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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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	Portland		Oregon 9	/204
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
Poi	rtland Historical Land	lmark		
DATE	cember 8, 1976	FEDERAL	_STATECOUNTY	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Portland Bureau	of Planning	<u></u>	
CITY, TOWN			STATI	
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CO	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE					
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FAIR	UNEXPOSED							

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tudor Revival mansion built for Frank S. Doernbecher c. 1903 occupies a sizable parcel in the Irvington district on Portland's East Side. The neighborhood is characterized by stately homes laid out on a conventional grid pattern, which is protected from high-speed through traffic by perimeter street off-sets. The parking strip surrounding three sides of the Doernbecher property is lined with 27 mature maples. The latter contribute to general park-like setting of the fashionable residential neighborhood developed in the first decades of the 20th century. Subsidiary structures on the property are a gazebo and a detached carriage house.

The house is essentially rectangular in plan. It has a porte-cochere, entrance porch, and several bays and projections; and it is capped by a hipped roof with gablets, dormers and slightly bell cast overhanging eaves. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story house is of frame construction atop a basement of coursed basalt. Exterior walls are clad with cedar shingles, and gable ends are finished with stucco and decorated with "half timbering" in the tradition of the Tudor Revival. Also in keeping with the Tudor mode are the massive brick chimney stacks suggesting clustered flues, diapered leaded window panes, a pointed-arched window or two, and wide, beaded vergeboards.

The Doernbecher House is noted for its exceptionally fine wood paneling with decoration believed to have been hand-carved under the supervision of Doernbecher himself at the Doernbecher furniture plant. The interior layout is typical of stately homes in this mode and includes the traditional richly paneled entry hall with elaborate staircase and built-in settle, formal dining room, library, and main parlor, wherein liberal use is made of bay window seats giving a vantage point overlooking the grounds.

Typically, the focal point of the main parlor, or living room is a burled mahogany chimney piece with ceramic tile surround, bracketed mantelpiece and overmantel paneling. Soffits of the mantel's large console brackets are leaf-carved and are representative of special features upon which customized craftsmanship, indeed, may have been lavished. Overall, the vocabulary of ornament used on the woodwork is classical and includes eggand-dart moldings, Composite column and pilaster capitals and so on. Wainscoting in the library and dining room is of Siberian Oak. Five large bedrooms on the second floor are finished more simply with birch. The uppermost story contains three more bedrooms.

It is reported that the Doernbechers were accustomed to entertaining leading lights of opera and theater who happened to be appearing in Portland. The present owners have lately revived the artistic events. Last May, the household handily received the entire cast of the Portland Opera Association production of "Meistersinger von Nurenburg." The house is regularly used for small piano and chamber ensemble recitals.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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SPECIFIC DAT	^{ES} c. 1903	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Unknown	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Frank S. Doernbecher House is significant to Portland as a choice, intact example of Tudor Revival architect in a fashionable residential district on the city's East Side. The property is important to the city and the state as a whole as the dwelling place of Oregon's noted philanthropists. The Doernbecher Memorial Hospital for Children in Portland serves a broad geographic area; its name and reputation have been widely known for 50 years.

Frank Silas Doernbecher (1861-1921), a native of Wisconsin, learned the trade of furniture making under the direction of his father, Silas Doernbecher--a political exile from Germany. In 1888, young Doernbecher made his way to the West Coast, settling in Tacoma, Washington, where he organized the Doernbecher Furniture Company. Following some intervening years spent in Chehalis, he came to Oregon in 1900 and established the Doernbecher Manufacturing Company in Portland. His became one of the largest furniture manufactories in the country.

Doernbecher was a leading citizen of Portland. Characteristically, he specified in his will that one quarter of his estate was to be used for charity to the benefit of the people of the community and the state. The charity was to be selected by his children. Thus, in the 1920s, \$200,000 was given toward the building and equipping of the Doernbecher Memorial Hospital for Children; operating funds were gathered from different sources, and furnishings were provided through popular subscription. The hospital, expanded not long after its initial opening Marquam HII, Portland, accepted free-of-charge and on a partial or full paying basis patients ranging in age from infancy to sixteen. Now further incorporated in the multi-various facilities of the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, the/is still supported by Doernbecher Foundation.

The current owners acquired the subject property in 1976 from the third generation of Doernbechers to occupy the house. The new owners have since upgraded plumbing and wiring in the house; they have reshingled the roof and replaced gutters and downspouts; rebuilt porch rails; and scraped and re-painted the exterior. The general improvement of the property has entailed cleaning the interior and making minor repairs. All finish work is in excellent, unaltered condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Portland Historical Landmarks Commission Inventory Form, undated.

Lockley, Fred. <u>History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea</u>, Vol. 3 (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928), pp. 353-354. Biographical note on Frank Silas Doernbecher.

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Portland				
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CONTINUATION SHEET	9	PAGE	1		

Pement, Jack. "Recovery Amazes Irvington People", Portland Oregonian (December 6, 1976), Northwest Living, page 21. Dana Olsen photo of Doernbecher House illustrates article.

Goetze, Janet. "NE Landmarks Few, But Scenic Sights Abound", Portland Oregonian (August 19, 1977), F1.