
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 Century and 20th CenturyRevivals: English Cottage (Arts and Crafts)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickstuccoroof asphalt: composition shingleother glass entrance canopy

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Giesy/Failing Residence is an Arts and Crafts style house, built in 1913 and designed by the architect Joseph Jacobberger. This residence is significant under criterion b for its association with Andrew Giesy and Henrietta and Mary Failing. This two and one half story residence is located on a steep slope overlooking U.S. Highway 26 in the Portland Heights area of Portland. The house is asymmetrical in plan with a prominent entrance marked by a hooded stained glass canopy supported by iron. There is a balcony on the second story of the east and west elevations. The house is clad in brick on the first story and stucco on the second story. The double gable bellcast roof contains an intersecting gable on the east (front) elevation. There are decorative purlins at the ends of the double gable roof. Shed roof dormers on the attic story contain multi-light casement windows. The roof is penetrated by two chimneys, on the south and north ends of the building. The house consists of two and one half floors and a basement: the first floor contains a large entrance hall, reception room, living room, dining room, sun room, kitchen and laundry. The second floor includes the bedrooms, bathrooms and a sitting room. The servants quarters are located in the attic. The formal stairwell is situated at the north side of the entrance hall.

SETTING

The Giesy/Failing Residence is located on Tax Lot 54 of Lots 4 and 7, Block 65 of Carter's Addition to the City of Portland. The house is located on the west side of Montgomery Place in the Portland Heights neighborhood. The surrounding residences are large single family homes. The residence is situated on the northeast section of the property close to S.W. Montgomery Place. A manicured lawn area extends to the south and east of the property, with mature trees to the west. There is a semi-circular driveway with two entrances onto S.W. Montgomery Place. Brick steps lead to the main entrance and to a deck on the south elevation. A formal brick stair leads from the sunroom to the back (west).

PLAN

The two and one half story Giesy/Failing residence is formal in plan. There is an entrance vestibule and hall around which the main entertaining areas are clustered. The entrance hall opens onto the living room to the south, the sunroom to the west and the dining room to the northwest. The entrance vestibule contains a coat room and a bathroom to the north. On the north side of the coat room is the back hall which leads to the kitchen, pantry, laundry and work

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rooms. There is a second staircase in the back hall. The main and back stairs lead to the second floor which contains the master suite and two other bedrooms, a den and three bathrooms. There is a large open central hall on the second story which accesses the bedrooms and den. The attic is accessed by stairs in a back hall on the north side of the second story.

The exterior of the house is covered by a double bellcast gable roof with intersecting gable. There are several gable and shed roof dormers. Chimney stacks penetrate the roof at the north and south ends. The roof is covered with composition shingles. The exterior of the house is covered with brick on the first story and stucco on the second story. The windows are primarily casement, some are double hung wood sash.

EXTERIOR

East Elevation

The main entrance to the Giesy/Failing Residence is located on the east elevation, facing S.W. Montgomery Place. The entrance is defined by a leaded glass hooded canopy. The front door has a large fixed single pane window with iron grillwork behind it. The sidelights also contain iron grillwork. To the north of the main entrance is a porthole window framed with bricks turned on end, and a bay window flanked by sidelights. To the south of the main entrance are multi-paned French windows with multi-paned sidelights and a small wrought iron balcony. The second story, clad in stucco, projects over the first story and is embellished with wooden brackets and a beltcourse. A second floorporch, covered with a hip roof, projects from the intersecting gable end. The attic story contains two shed roof dormers, one with three bays of casement windows and one with a pair of casement windows. There is an arched attic window with shutters above the second story porch.

South Elevation

The basement level contains two multi-paned casement windows at the southwest corner of the south elevation. The first story of the south elevation consists of French doors on the southeast end, which open onto a brick patio. These French doors, located in the living room, are flanked by wooden brackets which accentuate the projecting second story and belt course. The exterior chimney projects from the south elevation to the west of the patio. Tri-partite leaded casement windows, flanked by wooden brackets are located west of the chimney. There are three single pane windows, capped by arched transoms located in the sunroom at the southwest end of the south elevation. The southeast end of the second story contains a multi-paned oriel window added by the Failing sisters. There is an eight over one double hung wood sash window to the west of

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the oriel window. The master bathroom, located at the southwest end of the south elevation, contains a stilted arch multi-paned window. There are stilted arch windows with shutters at the gable ends of the double gable on the attic story.

West Elevation

The west elevation is split into two bays on either side of an elevator shaft which is located in the northwest end of the sunroom. The basement level of this elevation contains four twelve-light casement windows. The first story of the south bay contains four single pane casement windows each capped with arched transoms. There are single pane French doors with four multi-pane transoms to the north of these windows. The French doors open onto a brick stairway which leads to a brick balcony. The brick stairway splits at the balcony and leads to a ground level pathway. The second story of the south bay contains a balcony with iron balustrade. The attic story on this bay contains a gabled multi-paned casement dormer window. The elevator shaft located at the northwest corner of the sun room and den, projects from the west elevation. The basement level of the north bay contains a six-light and two twelve-light casement windows. The first story of the north bay has a large fixed pane window flanked by six over one double hung wood sash windows in the dining room. The second story consists of a projecting porch with a bracketed iron balustrade. The attic story has two stilted arch windows of the double gable roof.

North Elevation

The north elevation of this house is irregular in shape with a series of projecting walls. The main door on the basement level of this elevation is centrally located. To the east of the door is a tri-partite casement window and two twelve-light casement windows. The first story of the north elevation consists of six over one double hung wood sash windows. The second story has a large fixed pane window flanked by four over four double hung wood sash windows, located northwest corner. The northeast side of this elevation has one over one and six over one double hung wood sash windows. The attic story contains shed roof dormers. A carport is attached to the northeast corner of the this elevation.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Giesy/Failing Residence is very intact, with the formal rooms placed around a main entrance hall. The grand front staircase is beautifully ornamented with a classically detailed ballustrade which includes Ionic order capitals in a repetitive pattern. The use of hardwood floors and wainscoting in the living room and dining room recall an early twentieth

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century era of grace and formality. The repeated use of multi-light French doors provides ample light into the first floor. The carved wooden egg and dart patterned cornice is repeated in the main hall, living and dining rooms.

First Floor

The first floor is asymmetrical in plan, containing the entrance hall, living room, sun room, dining room, coat room, kitchen and pantry, and a bathroom. The entrance vestibule opens into the main entrance hall with the formal staircase. This staircase contains many classical details with an intricately carved newel posts and balusters. There is an engaged newel post with a carved pineapple and the balusters are comprised of Ionic capitals. There is a decorative carved pattern on the stair ends. The staircase has a mezzanine level landing with bookshelves on the east wall topped by four leaded casement windows. These windows are detailed with octagonal bevelled patterns, and decorative leaded transoms. There is a central crystal chandelier at this level. The living room is south of the entrance hall, separated by a pair of solid wooden pocket doors. The living room is a large, open room containing a central fireplace on the south wall. The fireplace consists of a carved wood mantel with scrolled brackets and engaged columns comprise the surround. The face and hearth of the fireplace are a polished marble. Multi-light French doors are located to the east of the fireplace on the south wall. To the west of the fireplace are built-in wooden bookshelves topped by three leaded casement windows. There are also French doors located on the east and west walls of the living room. The French doors on the east wall open onto a small iron balcony. The French doors on the west wall are flanked by sidelights and open into the sunroom.

The sun room is located to the west of the living room extending across the back of the house. The main entrance hall opens into the sun room through multi-paned French doors flanked by sidelights. The windows on the south wall are fixed pane, with decorative transoms which create an arched effect. This window treatment is repeated on the west wall. French doors capped by decorative arched transoms are located to the north of the fireplace. An elevator shaft with decorative molding echoing the window treatment projects into the room, north of the French doors. On the north wall of the sun room is another fixed window with decorative arched transoms. The dining room is located north of the sun room, accessed by a pair of French doors.

The dining room is also accessed through multi-light pocket doors at the northwest corner of the main entrance hall. A large, fixed pane window flanked by six over one double hung wood sash windows is located on the west wall, with a view overlooking Canyon Road. The north wall also contains six over one double hung sash windows. The dining room contains panelled wainscoting and a large central fireplace which projects into the room. One panel of the

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fireplace opens, revealing a hidden compartment. The fireplace has a carved wood mantel with decorative brackets and a marble face. A door leading to the pantry and kitchen is located to the north of the fireplace on the east wall.

The kitchen lies directly east of the pantry through an open doorway. The pantry and kitchen both have six over one double hung wood sash windows. The kitchen is located on the northeast corner of the house. There is a laundry room located to the east of the kitchen. On the east wall of the kitchen is a small exterior door. To the south of the kitchen is the back hall and stair. The coat room and bathroom are located to the north of the entrance vestibule. The bathroom is located in the northeast corner of the coat room and contains a five pane clerestory window.

Second Floor

The second floor is accessed by the stairwell from the main entrance hall. This floor is arranged around a central hall space and contains a master bedroom suite, den, and two bedrooms with bathrooms. The master bedroom suite contains two dressing rooms to the south, bathroom and closet. There is a centrally located fireplace in the master bedroom on the west wall flanked by French doors. This fireplace was moved to this house from the previous Failing residence during the Failing sisters' ownership. The den contains a centrally located fireplace on the west wall. The fireplace has a mantel supported by brackets and a tile face. A large fixed pane window flanked by multi-light doors to the porch are located on the west wall. The two additional bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms are located in the northeast and southeast corner of the second story.

Attic

There is a finished attic above the second story of the house. There are six small rooms used historically as bedrooms for the hired help, and a bathroom. One of these rooms is completely panelled in cedar and was used as a linen room.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Alterations and additions to the Giesy/Failing Residence occurred mainly within the historic period. The Failing sisters made major alterations to the residence in 1922. All the alterations were designed by Joseph Jacobberger and Alfred Smith and are complimentary to the original building. One dormer was added to the attic and the existing dormer was enlarged on the east elevation. Alterations to the south elevation include a brick terrace with French doors for access onto the terrace, and a oriel window on the second story. Wood sash windows and French

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doors were added to enclose the sunroom on the first story of the west elevation. A window in the basement was moved to make room for the new chimney of the sunroom fireplace. An iron balcony with two sets of French doors flanking the new chimney was added to the second story. A window on the intersecting gable of the west elevation was removed because of the new chimney, and two dormer windows were added to the attic story. Another dormer and window was added on the north elevation.

The interior historic alterations include: the removal of columns, pedestals and wall pilasters in the entrance vestibule and a fireplace was added in the dining room where the old sideboard stood. An exterior door was added in the kitchen. The partition walls were removed in the breakfast room and renamed a "reception room", now used as the coat room. The first floor bathroom was moved. A maids room was added on the east elevation with new doors for access to the kitchen. A bathroom was added on the second story. The exposed beams on the sitting room ceiling were removed. In 1927 an elevator was added to the west (rear) elevation of the residence.

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Social History

1921-1930

1921

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

The Misses Failing: Henrietta E. (1859-1931)
Mary F. (1862-1947)

Architect/Builder

Jacobberger and Smith, architects

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 c. 1.60 acres Portland, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
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5	2	3	5	5	0
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5	0	3	9	8	3	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 property is located in Section 4, Township 1S, Range 1E, Willamette Meridian, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. It is legally identified as portions of Lots 4 and 7, Block 65, Carter's Addition to the City of Portland and is more precisely identified as Tax Lot 54 at said location. The area thus encompassed is between one and a half and two acres.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area follows the legally recorded lot lines of property occupied by the house built for Dr. Andrew J. Giesy in 1913.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Berl, Kimberly Demuth, Kimberly Lakin
 organization Demuth and Associates date August 1, 1990
 street & number 1314 SW Irving Suite 510 telephone (503) 224-0043
 city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97209

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SUMMARY

The two-and-a-half-story Arts and Crafts style house located at 1965 SW Montgomery Place in the Portland Heights neighborhood of Portland, Oregon was designed by Joseph Jacobberger and his partner Alfred Smith for the distinguished physician, Andrew Jackson Giesy and was constructed in 1913. It is noteworthy for its association with the original occupant but is more clearly eligible under National Register Criterion B because of its subsequent occupants, Henrietta E. and Mary F. Failing, leading patronesses of the Portland Art Museum and Library Association of Portland.

Andrew J. Giesy (1853-1933), son of an Aurora Colony pioneer family, was educated in medicine at Willamette University and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. In Portland, he centered his work at Good Samaritan Hospital, where he was a member of the staff for the span of 45 years, from 1885 to the time of his retirement in 1931. From 1892 to 1912 he was associated with the University of Oregon Medical School, specializing chiefly in gynecology. Dr. Giesy's surpassing contributions to his profession were in the local sphere, and many of them appear to have occurred prior to his acquiring the nominated property. For example, as an appointee of Mayor Harry Lane to the City Board of Health at the height of the Progressive era, he was instrumental in enacting an ordinance enabling inspection of dairies. He was a founder and early president of the Portland Academy of Medicine. While four other places where Dr. Giesy resided through his Portland career remain, the nominated property is arguably important as the longest occupied and the only one for which he commissioned an architectural design.

The Failing sisters, daughters of prominent banker and Portland Mayor Henry Failing, continued their father's tradition of patronage to cultural and charitable causes. Throughout their lives, they resided together, beginning with the family house on SW Fifth Avenue that was long ago demolished. When the sisters acquired the Giesy House in 1921, they installed two chimneypieces and an array of other fixtures from the old Failing mansion. When the Failings left the nominated property in 1930, they moved on to an estate in Dunthorpe that is no longer intact. Although principal places of residence are not accounted for in the ten-year period between 1911 and 1921, it is apparent the house on SW Montgomery Place is the one remaining that is most importantly

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associated with the Failing sisters and their philanthropic deeds. Henrietta E. Failing (1859-1931) is remembered for gifts of fine and decorative art that significantly enriched the collections of the Portland Art Museum. Her younger sister, Mary F. Failing (1862-1947), was noted for her support of the Library Association of Portland and for her numerous charitable activities.

The house logically would have been nominated under Criterion C as an outstanding design by the noted Portland architect Joseph Jacobberger, but interior modifications resulting from the Failings' departure with fixtures in 1930 were considered by the proponents to have weakened the comprehensive sense of the building's integrity. The historic alterations commissioned by the Misses Failing in 1922 were designed by the original architectural firm.

Briefly characterized, the Giesy-Failing House is a two-and-a-half-story rectilinear volume enclosed by a double bellcast gable roof having an intersecting gable at the north end. Exterior elevations exhibit picturesque variety within a generally formal composition that was typical of the English Arts and Crafts. The ground story is faced with brick, and the jettied or overhanging second story is stucco-clad. Window openings are typical of the genre, including shed dormers, single casement and double-hung windows, three-part assemblies, and, from the medieval vocabulary, a stair landing window of art glass divided by mullions and transom bars. The roof, with its deep overhangs, decorated vergeboards and extended slopes on west and north elevations, was originally clad with a diamond-patterned covering. Various modifications have been made to windows that are in keeping with the spirit of the design. The front entrance is sheltered by a grand, arcuated glass canopy. The interior is traditionally and handsomely finished in the Arts and Crafts mode.

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The Giesy/Failing residence is located at 1965 S.W. Montgomery Place, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. This two and one half story residence was designed by the Portland architectural firm of Jacobberger and Smith. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion b for its association with the noted Arts patronesses Henrietta and Mary Failing. Dr. Giesy was a prominent Portland physician who was involved in medical education through his association with University of Oregon Medical School and as one of the founders of Portland Academy of Medicine. Henrietta Ellison and Mary Forbush Failing, daughters of the famous banker Henry Failing, are both significant for their charitable contributions to such notable Portland institutions as the Portland Art Museum and the Portland Library Association. Through their donations of both time and money, Henrietta and Mary contributed greatly to the development of these two organizations.

Joseph Jacobberger and Alfred Smith designed the house in 1913 for Dr. Andrew Jackson Giesy, a prominent Portland physician who resided at this address until 1921. Henrietta E. Failing purchased the property from Dr. Giesy in 1921 and resided at the house with her sister Mary Forbush Failing until 1930. The house was then owned by the Failing Estate and remained vacant from 1931 to 1935. Mr. Frank N. Youngman lived at this address as a tenant from 1936 to 1939. The home was again vacant from 1940 until 1943. Sydney W. Walters resided at this address as a tenant from 1943 to 1944. Information on owners or tenants was uncertain between 1944 to 1949. Dr. Wilbur M. Bolton owned the house from 1949 to 1969. Richard E. Kent owned the residence from 1970 to 1982 and Henry J. Failing owned the home in 1986 and 1987. Susan Svetky and Stephen Houze are the current owners of the residence. (Polk's Portland Directories)

Dr. Andrew J. Giesy

Andrew Giesys' parents were Christian and Emma (Wagner) Giesy, originally from Switzerland. Christian Giesy was one of ten scouts sent by Dr. Kiel from Bethel Missouri out west to locate land which the Aurora colony could settle. Emma Giesy accompanied her husband

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and was the first female member of the colony to come west. Andrew Giesy was the first Aurora colonist born in western America. (Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory, Interview with Patrick Harris) In 1845 the Giesy family moved to Washington. Christian Giesy was a farmer in Willapa until he drowned in Shoalwater Bay in 1857. After his father died, Andrew J. Giesys' mother and paternal grandmother moved the family to Aurora, Oregon in 1861, where they resided with Andrews' uncle. Mrs. Emma Giesy later moved to Portland, where she passed away, in 1916.

Dr. Andrew J. Giesy was born at Fort Steilacoom, Washington on October 19, 1853. Andrew Giesy was educated at public schools in Clackamas County and a private school in Aurora, until the age of sixteen when he became a clerk at the country drug store in Aurora owned by his uncle, Dr. Martin Giesy. At the age of twenty Andrew J. Giesy entered the medical school at Willamette University in Salem and graduated with a degree in medicine in 1876. Dr. Giesy began his medical practice in Aurora, Oregon where he resided for five years, until he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for post-graduate study at Jefferson Medical College, receiving his diploma in 1882. In March of 1882 he returned to Oregon and resided in Salem where he was appointed assistant physician at the Oregon State Hospital. Dr. Giesy held this position for two years, resigning in October 1885. Dr. Andrew Giesy met and married Ida Harriet Church, a native Oregonian, in Salem in 1886. (Lockley, P. 303-304; Carey, P. 309-310; Hines, P.531)

He moved to Portland in 1885 and took up his medical practice at Good Samaritan Hospital. Dr. Giesy was a respected member of the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital for forty-five years, and a trustee of the hospital for twenty-five years. He was appointed chairman of Dermatology and Hygiene at University of Oregon Medical School (Oregon Health Sciences University) in Portland and held that position from 1892 to 1896. Dr. Giesy was a Professor of Gynecology at the medical school from 1896 to 1911, and Professor Emeritus of Gynecology from 1911-1912. (Interview with Heather Rosenwinkle, OHSU, June, 1990. U of O Med. Dept. Annual Announcements, 1895-1912)

Andrew Giesy practiced medicine in Portland from 1885 to 1931. His office was located in the Oregonian Building and some of his clients were from the most prominent Portland families. Dr. Giesy was appointed by Mayor Dr. Harry Lane to the Portland City Health Board where he was instrumental in enacting a law to inspect Portland Dairies for health violations. Dr. Harry Lane was mayor of Portland from 1905 to 1909. (Larsell, pgs. 178 and 391) He was also medical director of the Oregon Mutual Life Insurance Company for a period of time up to 1932. Dr. Giesy was one of the founders of Portland Academy of Medicine and its second president.

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(Larsell, p. 182) He served as a volunteer of the Medical Service Corps during World War I, and was a member of the Multnomah County Medical Society, the Oregon State Medical Society of which he was president in 1889, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Andrew J. Giesy died in November, 1933.

Dr. Andrew J. Giesy resided at 2270 N.W. Irving from 1905 to 1912. During the period from 1923 to 1925 Dr. Giesy resided at 209 N.W. 23rd and he resided at 2114 S.W. 18th from 1928 to 1930. Dr. Giesy also resided at 1703 S.W. Montgomery Dr. from 1930 until his death in 1933. (Polk's Portland Directories) Although these other four places of residency in Portland remain, Dr. Giesy lived at 1965 S.W. Montgomery Place for the longest period of time and this residence was the only one to be commissioned by him, thus this house is the primary residence to be associated with Dr. Andrew J. Giesy.

Failing Family

The Failing sisters' great grandfather was Josiah Failing who came to Portland as one of the earliest pioneers in June of 1851. (Gaston, Vol. 2, P. 18) Henrietta E. Failing and Mary Forbush Failings' father was Henry Failing (one of four sons of Josiah), an early Portland mayor and founder of the First National Bank of Portland. The Failing sisters' mother was Emily Phelps Corbett, the youngest sister of H.W. Corbett (Henry's banking partner). Henry Failing and Emily Corbett were married in 1858 and had three children, Henrietta, Mary and Emily. Oregon Journal, January 15, 1931; The Oregonian, January 16, 1931)

Three of Josiah Failing's four sons remained in Portland (Henry, Edward and James), however only Henry Failing was to contribute so much to the City or become so successful in his financial endeavors. Henry Failing was not only a good businessman, but a civic leader. He served as mayor of Portland for two terms and was generous in his support of cultural activities. Author and historian E. Kimbark MacColl described Henry Failing as one of only four "public spirited mayors who placed the people's welfare foremost..." in the first 65 years of Portland's history.

Among numerous positions Henry held, he served as president of the Portland Art Museum and Public Library Association for many years and was a major donor for the construction of Portland's first public library. Thus, it is not surprising his daughters perpetuated the elder Failing's philanthropic activities.

The Failing girls, Henrietta, Mary and Emily, were brought up in the thriving small town of Portland living in one of the city's most elaborate Italianate mansions of the period. The Henry

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Failing residence, located in the then most prestigious blocks within the city, has since been demolished. Upon Henry Failing's death in 1898, his estate listed 38 lots of prime downtown Portland property valued at half a million dollars. By 1915 the value of his estate had more than doubled. The three daughters, Henrietta, Mary and Emily were to inherit the bulk of the estate. (MacColl, E. Kimbark. The Shaping of a City, 1976.)

With their inheritance, the Failing sisters (referred to as "cousin Etta, cousin May, and cousin Millie", by their first cousin twice removed, Bill Failing), comprised undoubtedly one of the wealthiest families in Portland. Although they were extremely generous with their fortune, they also lived a sumptuous life. They took frequent buying trips to the East Coast and Europe, collecting Persian rugs, jewellery, and paintings. For these trips to the East Coast, the sisters would requisition their own rail car in which to travel. They were also known to have taken daily walks in the Portland Heights neighborhood where they lived, followed by their chauffeur in their automobile. When Mary broke her hip during World War II, she was criticized locally for occupying an entire wing of Good Samaritan Hospital. Frequently on holidays when the family gathered at the house, the children were given gold coins. (Interview with Bill Failing. June 1990.)

Of the three sisters, only Emily Failing married. She married Colonel Henry Cabell and had one son, Henry Failing Cabell. The two sisters, Henrietta and Mary willed the bulk of their estates to their nephew. Henry Cabell had no children and thus the Henry Failing family line was ended. Upon the death of Mary Failing, a family lottery was held and the miscellaneous furnishings were distributed in this manner. (Interview with Bill Failing. June 1990.)

The sisters also willed a portion of their estate to numerous charitable and educational organizations. The organizations were named in the Oregon Journal, May 9, 1947, after Mary Failing's death.

After specific bequests to household employees the balance of the net income to be distributed annually in equal shares to the Portland Library Association, the Childrens' Home of Portland, St. Vincent's Hospital, the Portland Art Museum, Good Samaritan Hospital, as an addition to, the Mary B. Rodney Memorial Fund, the university of Oregon, the Old Peoples' Home of Portland, Mann Home, and St. Helen's Hall of Portland...Mt. Vernon Ladies Association... Farmington Lodge Society, Conneticut...Visiting Nurses Association of Portland... Portland Friut and Flower Mission...Junior Symphony...McLoughlin Memorial Association...Riverview Cemetery Association.

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Most of the financial management of the Failing estate was handled by a manager hired by the sisters. Several downtown Portland buildings were built by the Failing sisters. Still standing are the Failing/Postal Building (in the Yamhill Historic District), the Mohawk Building (altered), and the Failing Building (significantly altered).

Henrietta and Mary Failing resided together throughout their lives. They first lived in the family house located at 901 and 931 SW 5th in downtown Portland until 1911. As downtown Portland became increasingly commercial, Henrietta and Mary Failing moved up the hill to 1965 SW Montgomery in the upper-class Portland Heights neighborhood. The grounds around the house were more extensive at the time and included a chauffers cottage, a gardeners cottage and extensive riding trails. Two of the fireplaces in the subject house were taken from the original now demolished Failing mansion. The Failing sisters moved from the house at 1965 SW Montgomery in 1930. Many of the sisters family members on their mother's side (Corbetts) had moved to the exclusive Portland suburb, Dunthorpe. The sisters purchased a huge estate previously owned by the William Ladd family and designed by architect Ellis Lawrence. This house is no longer standing and the estate was subdivided. Although neither of the two later houses were built for the sisters, in both cases they hired architects (the original designers in both instances) to design major remodelings. A small summer cottage owned by the sisters and located on SW Macadam Avenue near Riverview Cemetery is still extant. (Interview with Bill Failing. June 1990.)

Henrietta Ellison Failing

Henrietta Failing was born in Portland, Oregon in September 1859, and attended Miss Bachelor's School, and later graduated from St. Helen's Hall, both located in Portland. Henrietta's mother died early on and Henrietta assumed the responsibilities of female head of the household. Henrietta Failing, who was described by Bill Failing as "warm and gentle", never married and made a lifetime occupation of her philanthropic endeavors. Following her father's lead, she was particularly active in the Portland Art Association. An Oregonian article dated Jan. 19, 1931 claimed Henrietta could have been president of the Association, but thought it was "not a woman's place". Instead, Henrietta served many years as chairperson of the exhibition committee, frequently paying the expenses herself or underwriting others. She arranged for some of the finest exhibitions to be brought to the Portland Art Museum and donated significant portions of her own collection. Henrietta Failing, like her father, was dedicated to promoting her belief in the educational value of fine arts in Portland. Henrietta E. Failing died on January 14, 1931, just one year after the two sisters moved from the house on SW Montgomery to the Dunthorpe estate.

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Both sisters donated important pieces to the museum; Oriental and European textiles and lace, European paintings and prints, American paintings, Roman coins, Persian ceramics, and a glass collection. According to Museum Curator Prudence Roberts, two of the paintings donated are the most significant American paintings in the museum's collection; "The Sculptor and the King" by DeForest Brush and "Lake Trasimonto" by George Inness, both donated in Mary Failing's bequest. A sizeable fan collection was also donated by Mary. In Henrietta's name were donated several prints by Italian artist Giovanni Batista Piranesi (1720-1778). This collection is considered one of the finest Piranesi collections in the United States. (Oregonian, Jan. 19, 1931; Telephone interview with Prudence Roberts, June 1990.)

Mary Forbush Failing

Mary Forbush Failing was the sister and lifelong companion of Henrietta E. Failing. Mary Failing was born in Portland, Oregon in April, 1862 and graduated from St. Helen's Hall. Like her sister, Mary Failing devoted much of her life to charitable activities, although she was involved with many more organizations than Henrietta. Known for her contributions to numerous organizations, Mary Failing is most recognized for her involvement with the Portland Library Association. Unlike her sister, Mary was not adverse to the title of director and served as the only female director of the Portland Library Association prior to her death in 1947. Through her directorship between 1900 to 1918 and her later contributions, she established the Henry Failing Memorial Library which was at the time of her death, considered one of the most notable reference collections of art books in the western United States. (Oregon Journal, May 5, 1947.)

Mary Failing was the Oregon vice-regent on the board of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and at the time of her death had been active as a participant of that organization longer than any other board member. Miss Failing was president of the Colonial Dames of America for the State of Oregon. Miss Failing was the first vice-chairperson of the Multnomah County chapter of the Red Cross organized in April, 1917. She was active in the Red Cross and Bundles for Britain during World War I and II. Mary Failing was a charter member of the Town Club and the only honorary member of the club board. Miss Failing was also active in the Portland Art Museum, the Portland Garden Club, and The McLoughlin Memorial Association (located in Oregon City). Her philanthropic gifts included funds for seat backs for the Reed College Lakeside Amphitheater; and donations of her personal collections of lace, textiles and Persian art objects to the Portland Art Museum. Mary Forbush Failing died on May 5, 1947. (Oregon Journal, May 5, 1947; The Oregonian, May 6, 1947)

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Continuation SheetSection number 4 Page 7**Joseph Jacobberger**

Joseph Jacobberger designed the Giesey/Failing Residence in Portland Heights in 1913. According to his obituary in The Oregonian, Joseph Jacobberger was one of the best known architects of the Pacific Northwest. His career spanned more than forty years during which he designed such major Portland buildings as St. Mary's Cathedral, Knights of Columbus building, The Church of the Madeleine, the Church of St. Micheal the Archangel, St. Clement's Parish, the Gardeners' and Ranchers' Market, the nurses' home at St. Vincent Hospital, and a number of buildings on the Marylhurst College Campus. Mr. Jacobberger also planned the ten year building program for Columbia University campus and designed many of those buildings. He was president of the Oregon chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1917 to 1919; was involved in the Oregon Building Congress, and his ideas were a source of inspiration for the waterfront development project. (Oregon Journal, March 19, 1930) Joseph Jacobberger served as vice-president on the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners from 1926 to 1928. According to Charles Carey, "Jacobberger...is numbered among the leading architects of the city, many of whose most substantial and beautiful public edifices stand as monuments to his skill and ability in his chosen life work." (Carey, page 452)

Joseph Jacobberger was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1867, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Jacobberger. His parents came to the United States in 1871 and settled in Omaha, Nebraska where his father worked as a builder and contractor. Joseph Jacobberger attended Creighton University of Omaha and after graduating, worked as a draftsman for several architecture offices in Omaha. He arrived in Portland, Oregon in 1890 and worked for the architectural firm of Whidden and Lewis in 1895 as a draftsman for five years. In 1893 Joseph Jacobberger married Miss Anna Lillis, a native of Portland, Oregon. Jacobberger began his own architectural firm after leaving Whidden and Lewis and worked independently until 1912 when he formed a partnership with Alfred H. Smith. The firm of Jacobberger and Smith designed many significant buildings in the Portland area between 1912 and 1930. During this period Jacobberger and Smith received numerous commissions, designing important projects for the Catholic Church, fraternal organizations and prominent Portland families. Alfred Smith left the partnership in 1930, shortly before Jacobbergers' death in March of that year. (National Register Nominations: Josef Jacobberger House, Frank E. Dooly House, Knights of Columbus Building; Oregonian, March 20, 1920; Oregon Journal, March 19, 1930; Carey, page 452-453)

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Alfred H. Smith

Alfred H. Smith was born in Bristol, England around 1865, and came to Portland about 1908. Prior to 1912, when he joined in a partnership with Joseph Jacobberger, he had his own architectural practice. The firm of Jacobberger and Smith lasted until 1930 when Smith left the firm and taught architectural drafting at Benson High School for a number of years. Alfred Smith was a member of Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects by 1916 and was secretary of the chapter during 1918-1919. Mr. Smith died in Portland on May 9, 1958 at the age of 93. (National Register Nomination: The Knights of Columbus Building)

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S.W. MONTGOMERY PLACE

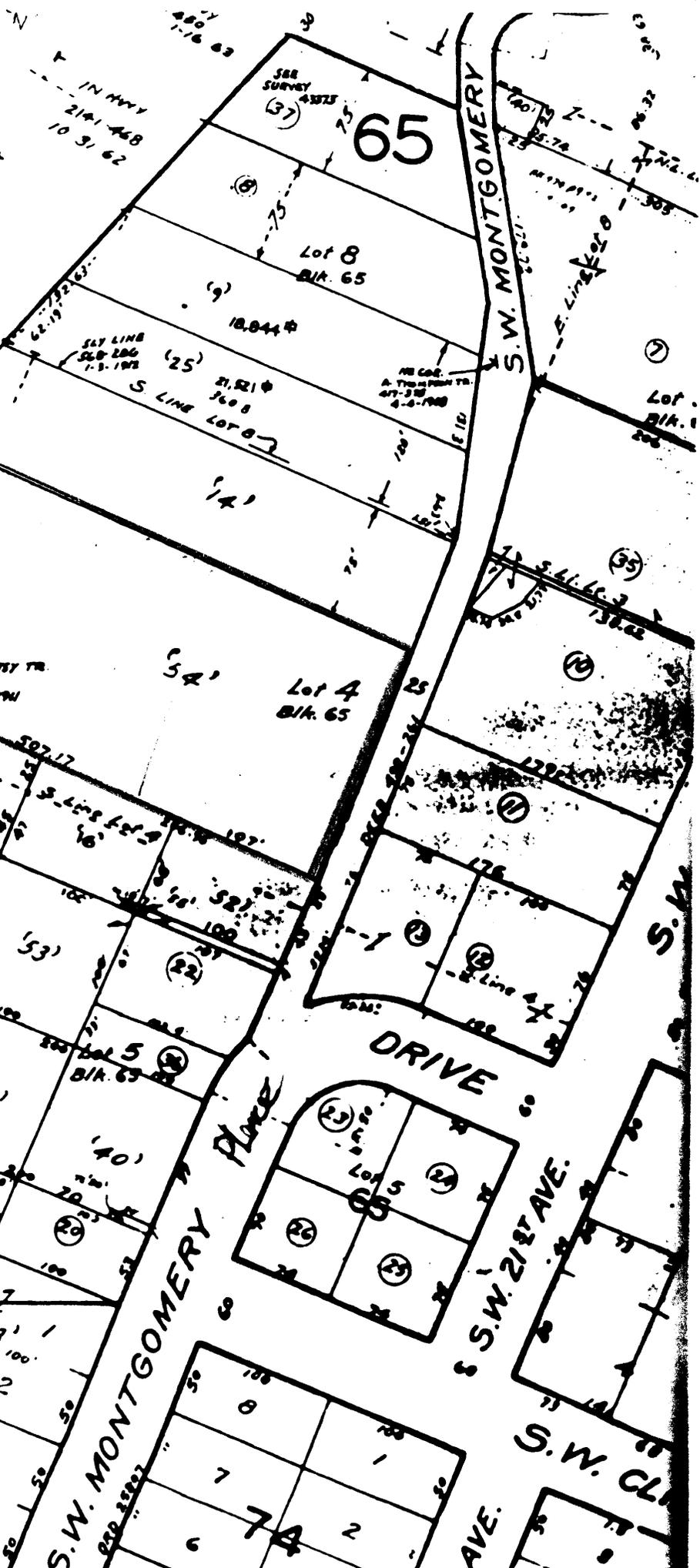
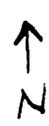
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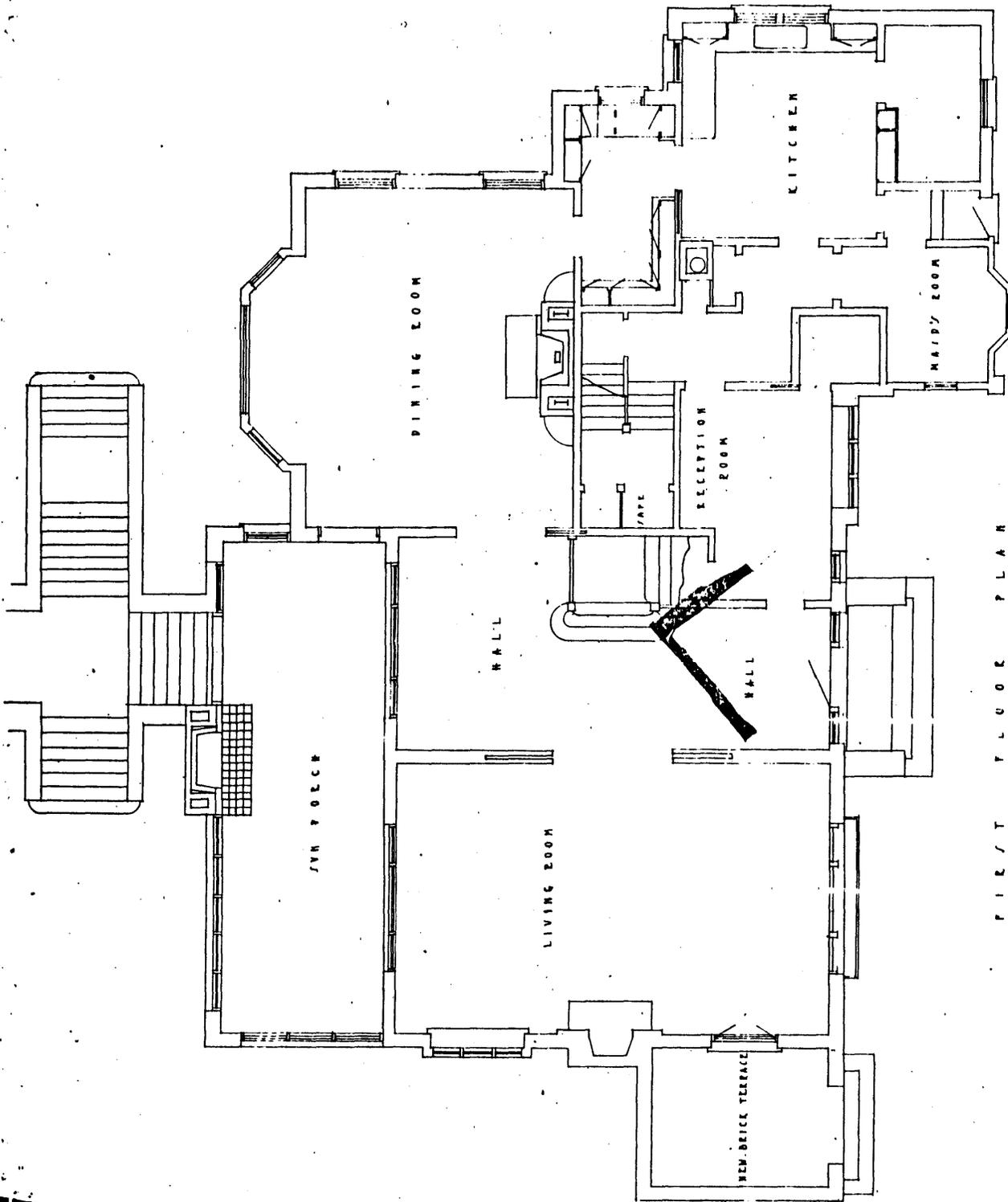
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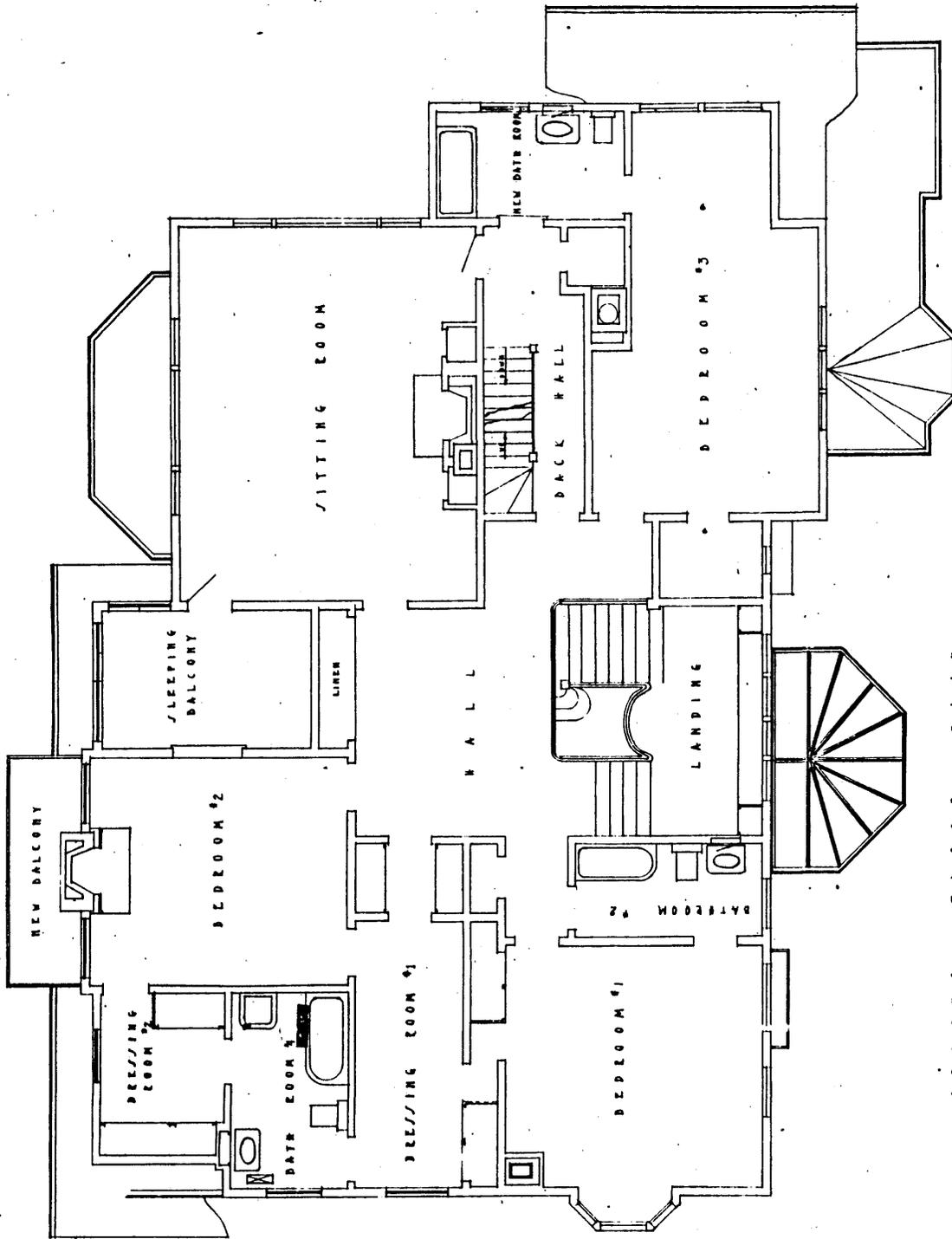
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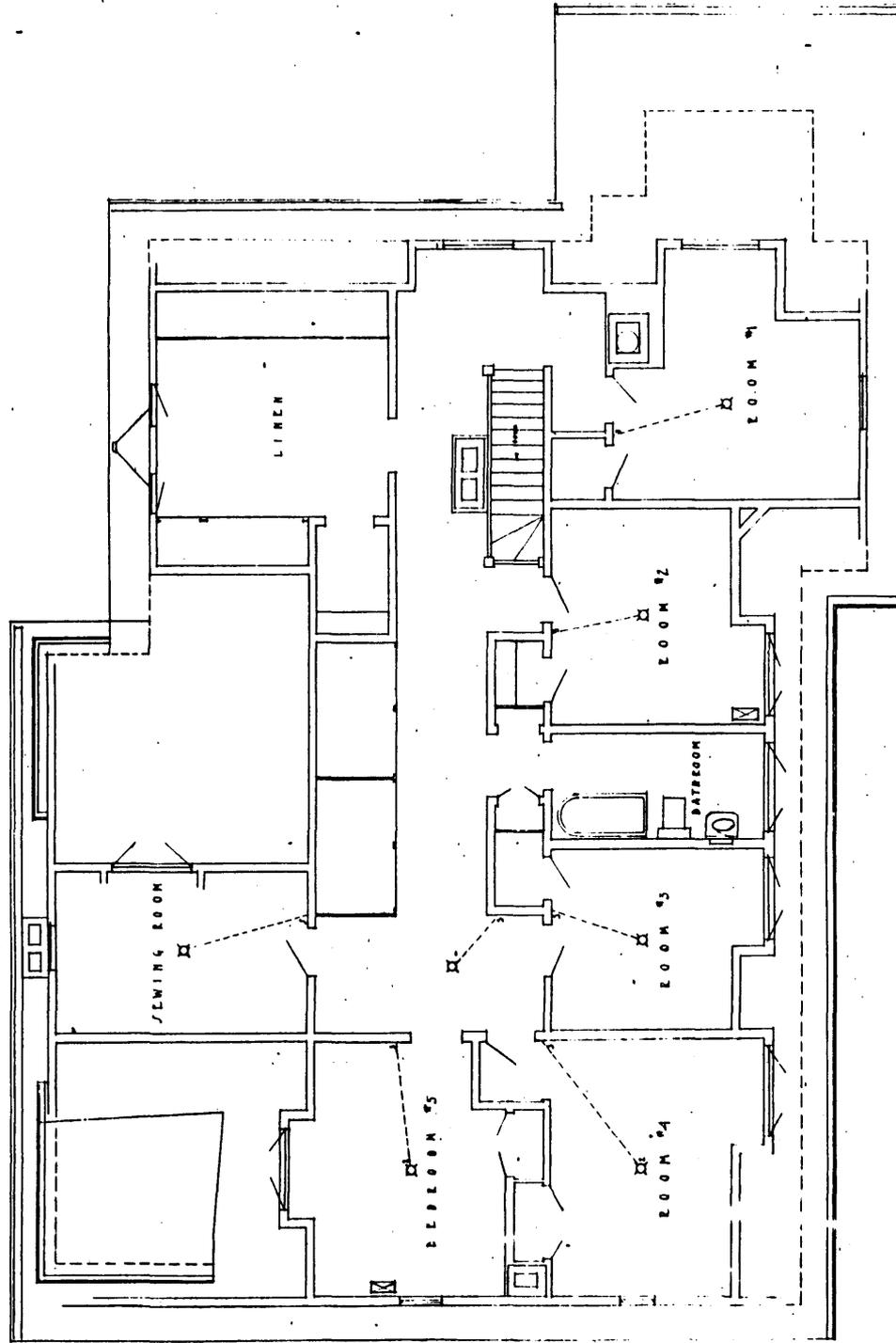
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