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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The French Renaissance Revival-Chateauesque Henry J. Pittock mansion, atop Imperial Heights 850 feet above Portland, was started in 1909 and completed in 1914. The slightly asymmetrical building consists of three twostory blocks which meet at 30-degree angles on the outer side and a 90degree angle on the inner side to form a C-shaped mass. A pavilion-like steeply pitched hip roof with a centered chimney covers the center section. It dominates the steeply pitched hip roofs of the two wings. There are two tall offraxis chimneys with flared cornice-like caps on the southerly wing and one on the northerly wing. The roofs of all three sections are penetrated by small dormers with steeply pitched hip roofs. Two turrent-like projections at the corners where blocks meet on the easterly-facing outer side are capped with conical "candle-snuffer" roofs. The roofing is red terra cotta French tile.

The Pittock mansion is structured of reinforced concrete. The hollow clay tile exterior walls are smoothly surfaced in cut grey sandstone. A horizontal band or molded string course projecting in low relief separates the ground and second floors. Rectangular window and door openings are surrounded by a narrow incised band with a slightly projecting sill and have a tall keystone motif above the second floor openings. The keystones project up into a fretwork frieze which surrounds the building. Above the frieze is a broad molded cornice with dentil-like closely-spaced brackets. Arched doorways in the turrets at ground level are pedimented. A one-story trapezoidal projection on the easterly side of the building between the turrets has engaged Roman Doric columns and piers and an entablature and ballustrade. The roof of this projection, which contains an oval room, serves as a terrace for the second floor. Other second-floor doors open onto small balconies supported on heavy brackets. Window and door openings have wood transom and mullion croisettes. The trapezoidal projection fills in the outer side of the "C" to make an L-shaped plan with overlapping legs about 36 x 90 feet in dimension.

Within, abbroad stairway with marble steps and elaborate bronze rails winds from the basement billiard and smoking rooms to the second floor bedrooms. In the center on the ground floor is an oval drawing room with Classical detailing and an oak parquet floor. To the north is a library with oak paneling and plaster molded ceiling in the Jacobean manner, and to the south a dining room paneled in Honduras mahogany. The library features an early use of indirect lighting. Painted ceilings and Tiffany glazes in the Turkish style smoking room and the Breakfast room are early works of <u>Harry Wentz</u>, later to become a well-known Pacific Northwest artist and teacher.

On the second floor a broad semicircular gallery lit by a story-anda half window leads to three bedroom suites, each containing a sitting room, dressing room, bedroom and bath. The center suite opens onto the trapezoidal terrace, and the end suites each have a sun room. The dormer-windowed third floor contains a den and large servants' quarters. There are numerous fireplaces throughout the house and lavish use is made of marble, (continued)

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PITTOCK MANSION (CONTINUED)

#### 2. Location

The Pittock estate is located in the SW 1/4 Sec. 32, R. T.1N, R.1E, of the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon. The following is a description of the property as recorded in the Deed Records of Multnomah County, 1964, Book 57, pp. 276-279:

Parcel 1: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, Block 22, KING'S HEIGHTS; subject to the right to construct a sewer as reserved by the dedicator of said addition.

<u>Parcel 2:</u> Beginning at an iron pipe 1308.96 feet north  $89^{\circ}$  51' east of the quarter section corner between Sections 31 and 32, Township 1 North, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian; thence north  $89^{\circ}$  51' east 836.14 feet to an iron pipe on the line through the center of Section 32; thence south 0° 18' east 600 feet to an iron pipe; thence south  $69^{\circ}$  17' west 545 feet to an iron pipe; thence north  $37^{\circ}$  43' west 134 feet to an iron pipe; thence north 54° 13' west 78 feet to an iron pipe; thence south  $64^{\circ}$  13' west 206.95 feet to an iron pipe on the west line of the Irving tract; thence north 0° 11' east 731.4 feet to an iron pipe and place of beginning; excepting therefrom a private roadway 30 feet in width, including the terms and provisions thereof, as established by instrument executed by Frank E. Hart, et al., recorded January 9, 1889, in Book 112, page 143, Deed Records. Subject to the rights of the public in and to the portions of the premises as may be in public roads or highways.

Parcel 3: Commencing at a stake at the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian; running thence northerly along the subdivision line 20 chains, more or less, to the half section line running east and west through the center of said Section 32; thence westerly and along said half section line, 6 chains 66-1/2 links; thence southerly and parallel with the last mentioned line running in a northerly direction 20 chains, more or less, to a point in the legal subdivision line and 6 chains 66-1/2 links from the place of beginning; thence in an easterly direction and on said legal subdivision line 6 chains and 66-1/2 links to the place of beginning; EXCEPT-ING therefrom a right of way for railway purposes, being a strip of land 30 feet wide, being 15 feet in width on each side of the center line of main track of the United Railways Company, over and across the above described property; and excepting therefrom a private roadway 30 feet in width; including the terms and provisions thereof, as established by instrument executed by Frank E. Hart, et al., recorded January 9, 1889, in Book 112, page 143, Deed Records. Subject to the rights of the public in and to the portions of the premises as may be in public roads of highways. (continued)

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#### PITTOCK MANSION (CONTINUED)

### 2. Location (cont.)

Parcel 4: Commencing at an iron pipe in the west boundary of the Amos N. King D.L.C., where the same is intersected by the center line of West Burnside Street (Barnes Road), said pipe being also in the east boundary of Government Lot 5 in Section 32, Township 1 North, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian: thence North  $0^{\circ}$  18' west along the west boundary of said Amos N. King D.L.C., 833 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of a tract of land conveyed to Louis P. Gantenbein by deed recorded April 18, 1928 in Book 1143 page 161, Deed Records; thence along the southerly boundary of said Gantenbein tract as follows: south 69° 17' west 545 feet to an iron pipe; north 37° 43' west 134 feet to an iron pipe; north 54° 13' west 78 feet to an iron pipe and south  $64^{\circ}$  13' west 206.95 feet to an iron pipe at the southwest corner of said Gantenbein tract; thence south along the west boundary of Government Lots 4 and 5. 1059.5 feet to the center line of Barnes Road; thence along the center line of said road as follows: south 78° 52' east 217.8 feet; thence north 74° 08' east 251.46 feet to the place of beginning; excepting therefrom a 30-foot right of way granted to the United Railways Company, by deed recorded October 23, 1911, in Book 558, page 62, Deed Records. Subject to the rights of the public in and to the portions of the premises as may be in public roads or highways.

#### 7. Description

inlaid exotic woods, molded plaster, carved stone and ornamented cast bronze. The house was also provided with heat thermostatically controlled in each room, room-to-room telephones, an automatic elevator, and a central vacuum cleaning system. It has not been altered since it was built, but was refurbished under the direction of the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Designers in 1965, at which time items such as the restoration of plasterwork and renewal of wall surfaces were undertaken. Many of the rooms are furnished, some with furniture which originally stood in the house, some with furniture associated with noted Portlanders, and some with furniture on loan from the collections of the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Historical Society.

In addition, there is a separate garage and a gate lodge. The gate lodge is a four-story hip roofed Italianesque structure set in the hill about 80 feet south of the main house. About 19 x 39 feet in dimension with the long axis oriented east-west, it was intended to be quarters for a servant family. In plan, there is a central stair hall with a room on either side on each (cont.)

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PITTOCK MANSION (CONTINUED)

## 7. <u>Description</u> (cont.)

floor. Entrance is from the uphill north side to the second floor which contains a kitchen and dining room. The floor of this level is reinforced concrete, and walls are of hollow day tiles surfaced with stucco. The third floor contains a living room and bedroom, and there are two small attic bedrooms on the fourth floor under the hip roof. The roof has two dormers each set in the north and south sides. The bottom floor contains storage and mechanical systems. There are chimneys penetrating the roof at the east and west ends, one from the furnace and the other containing fireplaces in the dining and living rooms. Roof tiles are identical to those on the main house. The gate lodge is in good structural condition, though much of the interior finish is in poor condition due to a leaking roof.

The three bay garage, about 90 feet west of the house, is roughly 28 x 40 feet in dimension with the long axis oriented east-west. The garage doors are on the south side. Walls are rough stone and the hip roof, steeply pitched like that of the gable lodge and main house, is presently covered with composition shingles. In addition to the three automobile bays, the center one containing a grease pit, there is a work bench and layatory on the ground level, storage for 500 gallons of gasoline below the floor, and a three-room attic apartment, presently occupied, above. Four dormers, one set in each face of the roof, admit light to the apartment.

#### 8. <u>Significance</u>

in Portland, which was settled when the City bought the property to incorporate into an unbroken chain of parks stretching for more than nine miles along the rim of the city's West Hills. The down payment on the \$225,000 price was raised by public subscription. The house, which is in excellent condition, has been refurbished and, in addition to regular hours for public inspection, is available for various civic functions.

The Pittock mansion is owned by the City of Portland and administered by the city's Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation. The Pittock Mansion Advisory Commission, a nine-member board appointed by the Mayor, advises the Bureau. It is the request of the Advisory Commission that the entire 46-acre estate be nominated to the National Register for the following reasons:

1. The 46-acre tract is the original Pittock estate.

2. As \$67,000 of the \$225,000 purchase price was raised by public subscription for donation to the city to purchase the estate for use (continued)

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The Pittock mansion is unrivaled as the largest and most layish house ever to be built in Portland. Quality of detail and craftsmanship is said to be finer than that in the Prick house in New York or the Spreckles house in San Francisco, contemporary representatives of the last of the age of great mansion building. It is also a rare example in Oregon of the French Renaissance Revival and Chateguesque styles.

The house was built late in the life of Henry J. Pittock, publisher of the daily <u>Oregonian</u>. Born in England, Pittock came to Portland at the age of 16 in 1853 and worked for Thomas Dryer, publisher of the newly est tablished weekly <u>Oregonian</u>. Pittock took over the paper in 1860 when President Lincoln named Dryer commissioner to the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands, giving Pittock a mortgage for back wages owed. The mortgage was never redeemed.

Within a year the Oregonian became a daily. With Oregonians hungry for news of the Civil War, Pittock outstripped competitors by establishing a news service. Dispatches received in California via the newly completed transcontinental telegraph were relayed by pony express to Jacksonville in southwestern Oregon and then to Portland by stagecoach. Throughout his long career, Pittock took great interest in the development of Oregon. In addition to journalism, he was active in lumbering, papermaking, shipping and banking, and made a considerable fortune.

Pittock was seldom given to ostentatious display. One story relates that he decided to build his 45-room mansion at the age of 74 because he was outraged at a front-page editorial in a rival paper suggesting that the hat be passed so that needed repairs could be made to his modest house. The architect for the new mansion was Edward T. Foulkes of San Francisco, who is not recorded in standard reference sources. According to Pittock's grandson, Foulkes did not build the house on a flat contract, but rather, "the house was mothered along."

Pittock was 79 when he moved into his new house. He lived in it with his wife, then an invalid, until he died five years later. It was occupied by descendants of the Pittocks until 1958, after which it and the 46acre estate were offered for sale. A proposal by a prospective buyer in 1964 to raze the mansion and subdivide the grounds caused a public uproar (continued)

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

COUNTY

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

# INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Multnomah FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

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Oregon

(Continuation Sheet)

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PITTOCK MANSION (CONTINUED)

#### 8. <u>Significance</u> (cont.)

as a park and museum, it is desired that all possible measures be taken to assure that the estate remains intact, is used according to the purposes for which the money was given, and is not altered in the future by roads, streets, or other projects not in the best interests of the integrity of the estate. As mentioned above, the acquisition of the Pittock estate completed the final link in an unbroken chain of parks stretching for more than nine miles along the crest of the West Hills of Portland. Of the 46 acres, only a few acres on the promentory surrounding the house are landscaped. The remainder of the grounds is in a natural state.

3. It is desired that the gate lodge and the garage, both contemporary with the house, be included in the nomination.

Future plans call for the preservation of the mansion as-is. Garage doors duplicating the original doors are to be installed on the garage along with public rest room facilities on the ground floor inside in the near future. Plans are being considered to convert the gate lodge to an incomeproducing gift shop or tea room with a minimum amount of interior alteration. Neither project will change the original exterior appearance of the structures, and it is not anticipated that a grant-in-aid for historic preservation will be requested for either project.

