

1859

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 20 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Ladd Estate Company Model House
other names/site number White, Eugene L., House

2. Location

street & number 432 Country Club Road N/A not for publication
city, town Lake Oswego N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Clackamas code 005 zip code 97034

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date September 1, 1989
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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:
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 10/30/89
 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 [Signature] 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 Early 20th Century Revivals:
English Cottage

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls stucco

roof asphalt: composition shingles
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

The Eugene L. White House is a one and one-half story, wood frame building, beautifully sited in a grove of stately Douglas fir trees. The house, among the earliest erected in the Forest Hills Subdivision of Lake Oswego, Oregon, epitomizes the quality of construction, attention to design, and ambience which Paul Cole Murphy hoped to establish as he developed the 3,000-acre subdivision in the 1930s. The house, located on the south side of Country Club Road with the fashionable residential neighborhood surrounding it, is one of four model houses erected by the Ladd Estate Company to set the tone for the development of the subdivision.

The White House displays characteristics of early 20th Century historic period styles popular in the Pacific Northwest between 1910 and 1935. The building's asymmetry, diapered and multi-paned windows, stucco exterior with half-timber decorative elements in gable ends, and garden setting relate to the English Cottage Style, an extension of the Arts and Crafts tradition. The building, however, lacks rolled eaves, prominent chimneys and compound flues, and picturesque, storybook details characteristic of an earlier phase of the style. The house is T-shaped in plan, with its main roof ridge paralleling the street. A subordinate, entry stairhall wing projects from the east end of the facade. The steeply pitched gable roof has its original lead gutters. On the south (rear) elevation, the roof slope is broken by a long shed-roof dormer with gables at either end. The main roof plane covers a loggia, or ground-story porch in the southwest corner which is supported by simple square posts with solid shaped braces. All wall dormers are decorated with half-timbering. Windows are multiple-paned and of casement design. The front of the house is dominated by an eleven-foot-high, leaded glass window in a diaper, or lozenge pattern, which provides lighting to the entry stairhall.

The house has a simple, serviceable floor plan. A full concrete basement contains the original Steel King furnace and laundry facilities. The first story, possessing well-preserved oak, hardwood flooring, contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, half bath, and entry hall with closet. The upper half-story contains three bedrooms (one now used as a study), two full baths, and the stairhall connecting with the first floor. A breezeway on the east side elevation joins the house to a two-car garage with storage loft. The garage retains the original, hand-cranked stairway providing access to its storage area.

The living room is oriented toward a formal fireplace surrounded with wood paneling and moldings. The flanking bookcases, compatible with the style of the room, were added subsequent to the original construction. The living room opens through glass doors onto a covered porch which, in turn, opens onto an area of stone pavers and a large expanse of lawn. The backyard is dominated by massive fir trees which have matured over the past half century and are characteristic of the setting of the Forest Hills Subdivision.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

The interior contains fine finish work, expressed in the hardwood floors and mitered moldings of picture rails. The only alterations have been the invisible upgrading of the wiring and the replacement of the kitchen cupboards and counters. Doors, moldings, floor finishes, plasterwork, and exterior details are preserved as constructed. The house is in excellent repair.

The White House is one of several houses in historic period styles related to the Arts and Crafts movement located in Lake Oswego and the exclusive Dunthorpe section of Lake Oswego. Some, such as the Drew. B. Sherrard House, designed in 1917 by Wade Pipes, located at 13100 SW Riverside Drive, or the Gladys Boutwell House, designed in 1931 by George Post and located at 920 SW Fairway Road, are large, rambling buildings with extensive half-timbering, stucco, and even uncoursed stone exterior detailing. The Kenneth W. Paralius House, constructed in 1939 at 768 North Shore Road, is perhaps more comparable. It is a purer statement of the English Cottage Style, having multi-paned casement windows, dormers, and a stucco exterior. The Clara Weinstein House at 16847 Greenbrier, erected in 1931, is a Norman Farmhouse variant, for it has a huge chimney, round tower, and latticed glass windows.

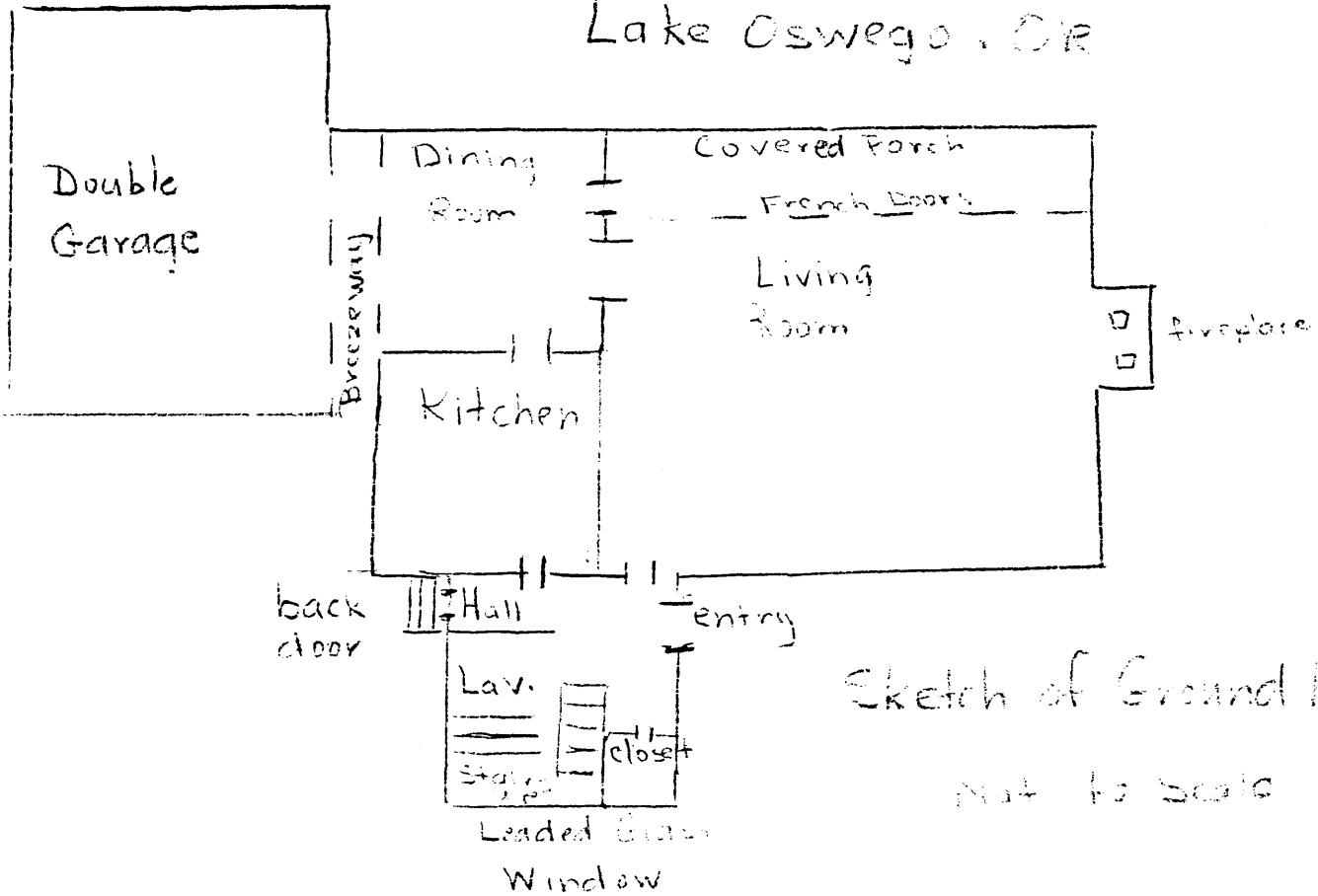
Comparison of the White House with these others, however, helps to fix its place in the community. The White House is distinctive as an example of historic period architecture which has been stripped of fussy detail. It verges on contemporary modernism. It makes a straightforward architectural statement, yet evokes charm underscored by utility and its outstanding forested setting. In the latter respect, the White House is unlike any other in Lake Oswego and it captured what Paul Cole Murphy hoped to establish when his company erected it as a pace-setting, model home in the new Forest Hills Subdivision.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

432 Country Club Rd.
Lake Oswego, OR



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
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1936
1927-1937

Significant Dates

1936
1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect unknown

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.40 acres Lake Oswego, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
---	---

5	2	5	4	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	0	2	9	5	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

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

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

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

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

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

D

--	--

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 3, Township 2S, Range 1E, Willamette Meridian, in Clackamas County, Oregon. It is legally identified as Lot 208 of the Forest Hills Plat or Tax Lot 5200 at said location. Its metes and bounds are described as follows: Beginning at the northwesterly corner of Lot 208, in Forest Hills, Plat 4, as platted and recorded in Book 18, Page 13, Record of Town Plats of Clackamas County, Oregon; thence North (continued)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated areas comprised of the full 0.40-acre lot historically improved by the Ladd Estate Company as a model development for the Forest Hills Subdivision in 1936.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Dow Beckham
organization USA Research-Oregon date March 1989
street & number 1389 SW Hood View Lane telephone (503) 635-4935
city or town Lake Oswego state Oregon zip code 97034

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1A

The Eugene L. and Harriet White House, located at 432 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego, Oregon, is significant to the local community and to Clackamas County under National Register Criteria A and C. The house is inextricably tied to the development of Lake Oswego as a suburban, residential area in the first half of the 20th Century. Built by the Ladd Estate Company as one of four model homes, this residence reflects the care of siting, landscape, design, and ambience promoted by Paul Cole Murphy in his several real estate ventures and, particularly, in his development in the 1930s of the Forest Hills Subdivision of Lake Oswego. The nominated house is the most successful of the historic period designs represented by a nucleus of four model houses. With its steeply-pitched gable roof, its cross-axial front gable and gabled wall dormers decorated with half-timbering, its stucco exterior, its multiple-paned casement windows and garden elevation porch supported by braced posts, the house displays the medieval touches which relate it to the English Cottage or Arts and Crafts tradition.

The history and significance of the Ladd Estate Company is discussed in detail in the accompanying documentation. In summary, the company was established in 1908 for the purpose of managing real estate holdings of the Ladd family. Under the management of Paul C. Murphy, it promoted early restricted residential park development in Portland suburbs. These developments reflected national currents in park, parkway and community planning which flowed from the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and other leading designers of the American landscape.

In the 1920s, the Oregon Iron and Steel Company, which had been founded by William M. Ladd in 1882, sold its extensive holdings in the Portland vicinity. Paul Murphy, who was both president of Oregon Iron and Steel and principal of the Ladd Estate Company, presided over the break-up of the parent company and filing of plats for new subdivisions. In 1927 the 3,000-acre plat for Forest Hills near Iron Mountain, the company's historic manufacturing site, was duly filed with Clackamas County. The plat was improved and enhanced by amenities such as the Lake Oswego Golf Club and the Lake Grove Community Park.

The initial residential development in Forest Hills was a temple-fronted Colonial style house of 1935, which served as the company's tract office. On the west side of the lot occupied by that earliest house, the house proposed for nomination was commenced in 1936, and immediately opposite, on the north side of Country Club Road, a Cape Cod house and English Cottage were completed as additional demonstration houses in 1937. These four houses represent the earliest development in Forest Hills. If any symbolize the Ladd Estate Company's attainment in Lake Oswego, arguably they are the company's tract office and the best-designed, best-preserved of the model houses, which adjoins the office property on the west. The first individual to become prominently associated with the nominated property was Eugene L. White (1900-1986), an official of the Bonneville Power Administration who is credited as the lead designer in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1B

development and construction of the megavolt transmission lines which distributed electrical power produced at Bonneville Dam throughout the Pacific Northwest. However, because White and his wife, Harriet did not enter the subject property before 1940, first as renters and as owners from 1946 onward, the building's association with its occupants commenced less than 50 years ago. Therefore, National Register Criterion B is not applicable at the present time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1C

The Ladd Estate Company was successor in interest to the Oregon Iron and Steel Company, formed by William M. Ladd and other investors in 1882. The firm lighted its furnaces for its pipe foundry in 1888 and, with varying fortunes, operated the Lake Oswego iron works until about 1920. During the 1910s, however, the firm disposed of its narrow gauge railroad and dismantled its blast furnace (Goodall 1958:44-53).

The Ladd Estate Company emerged in 1908 as a spin-off from the Ladd & Tilton Bank. The new corporation was largely responsible for the management of real estate holdings of the Ladd family of Portland. The following year the Ladd Estate Company sold its 462 acre Hazelfern Farm to the Laurelhurst Company for approximately \$2,000,000. Paul Cole Murphy of Seattle served as the company's developer of 444 acres in this parcel. The Ladd Estate Company established a new type of subdivision in Oregon and billed it as a "High Class Residence Park." It barred sales of alcohol, apartments, hotels, stables, commercial buildings, and the sale of land to any persons of Japanese, Chinese, or Negro descent (MacColl 1987:69-70).

In the 1920s the Oregon Iron and Steel Company sold extensive lands in the vicinity of Portland, including Rosemont and Pete's Mountain (acreage on the Tualatin River) and the Ladd Canyon Farm and Highland Pasture (an area platted as the Highlands in 1926-27). A. S. Pattullo obtained several thousand acres near Lake Oswego at the break up of the Oregon Iron and Steel Company (Goodall 1958:60). Paul C. Murphy, operating as the Ladd Estate Company, reportedly paid \$3,000,000 in 1926 for 3,000 acres which he obtained from A. S. Pattullo. Murphy's wife, a hardware company heiress, helped him make this major purchase (Lavachek 1989; Goodall 1958:60). [Some accounts state that the Ladd Estate Company disposed of nearly \$5,000,000 worth of real property on October 1, 1926. The lands included extensive acreage in Dunthorpe, Lake Oswego, Westmoreland, Eastmoreland, the Highlands and other sites in or near Portland. The principals in the new Ladd Estate Company were Frederick H. Strong and Paul C. Murphy. Strong and Murphy retained and subsequently developed the Dunthorpe and Lake Oswego tracts (MacColl 1987:342-343)].

Born August 25, 1876, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Paul C. Murphy grew up on Puget Sound and married in 1901 in Seattle. Murphy subsequently became associated with the development of premier neighborhoods in Seattle and Portland. Following his development of Laurelhurst in Seattle, Murphy settled in Portland in 1909 for a similar Laurelhurst project. Murphy also promoted Eastmoreland, Westmoreland, Ladd's Addition, Irvington, and Westover Terrace in Portland. In 1926, in spite of the onset of the Great Depression, Murphy mounted an ambitious

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

and ultimately successful development of his Lake Oswego properties (Anonymous 1944:308; Goodall 1958:110).

On November 1, 1927, Murphy, president of the Oregon Iron and Steel Company, filed the plat for Forest Hills with Clackamas County. Murphy's vision for the subdivision was clearly articulated in these papers. Like the Laurelhurst development of 1908, the subdivision restricted the area in several specified ways:

- ° Only single, detached dwellings and necessary outbuildings
- ° No use of facilities for church, school, or community purposes
- ° No ownership by Chinese, Japanese, or Negroes, "except that persons of said races may be employed as servants by residents"
- ° No apartments, hotels, hospitals, sanitariums, stores, livery stables, dance halls, businesses, nor manufacturing facilities
- ° No sale of liquor in a public place
- ° No domestic or wild animals, except dogs and cats
- ° No dwellings costing less than \$4,000 on lots 195-207, 209-213, and 217-291
- ° Lake easements to bathe, operate pleasure boats on Lake Oswego

Murphy further specified a set-back of 25 feet of all structures from the lot lines and reserved lots 208, 214, 215, and 216 at the intersection of Chandler Road, Country Club Road, and A streets for "commercial, club or other purposes," exempt from the "restrictions, covenants, or conditions" set forth in the subdivision (Clackamas County Clerk 1927b).

Murphy envisioned the transformation of sleepy Lake Oswego from a community whose dream of iron manufacturing had faded into a gracious, suburb, served by the Red Electric Line and connected to Portland by McAdam Boulevard and the Pacific Highway. To insure this prospect, Murphy laid out the Forest Hills Subdivision on the west side of the town's First Addition. Meandering Iron Mountain Boulevard via Chandler Road joined A Street (subsequently extended along the north side of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3

golf course as Country Club Road). Iron Mountain and Country Club served as the primary routes of access into the First Addition and the business district.

As early as 1925 the Ladd Estate Company had attempted to sell residential lots in Lake Oswego. Operating from offices at 87 Sixth Street, the firm offered lots starting at \$300 to \$350 in the First Addition or others at \$400 in the Lakewood Subdivision (Anonymous 1925). When Murphy and Strong took over the development, they erected a new, Colonial Revival Style Office at the intersection of Chandler Road and Country Club with A Street. This structure was probably completed in 1935 for on October 3 the Ladd Estate Company announced that it was selling real estate and insurance from its Tract Office at 10th and A in Lake Oswego (Anonymous 1935a).

The Forest Hills Subdivision contained several amenities attractive to those wanting a residence in the suburbs. Operating under the slogan "Live Where You Play," the company established the Lake Oswego Golf Club. H. Chandler Egan laid out the 18-hole course where, for a number of decades, ore carts had passed from nearby Iron Mountain on their way to the smelters at the mouth of Oswego Creek. Egan, U. S. amateur champion, had also designed for the Ladd Estate Company in 1917 the Eastmoreland Municipal Golf Course as part of the subdivision of the Ladds' Crystal Springs farm (Anonymous 1935b; MacColl 1979:73). The firm of William H. Tucker and Sons of New York constructed the links. W. M. Ladd and Paul C. Murphy served on the first board of the Lake Oswego Golf Club (Goodall 1958:111, 146).

Murphy established the Lake Grove Community Park to provide a swimming area for those not residing on or owning lakefront property. Murphy gave over 20 acres in 1936 in the Lake Grove District on the western end of Iron Mountain Boulevard for a polo field and site for the Lake Oswego Hunt Club, facilities constructed later that year (Anonymous 1936g). Murphy also purchased a 36-foot cabin cruiser, launched in the spring of 1936, to provide tours of the lake for those considering lots offered by the Ladd Estate Company (Anonymous 1936a). Paul Murphy remained prominent in Lake Oswego community affairs for many years, though he resided at 3574 East Burnside in Portland. In 1940 Murphy and Dean erected the Lake Theatre. Murphy's subsequent offices in Lake Oswego later became the Chamber of Commerce building (Lavachek 1989). Murphy was president of the Ladd Estate Company, Lake Oswego Water Company, Loritan Investment Company, Midway Oil Company, Mashell Coal and Coke Company, Hill, Murphy & Company, Cracker Creek Gold Mining

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

Company, and the Oregon Iron and Steel Company. Murphy retired to Santa Barbara, California, and died in 1957 (Goodall 1958:111, 146; Anonymous 1944:308).

The Eugene and Harriet White house dates from 1936-37. During this period the Ladd Estate Company embarked on ambitious marketing of lots in the Forest Hills Subdivision. The White house was erected on the western portion of Lot No. 208, one of four lots specifically exempted from the deed restrictions in the platting of the area. The special treatment of these lots included the use of the eastern portion of Lot 208 as the real estate offices of the Ladd Estate Company and the construction on Lot 214, at the junction of Country Club with A and Chandler, of a Johns-Manville Model Home in the fall of 1936. This structure, an eight-room, brick building, of "English architectural design" was built by R. Christman of the Lake Oswego Construction Company and featured unique, triple insulation (Anonymous 1936e). The company also erected a model Cape Cod Style home, initially on a two acre lot, which it sold in the spring of 1937 to Corey E. Coryea (Anonymous 1937). The Ladd Estate Company also erected an "all gas" model home on the south side of Country Club Road in the same block as the White house (Lavachek 1989). Murphy and his associates used the building on the eastern portion of Lot 208 (subsequently the home of Dr. William H. Cane) from 1927 until about 1939 as office for the Ladd Estate Company or Murphy, Dean and Company (Lavachek 1989).

The development of Forest Hills boomed in 1936. On August 13, the Oswego Review noted: "Ladd Estate Firm Reports Home Sale." Frank M. Louis, chief engineer at Bonneville Dam, sold his home to move to the Columbia Gorge (Anonymous 1936b). Two weeks later the newspaper headline read: "Many Real Estate Transfers Take Place in This Vicinity." John W. Comer, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Wood, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mounce began construction of their new homes near the Country Club. (Anonymous 1936c). On September 27 the headline noted: "Much Activity Shown in Oswego Real Estate Transfers." W. C. and Irvin Smith of Beverly Hills, California, acquired lots on Iron Mountain Boulevard as did Norman K. Patton. Industrialist Carl C. Jantzen had nearly completed his mansion on an island adjoining the north shore of the lake and restaurateur Henry Thiele was proceeding with the construction of his new home (Anonymous 1936d). In November the Review again noted: "Realty Transfers Show Growth of Oswego Community." The sales by the Ladd Estate Company included lots and estate acreages, up to five acres in size, to four more purchasers in the Forest Hills Subdivision (Anonymous 1936f).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

Eugene L. and Harriet White began renting the model home at 432 Country Club Road in 1940 or 1942 (Mathers 1989) and purchased the property for \$9,000 on June 14, 1946, from the Ladd Estate Company (Clackamas County Clerk 1946). The Whites remained in this home for the rest of their lives and reared three children: Charles E. White, Lawrence H. White, and Sharon W. (White) Mathers. Eugene L. White was born January 7, 1900, in New York. He attended Syracuse University in 1919, but, upon the death of his brother, transferred to the University of Nebraska where he graduated in 1924 in engineering. White worked for General Electric in Syracuse and with Puget Sound Power and Light in Seattle, where he met and married his wife, Harriet (Anonymous 1986; Mathers 1989).

Eugene L. White joined the newly-created Bonneville Power Administration in 1938 and worked for this federal agency for 27 years until his retirement in 1965. White's service included the challenging task of mounting a reconnaissance of the prospective route for transmission lines to carry power generated at Bonneville Dam via a complex grid or intertie in the Pacific Northwest. White was in charge of the survey and ultimately the construction of the first lines out of Bonneville. Gene Tollefson in BPA & The Struggle for Power at Cost has written:

Among the first to be hired by [Charles] Carey was Eugene White who had started his career on the Conowingo project and later joined Puget Sound Power and Light. White's first assignment was to lead the five survey teams charged with responsibility for laying out the rights-of-way for the transmission lines.

[White later recalled:] They had worked on highways, railroads, and buildings. Everything but install a transmission system. My field engineers had built distribution lines and some lower voltage transmission lines, but nothing of the size that we were going to have to put in.

Innovation was the hallmark of these early first efforts of the BPA. In plotting the right-of-way for the Bonneville to Grand Coulee axis line, one automobile was placed on Satus Pass, southeast of Toppenish, at a location where a tower would be placed to carry transmission lines down off the mountain into the flat country. Another auto was located just to the west of Grand Coulee Dam so that the line would miss most of the future water improvement area behind the dam. The car lights were turned on at

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

both locations and then repositioned until, White said, 'we got the strongest light from the other guy.' Then when daylight came ordinary instruments were used to sight across that distance and lay out a tentative line" (Tollefson 1987:138).

White's crews constructed the 115,000 volt transmission lines east from Bonneville Dam to The Dalles and south from Vancouver, Washington, to Eugene. The 30-mile segment east through the Gorge traversed some of the roughest terrain in the country. White later recalled: "our instructions were to put the line where people could see it." The project required special towers, no piece of which weighed more than 70 pounds. "We had places where you couldn't get a mule carrying several of the 70 pound pieces," said White, "and 70 pounds was the limit a man could carry or that you could handle by getting a long hand-line across and pulling it across. I used to go up there and wonder why in the hell we didn't have the courage to build that line about five miles inside where the terrain was smooth . . . when we got orders in those days, why we followed them." White's crews earned the identification of "side hill gougers," as the Associated Press marveled at their exploits in erecting towers and stringing lines through the Gorge (Tollefson 1987:156).

White's rise in BPA was significant. In 1944 he was named Assistant to the Chief Engineer; in 1954 he became Deputy Chief Engineer; and in 1961 he was named Chief Engineer. The following year the Department of the Interior awarded Gene White its gold medal for Meritorious Service. White was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Sigma Tau fraternity, and the American Legion. His wife, Harriet, was active in Sacred Heart Catholic Church (later known as Our Lady of the Lake). Gene White died on February 22, 1986, at his home of nearly five decades in Lake Oswego. His wife died in 1987 (Anonymous 1986; Mathers 1989).

The White house epitomizes the use of natural setting and aura of gracious living which Paul Cole Murphy hoped to impart to the wooded north shore of Lake Oswego. The integration of the house into a large grove of firs symbolizes the name for the area--Forest Hills. The quality construction, the integral role of this house in the evolution of Lake Oswego from iron mill town to suburb, and its long association with Eugene White, a leading figure in the development of affordable electricity in the Pacific Northwest, are all essential ingredients of its significance. The perfect preservation and maintenance of this property further contribute to its importance. Were Murphy alive today,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

he could say: "I Know that house. It represents what I hoped to achieve in Forest Hills." Murphy would further have the satisfaction of seeing that the dream was both realized and sustained. He transformed a sleepy steel mill town into one of Oregon's preeminent suburbs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anonymous

- 1925 Ladd Estate Company [Advertisement]. Western Clackamas Review (Lake Oswego, Oregon), Dec. 11.
- 1935a Ladd Estate Company [Advertisement]. Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Nov. 14.
- 1935b Homes Being Built. Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Nov. 28.
- 1936a Ladd Estate Launch Excursion Craft in Lake Oswego, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), May 28.
- 1936b Ladd Estate Firm Reports Home Sale, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Aug. 13.
- 1936c Many Real Estate Transfers Take Place in This Vicinity, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Aug. 27.
- 1936d Much Activity Shown in Oswego Real Estate Transfers, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Sept. 24.
- 1936e Oswego Site of Model Home Built by Johns-Manville, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Oct. 29.
- 1936f Realty Transfers Show Growth of Oswego Community, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Nov. 5.
- 1936g Big Riding Arena in Lake Grove District Now Assured, Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Dec. 10.
- 1937 Activity Shown in Real Estate Transfers Here. Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Apr. 1.
- 1944 Capitol's Who's Who for Oregon: A Triennial Reference Work, 1942-1944. Capitol Publishing Company, Portland.
- 1986 Obituaries: Eugene L. White, Lake Oswego Review (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Mar. 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Clackamas County Clerk

1927a Forest Hills Plat No. 4, Oswego, Oregon. Plat Book 18,
p. 13, Clackamas County Clerk's Office, Oregon City, Ore.

1927b Deed Restrictions, Reservations, Covenants, Conditions, and
Agreements, Forest Hills Plat No. 4, Deed Book Vol. 191,
pp. 196-198, Clackamas County Clerk's Office, Oregon City,
Ore.

1946 Indenture, Ladd Estate Company to Eugene L. and Harriet B.
White, Deed Vol. 220, p. 525, Clackamas County Clerk's
Office, Oregon City, Ore.

Gilbert, Mildred

1989 Interview with Stephen Dow Beckham, Jan. 15. MS notes in
possession of Stephen Dow Beckham, Lake Oswego, Ore.

Goodall, Mary

1958 Oregon's Iron Dream: A Story of Old Oswego and the Proposed
Iron Empire of the West. Binfords & Mort, Portland.

Harrington, Everett

1989 Interview with Stephen Dow Beckham, Jan. 12. MS notes in
possession of Stephen Dow Beckham, Lake Oswego, Ore.

Lavachek, Louis

1989 Interview with Stephen Dow Beckham, Feb. 20. Interview
notes in possession of Stephen Dow Beckham, Lake Oswego,
Ore.

MacColl, Kimbark

1987 The Growth of a City: Power and Politics in Portland,
Oregon, 1915 to 1950. Georgian Press, Portland.

Mathers, Sharon (White)

1989 Interview with Stephen Dow Beckham, Feb. 16. Interview
notes in possession of Stephen Dow Beckham, Lake Oswego,
Ore.

Prudhomme, H. C.

1948 1947-1948 Directory for Clackamas County. Pacific
Directory Service, Portland.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 3

Tollefson, Gene

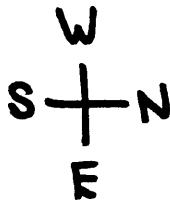
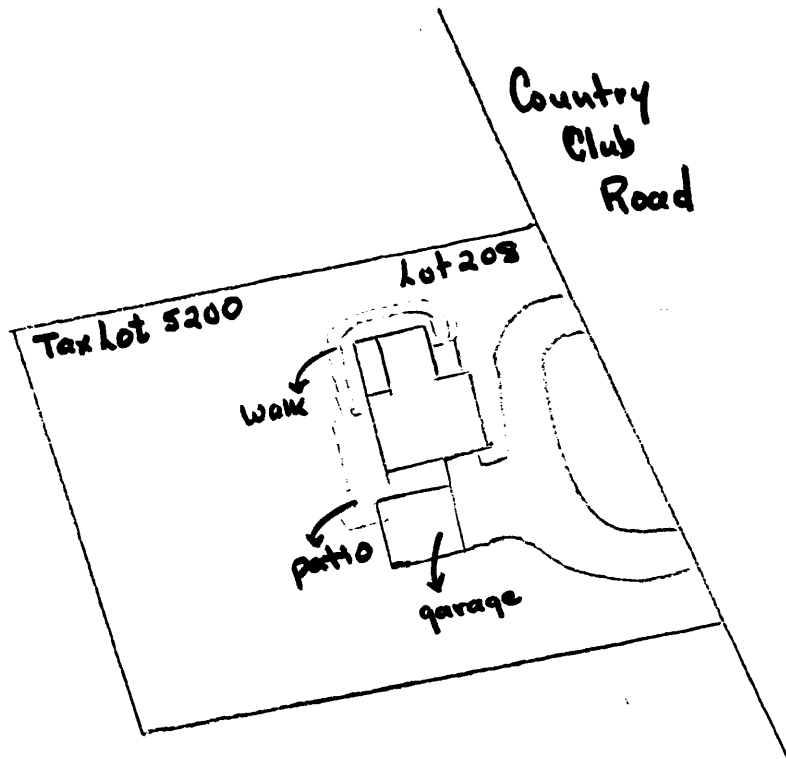
1987 BPA and the Struggle for Power at Cost. Bonneville Power
Administration, Portland.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

67°30' East and tracing the northwesterly line of said Lot 208, 135.68 feet to an iron pipe in the southwesterly line of Country Club Road in said Plat 4; thence South 41°38'30" East and tracing said southwesterly line of said Country Club Road, 126 feet to an iron pipe; thence South 67°30' West 182.20 feet to an iron pipe in the southwesterly line of said Lot 208; thence North 29°50' West and tracing said southwesterly line, 119 feet to the point of beginning.



White (Eugene L. and Harriet) House
432 Country Club Road
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034