

1574

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

SEP 24 1990

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 Loomis, Robert and Mabel, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1100 State Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Hood River N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97031

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>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ 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.  
James M. Hamrick September 15, 1990  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
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.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
for Signature of the Keeper 10/25/90 Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:

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Mediterranean

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

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walls stucco

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roof asbestos shingle

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other 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Loomis Residence is significant architecturally as the only example of a Mediterranean Style residence in Hood River, Oregon. The finely crafted home is located at 1100 State Street and was designed for the wealthy New York family Robert and Mabel Loomis by architect Percy D. Bentley in 1937. The residence is distinctive in its setting against the backdrop of the Columbia River Gorge. The two story Mediterranean Style building displays many characteristics of the style in its low-pitched hip roof, asymmetrical shape, stucco wall surface, casement windows set in flat arches, finely crafted wrought-iron railing and balcony and French doors. The asymmetry of the interior of the residence presents an unusual floor plan. Details such as leaded glass French doors leading into the dining and living room, colonial inspired fireplace, hand-crafted light fixtures, beautiful wrought-iron stair balustrade, and multiple colorfully tiled bathrooms make the Loomis Residence an exemplary Mediterranean Style building in the community of Hood River. The residence is in excellent condition with minor alterations on the exterior and interior.

**SITE**

The Loomis Residence is located on Twelfth and State streets, in an unplatted area of Hood River. Sited on the north side of State Street on a slightly sloping hillside, the residence commands a view of the Columbia River to the north. The building is located in one of Hood River's older, more prestigious neighborhoods. Set below street level, the residence is located on a large lot extending from State Street on the southern boundary to Oak Street on the northern property line. The rectangular lot measures approximately 129.40' (east-west) by 223.48' (north-south). The house is sited on the southern portion of the lot leaving an expansive back yard area. An unpaved alley is located directly to the west and another residence is to the east. The semi-circular paved driveway in front of the residence is accessed from State Street. Entrance columns constructed of Roman brick flank the entrance drive. The columns are capped with concrete and rest on a rough faced basalt base. Lights are recessed on the interior of the columns, illuminating the driveway.

A variety of trees and shrubs line the perimeter of the property creating a private lot, particularly evident in the backyard. Sparse plantings dot the lawn area. The front of the lot at State Street is terraced with a basalt retaining wall planted with an array of low evergreen shrubs and rhododendron. A mature black walnut tree is located in the front of the residence adjacent the rock retaining wall. Boxwoods flank the entrance sidewalk and a Japanese Yew is located directly east of the entrance door. Cyprus' and roses are planted against the foundation west of the main entrance. The perimeter of the lot on the east, north and west elevations is planted with an assortment of pine, spruce, cedar, birch and juniper trees intermingled with ornamental shrubs such as camelias and rhododendrons and a dogwood tree. The majority of the landscape features

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**WEST AND EAST ELEVATION**

The west elevation is two stories in height. The lot slopes down towards the north exposing the stepped concrete foundation. Bands of casement windows punctuate the first and second stories and a two story bay window projects from the south end of the facade.

The east elevation is comprised of the garage and the service entrance. The service door has multi-paned glass on the upper portion and a recessed panel on the lower portion. A multi-paned transom window recessed in an arched alcove tops the door. The original lantern light fixture flanks the door on the north side. A pipe railing extends partially along the sidewalk leading to the front driveway. Casement windows are located north of the door on the upper and lower stories. Two casement windows punctuate the east elevation of the garage. A small wooden shed has been added to the east elevation to house hot tub equipment.

**NORTH ELEVATION (REAR)**

The long expansive back yard extends from Oak Street on the north and slopes upward to the elegant two story north (rear) elevation. The north elevation is comprised of two projecting wings at either end of a long central axis. Large casement windows embellish the upper and lower stories of the facade. On the western end of the central axis are French doors opening to the terrace. Above the terrace French doors is a decorative iron balcony consisting of interlocking circles. The balcony is supported by fluted brackets. A lantern shaped light fixture is located directly east of the doors.

A one story bay window, located slightly off center, has casement windows on the upper portion and panels on the lower half. The lower panels are decorated with raised geometric patterns. On the lower story, turned pilaster mullions separate the central tripartite casement window. The original brick terrace has been extended to the east and a hot tub added to the east end. The casement windows on the two wings are set into recessed arches.

**INTERIOR**

The interior of the Loomis residence is asymmetrical in plan. The first floor is comprised of the dining room, breakfast nook, kitchen, service wing and two bedrooms. The living room, study, bathroom and two bedrooms are located on the second story. All the bedrooms are confined to the west side of the residence with the exception of the servants bedroom (see attached floor plan).

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## FOYER AND MAIN ENTRANCE HALL

The entrance doors, flanked by narrow panelled closet doors, open into an arched foyer area. The foyer leads to the main entrance hall which is open in plan and two stories in height, containing the split level staircase. The open, wrought-iron stair railing and balusters display a simple elegance set against the interior stucco walls. A shallow recessed niche covered with a mirror and narrower niche designed for the door bell chimes are on the east wall of the entrance hall. The high ceilings of the hall are finished with varnished boxed wooden beams. An ornate pendant light fixture illuminates the main entrance hall. Stairs on the east side of the main hall descends to the first floor hall and the stairs on the west ascend to the second floor hall.

## FIRST FLOOR HALL

A small hall separates the dining room and kitchen on the east side of the hall from the bedrooms which are west of the hall. French doors on the north elevation lead out to the terrace. The original wrought iron light fixture, designed in a delicate interlocking vine and leaf pattern, is intact on ceiling. Leaded glass French door separates the hall from the dining room.

## DINING ROOM, BREAKFAST NOOK, KITCHEN

The dining room, east of the first floor hall, measures approximately 17' by 14' and has a large tripartite window on the north elevation. Fluted pilaster mullions divide the central metal casement window from the narrower side multi-paned casement windows. Finely crafted projecting classical window and door cornices cap all the openings. Molding strips in various rectangular sizes decorate the walls of the dining room, simulating recessed panels. Built-in cabinets line the south elevation of the room comprised of two full length cabinets that flank a central sideboard. A swinging door on the east wall of the dining room leads to the breakfast nook.

The north end of the breakfast nook is a bay window which overlooks the Columbia River to the north. Built-in cupboards line the south wall of the room. A small arched niche with two small doors below originally housed the phone. Wide laminated beams supported by small classical brackets span the ceiling. A door on the east wall leads to the kitchen.

Original cabinets line the east and north walls of the kitchen. A casement window is located above the sink on the north elevation and the range with the original vent hood is on the west wall. Directly south of the range is a narrow door which leads to a passageway. The passageway extends across the front of the residence and terminates under the main stairway in the lower hall. This was used as a storage room and also contains the hot water heater and the furnace. The room was designed as a back passageway for the servants. The pantry is located on the south wall of the kitchen along with the door to the back service area.

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Another hall off the kitchen accesses a small bathroom on the west and the servants quarters (now a bedroom) on the north. Stairs ascend to a landing which contains the side entrance door. Another door on the south wall leads to a utility room and the garage. The original wood chute is in the northwest corner of the garage.

## FIRST STORY BEDROOMS AND BATHS

The second story bedrooms are confined to the west portion of the residence. A hall, with a tin lined closet or "Fir Room" in the middle, connects the two bedrooms. The north bedroom measures approximately 13'0" x 15'0" and has casement windows on the west and north elevations. A closet with double doors is on the south elevation adjacent to the door which leads to the bathroom. An bay projects from the west end of the south bedroom. Large closet doors are on the north side of the room. The bathroom is decorated with yellow and green tiles. The floor tiles are green and the tiles surrounding the shower are yellow. An arch spans the area above the bathtub. Wainscotting clads the bottom portion of the bathroom. A door on the north wall leads to a narrow hall to the north bedroom.

## SECOND STORY

The second floor is comprised of two bedroom with adjacent baths, the living room, the main bathroom, the study, the back service area and the second floor hall. The bedrooms, on the west side, are divided from the living areas by the stairway and the second floor hall. The hall is illuminated by a large casement window on the north wall. Leaded glass French doors separate the second floor hall from the living room.

## LIVING ROOM

The living room is a large, open space, measuring approximately 29'3" by 19'0". The vaulted ceiling is finished with a deep classical cornice molding. Two elongated, tripartite windows, on the north wall, illuminate the room. Narrow panels below the windows finish the window's edge. The west elevation is embellished with leaded glass pocket doors on the north end and built-in book shelves on the south end. Small cabinets are below the open shelved bookcases. The bookshelf opening echoes the size of the pocket doors; both are capped with a projecting cornice molding.

Two casement windows with lower recessed panels flank the central fireplace on the south wall of the living room. The fireplace in classical in detail and the mantel is finished with a row of egg and dart molding and dentils. The mantel is supported by fluted pilasters capped with a leafed scroll. Black marble with gold veining surrounds the firebox. Ochre tiles with a central daisy-like motif, edged in black tiles, decorates the hearth. The fireplace has been enclosed with a energy efficient inset and a row of dentils was added above the hearth opening. A small door east of the

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fireplace functions as a wood chute. A door on the east elevation of the living room leads into a small hall accessing the main bathroom, study and service area. Above the living room door to the hall is a rectangular, iron grate comprised of connected circles. The grate covered the area that originally housed the pipes for an organ. Below the grate is a rectangular panel with a raised, cut outs tree design made of wood. The hall from the living room accesses the main bath, study and service area.

#### MAIN BATH, STUDY AND SERVICE AREA

The bathroom off the hall reflects the Art Deco Style in its black and white tiling. Small black and white tiles finished with a black tile baseboard covers the floor. Larger white tiles, finished with a band of smaller rectangular black tiles, clad the lower portion of the wall. The original sink and commode are black. A casement window illuminates the small room on the north wall.

The study (or card room as prescribed on the original plans) is located at the end of the hall. The walls of the study are covered with dark vertically grooved wood panelling. Built-in cupboards and bookcases line the south wall. The door of the bookcases are constructed of the same vertical panelling and have no visible hardware. The doors are opened by pushing on an interior latch. A deep bookshelf caps the top of the cabinets. Casement windows are on the east and north elevations. The study was designed to be a sound proof room.

A door southwest of the study leads to the back service area. A dumbwaiter is on the south wall adjacent to a sink which closes, doubling as a service counter. Another sink, with cabinets below and above is located on the west wall. A small icebox is adjacent to the sink on the south wall. The service stairs descend to the side entrance door.

#### SECOND STORY BEDROOMS AND BATHS

The bedrooms on the second floor are on the west side of the second floor hall. A narrow east-west hall, with a built in linen closet is in the center, connects the two bedrooms. The north bedroom measures 13'0" by 15'0" and is illuminated by casement windows on three elevations. A large closet with double doors is on the south elevation east of the bathroom door. The bathroom measures approximately 5'6" by 7'0" and is decorated with a blue tile floor and baseboard. Grooved tiles flank the blue and rose colored shower stall. The sink and commode are rose colored.

The master suite is at the south end of the hall. A doorway from the hall leads into a smaller hall associated with the bedroom. The west wall of the hall has built-in closet space. Casement windows punctuate the west and south elevation of the bedroom and a bay window is on the west facade. Built-in closets are on the north wall east of the bathroom door. The bathroom is decorated in a violet and rose motif. The floor and wall tiles are violet in contrast with the rose colored sink, bathtub and commode. An arch frames the bathtub on the east wall.

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FIXTURES

All the lighting fixtures in the house were originally designed by the well known Portland firm of Baker and Barkon. Many of the original fixtures are intact. The lantern type light fixtures are intact adjacent to all the exterior doors including the front and side doors, the terrace doors and the garage doors. A number of the original interior fixtures are missing but original fixtures are still intact in the entrance hall, the hallways, the majority of the bathroom and bedrooms (see attached drawings for extant fixtures in the residence)

ALTERATIONS

The Loomis residence is virtually intact on the exterior as well as the interior. The front doors, not the original doors, were replaced by the current owners. A casement window was replaced with a similar style window on the lower story of the front elevation after an automobile hit the residence. The terrace in the back yard was extended and a hot tub installed by a previous owner. A small shed addition is located on the east elevation which is used to house the hot tub equipment.

The interior of the residence is intact with the exception of a few minor modifications. New wood floors were installed by the dining room in 1989 by the present owners and the small bath in the service wing was remodeled. An inset has been placed in the fireplace and a row of dentils constructed above the firebox. Some of the original light fixtures have been replaced.



**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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1937-1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Percy D. Bentley, architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 0.68 acres Hood River, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	10
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6	1	5	0	8	0
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5	0	6	2	5	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area of less than one acre is comprised of Tax Lot 11500 in an unplatted area of Hood River in Section 25, Township 3N, Range 10E, Willamette Meridian in Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area encompasses the entire urban tax lot occupied by the house completed for Robert and Mabel Loomis in 1938. The area measures approximately 129' on its street frontages and 223 to 234 feet in extent from State Street on the south to Oak Street on the north.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sally Donovan  
organization Donovan and Associates date March 7, 1990  
street & number 1615 Taylor telephone (503) 386-6461  
city or town Hood River state Oregon zip code 97031

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The Mediterranean style house built as a winter residence for Robert and Mabel Loomis in 1938 is located at 1100 State Street in Hood River. The hillside residence commanding a view of the Columbia River was designed by architect Percy D. Bentley. Both the exterior and the interior of the house are well-preserved, as are the landscaped grounds. As the only fully developed and well-preserved example of a Mediterranean style residence in the city of Hood River, the Robert and Mabel Loomis House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C.

The building is a two-story rectilinear volume with low-pitched hip roof and asymmetrically arranged wings on the west and east ends. Characteristic features of the Mediterranean style are its stucco surfacing, casement windows, a round-arched door opening, and finely crafted wrought iron railings. The primary feature of the front facade is the slightly recessed entrance door which is surmounted by a large semi-circular leaded-glass transom. The rear elevation, which overlooks the Columbia River Valley, takes full advantage of the view with many large casement windows. Special decorative features on this elevation include the balconet supported by scrolled brackets and bounded by a wrought iron railing consisting of interlocking circles, and the one-story bay window featuring panels embellished with moldings arranged in geometric patterns.

The carefully detailed interior is irregular in plan. A strong Mediterranean flavor is conveyed in the main entrance hall by the rough textured wall and ceiling surfaces, arched ceiling, wrought iron stair railing, and hand-crafted light fixtures. Many of the original light fixtures, which were designed for the house by the leading Portland lighting firm of Baker and Barkon, remain. The living room has a vaulted ceiling to provide the proper acoustics for the pipe organ and piano played by Mr. Loomis. Wrought iron work is used in many places on the interior, and the bathrooms feature brightly colored tile work.

Originally from New York, the Loomis family first purchased orchard land in the Hood River Valley near Parkdale in 1907, living in the area only in the summers. In 1936 Robert and Mabel Loomis moved to Oregon permanently, but the harshness of the winter season near Parkdale prompted them to build their Hood River house as a winter residence. The family business was Lava Bed Orchards where they produced apples, pears, and asparagus. Robert Loomis lived in the residence until 1943.

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The Loomis Residence, a finely crafted Mediterranean Style building, is significant under Criterion "c", as the best example of a residential building in its style in the city of Hood River, Oregon. Designed by Percy D. Bentley in 1937-38, the residence was commissioned by Mabel and Robert Loomis for use as the couple's "Winter Residence." The Loomises were a wealthy east coast family who originally lived on a ranch near Parkdale, Oregon in the Hood River Valley during the summer. The family later wanted to move into nearby Hood River, thus precipitating the construction of their new home. The residence displays distinctive elements of the Mediterranean Style in its low-pitched gable roof, stucco wall surface, casement windows set in recessed arches, finely crafted wrought-iron railing and balcony and French doors. The asymmetry of the interior of the residence presents an unusual floor plan and details such as leaded glass French doors, colonial inspired fireplace, hand-crafted light fixtures, beautiful wrought-iron details, and colorfully tiled bathrooms make the Loomis Residence an excellent example of the Mediterranean Style in the small community of Hood River.

**THE LOOMIS RESIDENCE**

The Loomis Residence located in the Columbia River Gorge in Hood River, Oregon is unusual in its style for the area. In Oregon, the Mediterranean Style was prevalent from ca. 1915 to the mid-1930s. The style derived from vernacular buildings and villages on the Mediterranean sea. Because of the similarity in climates, the style became particularly popular in Florida and California. Portland's Lewis and Clarke Exposition of 1905 stimulated interest in the Mediterranean Style in Oregon as many of the buildings of the exposition were designed in this style. <sup>1</sup>

Although many residential and commercial buildings in Portland were designed in the Mediterranean style there are few examples of this type in the Hood River area. An excellent example of a commercial Mediterranean Style building in the area, with a similar backdrop as the Loomis Residence, is the Columbia Gorge Hotel. The Hotel was designed by prominent Portland architect Morris H. Whitehouse in 1921 and is located northwest of Hood River on the Columbia River. <sup>2</sup>

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The Loomis Residence was designed by Percy D. Bentley for Robert and Mabel Loomis in May of 1937. The Loomis family owned an orchard near Parkdale which they bought in 1907.<sup>3</sup> The Loomis' resided at their Parkdale ranch, the "Lava Bed Orchard", during the summer and the remainder of the year the family lived at their home in New York.<sup>4</sup> The family were among the many wealthy easterners to vacation in the Hood River area after the turn of the century. According to Loomis' grandson, Robert, Mabel Loomis did not care for the harsh winters in the Parkdale area and would not stay year around in Oregon until a more suitable residence was built; thus the inspiration for the couple's Hood River "Winter Residence."<sup>5</sup>

Mabel Loomis purchased the tract of land on State Street for her "Winter Residence" from Charles F. Batchelder on May 18, 1937.<sup>6</sup> The Loomis' employed Percy Bentley to design the residence in Hood River which was reportedly modeled after the couples' elegant New York residence and designed according to the couple's specific needs to incorporate their grand piano, organ and large oriental rugs.<sup>7</sup> Plans for the residence were completed by Bentley on May 15, 1937. Construction began in the late summer /early fall and as illustrated in the Hood River News paper photograph dated October 15, 1937. The associated article states there is a "shortage in housing in Hood River and the construction of these five houses will help ease it." Among the residences under construction was the Loomis Residence. The residence was completed in 1938.

Robert Loomis was an accomplished pianist and organist and features in the residence reflect his passion for music. The living room was designed with a vaulted ceiling for better acoustics and the pipes for the organ were incorporated into the east facade of the room behind a decorative iron grate. The grand piano was located in the northeast corner of the room and the organ in the southeast corner.<sup>8</sup> The study, or card room as prescribed by the architectural plans, was located east of the living room and was designed as a sound proof room, silencing the music of the adjacent living room. Through the years, later occupants have shared the Loomis' love for music and currently a piano is located in the same position as during the Loomis' residency.

All the light fixtures for the residence were designed by the well known Portland lighting firm of Baker and Barkon.<sup>9</sup> Many of the original hand crafted fixtures remain in the residence (see attached drawings for the majority of remaining fixtures). Baker outfitted the residence from the ornate entrance hall chained pendant fixture to the to a simple globe fixture is a hall passageway. Fred C. Baker was a well known lighting specialist and designer in Portland who practiced from 1913 until his death in October 1981.<sup>10</sup> His first major commission was the Pittock Mansion in Portland which started his life long career in the lighting business. Baker also did work in Idaho, Washington and as far away as Alaska and Hawaii. An excellent designer as well as a superb draftsman and artist, Baker designed lighting fixtures for many of Oregon's most prominent buildings including: Timberline Lodge, Waverly Country Club, Meier and Frank's Georgian Room, Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall, the Meier's Estate, the Paramount Theater, the Federal Courthouse, the Multnomah County Library, the Masonic Temple and the State Capitol.<sup>11</sup> Baker died at the age of 94 in 1981.<sup>12</sup>

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The Loomis Residence was landscaped by a Mr. Jennings of the Portland-Rose Nursery in Portland, Oregon.<sup>13</sup> The Portland-Rose Nursery was located on Division Street and was an active nursery for many years. The plans show a wide variety of plantings much of which are still evident in the yard today. Over the years the siting of the Loomis Residence at the base of Twelfth Street as been problematic at best, especially during the winter months. Many vehicles have slid down the steep street terminating in the Loomis' yard. One humorous incident occurred in the 1940's when a circus truck filled with monkeys lost control and landed in the terrace area in the front of the residence. Monkeys were all over the lot, especially in the large black walnut tree in the front of the property.<sup>14</sup> One monkey was reportedly never found. A more serious accident occurred when a vehicle slipped down the hill and crashed into the front of the residence. Concrete pillars have been placed at street level in front of the residence at the base of Twelfth Street to protect the home against further damage.

PERCY DWIGHT BENTLEY

Percy Bentley was born in La Cross, Wisconsin on January 30, 1885.<sup>15</sup> He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1906, the Armour Institute of Technology of Chicago in 1909 and later received a degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology.<sup>16</sup> Bentley was an accomplished pianist and organist and played in the St. Paul Orchestra prior to pursuing a career as an architect. He started his architectural career in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1911.<sup>17</sup> Bentley designed many residential buildings in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Some of his residences included the R.D. Gordon residence in Winnetka, Illinois that "attracted considerable attention and as I believe you know, was copied by several different architects" and the D.L. Kidder residence in La Crosse, Wisconsin which in 1935 was "still considered the outstanding residence in this city".<sup>18</sup> Bentley practiced in the Midwest until he came Hood River in 1934 for a visit.<sup>19</sup>

Bentley came to Hood River, Oregon in August 1934 to visit his parents. During his visit his father passed away and at that point Bentley decided to stay in the Hood River area and "try to make a fair living through the continuation of the practice of architecture."<sup>20</sup> After some discrepancy concerning Bentley's architectural license in Minnesota and Wisconsin, Bentley received his Oregon architectural license in March of 1936.<sup>21</sup> The Loomis residence plans are dated May 1937, one year after receiving his architecture certificate. In a June 9, 1937 issue of the Hood River News, Bentley advertised his services as an architect, residing at the Columbia Gorge Hotel. He also resided at the Mt. Hood Hotel and at a residence at 902 Oak Street during his stay in Hood River.<sup>22</sup> Bentley also designed St. Marks Episcopal Church in Hood River on Eleventh and Eugene streets and a residence located at 1419 Sherman Street.<sup>23</sup> It is not known what other buildings he designed in Hood River although there is some speculation about his designing other buildings. Bentley was highly regarded by his colleagues and friends during his residency in Hood River. He was active in the community and was elected to the Rotary Club in 1935.<sup>24</sup> An active member of the Bishop's Committee of the Episcopal Church, Bentley was an also active

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member of the Churchmen League, a group of prominent business people.<sup>25</sup> In 1939, Bentley moved and set up practice in Eugene, Oregon.

Bentley designed many building in the Eugene area including the Eugene Veterans Memorial Building, the St. Johns Episcopal Church, the Hope Lutheran Church in Springfield, the Village Green Motor Hotel in Cottage Grove and did the remodeling on the J.C. Pennys Building in downtown Eugene.<sup>26</sup> He also designed an apartment building at 1061 Olive Street, where he resided.<sup>27</sup> He retired in 1962 and practiced in an advisory capacity until his death in February 1968.<sup>28</sup> He was a member of the Oregon Southwest Chapter of the AIA.

#### THE LOOMIS FAMILY

Robert and Mabel Loomis bought orchard land in the Hood River Valley near Parkdale in 1907. The Loomis' were originally from Brooklyn, New York and lived in the Hood River Valley only during the summer months.<sup>29</sup> Robert Loomis was a graduate of Yale University and dealt in investments, and buying and selling fruit in the futures market.<sup>30</sup> It was this interest in the fruit business that lead him to buy land in the rich orchard lands of the Hood River Valley. After investing in the fruit business for many years, Loomis thought it would be more profitable to buy an orchard of his own and sell the fruit first hand. Loomis, along with a partner, Mr. Woodward, formed the Lava Bed Company.<sup>31</sup> Woodward later sold his interest in the company ca. 1924 and Loomis renamed the business the Lava Bed Orchards.<sup>32</sup> The Loomis' leased the orchards land until ca. 1929 when their son, Harold Loomis, moved to the Hood River Valley from New York to take over as foreman of the orchards.<sup>33</sup> Harold graduated from Pace business college in New York and later became a stockbroker. In the great crash of 1929, Harold lost everything thus prompting his decision to take over management of his parents land in the Hood River Valley.<sup>34</sup> The Loomis' had two residences on their parcel of land near Parkdale; one for the caretaker and one for their summer residence. They entertained many guests from New York in the summer at the Parkdale ranch. The ranch was very productive, growing apples, pears and asparagus. The Loomis' owned the ranch until the mid to late 1940's when it was sold. The ranch is still in existence.

Robert Payson Loomis or "Daddy Bud" also owned a music store in town in the late 1930s and early 1940.<sup>35</sup> He was a accomplished pianist and organist and music was a great love in his life. The store was located north of the First National Bank around Third and Oak streets. The Loomis' moved to Oregon around 1936 permanently. Mabel Loomis did not want to spend the winter near Parkdale because of the harshness of the winter so plans for their "Winter Residence" in Hood River were soon under way.<sup>36</sup> Mabel Loomis, or "Mummsie" as she was referred to by relatives, was a descendent of the Remington family; the founders of the Remington Typewriter Company.<sup>37</sup> Tragedy struck the Loomis family in 1939 when Mabel Loomis died of cancer. She only lived in her Hood River residence for just over one year. Robert Loomis moved back to the east coast ca. 1943 after the death of his wife.<sup>38</sup> A caretaker, "Dad Gorden", took care of the residence until it

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was sold August 25, 1947 to the First National Bank of Hood River.<sup>39</sup> Robert Loomis died in 1951 in New York while residing at the Yale Club.

Robert's son, Harold Loomis, and his wife Mary Steinhauser, a local resident from the Parkdale area, moved to Hood River in 1936 and resided at 1923 Oak Street prior to building a new residence north of town on Westcliff Drive in 1948.<sup>40</sup> They occupied the residence until it was sold in 1972. Harold died in 1974 and Mary Loomis is still living in the Seattle area.<sup>41</sup> They had two children, Robert and Barbara. Robert Loomis lives in Eugene and is a physician. Robert and Mabel had another son, Payson Loomis. He was a graduate of Yale University in foreign studies and remained in the New York area until his death in 1974.<sup>42</sup> Payson never resided in the Hood River Valley except during the summer months of his childhood.

SUSEQUENT OWNERS

The property was transferred to the First National Bank of Hood River on August 25, 1947. The bank managed the residence until it was sold to Lois B. Hildebrand on October 16, 1951. The residence was then sold to Leland Jackson on September 8, 1961. The Jacksons were killed in a plane crash and the property was subsequently sold. The current owners Charles and Sandra Haynie purchased the property on October 15, 1979 from Carl and Jeanie Jacobson.

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- 34 Ibid.
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 Lois Baldwin interview.
- 38 Bob Loomis interview.
- 39 Ibid.
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 Hood River County Historical Museum, Hood River, Oregon, vertical files, Misc. "L" file.
- 42 History of Hood River County, Vol. II.

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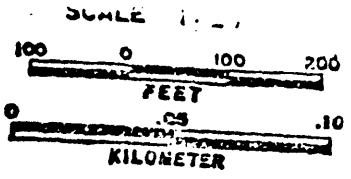
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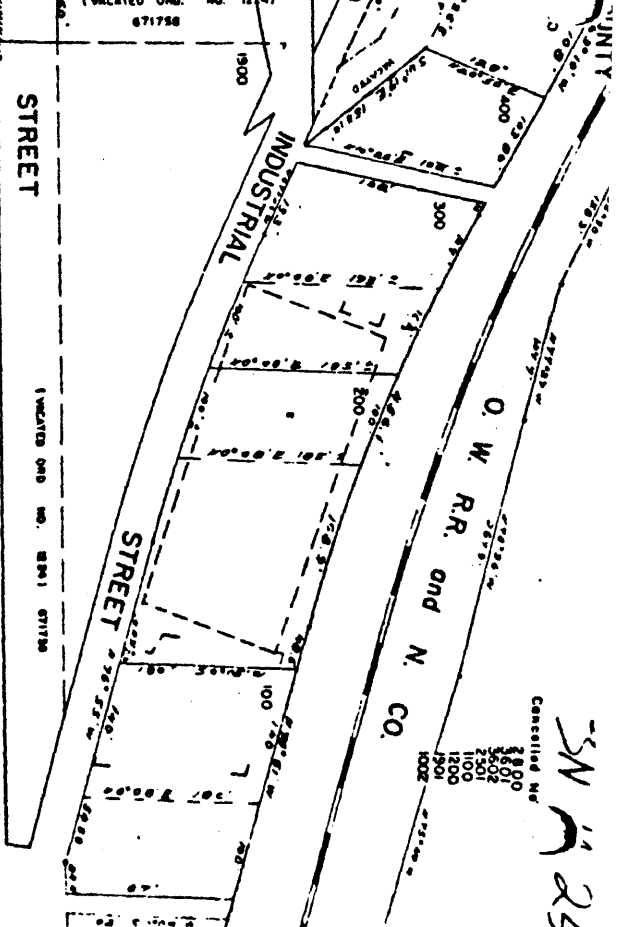
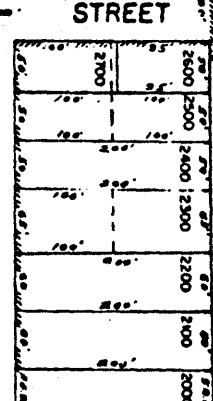
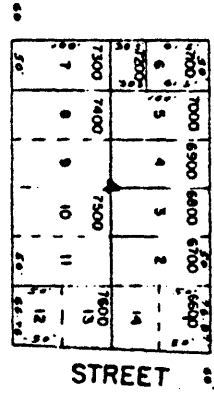
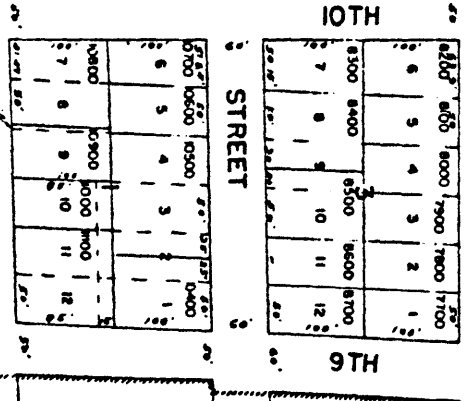
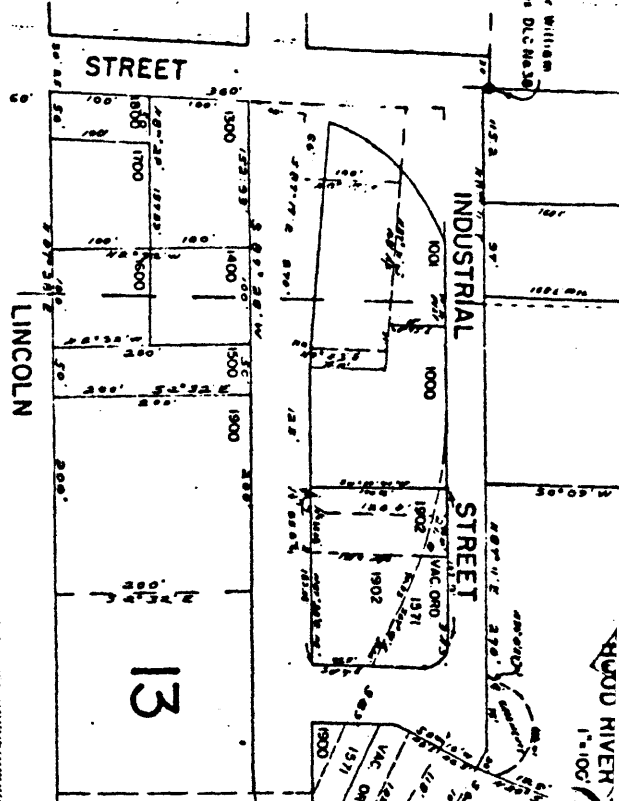
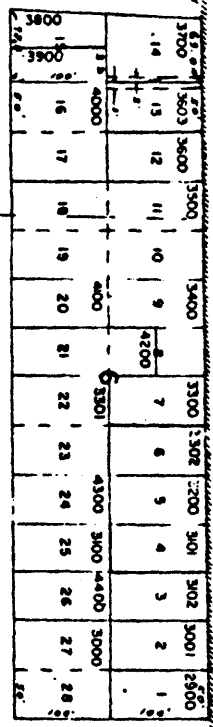
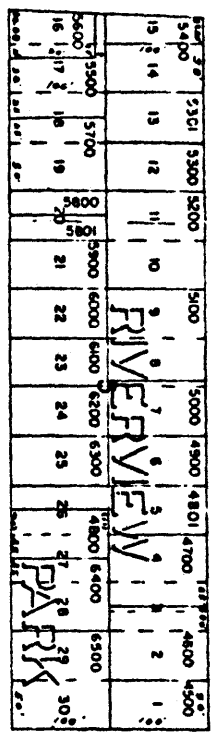
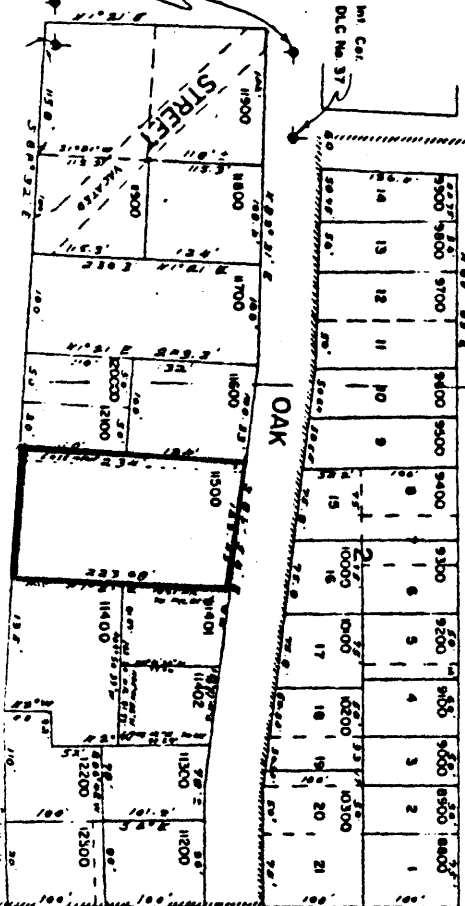
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Ext. Cor's Nathaniel  
See DLC No. 37



See Map 3N 10 260D



See Map 3N 10 25CD

ME Cor William  
Jordan DLC No. 38

ROAD RIVER UNITY  
1st 100'

O. W. R. R. and N. CO.

Canceled No

- 3600
- 3601
- 3602
- 3603
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- 3607
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- 3609
- 3610
- 3611
- 3612

3N 10 25C

3N 10 25CC

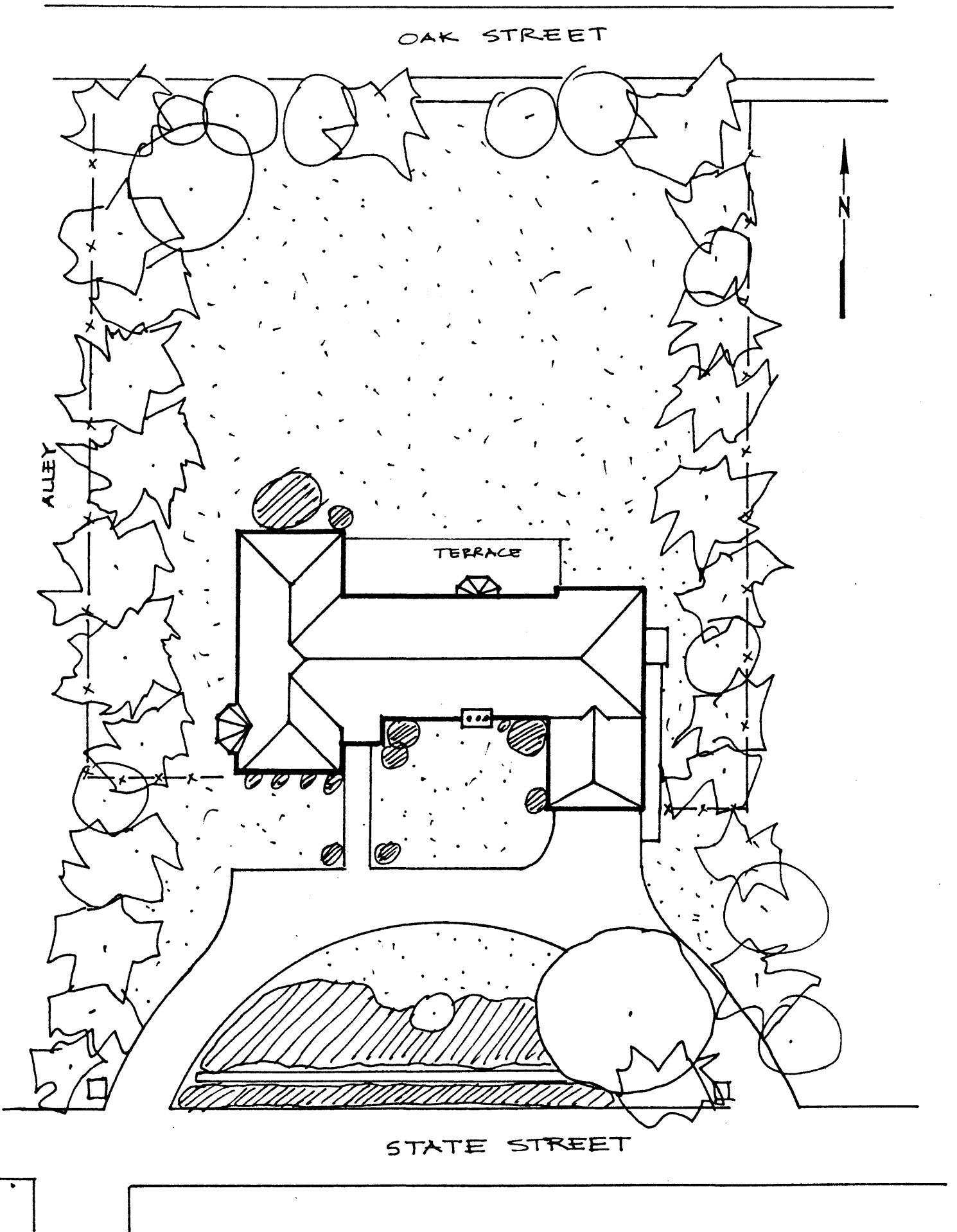
OAK STREET

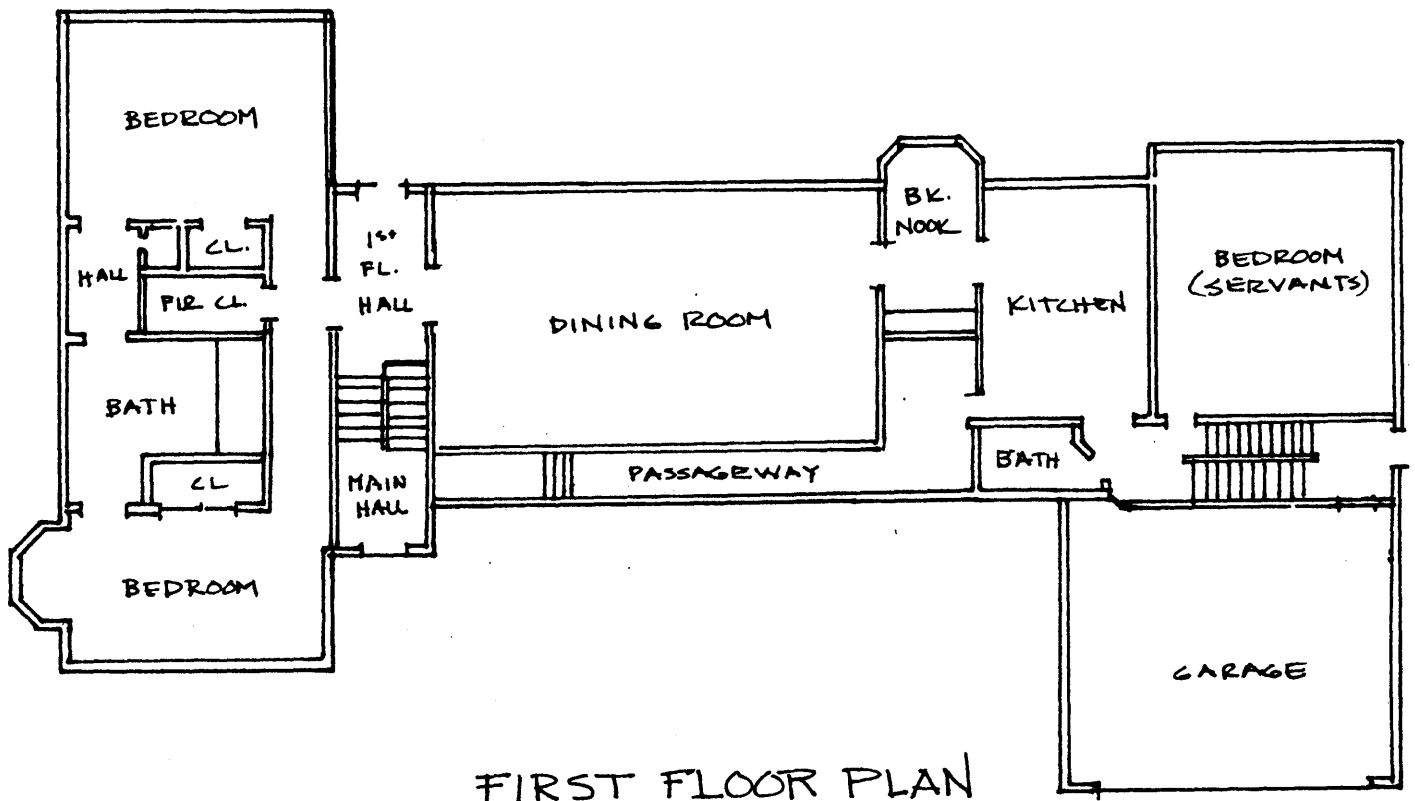


ALLEY

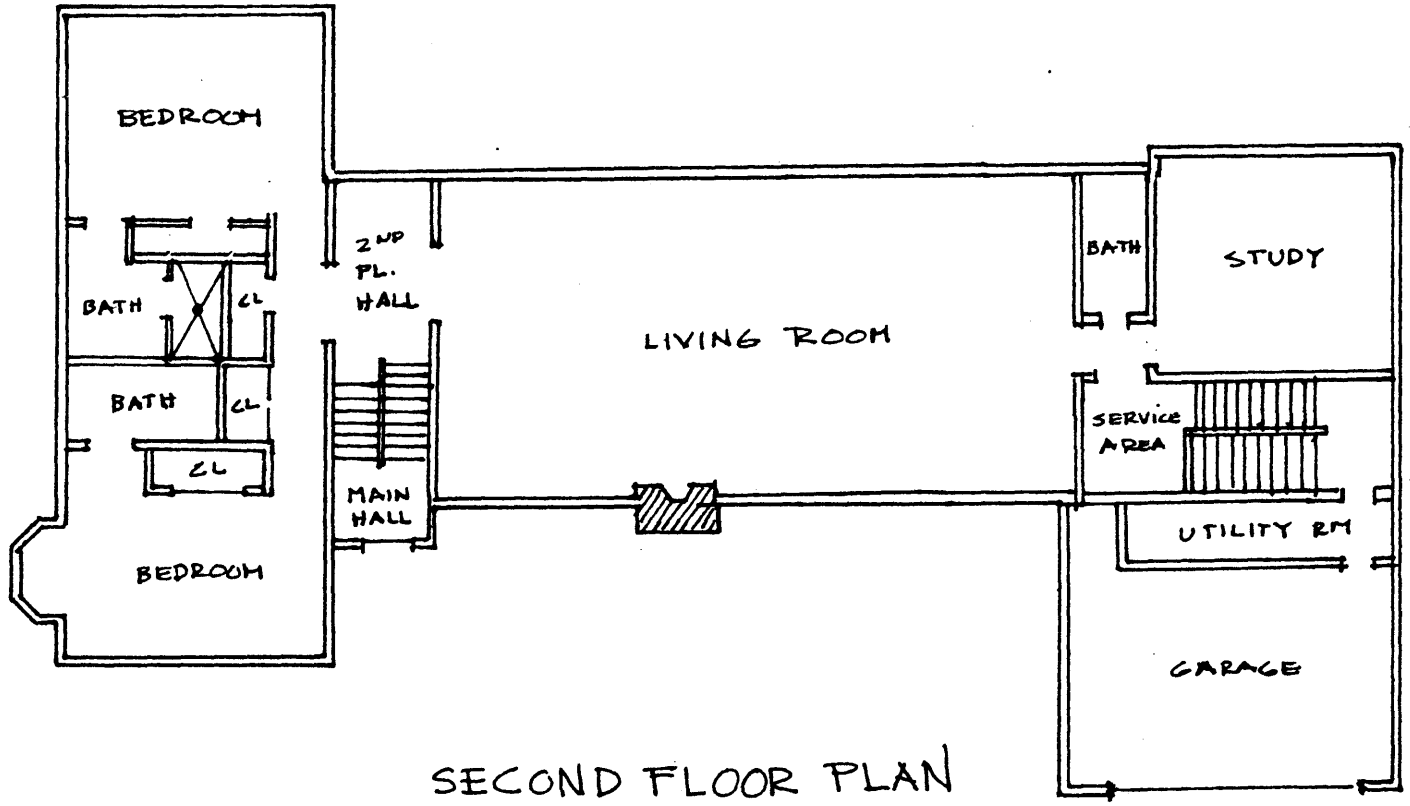
TERRACE

STATE STREET





FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN