along S.W. 16th Street and slopes strongly down from east to west. The house faces north to Myrtle and sits 30' back.

Automobile access is from a drive on the northeast (uphill) corner. A newer stair now also leads directly on axis from this sidewalk to the main entry.

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2. Legal Description

- a. Original: Lots 1,2,3,4,7,8 of block 82, Carters Addition, Portland, Oregon.
- b. Current: Lots 1,2, and east 36' of Lots 7,8, block 82, Carters Addition, Portland, Oregon.

C. General Description

1. Plan: The original house of 1908 has a generally rectilinear plan, some 35' x 50' from which rooms and bay windows protrude.

In 1912, a major dining room and kitchen were added to the west, extending the house another rambling 40'. The ground floor consists of the original porch, main entry with staircase, half bath, living room with enclosed porch, dining room, day room, and the addition of the western dining room with kitchen.

Halfway up the main staircase a library is located. The second floor consists of five bedrooms, three bathrooms, two enclosed porches, and one outside deck worked into the roof of the entry porch.

The third floor/attic area has several small service and storage rooms.

The original basement is a large open space with mechanical equipment. Below the western addition is a suite of rooms for the housekeeper. There are a total of four fireplaces.

2. Massing: The massing is characterized by two full floors and a partial third under a steep (12 in 12) roof, with wide eaves. Average maximum height is 35'. The major gable runs parallel to Myrtle Street. Gables protrude at right angles--one to the front and two to the back. A wide porch sweeps the front. Further protrusions are used freely in numerous bay windows, balconies, and dormer windows.

The western additions, by contrast, are flat-roofed. The large terrace of the addition has a solid crenelated parapet.

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3. Construction: The house is of woodframe construction with exterior cedar shingles and wood studs with interior lath and plaster finish. Floors are carpet or finished hardwood on wood joists. Ceilings are plaster, often with lavish ornament. Foundation walls are concrete. Chimneys are stucco, though originally this may have been exposed brick. The 1908 photo shows the planter boxes (now stucco) were once brick, and it is believable that this was true of the chimneys as well.

The roof is, again, wood construction. The 1908 photo suggests an original roofing of coursed wood shingle. Currently, the roofing is a modern, black, 3-tab asphalt shingle.

According to early residents, the original exterior colors were grey with white trim. Currently the colors are beige and white trim.

D. Detailed Description

1. Exterior Elevations

a. North Elevation: This main entry elevation is composed of a two-story gabled structure, a single gable facing at right angles to the body of the house, and a wide entry porch supported by three octagonal columns.

A flat dormer window protrudes prominently from the roof. Chimneys flank either end. The boxey addition to the west reads clearly as an addition.

Windows at ground level are double hung with single panes of glass. Upper windows have between 6-8 lites.

The dormer is characterized by deep eaves, and wide bargeboards, supported by sweeping brackets. A curving bay window, above a square bay window, below a cantilevered pediment, displays interesting massing.

Similarly, a square bay window and deck protrude above and into the porch roof, while an angled bay window pokes out below it. The entire walls is sheathed in wide courses of cedar shingles.

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The addition features French doors and side lights onto a small balcony supported by sweeping volute brackets off the first floor. The upper floor is interesting for the pairs of pilasters at the corner and on either side of a bank of six, six paned windows.

b. East Elevation: This side exhibits the end view of a gable and side view of another.

French doors (8-paned) open onto the driveway from the enclosed porch. Noteworthy is an angled bay window resembling a castle turret. A stuccoed brick chimney runs to the peak of the gable. Either side features leaded glass windows.

c. South Elevation: This angle features end views of two gables. Stuccoed brick columns support the east gable, and with a bank of 12-paned wood windows, enclose the porch. This west gable is obscured by an enclosed octagonal porch on a square base off the second floor. This is supported by two square columns.

Connecting the two dormers at the second floor is the flat roofed library. This wall continues the crenelated wall surface at the turret to the east.

d. West Elevation: This side bares the results of several flat top additions. The gable of the original house barely peaks above the addition.

The upper floor of the addition displays four pairs of pilasters on a stucco wall. A glassed-in porch adjoins to the south. The main level is dominated by a angled bay window, with flat roof and french doors opening onto an expanse of terrace. The walls of this terrace create a solid stucco bulwark to the ground.

2. Interior Rooms

a. Entry Porch: Orange quarry tile set in a concrete walk forms the floor of the entry porch. The ceiling is wood batten. Immediately to the west is a recessed, walled terrace with concrete paving. A wide single-glazed door flanked by full height single windows creates the entry.

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b. Entry Room: The large entry room is dominated by a wide staircase with hardwood bannister supported by trios of turned posts. A second feature is the original glass chandelier centered in a plaster ceiling banded by plaster molding. Floors are oak. Steam radiators flank the door.

c. Living Room: A wide opening flanked by painted wood Tuscan Doric columns leads to this living room. A large fireplace dominates the east wall. The face and hearth are of green terracotta tile. Above the mantel is a large plaster bas-relief of seven cherub-like children and a dog tripping across a field. Left and right are built-in bookshelves above which are two fine leaded glass windows. To the right a built-in seat lines the key window "turret." French doors lead south to the porch. The west wall has only a small leaded glass front bookcase. The ceiling, again, is banded by plaster molding. The long-term effects of settling are particularly noticeable in the northeast corner of this room as evidenced by the sloping floor.

d. Dining Room: The original purpose of this room must have been as the music room as suggested by numerous plaster ornaments with motifs of musical instruments. The west wall features another fireplace, this time with tan tile. The mantel is a classical entablature supported by engaged Ionic columns. The north bay window has a built-in wooden seat. A large oval of plaster ornament circumscribes the ceiling. A chandelier is in the center. Floors are hardwood.

e. Day Room: This room, immediately through the french doors to the south, completes the original set of rooms at the ground level. Least ornate of the five, it has wood floors and a more restrained plaster ceiling ornament. Light fixtures are brass sconces. A narrow service stair in the southeast corner sneaks up to the library.

f. Second Living Room: This room is the addition of 1912 and is in some ways the most impressive. A third fireplace is the feature of the east wall. Like the others, it has a tile front and hearth (tan), and another plaster bas-relief nearly identical to that of the first living room with a pastoral scene of dancing cherubs. French doors from the dining room are on either side.

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The north wall features French doors to a small balcony with leaded windows above. The west wall has another pair of french doors leading to the terrace.

This ceiling is perhaps the most striking in the whole house with its thick tracery of plaster molding. Pendant lamps hang at either end of the space. Floors are hardwood.

g. Library: Midway up the stairs a landing leads to a large windowed space with bookcases on east and west walls. Floors are parquet wood and ceiling gypsum board.

h. Second Floor Bedrooms: Most impressive of all the second floor rooms is the master bedroom. This space features a fireplace on the east wall and a bay window on the north wall with double doors leading to a deck.

As above, ceilings throughout are plaster but characterized by a smooth cove as opposed to a band of plaster trim.

Other bedrooms are very similar and low-key: carpeted floors, plaster walls and coved plaster ceilings. Bathrooms have white tile and large porcelain fixtures.

i. Third Floor Rooms: These utilitarian attic spaces have carpeted floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and simple wood trim around doors and windows. Spaces have knee walls and some perimeter slope to ceilings.

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The L. B. Menefee House, located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Myrtle Street and 16th Avenue in the Portland Heights neighborhood in southwest Portland, Oregon, was erected in 1908 and enlarged by addition of a compatible livingroom and kitchen wing on the west end in 1912. The house was designed in the Arts and Crafts style by the firm of Bennes, Hendricks and Tobey. It has been officially declared a Portland Historical Landmark.

As originally constructed, the two and a half-story house was rectangular in volume with its main gable roof ridge paralleling the long axis. The main volume was intersected by cross axial massing at either end. A gable-roofed section with second story bow window on the west end was offset on the east by a shed-roofed dormer, varied projecting window bays, and a porch with low hipped roof and massive, octagonal columns on pedestals which extended across the easterly two thirds of the facade.

Elements of style which identify the building as an example of Arts and Crafts architecture are a mixture of bungalow and medieval vocabulary well integrated into a coherent design. The original coloration of the exterior was dark-stained shingles with light painted trim. The house was painted subsequently. Its present color is umber with white trim. The shingle siding, broadly overhanging eaves and shed roof dormer, the porch balcony with solid railing -- all are derived from the Craftsman aesthetic. Medieval touches are the decorated knee braces and bargeboards of steeply-pitched gables, the gauffrage effect of horizontal and vertical stripping in the front gable, a battlemented polygonal window bay on the east end, and heavily-mullioned, multi-paned window banks. Even the three porch columns with their solid profiles recalling the cluster columns or piers of historic church architecture are more medieval than classical. The interior is a tour de force of Colonial Revival detailing expressed in a lavish array of fine, classical woodwork, plaster ceiling ornament, bas relief chimney overmantel panels, geometric leaded glass windows, spiral-turned stair railing balusters and so on.

The Menefee House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C because it ranks importantly in the body of work by the partnership of Bennes and Hendricks. John V. Bennes is among the noteworthy figures in Oregon architectural history. His best-known works listed in the National Register to date are the Italian Renaissance Administration Building of Eastern Oregon State College and the Prairie School-influenced Mediterranean style residence of A. H. Maegly in Portland. Bennes came of age in Chicago in the period 1868-1900. In his early career he emulated the work of such leaders of American design as Daniel H. Burnham and Frank Lloyd Wright. Nevertheless, his was the traditional Beaux Arts training, and consequently, his residences display the mastery of historical detail and the frank admixtures of style yet fashionable in the early 20th Century. The Menefee House, which combines Tudor touches on the exterior

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with a truly notable Colonial Revival interior decorative scheme, is counted with the William Bittle Wells House on nearby Clifton Street and the Goldsmith House in the Nob Hill neighborhood as an example of the best design in the high Arts and Crafts style in the considerable volume of Bennes's residential work in Portland.

L. B. Menefee (1865-1953) was a prominent Oregon lumberman and developer who had been attracted to Portland in the period of upbuilding which followed the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition of 1905. He occupied the house until 1921, at which time he moved to a new residence in his Terwilliger Heights real estate development.

The house was sold to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon for use as the Archbishop's residence, which purpose it served to 1937. Archbishop Alexander Christie (1848-1925) lived the last four years of his life in the residence. During this period he conducted numerous administrative activities in the house, among which the most important was leading opposition to the Oregon School Bill of 1922, an initiative to suppress Catholic parochial education. The initiative petition which voters narrowly approved was an outgrowth of anti-Catholic bigotry spurred by the Ku Klux Klan. Under Archbishop Christie's direction, the Archdiocese successfully challenged the legislation through the federal courts. The Supreme Court decision that was handed down in 1925 found the law requiring all Oregon school children to attend public school unconstitutional because it unreasonably interfered with the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children. The more detailed discussion of the significance of this case which follows is provided by the current owner of the property, Ivan Gold. Christie's successor, Archbishop E. D. Howard (1877-1983), also was noted as a champion of parochial education. Thus, the property is significant at the statewide level under National Register Criterion A because the roots of a momentous constitutional case are tied to it, and the house is indelibly associated with the struggle of the Roman Catholic Church to maintain church-affiliated schools in Oregon in the early 20th Century.

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SOCIETY OF SISTERS OF HOLY NAMES

At the General Election of November 7, 1922, spurred by anti-Catholic bigotry, and led by the Ku Klux Klan, the voters of Oregon approved an Initiative Petition to enact a Compulsory School Education Bill. The Initiative was designed to suppress Catholic parochial education in the state. It required all normal children between the ages of eight and sixteen to attend public schools. Only under special circumstances could a child fail to attend public school, and the excused absence required recertification on an annual basis. It was a criminal offense to send a child to other than a public school. The Initiative was enacted, recorded as Chapter 1 of the General Laws of Oregon, 1923, amending Section 5259, Oregon Laws.

At the time, the L. B. Menefee house was the property of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, and was the residence of Archbishop Alexander Christie (1848-1925) and used for administrative activities of the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Christie, with his own efforts, and using the resources of the Archdiocese, organized, financed, and led the unsuccessful opposition to the Initiative. The vote was close, 115,506 votes cast for the initiative and 106,685 against.

Notwithstanding his disappointment at the victory of the Initiative, Archbishop Christie mobilized his institutional resources, and led the Archdiocese's successful constitutional challenge to the legislation in the federal courts.

There can be no doubt that the Archdiocese led the battle against the odious legislation, and that Archbishop Christie led the Archdiocese in its efforts -- from the pulpit, in offices around the state, and from his residence in the Menefee house. Archbishop Christie was dedicated to parochial education, and continually active in its support.

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The history of the Archdiocese in Portland reports,

"The outstanding event in the last years of Archbishop Christie's term was the Oregon School Bill which he faced in a condition of failing health, but which resulted in a great success for him. His outlook had been formed under Archbishop Ireland of Minnesota, a leading exponent of Catholic education, and his goal for Oregon was a school in every parish. Although he was in physical decline, he was determined to meet and defeat the bill, which was pushed by a wave of bigotry especially directed toward the Catholic school system. The bill, introduced in July and passed in November, 1922, provided that all normal children must go to public school, under severe penalty for failure to comply.

"The passage of the bill was a great disappointment to the Archbishop, but he announced that action would be continued against it. At the very time of the passage of the bill, he founded the Catholic Truth Society. He appealed to the National Catholic Welfare Society and obtained its backing. There would be heavy legal expenses. As it developed, the State of Oregon lost the case for its bill before the Oregon Supreme Court, appealed to the United States Supreme Court, and finally lost there in May, 1925. Unhappily, Archbishop Christie died just weeks before this news."

The Archdiocese first challenged the law in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon before a special three-judge panel designated to hear challenges against state laws alleged to violate the federal constitution. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary v. Pierce, 296 F. 928 (1924).

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The list of lawyers representing the Archdiocese through the Society of Sisters reads like a "who's who" of prominent Oregon attorneys: Bowerman & Kavanaugh; Malarkey Seabrook and Dible; Emmons & Lusk; and Frank J. Lonergan.

Although the Oregon Bill was theoretically consistent with then developing standards of compulsory education statutes being adopted across the nation, the clear effect of this statute was to destroy the Catholic parochial school system in Oregon. Because it was a criminal offense for a child to be absent from public school, it was impossible to maintain a functioning system of private education without the expectation parents would be able to enroll their children.

On the merits, the state argued it had an interest in socializing its future citizens according to the prevalent standards in the community, and would benefit from a society whose members were educated with a common system of values.

The District Court devoted much of its opinion to the procedural issues raised by the State to dismiss the Archdiocese's case, finding in favor of the Archdiocese's right to challenge the Initiative.

On the substance of the case, the District Court answered the law's supporters, "The melting pot idea, applied to the common schools of the state as an incentive for the adoption of the act, is an extravagance in simile." Id., at 938. "The act could not be more effective for utterly destroying the business and occupation of complainant's schools ... if it had been entitled 'An act to prevent parochial and private schools. . . .'" Id., at 936. The District Court found the state law deprived the complainants their constitutional right and privilege to teach in the grammar grades without due process of law.

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The state appealed to the United States Supreme Court to save the statute. Pierce v. Society of Sisters of Holy Names, 268 U.S. 510 (1925). Although the District Court had focused on the Archdiocese's right to teach and its property right, to operate schools, the Supreme Court affirmed the District Courts decision, relying, in part, on the much more far-reaching issue of individual liberty against the interference of the state in matters of private concern.

Mr. Justice McReynolds delivered a unanimous opinion which found that the Act of 1922 unreasonably interfered with the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

For this reason, the case was one of the most important constitutional cases ever to have originated and been decided from Oregon. It stands for the proposition that the state must observe limits when interfering with the private lives of citizens, regardless of the will of the majority. The list of cases citing it and using it as important precedent go on for page after page in the legal reference books. Three pages of Shepherd's Citations

Archbishop Christie died shortly before the Supreme Court ruled. He had battled against the initiative in a public election and lost, but lived to see the law declared unconstitutional by the District Court. His successor, then resident in the L. B. Menefee house, received the good news of the victory. The battle led from the Archbishop's office and residence in the L. B. Menefee House truly had historic impact on Portland, on Oregon, and throughout the nation.

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PROMINENT RESIDENTS

The L. B. Menefee residence has been occupied by several leading Oregonians:

- a. 1908-1921 Lee Bruce Menefee, a prominent Oregon lumberman and Portland developer.
- b. 1921-1925 The most Reverend Alexander Christie, 4th Archbishop of Portland (ne Oregon City).
- c. 1926-1937 The most Reverend Edward Daniel Howard, 5th Archbishop of Portland (ne Oregon City).
- d. 1938-1940 Col. (later General) John Clifford Hodges Lee, Chief of Pacific Division, U. S. Army Engineers.
- e. 1961-1987 Thomas C. Vaughan, Director of the Oregon Historical Society.

1908-21: L. B. Menefee (1865-53): The list of notable residents at the house at 1634 S. W. Myrtle begins with the original owner himself, Lee Bruce Menefee. Already a successful lumberman from Texas and Louisiana, Menefee first visited Portland in 1905 like thousands of others thronging to see the Lewis and Clark fair. And like thousands of others, he decided to move here shortly thereafter adding to Portland's burgeoning population.

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Beginning in 1906, Menefee began purchasing timber and setting up the numerous logging operations that were to make him a leader in Oregon's lumber industry. An extract from his obituary (Oregonian 9/30/53) gives an account of his impressive operations:

"...Mr. Menefee owned all or parts of timber tracts at various times that would have exceeded 1,500,000,000 board feet. First ventures [sic] in Oregon was the Silver Falls Lumber company, which he sold before its big mill was built near Silverton.

He organized the Gladstone-Oregon Timber company to handle a 500,000,000-foot stand in the Nehalem watershed and held a two-fifths interest in the Chehalem Timber company which owned a somewhat smaller stand. Both were wiped out in the Tillamook holocaust of 1933.

His Columbia River Timber company, which held 200,000,000 feet of timber on Hamilton creek in Klickitat county, Washington, also was ruined by fire. He held majority interest in the Dee Logging company, which took out 250,000,000 feet east of Estacada.

Sawmill operations included the Ben Johnson mill near Linnton for several years; Winlock Lumber company at Winlock, Wash.; Modoc Lumber company which cut reservation timber at Modoc Point and a planing mill at Wandling, which bought rough lumber from small saw mills."

An obviously ambitious person, Menefee expanded his interests into shipbuilding during World War I and real estate development afterwards. He purchased extensive land holdings from the Ladd estate for \$2,000,000. The developments of Highlands, Terwilliger Heights and Burlingame in southwest Portland ensued.

However, as fire decimated his timber holdings so the depression halted his real estate development. An atypically successful career met an atypical decline. Yet it is a career exemplary of a person who helped shape the state and city.

1921-37: Archbishop Christie (1848-1925) and Archbishop Howard (1877-1983): In 1921 the Menefee sold his imposing home to the Catholic Church and moved to a new residence at his development in Terwilliger Heights. The home became the residence for the

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church's Archbishops first Christie then after he died in 1925, for Howard. Originally known as the Archdiocese of Oregon City the name changed to Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon and currently encompasses the western half of Oregon, though at the beginning of Christie's tenure in 1899 it encompassed Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The Archbishops, of course, were powerful figures in the development of the Catholic Church in Oregon. Both were especially interested in education. Christie is particularly noted as the founder of the University of Portland in 1901. During his final years (while in residence on Myrtle Street), he orchestrated perhaps his greatest service not only for the cause of Catholic education but also for civil liberties in general. He led the fight against the prejudiced Oregon School Bill of 1922 which required all children to attend public schools. The bill was finally invalidated by the U. S. Supreme Court in May of 1925 a few weeks after Christie's death.

Howard also championed the cause of parochial education, establishing Central Catholic High School in 1939. However, through a legal battle he was able to establish a far greater matter: the right for any church to also construct its adjacent church-affiliated school. This grew out of a incident in 1931 in which, based on zoning, the Church had been denied such a right. His legal appeal established a precedent of nation-wide import.

While these major battles were being waged from the house on Myrtle Street, the Archbishops also tended to the physical well-being of their battlestation. Plumbing records indicate that Christie undertook some remodeling and repair. From Howard's time a very detailed (80 page) insurance inventory of September 13, 1928, on file in the historical archives of the Archdiocese gives a vivid account of all uses and furnishings of each room.

In 1937 the church apparently traded homes with the Albert Mills family estate. Archbishop Howard moved to the Mills's stately brick mansion at 733 N. W. 20th in Portland. (Currently the office of BOORA, Architects.) Though members of the Mills family apparently never lived at the Myrtle Street house, the ownership is recorded as First Interstate Bank. Albert Mills, Sr. had been president of the bank.

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1938-40: "Courthouse" Lee (?-1958): A noteworthy tenant during the period of the bank's ownership was Col. John C. H. ("Courthouse") Lee (1887-1958). During his time in pre-war Portland from 1938-40, Lee was Chief of the Pacific division, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. During WWI he was Army Deputy under Eisenhower becoming a Lieutenant General.

1961-87: Thomas Vaughan (1924-): Of more recent note, the Menefee house was the longtime residence of the Thomas Vaughan family. Mr. Vaughan has served as director of the Oregon Historical Society since 1954 and will retire in 1989. His contribution to the growth of the society, to Oregon's awareness of its history and to its support of historic preservation has been inestimable.

ARCHITECTURE

Architecturally, the Menefee house is of interest in that it is one of the early residential works by the prominent Portland architect John V. Bennes. Virginia Ferriday offers this short biography of him in her book Last of the Handmade Buildings.

"John Virginus Bennes (1867-1943) was born in Peru, Illinois, but moved to Chicago with his family at age one. His father, John Virginus Benes, (spelling changed by his son) was uncle of Edward Benes, president of Czechoslovakia. Bennes attended the School of Fine Arts in Prague, Bohemia, for one year and also studied at Chicago University. He worked in his father's office and in his early twenties had his own office in Chicago. In 1900 he moved with his family to Baker, Oregon, and in 1906 to Portland. He was architect for Oregon State University for over 30 years and also a member of the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners. He formed various partnerships during his career: Bennes, Hendricks & Tobey (1908-1909); Bennes, Hendricks & Thompson (1909); Bennes & Hendricks (1909-1913 and 1925); and Bennes & Herzog (1924-1928). In 1943 he moved to Los Angeles because of poor health."

Bennes is particularly known as Portland's leading proponent of the Prairie Style as seen in several local residences (DeLahunt house 1909, Bennes house, 1911, Maegly house, 1917). His training and practice in Chicago undoubtedly led to a strong appreciation of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

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Of the many houses by Bennes listed in Portland's historic resources inventory, the Menefee house is one of his three best in the Arts and Crafts style. The Goldsmith house at 1111 N.W. 23rd Street shows a striking similarity to the Menefee home: massive gables with deep eaves supported by brackets, a shed-roofed dormer, wide porch, engaged ground-level turret, and shingle siding (see photo). Completing the trio is the fine Wells-Furnish house by Bennes just one block away at 1515 S.W. Clifton. Though not quite as close stylistically, it exhibits basic similarities to the other two: wide eaves, dormers at right angles and shingle siding (see photos).

Of the three, the Menefee house is of further interest in that it combines touches of Bennes's other styles: urns identical to those used on the Prairie Style homes and Classical details on the interior such as Doric columns, and Classical moldings.

Together this trio of homes forms a strong statement of Bennes's ability in the Arts and Crafts style much as his three better known homes for Marcus J. Delahunt, Aaron H. Maegly and himself form a definitive local statement of Prairie Style (see photos). Clearly the Menefee house makes a significant contribution in appreciating John Bennes as a notable Oregon architect.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Social History
Law

Period of Significance

1908-1912
1921-1937

Significant Dates

1908
1922-1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bennes, Hendricks & Tobey

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one Portland, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
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5	0	3	9	4	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is comprised of Lots 1 and 2, East 36 feet of Lots 7 and 8, 10 feet vacated SW 16th Avenue, and the North 9.00 feet of the West 87.00 feet of Lot 3, Block 82, Carter's Addition, in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 4, Township 1S, Range 1E, Willamette Meridian, City of Portland, Multnomah County, State of Oregon.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area comprises the Menefee House and the net lot area. The original site included two adjacent lots to the south, now built upon with another house. It also included the former garage on the plots to the west. The garage is now converted to a house and is under different ownership.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fletcher Farr Ayotte, PC

organization Architects date December 1988; March 1989

street & number 115 NW First Avenue, Suite 400 telephone (503) 222-1661

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97209

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MENEFEE

"Real Estate and Building," Oregonian, 8/31/08 [Notation on award of contract to construct house and architect.]

"September Record Beats Last Year's," Oregon Journal, 9/5/08. [Notation on award of construction contract.]

Photograph of Menefee house, Oregon Journal, 3/28/09

"L. B. Menefee Services Held," Oregon Journal, 9/28/53.

Obituary, L. B. Menefee, Oregonian, 9/30/53

Obituary, Hortense A. Menefee Oregon Journal, 2/11/58

Obituary, Hortense A. Menefee, Oregonian, 2/11/58

McCall, E. Kimbark, Growth of a City (Portland: The Georgian Press, 1979. pp. 342, 373 [References to Menefee's land developments]

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTIE

"Noted Prelate of Oregon Dies," Oregon Historical Society Scrapbook #269, pp. 72-74, April 7, 1925

Gaston, Joseph, Portland - It's History & Builders, 1911, "Archbishop Alexander Christie," p. 445.

ARCHBISHOP HOWARD

"Archbishop Edward Howard Funeral," Catholic Sentinel, January 7, 1983.

Numerous articles in Catholic Sentinel

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Insurance Inventory, Fidelity Appraisal Co., Milwaukie, Wisconsin, 9/13/28, Historical Archives, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon [The inventory is a detailed list by room of all objects in the house. Contact: Mary A. Grant]

JOHN V. BENNES

Clark, Rosalind, Architecture Oregon Style (Portland: Professional Book Center, 1983) pp. 136-139

Bosker, Gideon & Lencek, Lena, Frozen Music (Portland: Western Imprints, The Press of the Oregon Historical Society, 1985) pp. 59-60, 67.

Ferriday, Virginia Guest, The Last of the Handmade Buildings (Portland: Mark Publishing Co., 1984) appendix.

HOUSE RECORDS

Bureau of Planning, Historic Resource Inventory, Portland, Oregon, 1981.

Bureau of Buildings, City of Portland, Report of Inspection Plumbing Permits for 524 Myrtle (later changed to 1634 S. W. Myrtle)

- .9/22/08, 12/8/08 Inspections for Menefee
- .10/5/12, 12/10/2 Inspections for Menefee addition (Shows sketch of addition to west.)
- .10/12/12, 12/12/12 Inspections for Menefee - plumbing remodels
- .2/21/23, 4/10/23 Inspections for Archbishop for 1st floor bath, 2nd floor lavatory
- .7/12/23, 7/17/23 Inspections for Archbishop Christie, new bath to garage
- .8/30/46 Replace water service for Mr. Brown

Photographs, Oregon Historical Society

- .Aerial photo of Portland Heights 1910's
- .Panorama of Portland Heights 1920's

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Arthur Spencer III, handwritten notes, 12/1/88 (Record of conversation with various friends and neighbors on Myrtle Street including document research)

Portland City Directories, 1921-61 The city directories list the following entries:

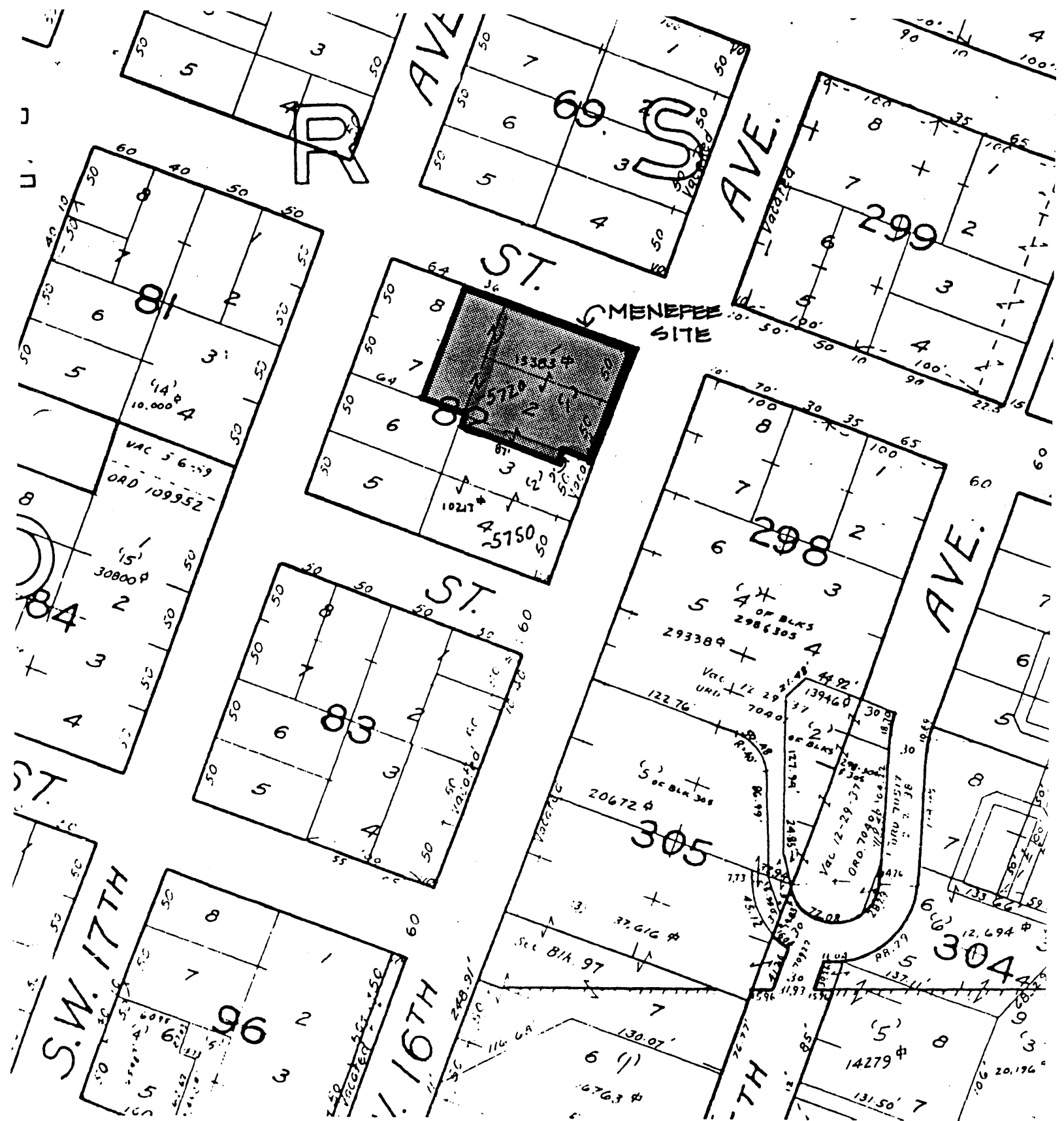
1921-22	Menefee
1923	Archb. Christie
1927	Archb. Howard
1937	Archb. Howard
1938	Vacant
1939	John C. H. Lee
1940	John C. H. Lee
1941	Vacant
1943-44	John Patterson
1950	Mrs. Lucille M. Brunskill
1952	Mrs. Lucille M. Brunskill
1953-54	Mrs. Lucille M. Brunskill
1960	Vaughan
1961	Vaughan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Fletcher Farr Ayotte wishes to specially thank the following people and organizations for their assistance.

Mrs. Robert Gambel (long time neighbor)
Robert Clay (Knighton historian)
Arthur Spencer III (historian, neighbor)
Thomas Vaughan (historian, resident)
R. A. Menefee (son)
Towner Menefee (grandson)
Virginia Menefee (granddaughter)
David Ferriday (Bennes historian)
Mary Grant, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon (historian)
Eric Epperson (photographer)
U of O Library
Multnomah County Library
Oregon Historical Society
City of Portland

and especially

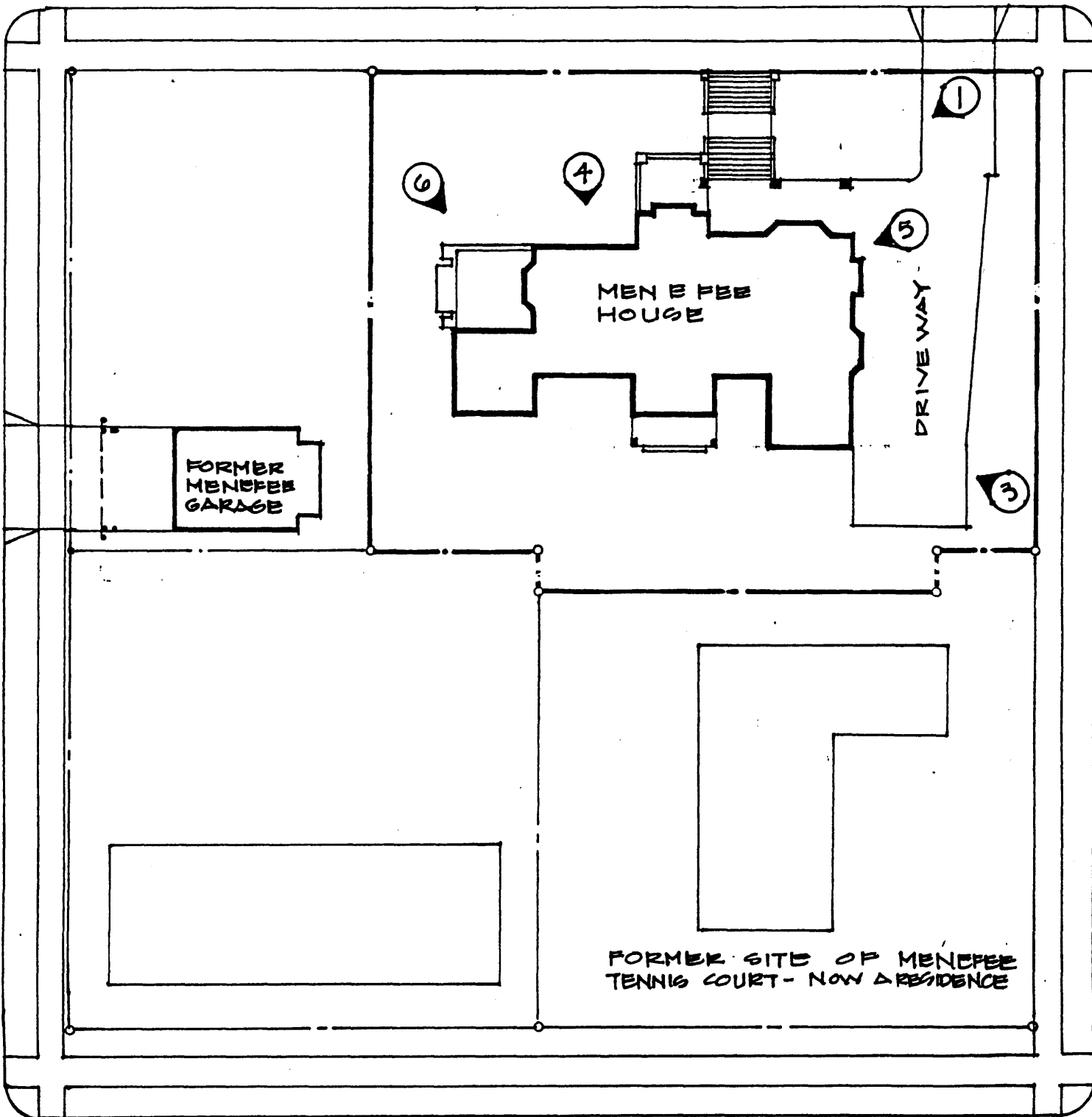
Ivan Gold, current owner of the house and provider of the legal history



ASSESSOR'S MAP

SW MYRTLE

2



SW 16TH

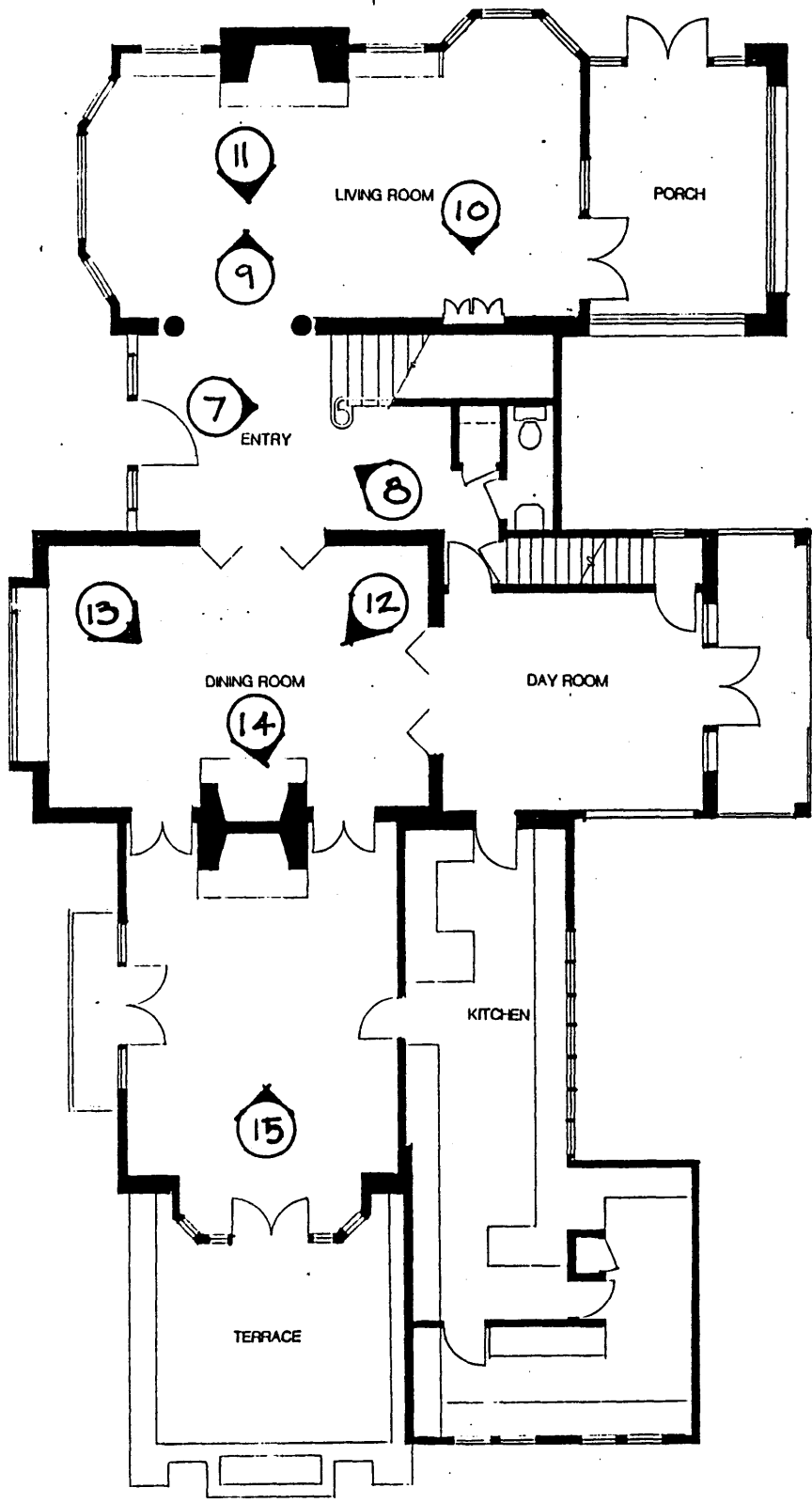
SW LAUREL



SITE PLAN



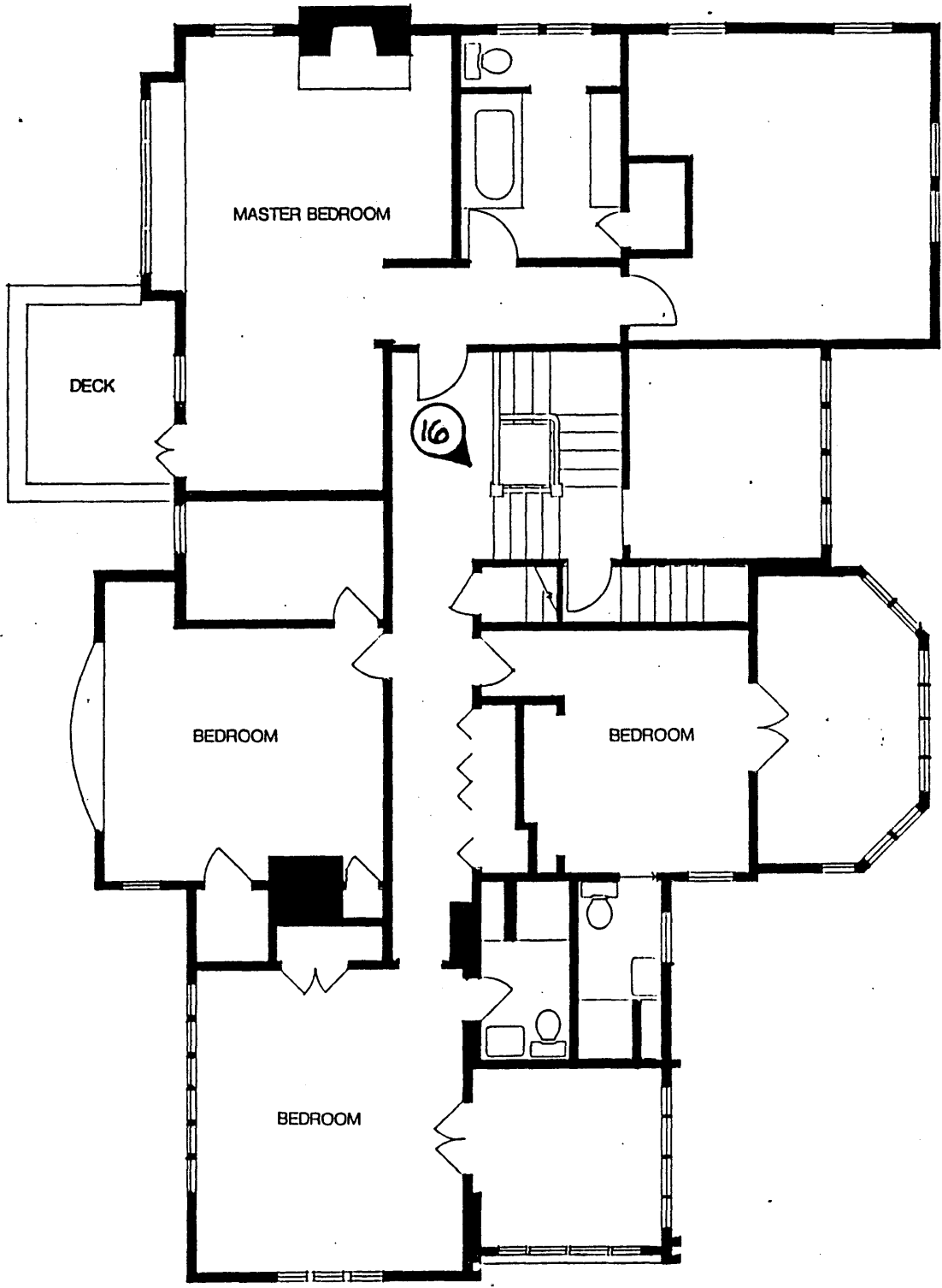
MENEFFEE HOUSE



 **FIRST FL.**



MENEFEE HOUSE



 SECOND FL.



MENEFEE HOUSE