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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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Patton, Hamilton and Edith, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 245 Valley View Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Medford N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code 97504

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hannah 7/29/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Delores Ryan

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

9/9/93

Hamilton and Edith Patton House
Name of Property

Jackson, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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 brick
stucco
roof clay tile
other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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The Hamilton and Edith Patton House, built in 1929 as a private residence, is situated on an approximate one acre parcel on the west side of Valley View Drive at the intersection of Capital Avenue in Medford, Oregon. Designed by Louis B. Humphrys, the two and one-half story house constitutes an example of the Arts and Crafts style with Tudor architectural details. Evident characteristics of the Arts and Crafts style include steeply pitched gable roofs, asymmetrical composition, window and porch projections, multi-paned casement windows, and the use of stucco, brick, shingle and half-timbering.* The property's distinct landscape was developed at the time of the dwelling construction and includes stepped terraces with stone retaining walls, a swimming pool, outdoor fireplace, and circular drive with brick entry pillars. The residence retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling and effectively conveys its historic associations.

The Hamilton and Edith Patton House is located in Section 20, Township 37 South, Range 1 West W.M., (Assessor's Plat 20DC, Tax Lot 1500). The detached residence is sited on a gentle slope overlooking the residential section of Medford lying east of Bear Creek. The dwelling is oriented in an easterly direction on Valley View Drive which runs in a north-south direction between Hillcrest Road and Spring Street. Cork elms (*ulmus racemosa*) line the east and west sides of Valley View Drive from Hillcrest Road to Capital Avenue.

When the Patton House was constructed on the hillside near the city water reservoir, the surrounding environs were distinctly rural, although scattered dwellings were situated throughout the area. Between 1930 and 1950 several houses were constructed along Valley View Drive and in the nearby vicinity and today comprise the neighborhood's character. The generous property on which the Patton House stands, continues to provide the wooded site

* A stylistic assessment of the dwelling is based on information contained in Architecture Oregon Style (Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, Inc. 1983)

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originally planned for the dwelling. Extensive lawns, hedge borders and mature trees screen the house from passing traffic and from adjacent properties.

The Hamilton and Edith Patton House is basically rectangular in plan and measures sixty feet on the west elevation and thirty feet along the northerly elevation. A one-story garage, approximately twenty by twenty feet in size, is attached to the northerly elevation. Two screened porches extend at the structure's southerly elevation. The house rests on a concrete foundation and has a partial basement.

The structure's main volume is two and one-half stories in height and is composed of a steeply pitched, long central gable which runs in a north-south direction. A two-story wing extension is attached on the south. A steeply pitched, prominent front-facing cross gable projects on the facade and east elevation. A projecting gable extends on the second story of the rear and west elevation. The entire roof surface of the house and garage is clad with regularly-laid clay tile. (The original slate roof was replaced about 1965). Eave soffits are exposed, and the eaves are trimmed with a plain wood gableboard. A tall interior brick chimney is centrally located on the roofline. Typical windows are steel casement with multi-panes ranging in size from six to twelve-lights. Many of the windows have transoms.

The first story of the wood frame dwelling is sheathed with a veneer of pressed red brick. The garage and main entryway are constructed in solid brick. Pressed brick is also employed in decorative panels on the second story. Wall surfaces of the second and upper one-half stories are comprised of stucco and half-timbering. A variety of half-timbering patterns are employed including vertically, horizontally and diagonally laid timbers, as well as decorative panels of diamond, cross and scalloped wood infilled with stucco. Decorative wood paneling has also been incorporated on the outdoor porches. Window trim on the second story is comprised of half-timbers. Projecting gables are supported by curved wood brackets.

The facade wall surfaces are distinguished by pressed brick arranged in variations of the **Flemish** Bond pattern. Lintel courses above the windows and doors are composed of vertically laid and flared brick. Radiating bricks top a semi-circular

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arched window on the facade. Additional patterns on the front elevation wall surface include panels of brick laid in a herringbone pattern and panels of alternating vertically and horizontally laid brick. The use of brick in various colors enhances the decorative patterns.

Windows on the facade and east elevation are comprised of the typical type. There are two sets of eight-light steel casement windows with four-light transoms on the first story and two sets of six-light windows with transoms on the second story. The front projecting gable contains one set of six-light casement windows with a transom. One small leaded glass window with a circular top is situated on the lower story of the facade. Other windows on the facade include three panels of ten-light casement windows with four-light transoms on the two-story wing extension. The south-facing gable end of the main volume contains one set of six-light casement windows and the front elevation of the two-story wing contains one set of six-light casement windows.

The brick front entryway is one story in height and projects from the intersection of the house's main volume with the two story wing to the south. The entry has a wood curved hood defined by wooden ribs. The round arched doorway and entry door with a simple Tudor arch is trimmed by decorative brick layers. Original wrought iron light fixtures and a door knocker remain in place. The massive wood-paneled door is attached by iron strap hinges.

The one-story garage is constructed of brick and has a pitched, tile-clad roof. Vertically placed brick trim surrounds the wood-paneled entry doors. The doors have Tudor shaped openings and a small circular window trimmed by radiating bricks is situated in the gable end above the garage doors.

The rear and west elevation is comprised of seven sets of typical windows on the main wall. Most are six-light casement windows with transoms. In addition there are two large light windows with transoms and double leaf doors with twelve lights in each leaf. A door to the screened porch provides additional access to the house. The west elevation also contains a prominent projecting gabled dormer supported by brackets. Windows in the dormer consist of one set of six-light steel casement windows and two single windows with transoms. On each side of the dormer are situated single eight-light casement windows. The area under

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the dormer windows is comprised of stucco with decorative wood trim. The gable end is stucco with vertical half-timbering trim. The massive brick chimney with brick corbelling is particularly visible on the rear elevation of the dwelling, rising from the middle of the roof slope. The west elevation of the garage has one door and one set of multi-light casement windows.

The north elevation of the Patton House contains five windows, including three sets of six-light casement windows with transoms and two windows comprised of six-light single windows. The north wall of the garage has one twelve-light horizontal window. Canvas awnings, constructed from specifications held in the files of the company which created the original awnings, have been installed at west and south windows.

Crafted in the Arts and Crafts tradition, the ground floor interior of the Hamilton and Edith Patton House is arranged in a side hall plan, two to three rooms deep. The central hall is distinguished by an open well three flight stair. The closed string stair is sheathed in birch panels. The stair rail is comprised of slender, tapered balusters. Nosing tops each riser; the handrail is molded wood. A circular newel post comprised of balusters like those of the stair rail is positioned at the bottom of the staircase.

The central hall has a small interior niche in one interior wall and a star-shaped, leaded glass light fixture is suspended from the ceiling. Light fixtures of the same design appear in other locations on the interior. Tile comprises the floor surface immediately inside the front door and hardwood floors extend elsewhere through the central hall, as they do through most other first floor rooms.

The living room, adjacent to the central hall through a Tudor-arched opening with double-leaf birch paneled doors, has hardwood floors and nine foot ceilings. The walls and ceilings are comprised of original lath and plaster. On the north wall of the living room recessed, built-in cabinets flank the large fireplace. The fireplace opening is Tudor-arched with a terra cotta tile surround, hearth and mantel shelf. Panels carved in a floral pattern immediately top the fireplace opening. Decorative tiles set in the fireplace surround are associated with Hamilton and Edith Patton's respective colleges, Amherst and Smith.

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Birch trim in the living room is evident in cove molding, wall paneling, a cornice rail and the window trim. Brass radiator grilles and original brass door hardware remain in place throughout the house. The outdoor porch, adjacent to the living room on the south, has wood interior siding, an unpainted wood beaded ceiling and screened windows.

The dining room is finished with lath and plaster walls, single paneled doors, a wood cornice rail, and six inch wood baseboards. Other first floor rooms, a den, a maid's room, kitchen and bath retain their original configuration and architectural details. Floors in the back hall and the maids room are softwood.

The second floor of the Hamilton and Edith Patton House is comprised of a large attic, central hall, four bedrooms and two baths. The central hall has a hardwood floor while other second floor rooms have floors of heartwood fir. A leaded glass star-shaped light fixture hangs in the upper hall. The stair from the upper hall to the attic is a single flight stair with a plain rail and square newel post. The master bedroom contains a fireplace with simple colonettes and frieze. One bedroom has a bay window with a window seat and built-in alcove. Bathrooms retain original fixtures and floor tiles. The sleeping porches are sided with natural wood. The basement of the house contains a fireplace and houses the dwelling's heating system.

The Hamilton and Edith Patton House is situated on expansive grounds that continue to provide the wooded setting originally intended for the dwelling. The lot boundaries are defined by hedges which border Valley View Drive, Capital Avenue and the west and south perimeters of the property. A grass parking strip extends between the hedges and the bordering streets. Cork elms (*ulmus racemosa*), planted at approximately the same time as the dwelling was constructed, line the east and west sides of Valley View Drive and extend across the front of the property.

An expanse of lawn extending between the front hedge and the Patton House, is traversed by the circular drive. Pairs of brick pillars, six feet high and two feet, six inches square, comprise entry gates at each driveway entrance on Valley View Drive. Vegetation in the front and side yards include evergreens, old apple and pear trees, and walnut trees. Hollies, camelias and roses comprise other plantings.

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The rear yard is partially terraced with stacked stone retaining walls. A swimming pool, constructed with the main dwelling, measures approximately 20 feet by 45 feet. The pool was formed, in part, from the basement of a house which had stood on the site. Additional landscaping features include an outdoor stone fireplace and grape arbor. A terrace extends across the rear of the house.

The Hamilton Patton House retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling. With its surrounding wooded setting and intact landscape, the dwelling effectively and accurately conveys its historic associations with the Hamilton Patton family and the flourishing period of economic and cultural development during which it was constructed.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Humphrys, Louis B., architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hamilton and Edith Patton House
Name of Property

Jackson, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.86 acres

Medford, Oregon 1:62500

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	0
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5	1	3	0	0	0
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4	6	8	6	5	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine Atwood

organization Medford Historical Society date February 4, 1993

street & number 102 South Pioneer Street telephone (503) 482-8714

city or town Ashland state Oregon zip code 97520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Gary and Sharlene Peters

street & number 245 Valley View Drive telephone (503) 779-0033

city or town Medford state Oregon zip code 97504

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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SHPO SUMMARY

The stately suburban estate house of Hamilton and Edith Patton located in east Medford, Oregon was designed in the Tudor Revival style by local structural engineer and designer Louis B. Humphrys and completed in 1929. The general contractor was W. H. Merritt. The house commands a generous landscaped lot slightly under an acre in size and is approached from the east by a semi-circular driveway entered from Valley View Drive.

The two-and-a-half-story house is composed as a rectilinear volume of 30 x 60 feet having intersecting gables and its long axis oriented north to south. At the south end is a gabled two-story wing to which a single story porch is attached, and at the north end is a 20 x 20-foot, two-bay garage attachment.

The house, throughout, reflects excellent craftsmanship as well as characteristic elements of the Tudor historic period style. Whereas, since the turn of the century, the greatest number of fine houses in the Rogue River Valley were designed in traditional styles by Frank Chamberlain Clark, the Patton House is one which afforded a newcomer, Louis Humphrys, the opportunity to show his equal command of the Arts and Crafts idiom.

The ground story is faced with brick laid up in Flemish bond enlivened by pattern work based on historic vernacular models. The upper stories are rough cast clad and overlaid with half-timbering that extends to window framing and spandrel decoration with geometric motifs. The roof, originally of slate, was replaced with clay tile about 1965. A massive brick chimney articulated with a corbeled cap, string course and strip pilasters, vents a wide living room fireplace at the core of the house. Typical windows are multi-paned casements with transoms. A large window bank lighting the main stairhall has the heavy mullions and transom bars characteristic of the late medieval genre. Exterior elevations are marked by the picturesque touches considered essential to the impeccable Tudor country estate, including timber post and beam porches and loggias with pierced work in solid railings and ogee arches carved in each structural bay. A small kitchen entrance yard at the back of the garage is enclosed by a wall of brick lattice work. The main entrance at the southeast corner is

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contained in a diagonal, brick-faced vestibule having a ribbed tent-like roof that is reminiscent of one of the "umbrellos" drawn by Batty Langley, the English pattern maker whose manuals did much to advance the picturesque movement of the 18th century.

The interior of the Patton House is well-crafted and conventional for the period and style, evoking the Arts and Crafts aesthetic in its stairhall paneling, Tudor arched doorways, cornice and picture moldings, wrought-iron hardware and fixtures, and the handsome chimneypiece with its Tudor-arched firebox and front of ceramic art tile.

The Patton House represents fulfillment of the promise offered to those who were drawn to southern Oregon's Rogue River Valley to make their fortune as fruit growers around the time of the First World War. Hamilton and Edith Warner Patton, educated at Amherst and Smith college, respectively, arrived in 1914 and invested 15 years in the orchard industry before relocating to their new house at the edge of town.

Louis Humphrys, a native of England, was trained in architecture and civil engineering. At the age of 22, he emigrated to British Columbia, worked for a time in California, and eventually arrived in Medford in 1921 as chief engineer for the California-Oregon Power Company (COPCO). In 1926, Humphrys left the company to practice architectural design, gathering his first clients from among his connections in industry. Over the eleven years or so during which he practiced locally, he was the only designer to offer serious challenge to the dominance of Frank C. Clark, the long-time leading architect of the Rogue Valley.

In addition to the COPCO power plants he designed before 1927, projects with which Humphrys was associated before his departure for San Francisco in 1938 included "Topsides," the high style Arts and Crafts estate of the Alfred Carpenters (1927) and the Modernistic Jackson County Courthouse, for which he served as supervisor and inspector.

The Patton House is an excellent representative of Humphrys' knowing application of the English Arts and Crafts to the upper middle class lifestyle in southern Oregon. As such, it meets National Register Criterion C. Its landscape was developed by

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Humphrys in the tradition of English country houses having rolling greens separated from the domestic precincts by trenched barriers meant to exclude wandering livestock. Situated at the crown of its wooded tract, the Patton House was provided with stepped terraces planted in lawn and retained by dry masonry walls. Other structural elements making up an aggregate contributing feature in the landscape setting are the masonry driveway entrance pylons and an outdoor fireplace.

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The commodious Arts and Crafts style residence exhibiting Tudor architectural details, was constructed in 1929 for Medford businessman Hamilton Patton and his wife, Edith Warner Patton. Designed by architectural designer L.B. Humphrys, the dwelling is locally significant under Criterion C, embodying distinct characteristics of the Arts and Crafts style, including steeply pitched gable roofs, aysmmetrical composition, generally rectangular plan, with window and roof projections, and casement windows with many small panes. In addition, the use of stucco, brick, shingles and half-timbering enhance its association with the style. (1) The Hamilton and Edith Patton House is locally significant in the area of architecture during the period 1920 to 1930 when Medford's economic and cultural development substantially expanded. The Patton residence constitutes the most distinct and best preserved representative of its type and style within the context of Medford, Oregon.

The Hamilton and Edith Patton House was constructed at the culmination of a decade that had seen intense economic and physical growth in Medford -- development traceable in large part to renewed vitality in the orchard industry following the completion of an extensive area-wide irrigation system. Early settlers discovered Southern Oregon to be a hospitable region for raising fruit and by 1860 family orchards were scattered throughout the Rogue Valley. Production and consumption of fruit was limited primarily to valley residents until 1887, when completion of the Oregon and California Railroad made it possible to ship fruit to outside markets.

The first commercial orchards of apples, pears, prunes and almonds were set out in 1885, and in 1890 the first railroad car of fruit was shipped out of Medford. By 1900 thousands of acres of Bartlett, Bosc, Comice, D'Anjou and Winter Nellis pears were established and Medford grew at a rapid pace. Established in late 1883 with the railroad's arrival, the town was incorporated on February 24, 1885, with boundaries formed by Riverside, Jackson, Oakdale and 12th Streets. In 1901 major enlargements to the townsite were made when tracts of land east of Bear Creek were incorporated into the city.

The Rogue Valley was vigorously advertised in the midwest and the east during the decade 1900 to 1910, and the promotion brought hundreds of new residents flocking to the Medford area. By 1910

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Medford's population had grown to 8,840, about five times its size in 1900. (2) Thwarting the dreams of many of the new residents, the fruit industry faltered during the second decade of the century due to repeated dry years and the lack of dependable irrigation. Medford's population dropped during World War I and the waterless years to 5756 people. The fruit industry received a life-saving boost with the completion of an extensive canal system in 1919. Land at good prices and the availability of water brought a new influx of people after 1919 and caused the population to double by 1930. (3)

A dramatic expansion of physical growth across Bear Creek between 1920 and 1930 brought several new residential areas to Medford including Siskiyou Heights, Wellington Heights and Westerlund Heights. Within these subdivisions and the expanding east Medford environs, hundreds of new dwellings -- among them architect designed homes for wealthy businessmen and their families -- were constructed in attractive neighborhoods. Successful orchardists, lumbermen, and merchants initiated the construction of commodious, architecturally distinctive residences. In 1929 and 1930 year-end issues of the Medford Mail Tribune contained photographs and descriptions of many newly completed structures. Pages in the 1930 issue announced, "Half Million Dollars Spent On Homes In Medford." (4)

In October, 1929 the stock market crash dashed hopes for top sales of local pears. The crop, the finest seasonal yield to date, rotted in eastern boxcars and warehouses which held the fruit no-one would buy. Although the Depression's worst effects were slightly delayed in the Rogue Valley, by the end of 1932 commercial and residential construction had reached a near standstill.

In September, 1929, just weeks before the stock crash the Medford Mail Tribune announced the completion of Hamilton Patton's new home:

Commanding one of the most attractive views in Medford, the beautiful Tudor English home of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Patton, now nearing completion on Capital Hill, is an inspiration for prospective homebuilders. Designed by L.B. Humphrys and executed by W.H. Merritt, local contractor, the large brick and frame residence

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has a warm mellowness about it that fits effectively into the natural setting of trees and hills. . .

From the basement playroom where the Patton children are provided with a completely equipped stage for presenting shows and musical entertainments to the attic ballroom, and the beautiful outdoor swimming pool, the well planned residence loses none of those elements which go to make the most essential thing of all -- a home. (5)

Hamilton Patton, born in Highland Park Illinois on October 21, 1892, and a graduate of Amherst College, came to the Rogue Valley in 1914 with his young bride, Edith Warner Patton, a recent Smith College graduate. The couple purchased land northeast of Medford for an orchard and constructed their first home on the property. After fifteen years of ranch life and a series of agricultural crises, the Patton family moved into Medford where Hamilton Patton engaged in business. In the spring of 1929 Mr. Patton contracted with architectural designer Louis B. Humphreys to design a fine new residence employing the Tudor detail of which the Pattons were fond, and at which Humphrys excelled. When the building permit for construction of the dwelling was secured in February, 1929, the local newspaper reported that, "The Patton home [on Valley View Drive] is planned to be one of the finest in the valley." (6) In 1933 Hamilton Patton moved to Pasadena California and he and Edith Patton were subsequently divorced. The family home on Valley View Drive remained Mrs. Patton's residence until 1961. (7)

L.B. Humphrys, an architectural designer and structural engineer, selected by the Pattons to design their new home, came to Medford early in the 1920's to work for the California-Oregon Power Company (COPCO) as a chief engineer. Louis B. Humphrys was born in London, England in May, 1882 and recieved early training in architecture and civil engineering. After their marriage in 1904 Humphrys and his wife, Lillian, moved to Vancouver, British Columbia where he worked as an engineer. Between 1905 and his arrival in Medford in 1921, Louis Humphrys worked variously as an engineer for Shell Oil in San Francisco, California, as a naval engineer in Philidelphia, Pennsylvania during World War I, and as an engineer in Burlingame, California. (8)

During his years as chief engineer at the California-Oregon Power Company Humphrys was responsible for the design of several of the

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company's power plants in the Southern Oregon area. COPCO was incorporated December 15, 1911, consolidating smaller power companies. In 1921 the head office of COPCO was moved from San Francisco to Medford, and the organization continued developing power plants and lines throughout the region until its merger with Pacific Power and Light of Portland, Oregon in 1961.(9)

In 1926, after COPCO was sold to new owners, L.B. Humphrys left the company and opened an architectural design office in Medford and advertised his design, engineering and craftsman skills for hire. Humphrys' years with COPCO introduced him to many of the Rogue Valley's leading citizens, some of whom became his first clients. His 1927 commission to design a home near Central Point for prominent orchardist and businessman Alfred S.V. Carpenter encouraged the local newspaper to call the project ". . . a monument to the ability of its designer." (10)

Humphrys' success at garnering important architectural assignments led him into direct and steady competition with the Rogue Valley's leading architect Frank C. Clark. During the ten year period that Humphrys worked in the Rogue Valley he proved a well-qualified challenger to Clark's well-established practice. Frank Clark's personal papers reveal his efforts to distinguish between the qualifications of an architectural designer and an architect licensed by the state of Oregon.(11)

Between 1927 and 1938 when he moved to San Francisco, California Humphrys executed many design projects in the Rogue Valley, including the a large fruit processing plant for the Southern Oregon Sales fruit cooperative. Early in 1929 the Medford Mail Tribune outlined Humphrys projects:

Louis B. Humphries, local architect, will start the new year with an interesting program in which variety plays a dominant role. . he has been retained by the Southern Oregon Sales Association Inc. for their new pre-cooling and packing plant to be erected soon.

A new home for Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Patton, to be built in a combination of timber and brick design, a fishing lodge on the Rogue River for Harry Scott and Nion Tucker, another lodge on the Rogue for J.F. Bowie of San Francisco, with whom he will confer in a few days, are some of the problems which will

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absorb his immediate attention. Mr. Humphries has just returned from Portland where he engaged the services of assistants who will help him carry out some of the details of the large program of work which has necessitated his taking an additional suite of offices adjoining his present location. (12)

In May 1929 Humphreys advertised as an architectural designer in the Medford Mail Tribune offering professional skills including "homes, interior decorating, wrought iron work and buildings." (13) Two years after completion of the Patton House and the S.O.S. building, Humphrys recieved another honor when he was chosen as supervisor for construction for the new Jackson County Courthouse. The Medford Mail Tribune reported :

ARCHITECT CHOSEN. L.B. Humphrys, selected as supervisor and inspector, is a structural engineer formerly with the California-Oregon Power Company and was in charge of the construction for the SOS storage building in this city. He also supervised the construction of a number of power plants for the California, Oregon Power Company. (14)

The Hamilton and Edith Patton House in Medford, and the A.S.V. Carpenter House near Central Point remain the two outstanding residential examples of L.B. Humphrys' architectural design work in the Rogue Valley. The designer's choice to complete the Patton House in the Arts and Crafts style, with Tudor details, reflects both the Patton's taste and Mr. Humphrys' exposure to representatives of the style in his native England. Work by English architects such as C.F.A. Voysey and Baillie Scott apparently influenced the young designer and guided his endeavors in the United States. (15)

The Hamilton and Edith Patton House remains a distinctive example in Medford of the Arts and Crafts style. Longtime area architect Frank Clark designed twelve structures in the style in the Rogue Valley -- one of these, the Thurston Daniels House in Medford -- was designed in 1925. None of these dwellings employ the Tudor idiom. Clark designed two houses in the Tudor mode within the Historic Period Styles. One, the F.W. Townsend House (1930), is located in a rural setting near Central Point. The other, the John A. Fluhrer House (1930), is situated in east Medford. (16) The Hamilton and Edith Patton House remains the most distinctive and best preserved example of its style with Medford.

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In the area of landscape architecture, the Hamilton and Edith Patton House is significant as a rare example of carefully planned, distinctive surroundings for a rural property of its period (1920-1930), in Medford, Oregon. The landscape surrounding the Patton House continues to provide an appropriate setting for the dwelling which was conceived as a rural residence. Expansive lawns, mature trees and plantings, and hedges in addition to the swimming pool, stone-lined terraces, fireplace, and circular drive with brick entry pillars, contribute to the property's significance as a distinctive representative of a period of extensive economic and cultural growth in Medford, Oregon. In its physical and historic context, the Hamilton and Edith Patton House retains its significant associations with both the Patton family and the time in which it was created.

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- 1) The stylistic assessment of the Hamilton and Edith Patton House is drawn from Architecture Oregon Style (Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, 1983).
- 2) "Population of Oregon Cities and Counties and Metropolitan Areas, 1850-1957," (Oregon State University: Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, Information Bulletin No. 106.) p. 4.
- 3) Atwood, Kay. Blossoms and Branches: A Gathering of Rogue Valley Orchard Memories. Ashland, Oregon: Kay Atwood, 1980, p. 45.
- 4) Medford Mail Tribune, December 31, 1929; December 31, 1930.
- 5) Medford Mail Tribune September 18, 1929, p. 3.
- 6) Ibid., February 19, 1929, p. 3.
- 7) William Patton, Interview, December 3, 1992. Mr. Patton is the son of Hamilton and Edith Patton.

Hale, Edith. "The Big Sticky and I -- Life as a Bride on a Ranch in Oregon," (1971) Mrs. Hale's reminiscence, including her years with Hamilton Patton, remains in a family collection.
- 8) Cecile Humphrys Barnett, Interview, October 19, 1992; Memorandum from Mrs. Barnett to Kay Atwood, October 25, 1992. Mrs. Barnett is the daughter of Louis B. and Lillian Humphrys.
- 9) After 40 years of operation as COPCO, the company joined Pacific Power and Light of Portland in a merger which was ratified March 14, 1961. (George V. Taylor, "History of the California-Oregon Power Company," 1964, Manuscript in possession of Pacific Power and Light Company, Medford, Oregon); Mrs. C.B. Collins, Interview, December 1, 1981.
- 10) Medford Mail Tribune, May 8, 1927, p. 4.
- 11) Atwood, Kay; Evans, Gail E.H.; Frank C. Clark Inventory, Southern Oregon Historical Society, 1982.

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- 12) Medford Mail Tribune, January 16, 1929, p. 3. Leading officers of Southern Oregon Sales Association included Leonard Carpenter, president; J.H. Cooley, vice-president; and Hamilton Patton, treasurer.

The following Rogue Valley buildings have been identified to date as the work of Louis B. Humphrys:

A.S.V. Carpenter House (rural); Seth Bullis House (remodel) (Florence Avenue, Medford) Shade's Jewelry Store (Central Avenue, Medford) Southern Oregon Sales Association Fruit Processing Plant, Stewart Avenue and Highway 99); Storefront design in Medford Center Buildings; Beebe and Kindle service station Sixth and Riverside, Medford); Hamilton and Edith Patton House, (Valley View Drive, Medford); Isaacs Music Store, (Main and Bartlett Streets, Medford). Attributed to Mr. Humphrys, but not yet confirmed, are a residence on Valley View Drive and one on Hillcrest Road. A complex of homes on Kings Highway, scheduled to be built in the summer of 1929, was not completed.

- 13) Ibid., May 1, 1929.
- 14) Ibid., May 28, 1931, p. 8. After returning to California in 1938 Humphrys resumed his career as a structural engineer and is not known to have taken additional architectural commissions. He died in Berkeley, California on May 5, 1952.
- 15) Architecture Oregon Style, p. 143.
- 16) Atwood and Evans, "Frank C. Clark Inventory."

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- Atwood, Kay, and Evans, Gail E. H. **Frank Clark Inventory.** Southern Oregon Historical Society, 1982.
- Barnett, Cecile Humphrys. Interview, October 19, 1992.
- Hale, Edith. "The Big Sticky and I: Life as a Bride on a Ranch in Oregon." Manuscript in the collections of the Patton family.
- Patton, William. Interview, December 3, 1992.
- Medford **Mail Tribune.** January 16, 1929; February 19, 1929; May 1, 1929; May 28, 1929; September 18, 1929; December 31, 1929; May 28, 1931.

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Verbal boundary description

The nominated area is located in Section 20, T. 37S., R. 1W., Willamette Meridian, in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. It is identified as Tax Lot 5100 at said location and is more particularly described as follows.

Commencing at a point 1.78 chains North, and 6.015 chains East of the quarter section corner between Sections 20 and 29 in Township 37 South, Range 1 West of Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon; thence north 259.72 feet, thence East 125.0 feet, thence North 219.34 feet to the South line of Capital Avenue; thence East along said South line 100.00 feet to the true point of beginning; thence continue East 171.99 feet to the West line of Valley View Drive; thence South along said West line 219.34 feet; thence West 171.99 feet to the Southeast corner of real property as in described Vol.462, p.373 Jackson County, Oregon Deed Records; thence North 219.34 feet to the true point of beginning, containing in all .86 acres, more or less.

Boundary justification

The nominated area of approximately one acre encompasses the entire urban tax lot associated with the house built for Hamilton and Edith Patton in 1929.

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Photographs

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Photograph No. 1

1. Hamilton and Edith Patton House
2. Medford, Jackson County, Oregon
3. Gary Peters
4. January, 1993
5. Kay Atwood, 102 South Pioneer Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520
6. View of the facade (east elevation) and south elevation, taken southerly entry gate

7. 1 of 15

Note: The information contained in items 1 through 5 remains the same for Photographs 2 through 14.

Photograph No. 2

6. View of south elevation
7. 2 of 15

Photograph No. 3

6. View of rear and west elevation
7. 3 of 15

Photograph No. 4

6. View of rear and west elevation from westerly border of property
7. 4 of 15

Photograph No. 5

6. View of north elevation and west elevation
7. 5 of 15

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Photograph No. 6

- 6. View of main entry, facade and east elevation
- 7. 6 of 15

Photograph No. 7

- 6. View of east and front elevation of garage
- 7. 7 of 15

Photograph No. 8

- 6. View of east elevation and facade, wall detail
- 7. 8 of 14

Photograph No. 9

- 6. View of swimming pool
- 7. 9 of 15

Photograph No. 10

- 6. View of living room, looking toward north wall and fireplace
- 7. 10 of 15

Photograph No. 11

- 6. View of living room looking toward south wall and porch
- 11 of 15

Photograph No. 12

- 6. View of double leaf doors between living room and central hall
- 7. 12 of 15

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Photographs

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Photograph No. 13

6. View of fireplace (detail)

7. 13 of 15

Photograph No. 14

6. View of stair rail

7. 14 of 15

Photograph No. 15

1. Hamilton and Edith Patton House

2. Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

3. Unknown

4. 1929

5. Kay Atwood, 102 South Pioneer Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520

6. View of east elevation (facade) and south elevation, taken
after completion of dwelling.

7. 15 of 15

CAPITAL

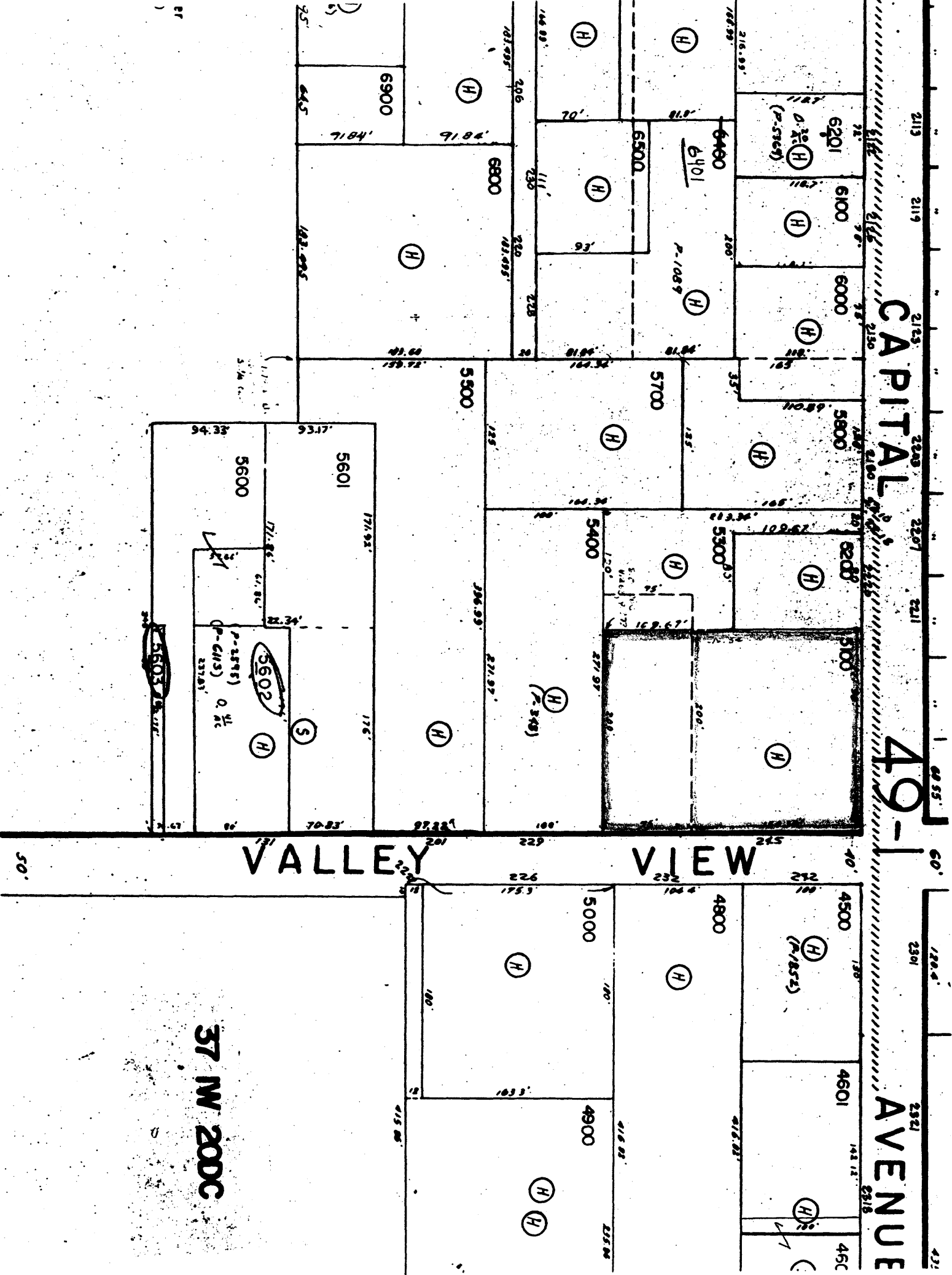
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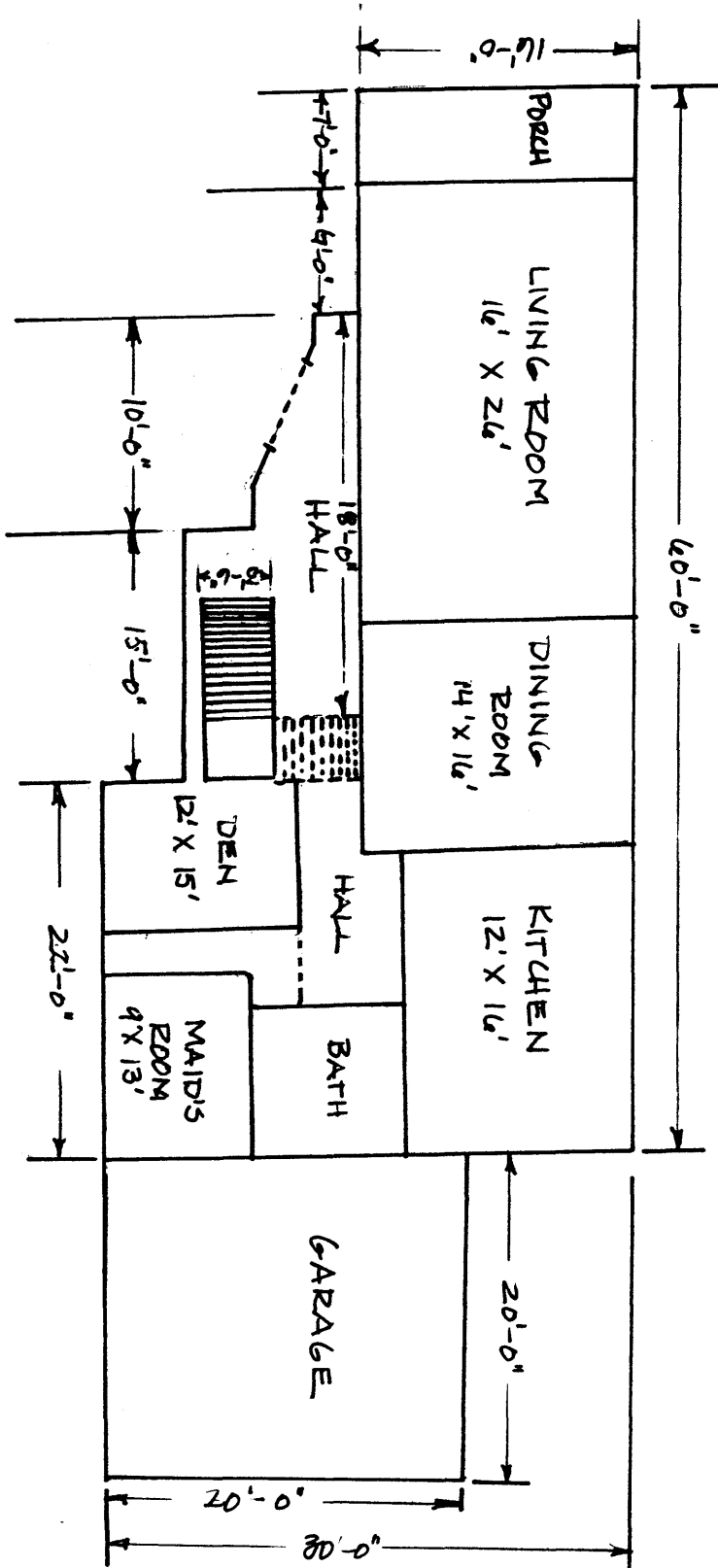
AVENUE

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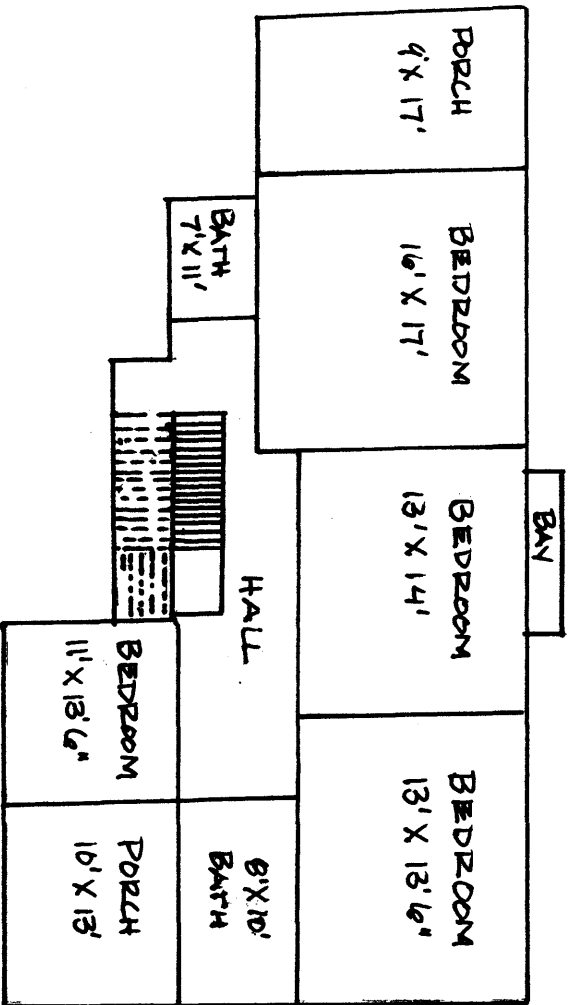
VALLEY VIEW

37 NW 200C





Hamilton and Edith Patton House
 Ground Floor Site Plan
 Not to scale
 North: →



Hamilton and Edith Patton House
 Second Floor Site Plan
 Not to Scale
 North: →