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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.						
1. Name of Property						
	colai. Ha	rry T., Hous	se			
other names/site number		-				
2. Location						
street & number 26	21 NW Wes	tover Road			N/A	_ not for publication
city, town Po	rtland		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		N/A	_ vicinity
state Oregon	code <sub>OR</sub>	county	Multnomah	code	051	zip code 97210
3. Classification		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Ownership of Property		gory of Property				ces within Property
x private		ouilding(s)		Contributing		Noncontributing
public-local		listrict		_2		buildings
public-State	s	ite				sites
public-Federal	s	tructure				structures
		bject				objects
				2		<u>0</u> Total
Name of related multiple proper	ty listing:			Number of c	ontribu	uting resources previously
Architecture of Ellis	F. Lawrend	<u>ce MPS</u>		listed in the	Nation	al Register <u>N/A</u>
			·			······································
4. State/Federal Agency Co	entification	<u> </u>				
National Register of Historic In my opinion, the property Signature of certifying official Oregon St. State or Federal agency and bur	ate Histor	does not meet th	e National Regist	ter criteria.		
In my opinion, the property	meets a	loes not meet th	e National Regist	er criteria.	See co	ntinuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or othe	er official					Date
State or Federal agency and bur	eau					
5. National Park Service Co	ertification					
I, hereby, certify that this proper	ty is:	<u>^</u>		Entered	i in	the
<ul> <li>entered in the National Register.</li> <li>Getermined eligible for the N Register.</li> <li>Getermined not eligible for the National Register.</li> </ul>	ational sheet.	Alex 	lour Be	Mations yuNations	al Re	ogister <u>(0/-7/20</u>
removed from the National F	-	/	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
			Signature of the	Keeper		Date of Action

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Current Func	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
Domestic: Single dwelling			
Materials (enter categories from instructions)			
foundation	concrete		
walls	wood shingles		
roof	composition shingles		
other			
	   Materials (en foundation walls roof		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The two and one half story Nicolai Residence was constructed in 1908 in the Colonial Revival style. This building was designed by the firm of MacNaughton, Raymond and Lawrence, with Ellis Lawrence as the chief designer. The house is an example of the earlier design work of Lawrence, with a central hall plan and formal arrangement of first floor interior spaces. Though the house looks very large from the exterior, the interior spaces are well planned, comfortable, rooms.

### SETTING

The residence is located on a steep lot at 2621 N.W. Westover Drive in Portland, Oregon. It occupies Lots 2-4, of Block 3, in Nob Hill Terrace Addition to the City of Portland. The house is set below the street level with the front facade facing east. As the grade drops steeply to the north, the basement story of the house is at ground level. Brick paths and wrought iron gates extend from the sidewalk along N.W. Westover to the residence. Concrete retaining walls and additional brick walls and walkways have been added to the property over the years. There is also a green house located on the property which was moved from a neighboring property and rehabilitated by the current owners of the Nicolai Residence. Extensive gardens cover the grounds. A small tool shed in the garden, once used as a play house, is covered with a gable roof and clad with horizontal wood siding. A garage is located at the street level off of N.W.Westover Drive southwest of the residence.

#### PLAN

The Nicolai Residence is irregular in plan, with an intersecting, multi-gabled roof covered with composition shingles. One enters the house on the east (front) elevation which is at a right angle to the street. The entrance hall inside the building expands from a small alcove to a large hall, centrally located between the living room and the dining room. The major common spaces are downstairs and the bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs. The living room and enclosed sun porch are to the north of the entrance hall. The dining room is to the south, and the kitchen and butlers pantry to the west behind the dining room. A central stairway is located directly west of the front door. A back door opens onto a small porch. The central stairwell has a mid-level landing and a small L- shaped landing at the second story level. There are four bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs.

#### EXTERIOR

The exterior of the Nicolai residence is clad with painted wood shingles. All exterior trim has been painted a dark color. The building has two brick chimneys one exterior and one interior, which have been covered with stucco. Windows on the first floor are a combination of multi-paned, double hung sash and multi-paned casements. The windows on the upper stories are multi-paned, double hung sash. The porch is recessed under a swept gable on the east elevation and enclosed with low wall and supported by square posts. The sun porch on the north elevation appears to originally have been a screened

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sleeping porch which was later enclosed with multi-pane, fixed windows. An additional small, enclosed porch is on the rear (west) elevation. The steeply pitched, multi-gable roof has clipped eaves. The building has a concrete foundation and basement that has been finished on the north elevation and clad with shingles. Though the main entrance to the building is on the east elevation, the entrance on the south elevation is used more fequently. Another door to the house is on the west elevation.

The detached garage was built at the same time as the house. It was recently resided with shingles and a new window was added by the current owners. The gabled roof garage is sited just off of N.W. Westover Drive to the southwest.

### INTERIOR

The interior of the Nicolai Residence exhibits details which were popular during the early 1900s, including built-in cabinets, picture and crown moldings, and wainscotting. The woodwork, except for the newel post and handrail on the stairs, is painted a light color. The floors are oak throughout the downstairs and fir upstairs. The rooms are comfortable, with more elaborate detailing on the first floor.

### First Floor

The first floor includes the living room, dining room, kitchen, butlers pantry, bathroom, and sun room. One enters the house through a large, paneled Dutch door with multi-panes and sidelights. A small alcove with an arched ceiling opens into a larger entrance hall. The living room is to the north of the entrance hall through an opening with double, paneled pocket doors. The living room has two multi-paned windows on the north wall and a large single-pane fixed window on the east elevation. There are also two small windows on the west wall, above the built-in bookcases which flank the fireplace. The fireplace has a green tile hearth with a wood mantel. French doors originally separated the living room and the sun room. The sun room was once a screened porch; evidence for this are the painted, exterior shingles on the south wall of the room. The sun room now has numerous multi-paned windows, and a new wood floor.

The dining room is located to the south of the entrance hall, through a pair of double paneled, pocket doors. The dining room is lined with a high wainscotting, a bracketed plate rail, and a boxed beam ceiling. According to the current owners, the French doors on the east elevation were replaced in 1974, with multi-paned casement windows flanking a fixed window. The sideboard below this window was built by the present owners. A multi-paned single door with sidelights was added to the south wall, replacing a double hung sash window. The sidelights from the French doors were reused on this elevation. On the west wall of the dining room are the kitchen, pass-through pantry, and a fireplace with red tile hearth. The fireplace, simply designed, is framed with paneled wainscotting and a plate rail.

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The pantry is located in an arched alcove between the dining room and the kitchen. A multipaned window is above the built-in cupboards on the south wall. The kitchen has a vinyl floor, tile counters and numerous multi-paned casement windows. A new back door, compatible with the historic character of the house, was added to the south wall by the current owners. The kitchen was remodeled in 1977. To the north of the kitchen is a bathroom and utility area, a small back porch, and stairs to the basement.

### Second Floor

The central stairwell has a square newel post with a square cap, turned balusters, and an unpainted, mahogany, handrail. The stair treads are oak. There are two intermediate landings between the first and second floors; a large, double hung multi-pane window along the west wall lights the stairs.

At the second floor landing one bedroom and bathroom are located to the north, two bedrooms and one bathroom to the east, and one bedroom and bathroom to the south. All bedrooms have fir floors and painted woodwork. The bedroom to the north appears to be the maids quarters. The bedroom in the southeast corner of the house, perhaps the original master bedroom, has a fireplace with blue tile surrounds, and a wooden classically styled mantel. This room also has a cedar lined walk-in closet. A bathroom between this bedroom and the bedroom in the southwest corner of the house is accessed by doors from both rooms.

#### Basement

The finished basement has a wood burning stove in the laundry room. There was originaly a gas stove in this room. The half bathroom in this house was replaced with a full bathroom by the current owners. The basement was originally used as a utility area and for storage.

#### Alterations

The alterations to the Nicolai Residence include the replacement of the living room windows with large, single fixed panes, the enclosure of the sun porch on the north elevation, the remodeling of the kitchen, the addition of the back kitchen door and the removal of french doors in the dining room.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in the significance of the property of the significance of the property of the significance of th	operty in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria	C 🔲 D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	C D D E F G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) <u>Architecture</u>	Period of Significance 1908	Significant Dates <u>1908</u>
	Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder MacNaughton, Raymond & I	awrence

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

	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Eederal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	X Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	Kimberly Lakin
	2026 NE 52nd, Portland OR 97213
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of propertyless than one Port	land, Oregon-Washington 1:62500
UTM References	
A 110 5213075 51041500 Zone Easting Northing	B J Easting Northing
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated area of less than one acre is	comprised of Tax Lot 1 of Block 3.
Nob Hill Terrace Addition to the City of Po	
It is located in Section 32, Township 1N, R	
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The nominated area encompasses less than on	e acre and includes three fractional
lots associated with the building.	
	See continuation sheet
11 Form Droporod Bu	<u> </u>
11. Form Prepared By	

name/title	Kimberly Demuth, Kimberly Lakin,	Patty Sackett
organization	Demuth/Lakin Joint Venture	date <u>March 8, 1990</u>
street & number	1314 NW Irving, Suite 510	telephone (503) 224-0043
city or town	Portland	stateOregon zip code _97209

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The Colonial Revival style Nicolai Residence, constructed in 1908, is architecturally significant under criterion"c" as an example of the residential property type within the early period of the work of architect Ellis Lawrence. This residence has received a high ranking in the "Ellis Lawrence Building Survey" for its integrity, distinction, and associative value, and meets the registration requirements for the National Register of Historic Places.

The house is located on a steep lot that drops to the north below N.W.Westover Terrace. This house is an example of Lawrence's early Colonial Revival style and dates from his association with MacNaughton, Raymond and Lawrence. Unlike his other Colonial Revival style designs, this house is a shingled eastern seaboard Colonial with Arts and Crafts references interspersed throughout the house. With a central hall plan, the arrangement is formal on the first floor. Notable exterior features of this house include: an intersecting gable roof line, asymmetrical composition, numerous double hung and multi-pane casement windows, and porches on several elevations. On the interior is classical detailing in the numerous niches, door, window and crown moldings, fireplace mantels, high wainscotting, and a boxed newel post with delicate, turned balusters. All the molding has been painted a light color except for the cap of the newel post and the handrail. Interior pocket and French doors divide the formal spaces from the central hall. The second floor rooms radiate off an L-shaped hall.

### HARRY T. NICOLAI

Harry T. Nicolai was born in Portland in 1881 to Theo and Hannah Nicolai. The Nicolai family, originally from Germany, came to the United States in 1853 and settled near Detroit Michigan. Louis and Theo Nicolai came to the Pacific Northwest in 1868 and settled in Portland where they founded the Nicolai Brothers Company. They manufactured lumber, doors and sash and operated the first planing mill in Portland. This firm was succeeded by the Nicolai-Neppach Company.

Theodore and Hannah Nicolai had four children: Lucy, Harry, Roy and Arthur. After Harry Nicolai graduated from high school, he entered into his father's business. In 1910, he started his own operation - the Nicolai Door Manufacturing Company. The plant was located in north Portland along Columbia Boulevard. The company of over 500 employees manufactured garage and house doors of Douglas Fir and shipped their product throughout the United States and Canada. There were branch offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Harry Nicolai also founded the Oregon-Washington Plywood Company located in Garibaldi, Oregon. He was president and director of this company as well as of the Chicago Trim & Plywood Company. He was director of the St. Helens Pulp & Paper Company, the U.S. National Bank and the Seattle based, General American Corporation.

In 1908, Harry Nicolai commissioned Ellis F. Lawrence to design a home at 2621 N.W. Westover. The Nicolais resided in this house until 1923. At the time of his death in 1957, Harry had two children: Theodore II and Nancy (Mrs. Randolph Hilton).

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## ELLIS F. LAWRENCE (1879-1946)

Ellis F. Lawrence was born in Malden, Massachusetts in 1879. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After graduating in 1902, Lawrence worked for architects John Calvin Stevens and Steven Codman. He also studied in Europe for six months, where he met and married Alice Louise Millett of Portland, Maine. In 1906 Lawrence left for the Pacific Coast where he intended to open an office in San Francisco. He stopped in Portland, Oregon along the way to visit his friend E. B. McNaughton, a Portland architect. After his visit, and the disastrous earthquake and fire in San Francisco of the same year, Lawrence decided to remain in Portland. He joined the firm of McNaughton and Raymond in November 1906. In February of 1910 Lawrence left the firm and worked independently until 1913 when his friend and former M.I.T. classmate William G. Holford joined him in partnership. (Ellis Lawrence Building Survey)

Ellis F. Lawrence was to become a prolific designer, civic activist and a visionary in city planning and education. Both his teaching and design work influenced the development of architecture within the State of Oregon. In 1914 Lawrence founded the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts in Eugene, Oregon. He organized the school around teaching methods which rejected the traditional philosophy of the Beaux Arts school. He believed in the integration of all the arts and an informal, non-competetive teaching environment; ideas which were regarded as progressive for the era. This teaching philosophy as developed by Lawrence remains the basis for education at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Lawrence eventually became acquainted with many of Portland's most influential businessmen. He also knew many nationally known figures such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Bernard Maybeck and the Olmsted brothers. He even collaborated with the noted landscape architects and city planners, John and Frederick Olmsted, on the Peter Kerr residence in Portland. Lawrence was selected as the first vice president of the American Institute of Architects and served on juries for numerous national design competitions, such as the Victory Memorial in Honolulu, the Stock Exchange Building and Bank of Italy in San Francisco. He was president of the Collegiate Schools of Architecture Association from 1932-1934.

Ellis Lawrence was also active at the city and state level in Oregon. He served as state advisory architect for the Home Owners Loan Coporation, and during 1933-1934 served on the Northwest District committee for the Public Works of Art project of the U.S. Treasury Department. He was also president for the local chapter of the A.I.A., an organization he helped to form. Lawrence was involved in the organization of the Portland Architectural Club, the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast and the Oregon Association of Building Construction. He served on the Portland City Planning Commission and belonged to the Portland Art Association, the Irvington Club and the City Club. Ellis Lawrence, his wife Alice and there three sons, Henry Abbot, Denison Howells, and Amos Millett, resided in the Irvington neighborhood. Lawrence worked three days a week in his Portland office and spent two days a week teaching and serving as dean of the Architecture and Allied Arts School in Eugene. He died in Eugene in 1946 at the age of 67. (Wells/Guthrie Residence National Register Nomination and Ellis Lawrence Building Survey).

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Bibliography

Ellis F. Lawrence Survey, 1989.

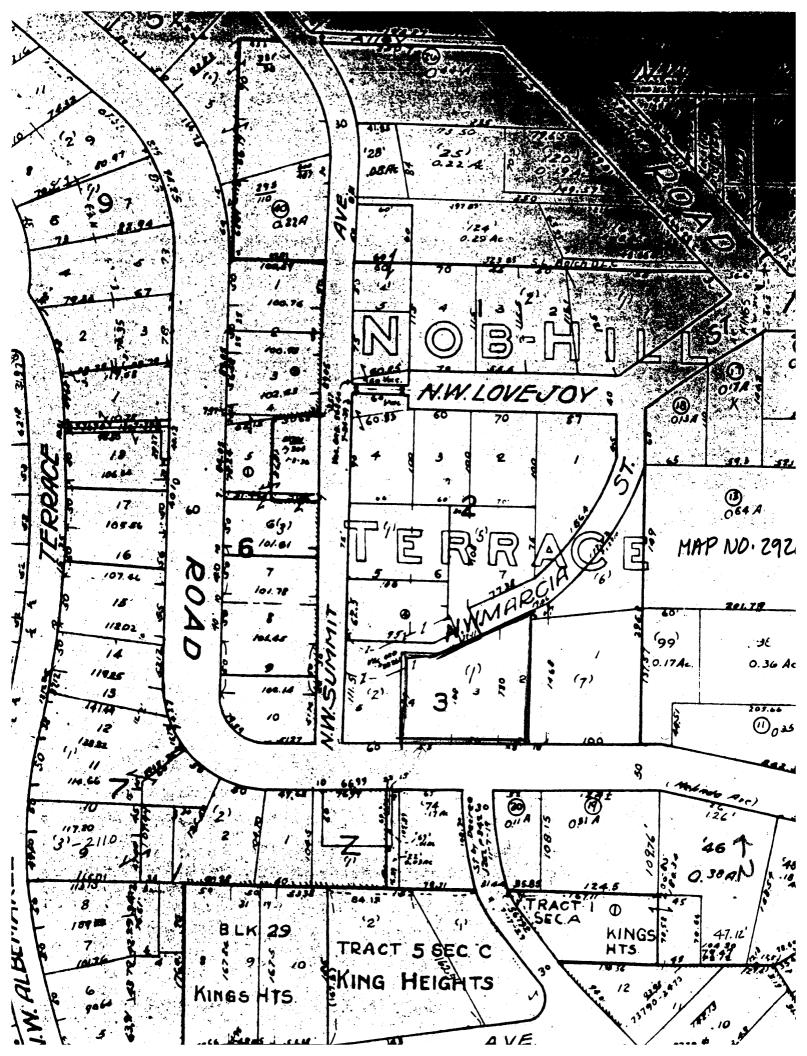
Hines, Rev. H.K., D.D. <u>An Illustrated History of the State</u> of Oregon. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893.

Lakin, Kimberly and Demuth, Kimberly. Wells-Guthrie Residence National Register Nomination. 1989.

Lockley, Fred. <u>History of the Columbia River Valley from The</u> <u>Dalles to the Sea</u>, v.3, biographical. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928.

<u>Oregon Journal</u>, April 27, 1936. June 10, 1957. August 31, 1957.

Polk's Portland City Directories.



### OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTY ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY COUNTY: Multnomah

HISTORIC NAME: NICOLAI, H.T., HOUSE COMMON NAME: **RESOURCE TYPE:** Building **STATUS:** built & survives **OTHER NAMEs:** LAWRENCE (JOB#) YEAR: ( )... (JOB#) YEAR: ( ) Portland Oregon (JOB#) YEAR: ( CITY: ) FIRST DATE: **STREET: 2621 NW Westover OWNER:** Hieronimus, Henry & Happy **DESIGN BEG:** DESIGN END: June (property address above) 97210 1908 **CONSTR BEG:** TOWNSHIP: 1N RANGE: 1E SECTION: 32 **CONSTR END: TAX LOT:** 1N-1E-32-LOSS DATE: MAP#: 2926 ADDITION: Nob Hill Terrace **ORIGINAL USE:** residence BLOCK: 003 LOT: 2-4 QUAD: Portland PRESENT USE: residence ASSESSOR #: R-60680-0420 **SITE:** 0.2 acres, approx. **THEMEs: 20C** Architecture DATA BELOW IS ON LAWRENCE FIRM'S DESIGN AS-BUILT: ARCHITECT: MacNaughton, Raymond and Lawrence CHIEF DESIGNER: probably EFL ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS: **CONTRACTORs:** ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN: STYLE: Colonial (1910-1935) PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: "T"-shaped FOUNDATION MATERIAL: concrete STORIES: 2.0 **BASEMENT:** yes ROOF/MATERIAL: med. gable (10/12 max.) /Comp. shingles WALL CONSTR: nailed wood frame STRUC.FRAME: nailed wood frame **PRIME WINDOW TYPE:** wood multi-pane double-hung EXTERIOR SURFACE MATERIAL: wood shingles, **DECORATIVE FEATURES/MATERIALS:** large swept roof over front and side porch OTHER: CONDITION: good MOVED: not moved ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (dated): fixed plate glass window added to side (1950's); stained glass window added to rear entrance (1970's); chimneys stuccoed (1950's) LANDSCAPE FEATURES: hedge on front of property

### ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY

#### HISTORIC NAME: <u>NICOLAI, H.T., HOUSE</u>

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: detached (historic) garage, greenhouse (1930's) SETTING: urban residential: set below grade facing south

SIGNIFICANCE OF LAWRENCE FIRM'S DESIGN:

f

EXTER.DETAILS/CRAFTSMANSHIP: Better than average workmanship and materials. INTER.DETAILS/CRAFTSMANSHIP: Better than average workmanship and materials. EXTERIOR INTEGRITY: Minor changes, but original character intact. INTERIOR INTEGRITY: Minor changes, but original character intact. SITE INTEGRITY: Moderate changes; some original character remains.

SETTING INTEGR: Major changes to character and relationship of surroundings. SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT:

Nicolai was president and manager of the Nicolai Door Manufacturing Company and the Baby Koral Company for many years. The door manufacturing company is still in operation today. The house is significant primarily for its architectural integrity.

**SOURCES/DOCUMENTS: Description (Location)** Multnomah County Tax Assessor Records; Polk's Portland City Directory;

Portland Building Permits

PUBLICATIONS: PORTLAND DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE. 6/23/1908.

SLIDE NO.:	RESEARCH BY: M.S. & S.I.	<b>DATE:</b> 02/04/89
SHPO INVENTORY NO.:	RECORDED BY: K. Lakin	DATE: 03/13/89

### OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTY ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY

#### EVALUATION

HISTORIC NAME: <u>NICOLAI, H.T., HOUSE</u>

**INTEGRITY OF:** NUMERICAL 1. EXTERIOR: Minor changes, but original character intact. 7 2. INTERIOR: Minor changes, but original character intact. 7 3. SITE: Moderate changes; some original character remains. 3 4. SETTING: Major changes to character and relationship of surroundings. ٥ INTEGRITY TOTAL 17 **DISTINCTION OF: 1. EXTERIOR DETAILS & CRAFTSMANSHIP:** Better than average workmanship and materials. 3 2. INTERIOR DETAILS & CRAFTSMANSHIP: Better than average workmanship and materials. 3 3. STYLE: (Colonial (1910-1935)) It has distinctive features of its identified style. 2 Compared to Lawrence's other surviving Oregon buildings, this style is 0 one of several (6 or more) in its city/town or rural area. 4. ORIGINAL USE: (residence) Compared to Lawrence's other surviving Oregon buildings, this use is one of several (6 or more) in its city/town or rural area. 0 5. ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: Compared to Lawrence's other surviving Oregon buildings, this design is above average quality and significance. 5 Is it part of an ensemble of surviving buildings by Lawrence? Lawrence building(s) nearby; but arrangement is not ordered. 5 Are structural or technical aspects of the design significant? 0 Of little significance. 6. LAWRENCE'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESIGN PROCESS: Lawrence was probably chief designer, though little evidence 6 DISTINCTION TOTAL 24 EDUCATIVE OR ASSOCIATIVE VALUE: 1. HISTORIC EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES: No known association with historic events or activities. 0 2. HISTORIC PERSONs: 0 No known association with a significant historic person. 3. SYMBOLIC ASSOCIATION WITH AN IDEAL, INSTITUTION, OR POLITICAL ENTITY: 0 No known significant symbolic association. 0 EDUCATIVE OR ASSOCIATIVE TOTAL GRAND TOTAL 41 SECONDARY RANK:

NOTE: Only the built, surviving buildings in Oregon were evaluated.

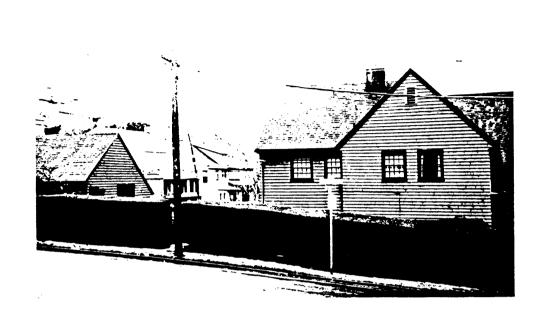
### ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING SURVEY HISTORIC NAME: <u>NICOLAI, H.T., HOUSE</u>

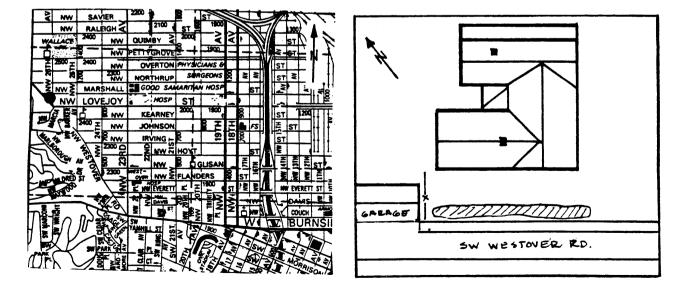
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### RECENT PHOTO NEGATIVE #s: SIR2, #23

First # above is upper-right photo; second # is just below. If no # above, see sources at bottom of page.

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HISTORIC PHOTO/OTHER GRAPHIC SOURCE: S. Igleheart and S. Donovan