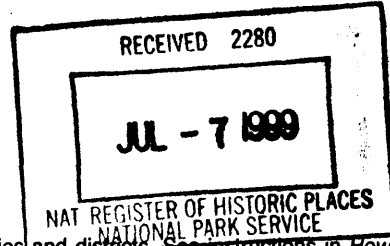


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



942

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 Arthur Champlin Spencer and Margaret Fenton Spencer House

other names/site number 1812 SW. Myrtle Street (Project #375)

2. Location

street & number 1812 S.W. Myrtle Street not for publication

city or town Portland, vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (X See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Sara Hamish Deputy SHPO June 25, 1999
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
8.5.99

Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer House
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total
1		

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

Ellis Fuller Lawrence

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

foundation Concrete

walls Wood Frame

roof Composition

other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer House
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

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

Period of Significance

1909

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Architect: Ellis F. Lawrence

Narrative Statement of Significance

See Continuation Sheet

(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 of Oregon
- Other

Name of repository:

Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer House
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .23

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/0 5/2/3/8/0/0 5/0/3/9/5/2/0 B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /
D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 080; Lot 1,2; Assessor #R-14040-5550

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are those that were historically and continue to be associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Dinsmore
organization _____ date 3/1/99 March 1, 1999
street & number 6830 N. Michigan Avenue telephone 289-0220
city or town Portland, state OR zip code 97217

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 Elizabeth Waldman Malsin and Bradley J. Malsin
street & number 1812 S.W. Myrtle Street telephone 503-222-9887
city or town Portland state OR zip code 97201

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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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 3 Page 1

Spencer, Arthur and Margaret, House, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

SPENCER, ARTHUR AND MARGARET, HOUSE (1909)

1812 SW Myrtle Street
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

The Arthur and Margaret Spencer house was built in 1909 in the central part of the West Hills neighborhood of Portland Heights and overlooks the city. There are retaining walls that level the sloping site, and a single-car garage is tucked into the hill on the southeast corner. The walls are covered with ivy and landscaping includes dogwood trees, rhododendrons and Japanese maples. There is a full lawn surrounding the house, with decking and pergolas on the south side. Access to the front is along brick steps at the northwest corner of the property.

This two-and-one-half story house is of wood frame construction with clapboard siding. Classical features include a symmetrical facade with a portico that has fluted columns with boxed supports, Palladian windows, and a front entrance door with an elliptical fan light and sidelights. The capitals on the columns have been boxed in, but the pilasters continue to display the Ionic volute of the original columns. The original porte-cochere is now a side porch. Large eight-over-one windows flank the entrance and a tripartite window is located on the second level. A large gabled dormer incorporates Classical detailing in the Palladian window and pilasters. The bilateral symmetry of the front is further enhanced with the smaller gabled dormers with round arched windows. The shutters on the house are non-historic, but do not significantly detract from the character.

The plan of the house utilizes the Georgian ideal with a central hallway and a formal staircase with the living room and dining room on either side, and the kitchen to the rear. There are hardwood floors throughout, with inlaid double banding of a darker wood around the edges of the rooms. Crown molding is used throughout the first floor, and fireplaces in the living and dining rooms further display the restrained but intricate detailing of the house. Built-in cabinets remain through much of the house. The kitchen has undergone several changes, and most recently the space was enlarged with the removal of one wall, and the installation of new, compatible cabinetry.

The library landing at the top of the stairs is a unique feature of the upper level. Upstairs the master suite, now a large bedroom with attached bath, was originally two rooms opening onto the upper central hall. Two other bedrooms and another bath also occupy the second floor. The third level is accessed by a back staircase, and contains a bedroom, den, and bathroom. There is also a full basement, presumably finished after the historic period.

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Spencer, Arthur and Margaret, House, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

This Colonial Revival style house was designed by Ellis Lawrence. This house is noteworthy for its high quality of materials and craftsmanship. Lawrence began his career in Massachusetts, stopping in Portland on his way to San Francisco to open an office after the earthquake and fire of 1906. He joined the firm of McNaughton and Raymond, worked on his own during 1910-13, after which he joined with his friend and former classmate William Holford. Lawrence became a prolific designer, civic activist, and a visionary in city planning and education. His teaching and design work influenced the development of architecture within the state of Oregon. He founded the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts in Eugene, in 1914. He organized the school around teaching methods that rejected the traditional philosophy of the Beaux Arts school and he believed in the integration of all the arts and an informal, non-competitive teaching environment. He was acquainted with many nationally known figures in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. He died in 1946 at the age of 67.

Arthur Spencer was born in Connecticut in October 1872 and arrived in Oregon in 1893 where he attended the University of Oregon law school. He entered private practice and in 1898 married Margaret Fenton, of pioneer family. They had three children. Margaret took an active interest in the building of this house and it was at her request that there be a separate servants' staircase. Arthur was involved in public and private organizations, and was a well-known railroad lawyer. His career took him to Omaha, Nebraska in 1937. They turned over the household to their oldest son, Arthur Jr. After Arthur he died of a heart attack in 1942, she returned to live with her son and died in 1957. The house remained in the family for three generations, until 1963.

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SETTING

The Arthur Champlin and Margaret Spencer House is located in the Portland Heights neighborhood of southwest Portland on the corner of 18th and Myrtle Streets. Tax Lots 1&2, Block 80, Carter's Addition to Portland, originally a steeply banked slope on the north, has been leveled by retaining walls on the north and east and commands a territorial view to the northeast. A single-car garage is tucked into the hill on the southeast corner, surrounded by a steep aggregate drive to the rear of the house on the south side, where the continuing slope shelters the back of the house. Walls covered with ivy and landscaping with dogwood trees, rhododendrons, and Japanese maples give the impression of a flat, 100 x 100 lot perched high above the sidewalk, centered with the house footprint. Access to the front porch is accomplished via formal brick steps at the northwest corner of the property. An apron of lawn surrounds the house on the east, west, and north, decking and pergolas define the south, and an overgrown laurel hedge shields the property on the west.

EXTERIOR PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The overall shape of the Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer House is almost square at its widest points, measuring 45 feet east-west on the north and south elevations and 44 feet on the west. The east elevation tapers to 29 feet, accommodating the functional rear design frequently found in Lawrence houses. A two-story colonnaded porch, 12 feet by 29 feet, on the east side returns the appearance to rectangular and echoes the front entry. The roof is hipped at a moderate pitch, with gabled dormers south and west and three gabled dormers on the front (north) with casement-style Palladian windows. Another Adam reference is the front door, with its elliptical fanlight, sidelights, and pilasters. The use of Ionic capitals on the pilasters on both porches, as opposed to the rest of the Roman columns with Doric detail, is worth notice. The siding is painted beveled lap; all window surrounds and cornice work are simple and uncluttered. Windows on the north (front) façade are symmetrically placed, single, double-hung with 8-over-1 glazing patterns, except for a band of three casement windows over the entry and the Palladian dormer windows. Elsewhere on the exterior, the glazing pattern is 6-over-1 or 4-over-1, seeming to agree with the Colonial Revival style. The entry and dining room bay on the west side both have roof balustrades with distinctive finials, but the porch balustrade above the east side porch is much heavier and more utilitarian. The foundation is concrete, the porches are wood frame, the roof covering is composition shingles. The detached single garage in the southeast

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EXTERIOR PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONT.)

corner is covered with wood beveled-lap siding and has a hip roof with no overhang and composition shingles, presenting a low profile.

NORTH ELEVATION (FRONT)

The east and north elevations are the two most visible from the corner of 18th and Myrtle Streets. The north elevation is the most symmetrical, consisting of a front porch, evenly spaced windows, and a cornice, above which three gabled dormers mark the third floor. The basement is visible as a concrete wall approximately 3 feet high, broken by one window to the east of the porch. Above the basement level, lap siding rises to the cornice, broken by a window on each side of the porch on each floor. The living room is to the left, the dining room on the right downstairs, the master and second bedrooms on the left and right upstairs. The smaller dormers open into attic space; the large one provides space for a bedroom in the servants' quarters. The front porch here has meant to provide an ENTRANCE. It has massed Roman columns, a heavy cornice with a lacy roof balustrade, a lyrical Adam doorway, and those unexpected Ionic capitals on the pilasters flanking the porch. Above the inaccessible built-up porch roof, a band of three casement windows opens to the master bath.

EAST ELEVATION (SIDE)

The east elevation presents two stories to 18th Street, since the attic space is not developed. The large veranda/porch covers the entire 29-foot width of this side, with a crawlspace masked by woven lattice. The wooden structure is on a post-and-pier foundation, with no apparent sagging, and boasts the same Roman columns as the front entry porch, this side arranged 10 feet apart at the outside edge to form a colonnade framing the cityscape and mountains to the northeast and to support the roof terrace above. Heavy railing connects the pillars on both levels, and the first-floor veranda can be reached from the outside by two steps from the south drive. The house façade is remarkable on this side for paired French doors on each floor and the main fireplace chimney, painted on the first floor and natural red-brown brick above. The doors open into the living room and master bedroom, respectively. The view from the upper level is spectacular. And then there are the pilasters with Ionic capitals at each end of the veranda . . .

SOUTH ELEVATION (BACK)

The busy back of an Ellis Lawrence house represents a challenge for the casual onlooker, and more so if the original shape changes. The Arthur

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SOUTH ELEVATION (BACK, CONT.)

C. and Margaret Spencer House added a shed-roof extension in 1983 and some decking with access doors within the last five years. The south elevation now shows: a basement window slightly below grade at the southeast corner under the triple window at the south end of the living room; double and triple windows on the east and south face of the original second-floor landing library; double windows on the east; a bay window on the south of the addition, with a crawlspace vent underneath the south window; a nine-paned half-panel single door opening into the family room; a small double-hung window above the extension, opening into the servants' staircase landing; the south rooftop gable dormer providing space for the second bedroom in the third-floor servants' quarters; the east window of the third bedroom upstairs; around the corner to the south side, a triple window into this bedroom; and below the south bedroom window, four multi-paned glass folding doors opening onto a deck with pergolas and benches built over the concrete drive and up to room level.

WEST ELEVATION (SIDE)

Continuing around the Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer House from the south side, the west second-floor side shows two windows for the southwest bedroom on the second floor, over kitchen sink windows. The basement wall is 18 inches high on this side, with one window partly below grade. At the corner next to the dining room bay window, a first-floor butler's pantry window shares the corner with the second-floor bathroom window. Above the second-floor bathroom, a gabled dormer encloses the third-floor bath. An interesting feature of the kitchen quadrant is the roof treatment from the east library wall to the west side dining room bay window. The cornice of this back end of the house is much shallower, even though it still carries the gutters. Forward of the dining room bay window, which is graced with the same roof line balustrade as the entry porch, the cornice is wide again.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS

During the period of Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer's residence in the Spencer House, the wrap-around porch was changed in size and direction. The steps approached the door from the front, the balustrade ringing the front of the house disappeared, and the veranda and front porch became separate entities. This work, according to family sources, was done for the original owner. The 1983 den and kitchen remodel produced the rear bay window extension and subtracted a west side window; the present owner subtracted a rear southeast bedroom window and added two French doors on the second floor identical to those on the first floor, making

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EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS (CONT.)

the upper terrace usable. The addition of four folding French doors opening from the kitchen to the back deck is the work of the present owner.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: PLAN

The interior plan of the first floor is arranged roughly in thirds: a central hallway with den at the rear behind a pocket door, an open formal staircase leading to a landing library, a living room occupying the east third, the west third devoted to a formal dining room at the north end, and a kitchen with breakfast room at the south end, separated by a butler's pantry. A winding back staircase leads to the third floor, with a connecting door at the library landing.

The second floor is divided in much the same manner: a central hall for the staircase, this time with the front quarter of central space (north) occupied by the master bath. The east third is taken by the master bedroom, with a door into the master bath. The west third includes a southwest bedroom and a northwest bedroom, with a bath between opening into the northwest chamber and the hall.

The third floor and the back staircase are furnished with several storage drawers, closets, and attics, with bedrooms in the north and south dormers and a bath in the west dormer.

The basement staircase exits from the kitchen. The northwest quadrant contains a finished, hardwood-floored room with a bathroom and a shower. The rest of the basement is unfinished: a laundry in the southwest corner, a shop on the northeast section, and a new hot water heating system.

The first and second floors have hardwood floors, inlaid with darker striping on the first floor. The third floor and the back stairs are soft wood. There is a unified architrave design for all the windows and doors, inside and out, extending even to the linen closet and ironing board cupboard surrounds.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: FIRST FLOOR

Entry Hall and Family Room/Den: The front door opens onto an expanse of hardwood floor, here with double inlaid striping, continuing to the back of the house. The entry space is dominated by the formal staircase, with painted risers and refinished treads. The balustrade features square-paneled newel posts without finials and a curved handrail in a

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: FIRST FLOOR (CONT.)

dark wood finish. The balusters are painted white, are very slender and turned, and are arranged four to a step. The ceiling curves away, allowing a glimpse of the library at the top. The walls and ceiling are plaster and painted. The Family Room features a plant shelf on the south-facing bay window, a lower ceiling than the rest of the house, with the original pocket door opening onto the front hall and bookshelves containing an entertainment center on its north and east walls. The cabinetry here and there in the kitchen is paneled, painted white, and reminiscent of the newel posts and of the bases of the Roman columns outside, as well as the dining room work.

Kitchen/Breakfast Room: The entire south and southwest kitchen/den area was not original, having been remodeled at least once (the last time in 1983). At some time, a half-bath, opening on the west entry hall wall north of the pocket, was added. The present owner found a narrow hall connecting the south entry door with the basement door, the kitchen door on the west and the den door on the west. In an effort to restore the original ambiance and improve function, he removed the hall walls and modern formica kitchen, opening up a kitchen/keeping room space. Hardwood floors with inlay to match the existing ones were laid, and cabinets to match the dining room built-ins were installed in the butler's pantry and along the length of the west wall. All the cabinets above counter level have multi-light glass doors. Dark-green granite counters and splashers were installed in the kitchen and butler's pantry. Building in a big refrigerator-freezer under the back staircase on the east wall allowed room for a cooking island with a downdraft cooktop and small sink. Pots and pans hang from a rack above. The stainless steel sink and double oven occupy their original positions on the west wall. Relocating the utilities freed the south wall for folding French doors flanked by shelves, and the space is now a breakfast area. The walls and ceiling in this area are sheetrock, painted. The light fixtures are reproductions or appropriate antiques purchased at auction.

Dining Room: The formal dining room occupies the northwest corner of the first floor. Its main feature is a windowed bay on the west wall with built-in cabinets, drawers with brass d-shaped pulls, a marble top, and a mirrored three-part back. This structure ends with the windowsill at the 5-foot level of the plate rail. Paneled painted wainscoting fills the lower wall, and heavy crown molding follows the ceiling edge. The walls and ceiling are painted plaster, the walls glazed with a

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Dining Room (cont.)
three-color sponged coating. The light fixture is an appropriate style,
purchased at auction.

Living Room: The living room is rectangular, matching the length of the
east veranda outside, and covers the east third of the first floor. Its
main feature is the Lawrence mantel, with its pilasters and pediments,
set out from the east wall. Crown molding follows the ceiling line, as
in the dining room, outlining the fireplace chimney wall. There is a
French door with a small step at each end of the room. The walls and
ceiling are painted plaster, and the walls are covered with a three-step
sponged glaze. The firebox surround is marble, chosen when the original
painted tile could not be salvaged.

Landing Library: At the head of the main stair case, bookshelves line a
five-windowed south space defined by one of those flattened arches seen
often in Ellis Lawrence's work. There is a sill for plants.

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: SECOND FLOOR

Master Bedroom: The third of the second floor now devoted to the master bedroom suite was originally two rooms opening on the upper central hall. Each room had one window in each East wall, the North chamber had the existing North window, a door leading to the master bath into the West wall, and a fireplace which according to family sources, had not functioned well for years. The fireplace was built across the south east corner of the Northeast chamber. The Southeast chamber also had a window in its South wall. The present owner removed the connecting wall between the chambers, rebuilt the defective fireplace in the same location as a wall fireplace, and replaced the corner mantel with an antique carved marble surround. Both East windows were opened to the floor and fitted with French doors matching the doors on the first floor, and the newly accessible terrace refitted for foot traffic. Hardwood floors were repaired and refinished, plaster patched and painted. The master bath had been modernized twice, so the approach was to retain the wainscoting, install clawfoot tub and antique two-legged sink, add a glass-topped shower walled with the same white marble tile used in all the bathrooms except the third floor.

Central hall: The landing at the library end of the main staircase is the link from the formal living areas to the attic and kitchen, via the doorway on the West side of the landing. From there the main stairs rise to the second floor hall, edged with a curved balustrade following the line of the first floor ceiling. A small hall extends West from the head of the stairs, with woodwork enclosing linen closet, ironing board cupboard and doorways to southwest and Northwest bedchambers and bath between. The Northwest bedroom is wallpapered, with windows on North and West, closets on the interior East wall, and its own door to the bathroom on the South. The South bedroom, situated over the kitchen, is well-lit by a triple south window over a window seat, and an East window plus two West windows.

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: SECOND FLOOR (CONT)

Bookshelves flank the window seat. The closet in this bedroom is a cupboard type, with big blanket drawers.

Guest Bath: This bathroom is wallpapered, has a white marble tile floor, and white tile in the bathtub enclosure. The present owner replaced the formica sink unit with an appropriate period pedestal sink.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: THIRD FLOOR

Back staircase: The back stairs wind up from the kitchen to a switchback at the first landing, then climb steeply to the third floor. The walls of the staircase are dotted with built-in drawers and doors leading to rake closets and cupboards. The center hall at the top is encircled with doors; bathroom, two bedrooms, three closets, one attic. A second attic door opens from the East wall of the south bedroom, which has a somewhat sloping ceiling, painted plaster walls and refinished softwood floors. This bedroom and the one opposite occupy the North and South dormers, and were the residence of the Spencer domestic employees for three generations. The bathroom is completely original, with clawfoot tub, original wall sink, chair rail, and medicine cabinet; this room utilizes the West dormer.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: BASEMENT

The basement stairs descend from the kitchen, having been liberated from the service hall by the opening of the family room space. The basement quadrant on the Northwest is a finished room with hardwood floor, bookcases and built-in drawers. A bath with shower opens off the Southwest corner. Walls are knotty pine planking, now painted, and the ceiling is dropped, with some uneven levels to accommodate piping. The East half of the basement has room for an extensive woodworking shop, big tables for crafts, and storage for big items, skis, etc. The new gas-fired hot-water heating unit takes up no more space than a big desk on the East wall. Storage cabinets line the South wall. The southwest quadrant contains the laundry.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colonial Revival Style residence of Arthur Champlin and Margaret Fenton Spencer, built in 1909, is architecturally significant under Criterion "C" as an excellent example of the early work of architect Ellis Fuller Lawrence in this style, possibly reflecting his Association with John Calvin Stevens.

The Spencer House is noteworthy not only for the high quality of materials and builder's attention to detail, but also for its symmetry, elegant simplicity of line and faithfulness to its Adam precursors. There is no addition (those flowery Ionic pilasters again) or subtraction (the removal of the extended porch in 1924 or so) which Lawrence made, that detracted from the beauty of the building itself. Although the interior was designed for living well, and was not treated as an item to be preserved rigidly for posterity, the spaces have worn well, and survive with woodwork and proportions intact or restored, except for the rear service hall, lost to Twentieth Century family customs. The site on the Northeast slope of the Portland Heights "grid" affords views of three mountains in the winter, closing in to Mt. St. Helens in summer, plus year-round city lights.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Based on the Registration Requirements as outlined in Section G of the "Ellis Lawrence Multiple Property Submittal", the Arthur C. and Margaret Spencer House was awarded 61 Points in the evaluation making it a Primary property, eligible for the National Register (see the included Inventory Form and Evaluation Sheet).

CONTEXT: PORTLAND HEIGHTS

The Spencer House is located in the central part of the West Hills neighborhood of Portland Heights. Development of this part of town began after a cable car began to operate up the steep gully along Montgomery Drive. The route started at 19th and Jefferson, traveled the gully to Vista and Spring and ended Behind the present Ainsworth school

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Continuation Sheet

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PORTLAND(CONT)

School. The upper terminus of this line was fitted out with an ice cream stand and menagerie to attract people to the area. It worked- by the time the Ford Street Bridge was replaced by the Vista Bridge in 1924, land sales and house construction were booming. Once Vista replaced Montgomery as the main uphill street, the appeal of the West Hills was assured. Portland Heights still is home to many of the most affluent and culturally engaged citizens in the Willamette Valley, including some of Portland's most influential leaders.

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS: ARTHUR CHAMPLIN SPENCER

Arthur Champlin Spencer was born in Suffield, Connecticut in October, 1872, was educated in Connecticut and Vermont, and arrived in Oregon in 1893. After Law school at University of Oregon, he entered private Law practice, In 1898 he married Margaret Fenton, of a pioneer Oregon family, with whom he had three children. From 1900 to 1904 he was deputy district attorney, then became an increasingly responsible and well-known railroad lawyer, involved in the merger of Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company with Union Pacific Railroad Company, which organization in 1937 made him Western general counsel. His contemporaries addressed him as "chief" or "Judge Spencer", and referred to him as "the little giant". His children were George Fenton Spencer, born in 1900; Margaret Spencer, born in 1906; Arthur C. Jr., born in 1909, the same year Ellis Lawrence designed and built the Spencer family house at 562 Myrtle Street, later renumbered to 1812 S.W. Myrtle. Arthur C. Spencer was involved in many public and private organizations, usually in executive capacity. The railroad career took him to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1937. He died in Omaha of a heart attack on May 25, 1942. When his funeral was held in Portland, high-ranking Union Pacific officials came in three special cars to attend the service. His house on Myrtle Street had been taken over by Arthur C. Jr. when he left town, and remained in the family for three generations, until 1963. Or four generations, if one counts Mother-in-law Margaret Fenton, who spent her last years with her daughter.

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SIGNIFICANT PERSONS: MARGARET FENTON SPENCER

The Fenton family was established in America in 1790, descended from one Caleb Fenton, who settled in the Old Dominion before the Revolutionary War. Margaret Fenton Spencer's father, James D. Fenton, started for Oregon in the spring of 1865 with his family of seven children, his 12-year-old son driving the team of oxen. They ultimately settled in Yamhill County, welcomed three more children, and produced a large proportion of doctors and lawyers among their ten children, two of which were girls. At the time of her marriage to Arthur C. Spencer, Miss Margaret Fenton was mentioned as the "sister of the Fenton boys". Arthur C. Spencer and Margaret A. Fenton were married on June 15, 1898. Margaret took an active role in the building of her house as in other things; it was her request that there be a separate servants' staircase. When the architect demurred, saying that there might not be room to fit both staircases in, she drew a plan for what she wanted, saying that she was sure "Mr. Lawrence will tend to it". And Mr. Lawrence did. At some time in the decade between 1910 and 1920, according to family sources, Ellis Lawrence built a second house for the family on Fenton land in Carlton, Oregon.

When Arthur Spencer was transferred to Omaha, Nebraska, Margaret Spencer turned over her household to her youngest son and his family. After her husband's death she returned to Portland to live. She died on July 30, 1957. Her grandchildren lived at 1812 S.W. Myrtle until it was sold in 1962 to Joseph and Mary Labadie, who lived in the house until 1988. The present owners bought the house in 1993, from a holding corporation.

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS: ARCHITECT- ELLIS FULLER LAWRENCE (1879-1946)

Ellis Lawrence was born in Massachusetts in 1879, educated at Phillips-Andover and M.I.T., and worked for John Calvin Stevens and Steven Codman. While studying in Europe, he met Alice Louise Millett, whom he married in 1905. In 1906 he became part of the firm of MacNaughton, Raymond and Lawrence, as their chief designer, but that partnership lasted only a year.

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ELLIS LAWRENCE (CONT)

lasted only 4 years, and he practised independently for 30 years before joining William Holford in a longstanding alliance which involved other architects in varying roles, including, in later years, his son, H. Abbott Lawrence. His organizational activities included founding an association called The Architectural League of the Pacific Coast; the first Oregon Chapter of the AIA, the Builders' Exchange, the Oregon Building Congress, and soon, the school of Architecture and Fine Arts at The University of Oregon. His output in concert with his associates was monumental, but he was always worried about his future and the outcome of all his projects. He desired to uplift his profession and felt that the means to this end was through his university connection.

Lawrence's approach to residential design was to make style follow function; his independent spirit flowered especially in his later Mediterranean style houses. He tended to mix disparate elements, saving everything after all with his exquisite sense of proportion. Ellis Lawrence and his wife Alice had 3 sons, H. Abbott, Denison Howells, and Amos Millett; they lived in a double house which Lawrence built to accommodate both his family and his mother and sister, in Irvington in Northeast Portland. The style of this design is very like a duplex, but so confusing to assessors that as of 1993 only half of it was assessed for taxes. Maybe he would have chuckled.

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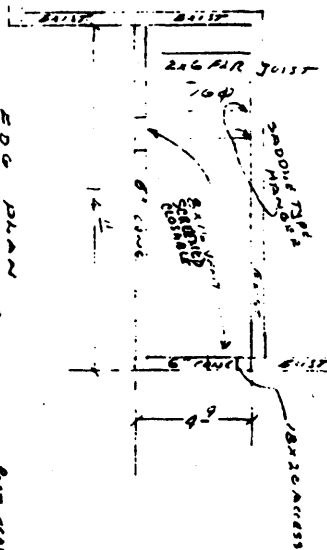
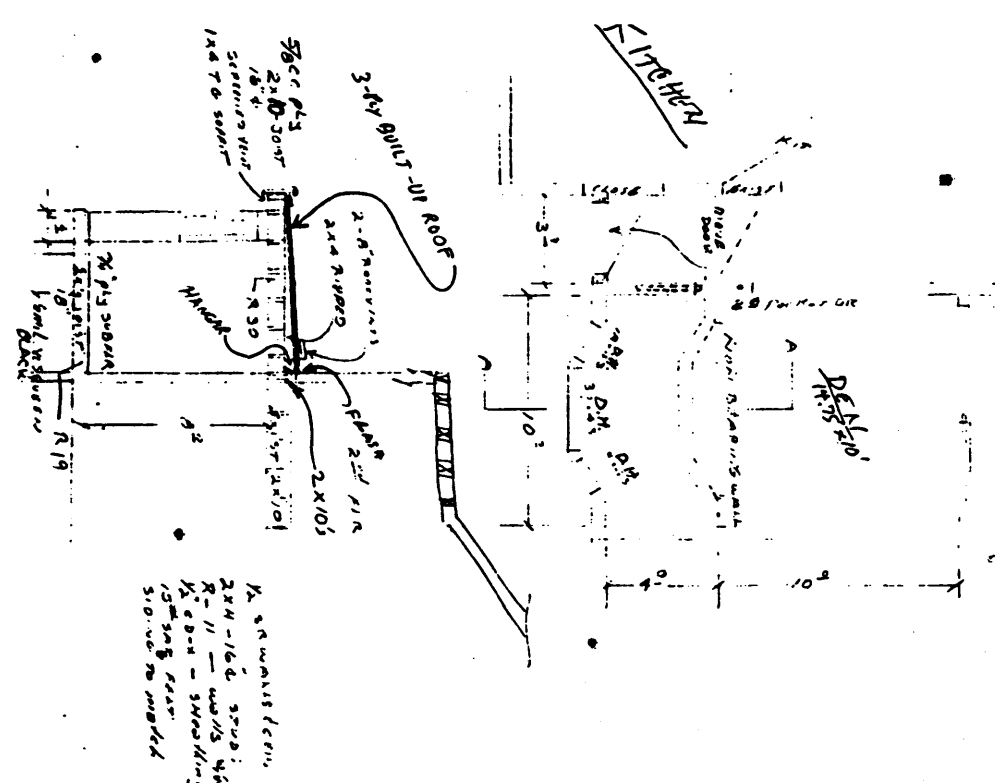
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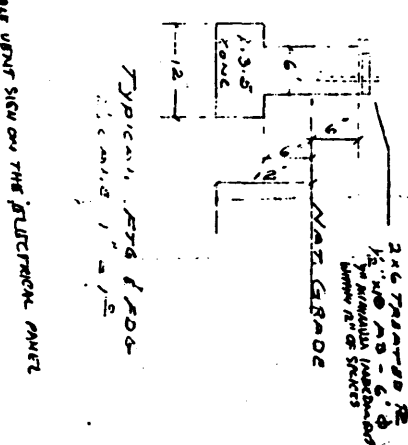
1. Spencer, Arthur C. and Margaret, House
2. Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
3. Photographer: Carolyn Dinsmore
4. Date: February 1999
5. Negative on file with owner: Bradley Malsin, 1812 S.W. Myrtle Street

 Portland, OR 97201
- 6-1. North Elevation, 1915. Historic Photo, OHS
- 6-2. Northeast corner. Camera facing Southwest.
- 6-3. East elevation. Camera facing West.
- 6-4. West Elevation. Camera facing Northeast.
- 6-5. South Elevation. Camera facing Northwest
- 6-6. Door, Front Porch. Camera facing South.
- 6-7. Main staircase, den. Camera facing south.
- 6-8. Third floor bath. Camera facing West.
- 6-9. Kitchen. Camera facing West.
- 6-10. Breakfast Room. Camera facing Southwest.
- 6-11. Living Room. Camera facing Southeast.
- 6-12. Dining Room. Camera facing West.
- 6-13. Detail, Pilaster.
- 6-14. Detail, Roof-line balustrade, front porch. Camera facing Northwest.

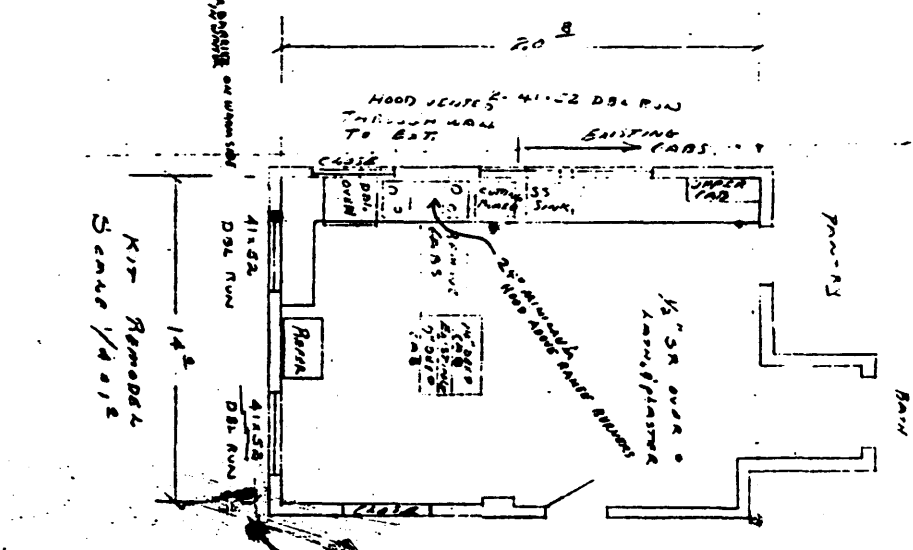


EDGE PLAN
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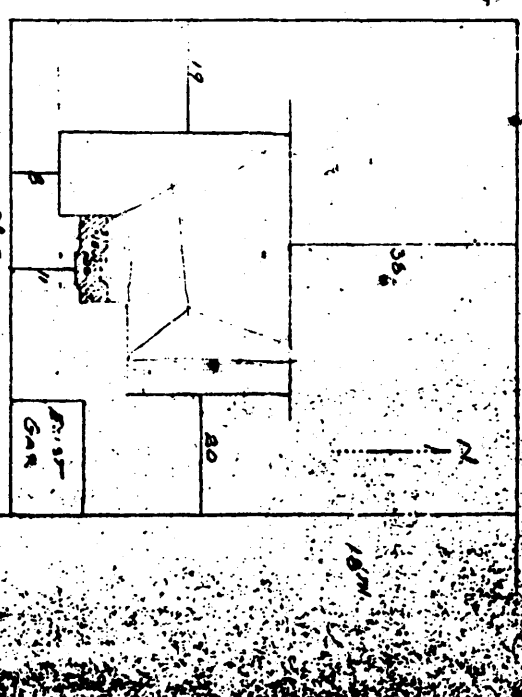
FOUR CORNER VIEW OF THE FUTURE WORK AREA



TYPICAL FTD & FOD
Scale 1/4" = 1'-2"

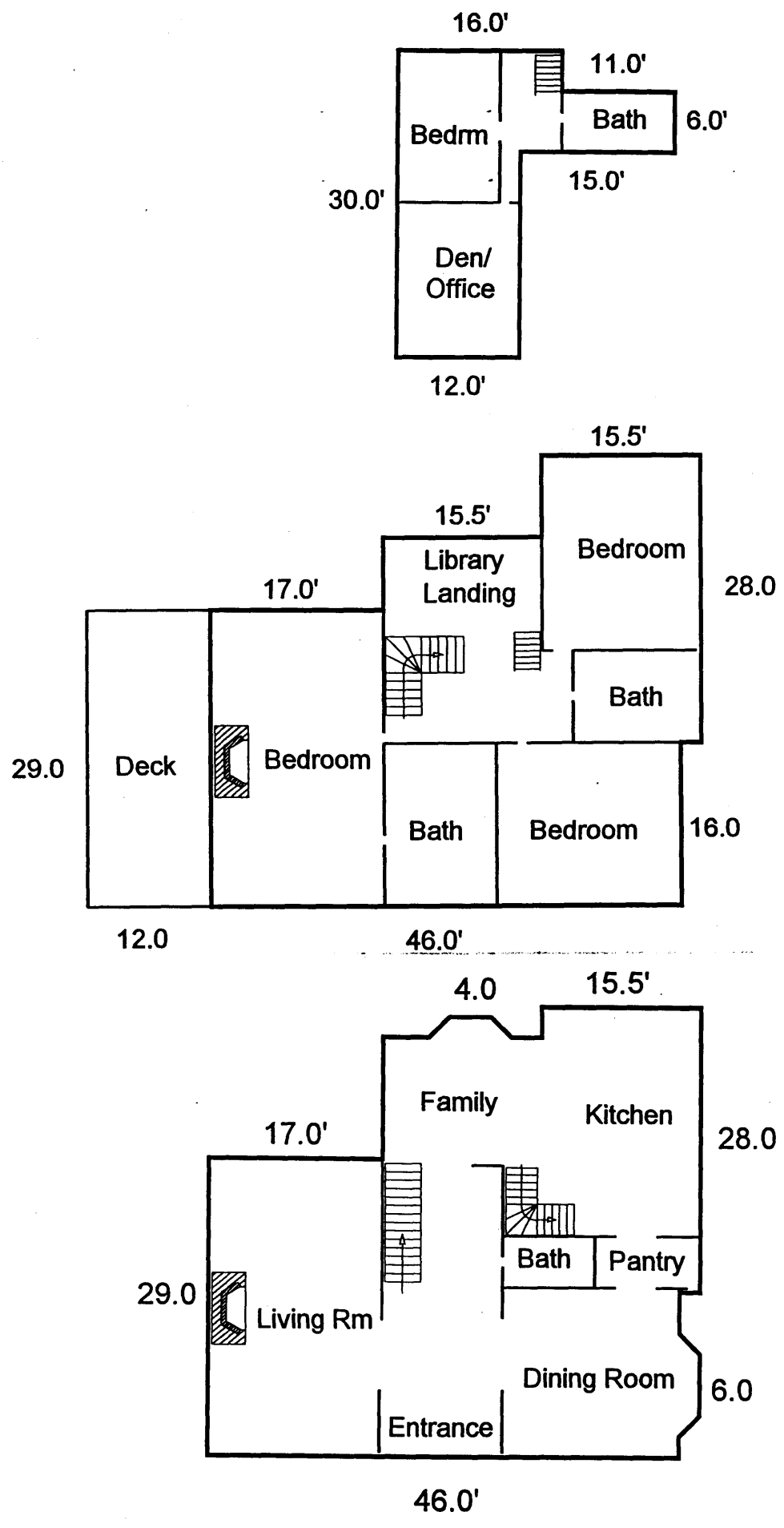


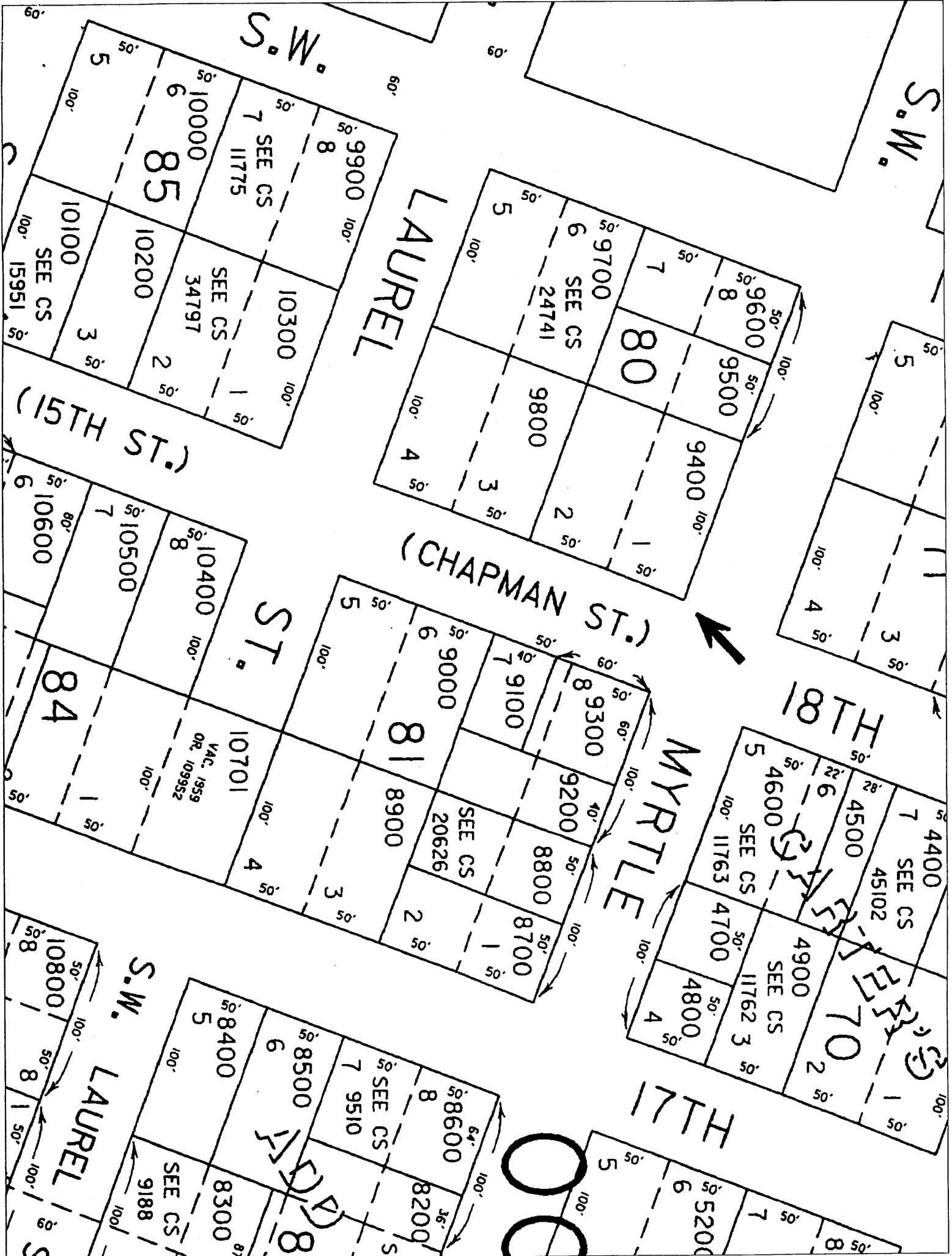
KIT REMODEL
Scale 1/4" = 1'-2"



FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1/4" = 1'-2"

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S.W.

S.W.

LAUREL

(CHAPMAN ST.)

(15TH ST.)

ST.

MYRTLE

HELEN

HELEN

S.W.

LAUREL

