1553

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

Date of Action

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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 100 40.000-1

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.				
1. Name of Property historic name	White, Isam, House	·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
other names/site number	White, Isam, House	·		
2. Location		·····		
street & number 311 NW Twentieth Avenue			not for publication	
city, town	Portland	NA	vicinity	
state Oregon	code OR county Mult	nomah code 051	zip code 97209	
3. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resou	Number of Resources within Property	
X private	x building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-local	district		buildings	
public-State	site		sites	
public-Federal	structure		structures	
	object		objects	
		1	Total	
Name of related multiple prope	rty listing:	Number of contrib	uting resources previously	
N/A			listed in the National Register	
4. State/Federal Agency C	ertification			
X nomination request for National Register of Historic In my opinion, the property Signature of certifying official	under the National Historic Preservation or determination of eligibility meets the of Places and meets the procedural and p meets does not meet the Nationa Control Preservation Off reau	locumentation standards for r professional requirements set al Register criteria. See co	egistering properties in the t forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	
In my opinion, the property	meets does not meet the Nationa	al Register criteria. 🗌 See co	ntinuation sheet.	
Signature of commenting or othe	ər official		Date	
State or Federal agency and bu	/eau			
5. National Park Service C	ertification	and with 2		

. National Park Service Certification		and the second s
hereby, certify that this property is:		Eastonal Rochits
Pentered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register.	Allourggun)/0/,1/9/
removed from the National Register.		

Signature of the Keeper

Current Fund	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
Domestic/single dwelling			
·····			
Materials (enter categories from instructions)			
foundation _	brick		
walls	weatherboard		
roof	asphalt, built-up		
other	wood trim		
	Domest.i. Materials (er foundation walls roof		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7

White, Isam, House Page 1

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Isam White Residence, constructed in 1903-04,¹ was designed in the Colonial Revival style by the prominent Portland architectural firm of Whidden and Lewis. Despite a period of use as a boarding house and tea room, the building retains a high level of integrity in design, materials and craftsmanship. It is in excellent physical condition, and is currently used as a private home.

Setting

The building is located on Block 35, Lot 3 of King's Second Addition to the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. The house is sited on an elevated lot at the northwest corner of Everett Street and 20th Avenue in northwest Portland. It is oriented to the east toward 20th Avenue and set back approximately fifty feet from the sidewaik. A rock-faced stone retaining wall and a handsome wrought iron fence encircles the lot. The fence was added to the original wall for security purposes. The primary facade is approached by a series of concrete steps and landings which lead to the main entrance. No other buildings exist on the property. The current owners plan to construct an underground garage in the side yard, providing vehicular access to the property from Everett Street.

The original landscape reportedly consisted of lawn with only a scattering of ornamental plants. Hilma Carlson, who took possession of the house in 1943, planted the profusion of trees, flowers, and shrubbery that enhance the yard today. Well-trimmed hedges of boxwood and skimmia combine with rhododendrons and English ivy to edge the fencing and inner walkways around the house. There are numerous rose bushes, camellias, flowering magnolias, dogwood and cherry trees. The well tended landscape is a prominent neighborhood feature when all of the plants are blooming.

The immediate neighborhood is a mixed use area of residential and commercial buildings; the nuance of the setting is residential. Apartment buildings are the most ubiquitous building type, followed by single family houses and commercial buildings. The business district is concentrated along 21st Avenue to the west and Burnside Street to the south. Both contemporary architecture and period styles dating to the early 20th century predominate in the neighborhood. It is evident from the large size of many of the historic houses that this was once an affluent area of Portland. In addition to the above noted building types, there are two historic churches located east of the subject building--the Gothic style Trinity Episcopal Church, 1904, and Temple Beth Israel, 1927, a National Register property.

Adjacent to the north of the White House is the shingle style Huesner House, also listed on the National Register; it is now divided into condominiums. Across Everett Street to the south is a circa 1900 Queen

¹Date of construction figured from Polk's Portland City Directories and Job list of Whidden & Lewis, Architects, compiled by Herb Fredricks, 1969 (unpublished manuscript, Oregon Historicai Society library).

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Anne style single family home. To the east across 20th Avenue is a five-story brick apartment building that appears to date to the 1930s. A contemporary, nine-story, brick apartment building borders the nominated property on the west.

Exterior

The Isam White House is asymmetrical in plan, two and a half stories in height, and has a full basement (Photos 1-3). The attic story is set back from the main body of the building and supports four gable-roofed wall dormers on the east and north elevations. The plan of the house is made irregular by side wings and porches flanking a central mass; a rounded two story bay is located on the south elevation. Careful placement of these elements gives the appearance of balanced proportions to the exterior. At its greatest extent, the house measures 75 feet long and 55 feet wide. The original building form is intact, with no major additions or removals of key elements.

The basement of the White House is concrete and brick, set deep in the ground. Exterior walls are wood frame, of stud construction and clad in horizontal wood siding; even the ornament is of wood. The green and white exterior was initially painted all white and it is the owners' intention to return the building to its original color. The dwelling has four chimneys, two external (north and west elevations) and two internal. The main roof is hipped, with flat, balustraded extensions that roof the side wings. The asphalt roofing material is built-up. Other than deterioration of the terrace and wooden balustrades, the overall structure and materials of the White House are intact. Restoration of deteriorated wooden elements is planned.

The primary window type is a one-over-one double-hung sash with prominent architrave molding, some in pairs. According to Marlitt (1989:16), a large stained glass window once embellished the second story landing of the main stair hall; however, it was replaced at an unknown date with a single pane of clear glass. The majority of doors are paneled and glazed, although the double leaf entrance doors of the facade are entirely of glass. There are two sets of entry doors separated by a small vestibule. Other than the stair hall window, the exterior openings of the White House are intact.

The porches and Classical ornament are the most handsome exterior elements. A balustraded terrace stretches across the facade between matching side wings which contain twin corner porches, each accented by a Palladian arch with prominent keystone. The central block of the facade is flanked by massive Corinthian pilasters at each corner; these support a full entablature and broad cornice with block modillions. The main entrance porch projects from the center of the facade and features both rounded and squared Doric columns and pilasters (Photo 4). The prominent entry is framed by heavy architrave molding, and twin wall lanterns provide lighting at the doorway.

Originally the flat-roofed entrance porch was crowned with a balustrade to match that of the terrace and roof. The present owners plan to reconstruct the missing balustrade, and restore the deteriorated terrace and balustrade of the roof. If retention of the original balusters is not possible, they will be duplicated in kind to maintain the integrity of the residence.

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The main feature of the north (side) elevation is a side entrance porch which once provided entry to the kitchen. The porch was originally two stories in height and open to the elements. In 1922 the second level, which was a sleeping porch, was removed and the lower story enclosed. The present owners use the enclosed porch as a breakfast nook and wish to retain it in that form. There are no plans to replace the sleeping porch.

The west (rear) elevation of the dwelling contains two small entries, one to the ground floor and the other to the basement. A fire escape was installed in 1931 when the building was converted to a rooming house. The primary feature of the south (side) elevation is the rounded two story bay with bow windows.

Interior

There are 6450 square feet of living space in the White House. The main floor is divided into living room, dining room, morning room, library, kitchen, breakfast nook, pantry, two stair halls and a half-bath. The importance of the public rooms on the first floor is demonstrated by the high quaity of materials and craftsmanship used in their construction.

The living room, dining room, morning room and library all have highly polished oak flooring with geometricdesign borders of inlaid hardwood in contrasting colors (Photo 5). Each room has a different inlay pattern. These same rooms have paneled wainscoting of varying widths, and all but one of the rooms have heavily beamed ceilings. The living room woodwork is entirely of oak, while that of the library and dining room is mahogany. The living room, dining room, and library each contain an ornate fireplace with elaborate hardwood mantels accented by machine-carved ornament and marble surrounds and hearths. The hardware in all of the rooms is original, and the escutcheons on the doors are brass. The existing ceiling light fixtures in all of the main rooms except the morning room are replacements. It is not known when the original fixtures were removed.

The living room has egg and dart molding at the ceiling-wall juncture and heavy architrave molding on the windows. To the left of the entry leading into the living room is a Doric pllaster and column standing in tandem to frame one side of the doorway. A matching column once stood between the front windows on the east elevation, but it was removed in 1943. A grand staircase, which was a major element of the original living room, was also removed at that time. A photograph of the stairway shows that it consisted of a series of steps and landings with inlaid oak flooring. The first few steps were curved and projected into the living room; they were flanked by Doric columns. The staircase and its wainscoting were entirely of oak. The columns, curved lower steps, and a second level balustrade have been retained and are in the possession of the current owners who plan to reconstruct the stairway. The above-noted window column that was removed was also retained; however, there are no immediate plans to put it back in place. Other than the removal of the stairway and window column, the living room is intact. The oak woodwork has never been painted.

The dining room contains mahogany woodwork in its original condition. Paneling covers over half of the wall space. A floor-to-ceiling sideboard with china cupboards occupies one entire wall, while additional

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storage cupboards take up half of another. The hand-painted magnolia blossoms on the wall above the paneling were applied in 1950 by William Grundmann, an acquaintance of Hilma Carlson. Although the ceiling light fixture is a replacement, the wall sconces are original. Pocket doors separate this room from the living room.

The library (Photo 6) is also separated from the living room by pocket doors. It features a mahogany fireplace mantel and built-in bookcases on two walls. A portion of the bookcases and a small doorway inserted in the wall leading to a storage area under the former staircase were removed in 1943. Otherwise, the library is intact. The present owners have no plans to restore the shelving.

The morning room, or round room as it is called today, is located in the round bay (Photo 7). It has a coved ceiling with twin strips of acanthus leaf molding. The woodwork in the morning room is painted. In 1943 a storage area within the wall system was covered over. The existing wall niche, possibly meant for a telephone, is original. The light fixture is one of the two original ceiling fixtures in the house. This particular piece was found in a basement coal bin. It was restored and placed in the morning room, although it is not known where it originally hung.

The large kitchen has several original features including glazed tile walnscoting on all of the walls, and tile flooring. A walk-in pantry still has its original cupboards, shelving, and china closet (Photo 8). A dumb-waiter, which extended from basement to attic story, was covered over in 1943, although the shaft remains and could be rehabilitated. Changes to the kitchen include the installation of modern plumbing facilities and cabinetry, replacement of the original tile stove, and the removal of two storage closets.

The second floor of the White House consists of ten rooms which radiate off a central hall--four bedrooms, a sitting room, lady's dressing room, two full baths, a walk-in linen closet, and a small utility room. Two of the bedrooms, the sitting room, lady's dressing room, and a bath comblne to form a master suite. The walls and some of the woodwork of the second floor are painted and the ornament is confined to picture rails. Part of the service hallway and one of the baths has tongue and groove wainscoting that retains its natural finish. Flooring throughout the second level is fir which has been carpeted over. All of the original hardware is intact. The present owners restored the brass escutcheons on the doors, which had been covered with paint. The only remaining original light fixtures are the wall scounces, found in the bedrooms and master bath.

Features of note on this floor include the large number of spacious closets with built-in drawers and shelving. One closet consists of two rooms specially designed for linen storage. The master suite and one other bedroom have walk-in closets. All of the original closets are intact.

Also of interest are the bathrooms which retain their original porcelain fixtures such as claw-footed bathtubs, pedestal basins and toilets (Photo 9). Each of the baths has tile flooring, and the master bath also has a glazed tile wainscoting and shower stall. The baths also retain all of the original hardware. The current owners intend to add a glass enclosure to the shower stall in the master bath; however, they will retain the original plumbing fixtures and tile flooring.

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The master suite consists of a large bedroom, full bath, a lady's dressing room, sitting room, and a smaller bedroom. The adjoining rooms are laid out in a linear arrangement, with the bath and dressing room off the master bedroom. Access from the main bedroom to the sitting room is through the dressing area. The small bedroom is off the sitting room.

The fireplace mantel in the master bedroom consists of painted wood, plaster ornament, and brick (Photo 10). The mantelpiece is supported by twin colonettes and embellished with egg and dart molding. A built-in whatnot shelf is set into the wall to the right side of the fireplace. Except for a missing ceiling fixture and painted woodwork, the master bedroom is in original condition.

The lady's dressing room contains a pedestal basin and a built-in vanity table which has a three-part beveled mirror. Both are original features of the room.

The circular sitting room that is located in the rounded bay has a small fireplace ornamented with plaster pilasters and machine-carved molding in Classical motifs. In 1943 the doorway leading to this room from the hall was enclosed to create a small room for book storage. There are no plans to change this enclosure. Twin wall niches, possibly for telephones, are located in this "book room."

A wide doorway separates the sitting room from a small bedroom that may have originally served another function. The room has a walk-in closet with a porcelain basin. Close inspection of the door opening, which has no doors, indicates that it is original. The room is intact and used today as an office.

The third bedroom on this floor features twin closets which extend across one entire wall. The room has its own bath, and a brick and wood fireplace, also ornamented in the Classical mode. The bedroom is intact and the owners do not plan any changes.

The fourth bedroom was possibly used as servants quarters. It is quite plain in appearance and has no special features common to the other bedrooms. The room has a small closet and no firepiace or private bath. It is located next to the walk-in linen closet and utility room.

The attic story is smaller than the other three levels measuring 45 feet long and 40 feet wide. It consists of two living areas, two bedrooms, full bath, small kitchen, dinette, walk-in closet and storage room. Originally this level featured one large open room, which functioned as a ballroom during the White residency. Off the ballroom was a bath, kitchen, two servants' bedrooms, and a cloakroom. This floor was later converted into an apartment, such that the ballroom was partitioned into three rooms--two living areas and a bedroom. The partitions are of a temporary nature and can easily be dismantled. In addition to the ballroom change, one of the former servants' bedrooms was made into a dinette, which necessitated the removal of one wall. The other original rooms remain intact, except that the kitchen facilities were modernized. There are no plans to return the ballroom to its original condition. It is still used as an apartment.

The attic story has painted, tongue and groove wainscoting, fir flooring and the original hardware. The bath has a built-in storage unit and linen closet, and the same fine porcelain fixtures found in the other baths.

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A servant's bedroom retains its original wali sconce, which is its only decorative element. A ceiling light now hanging in a living room reportedly is original to the house; however, it is not known where it was located. The hanging brass fixture features several gracefully arched, tulip-shaped glass shades.

The basement consists of a small apartment, fruit room, washroom, storage areas and workshop. Originally there was a large, open furnace room flanked on the west by a small bedroom, full bath, fruit room, washroom, and storage spaces. The original rooms are intact except the current owners partitioned the furnace room into smaller spaces and installed modern heating facilities. The bedroom and bath are now enclosed within a small apartment that was recently constructed.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property nationally	γ in relation to other properties: tatewide $\boxed{\mathbf{X}}$ locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)]DEFG	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)Architecture	Period of Significance	Significant Dates <u>1904</u>
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Whidden, William M.,	and Lewis, Ion

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	Federal agency		
designated a National Historic Landmark			
recorded by Historic American Buildings			
Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering	Other Specify repository:		
Record #	Spechy repository.		
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of property0.23 acres	Portland, Oregon-Washington 1:24000		
UTM References			
$A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	B		
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing		
	See continuation sheet		
Verbal Boundary Description			
The nominated property is located in SW_{2}^{1} Se	ction 33, Township 1N, Range 1E, Willamette		
Meridian, in Portland, Multnomah County, Or			
Block 35, King's Second Addition to Portlan	d at said location.		
	See continuation sheet		
Boundary Justification			
The nominated area incorporates the legally	recorded lot lines (100 x 100 feet)		
historically associated with the Isam White	House built in 1904.		
	See continuation sheet		
11. Form Prepared By			
	a. Historic Preservation Consultants		
organizationN/A	dateMarch 1, 1991		

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street & number 424 NE Hazelfern Place _____ telephone (503) 235-6168 city or town _____ Portland

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SUMMARY

The two-and-a-half-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival house located at Twentieth Avenue and Everett Street in the fashionable Nob Hill district of northwest Portland was completed in 1904 for Isam White (1836-1909), a German-born merchant and leading figure in Portland Jewry. White, whose public spirit matched his fortune, lived in the house until his death in 1909. His widow, the former Rose Rosenberg, continued to live there for a time, and before her death years later she established the Isam and Rose White Benevolent Fund that has supported local health and social service organizations to the present day.

The Isam and Rose White House meets National Register Criterion C as a well-preserved and particularly refined version of a recurring theme in the residential work of the Portland firm of Whidden and Lewis, whose principals were the M.I.T.-trained architects who introduced the Colonial Revival fashion to Oregon in the 1890s. William M. Whidden had launched his career with the eminent New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, foremost exponents of the style. Ion Lewis had been equally steeped in the idiom during his association with the Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns.

The accompanying comparative analysis, aided by Richard Marlitt's illustrated survey of the residential work of Whidden and Lewis published by the Oregon Historical Society Press in 1989 under the title <u>Matters of Proportion</u>, shows the firm's output in the Colonial vein far outnumbered the houses in all other styles put together. As many as 31 Colonial Revival designs carried out between 1889 and 1912 have been attributed to the firm.* Of these, no more than 20 to 21 are standing, and eleven were built in 1900 or later.

Admired for the perfectly balanced proportions of its east-facing front, the White mansion commands a double lot (100 feet square) that is elevated above street grade, enveloped by mature plantings and contained at the perimeter by a low retaining wall of coursed rock-faced ashlar. The house extends its long axis parallel with NW Twentieth Avenue, its main mass enclosed by a truncated hip roof. The weatherboard siding, the organization of openings in the facade as a central entrance bay flanked by single bays of paired, wide double-hung windows, the Classical cornice with raised attic story lighted by formally-placed gabled dormers, the Classical United States Department of the interior National Park Service

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portico with balustraded upper deck---all these are familiar elements used in a number of the firm's houses of what might almost be called the Boston type. They are especially recognizable in the designs for the contemporary houses for Max Lang and Henry Edwards.

What distinguishes the Isam White House from even its most kindred projects is the elongation of the facade, first by matching side wings that have recessed ground story porches framed by Palladian arches, and, further, by variegated bays and projections on north and south end elevations. Centered on the south, or Everett Street elevation, is a two-story bow window. The dignity of the grand, horizontally-spreading facade is heightened by a full-width balustraded front terrace, colossal fluted corner pilasters of the Corinthian order, and by tall brick chimney shafts that bracket north and south ends of the core volume.

The fine detailing of Classical columns, piers, pilasters, door and window frames, mantelpieces, wall paneling and cabinetry seen in the White mansion is characteristic of Whidden and Lewis's finer work. A noteworthy space behind the front diningroom is an oval saloon, or morning room that, like the bow window, is a foil for strict rectilinearity. It represents the kind of contrast and variation among interior spaces that the revivalists sought to recapture from Adamesque archetypes.

*The Lucien Wallace House on Flanders at NW Twenty-fourth Avenue antedates the year the Whidden and Lewis partnership was formed (1890), but, having been designed by Whidden, it is included in the list of works. Lewis visited Whidden in Portland in 1889 and was persuaded to stay on.

OMB No. 1024-0018

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival style house of Isam and Rose White is located at 311 N. W. Twentieth in the Nob Hill area of northwest Portland. The single-family house, built in 1903-04,² is significant under Criterion C as one of the best preserved examples of a Colonial Revival design by Whidden and Lewis, Portland's most distinguished architectural firm from 1889-1910. The east coast offices of McKim, Mead and White where Whidden began his career, and of Peabody and Stearns, where Lewis began, were the "top-flight disciples" of innovative architectural design in the United States. They were the first to react against ornate Victorian styling with a revival of eighteenth-century forms, with design focus on simplicity, baiance and dignity. McKim, Mead and White started the Colonial Revival, "which was to last longer than any domestic style in America before it."³ Isam and Rose White spared no expense in the subject house, creating a lavishly detailed interior; the cost per cubic foot (30.8 cents/foot) was higher than any other residence designed by Whidden and Lewis in Portland.⁴

Also of significance is the lack of interior alterations in a neighborhood where many large homes have been converted to multi-family or commercial buildings. Sited above the street, the simple grandeur of the Isam White House has a prominent presence in a neighborhood where historic period houses commonly share the block with apartment houses, commercial buildings and public institutions. The White House is an outstanding reminder of the historic significance of Nob Hill, one of Portland's earliest residential neighborhoods exclusively for the wealthy.

Isam White was a pioneer Jewish settler in Oregon, a member of the Portland establishment, and prominent merchant. Both Whites helped form the background of a strong Jewry in Portland through financial and personal commitments. Their support to health and social service agencies in Multnomah County continues to the present day through the substantial annual giving of the Isam and Rose White Benevolent Fund, which is administered by the Oregon Community Foundation. The Isam White Residence possesses integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and function.

²Polk's, Fredricks, Ibid.

⁴Fredricks, Herb, Job list of Whidden & Lewis, op. cit.

³Marlitt, Richard, <u>Matters of Proportion</u> (Portland, Oregon, 1989, OHS Press).

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NOB HILL

The Nob Hill neighborhood of Northwest Portland, where the Isam White House is located, extends from Burnside to Lovejoy Streets and 19th to 21st Streets. The neighborhood is one of the first areas outside of what is now downtown Portland to be developed exclusively for the upper class.

The development of Nob Hill began in 1881 when "a number of businessmen with interests along the Northwest waterfront decided that the large blocks and the fresh air should belong to the bosses rather than to the workers whose houses were pushing uphill from the riverfront industrial districts. George W. Weidler owned a huge steam sawmili at the foot of Savier Street that could cut 150,000 feet per day. In 1881 he spent \$16,000 on a large house at 19th and Lovejoy, a site that overlooked his mill. J. C. Carlson, who operated a sash and door business in association with Weidler's mill, built an Italianate house for \$10,000 at 20th and Johnson. C. P. Bacon erected an Italianate house on the same block as Weidler and G. W. Jones built another Italianate house between 18th, 19th, Johnson, and Irving."

"The future of the neighborhood was sealed when members of the Couch clan began to relocate to a series of blocks between 19th and 20th. The first to make the move from Fourth and Davis to 19th Street was Cicero H. Lewis, son-in-law of John Couch and a prime candidate for anyone's list of the ten most prosperous Portlanders. He spent \$35,000 on his stick-style mansion between G and H streets."⁶ Many others followed. Photos from 1883 show large houses dotting the blocks west of 19th Street. Residents looked down over a denser community of smaller homes and churches east of 19th, a buffer zone between the elite Nob Hill and the industrial riverfront.

Although the buffer zone between Nob Hill and the industrial sector to the east began to erode in the period between 1903 and 1913, the area continued to infill during the early 1900s with large houses for prominent citizens such as Abbot Mills(1908); Winslow Ayer (1905); Mrs. Edward Failing (1905), W. Harrison Corbett (1910), Isam White (1904), and several more. Two other Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival style houses were constructed about the same time as the White residence just a few blocks north on NW 19th Street. Both of these houses were converted to office buildings in the 1950s and 60s.

⁵Abbott, Carl, Northwest District Association Inventory Context Statement for Historical Overview, 1/91 (unpublished, Neighbors Northwest Office, 1819 NW Everett, Portland, OR).

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WHIDDEN AND LEWIS

"Generally recognized as Portland's establishment architectural partnership,"⁶ Ion Lewis and William M. Whidden represent the coming of age of architecture in Portland, Oregon. The firm introduced modern Eastern styles to Portland, most notably the Colonial Revival residence and the classical commercial building. The revival of eighteenth-century architectural forms was a reaction against ornate Victorian styling. Simplicity and dignity on a grand scale marked the Colonial Revival designs by Whidden and Lewis. Their works in Portland, which span a period of approximately 40 years (1888-1929), include the Public Library (1891), Portland City Hall (1892), the Hamilton Building (1893), the Multnomah County Courthouse (1909) and the Wilcox Building (1911), in addition to many fine houses. The firms offices were for many years on the sixth floor of the Concord Building at the corner of SW Second Avenue and Stark Street. Later the offices moved to the Wilcox Building.

William Marcy Whidden (1857-1929) studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) in his native Boston followed by four years at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1882 he joined the firm of McKim, Mead and White in New York. His association with the prominent firm brought him to Portland later that year to aid in the design and construction of the Portland Hotel on the Morrison-Yamhill block. Funds for the project were withdrawn however by financier Henry Villard after the collapse of his railroad in 1883. Whidden returned to Boston where he set up his own partnership with William E. Chamberlin, a fellow draftsman at McKim, Mead and White. In 1888 a group of wealthy Portland citizens, tired of Villard's unfinished eyesore, purchased the property; Whidden returned to the west coast to finish the project. In 1889, Ion Lewis (1858-1933), a friend and colleague of Whiddens from back east, came to visit Portland. The two men formed a partnership and their practice grew steadily.

Whidden married Alice Wygant, great granddaughter of Dr. John McIoughlin, a founding father of Oregon. The couple had twin boys and lived in a country house overlooking the river at Rivera. Whidden retired in 1920 and died in 1929.

Ion Lewis was born in the Boston suburb of Lynne in 1858. He also attended M.I.T. after which he joined the architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns (Boston). In 1882 he formed a partnership with Henry Paston Clark. These two became well known for their Shingle style work.

Lewis remained a bachelor all his life and lived out his years in Portland at the Arlington Club. He continued the firm until his death in 1933.

⁶MacColl, E. Kimbark with Harry H. Stein, <u>Merchants, Money and Power: The Portland Establishment,</u> <u>1843-1913</u> (Portland, Oregon, 1988).

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The following comparative analysis is based upon a field examination of all the Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival style buildings in Portland (22), as well as other Colonial Revival houses within, roughly, a two-mile radius of the Isam White House (43). The eighteen Whidden and Lewis houses located in northwest Portland and King's Hill, across Burnside to the South, create a significant cluster of similar Colonial Revival style buildings in a relatively small area, and make up the comparative context of the Isam White House. Photographs were taken of each residence, and building permits were searched for information regarding past aiterations to the houses. <u>Matters of Proportion</u>, by Richard Marlitt (1989), which discusses the architecture of Whidden and Lewis, was also consulted. Comparative photographs of the Whidden and Lewis-designed houses in Northwest and King's Hill are included with this nomination.

Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival Houses

Twenty-one Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival style residences remain in Portland today.⁷ Eight of these, including the White House, are in northwest Portland, ten in the neighboring King's Hill of southwest Portland, one in southeast Portland and two others further south on Portland's west side. Although several of these buildings no longer function as single family dwellings, the well-preserved exteriors create a strong visual link among many of the large older homes in King's Hill and northwest Portland. Seven (soon to be eight) of the above residences are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places including: the Philip Buehner House, 5511 SE Hawthorne; Mackenzie House, 1131 SW King; McMaster House, 1041 SW Vista; Bates-Seller House, 2381 NW Flanders; Charles Adams House, 2363 NW Flanders; Trevett/Nunn House, 2347 NW Flanders; and the Ayer-Shea House, 1809 NW Johnson.

Originally designed as single family homes, a majority of the Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival style houses have been converted for apartment or commercial use. According to building permits, only six of the residences, including the White House, are still single family dwellings (three in Northwest, three in Southwest). Three of the houses are now used as apartments, nine as offices and one as a bed & breakfast; the status of three houses is unknown.

The level of integrity for the building exteriors is relatively good, with 18 residences remaining intact and wellmaintained. The exteriors of two buildings have been altered. Records show that 12 of the dwellings have undergone extensive interior alterations for functional conversions. Some of the residences were readapted several times to accommodate changing uses. The White House was used as a boarding house and restaurant for a period, however no major alterations were carried out.

The 18 Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival style residences in northwest Portland and King's Hill date between 1891 and 1908. The major design elements of the extant buildings occur throughout that time

⁷See Continuation Sheets, Section 8, p. 13-17 for list of Whidden & Lewis addresses and photos.

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span. Differences or innovations appear; however, they usually apply to a single dwelling rather than becoming a common feature of the houses. As a result, it is difficult to distinguish a residence constructed in the 1890s, from one built in 1904.

The houses are consistently large, rectangular, two and a half story buildings with balanced proportions. Two story bays and side wings flanking a central block are found on the larger residences. The Brooks-Trevett House, dated 1891, has two polygonal bays, while the White House and Ayer House, both dated 1904, have round bays. Bays and bow windows are noted elements of Whidden and Lewis houses. The White House has a prominent two story bay with bow windows on the south side.

The use of side wings is found on the Sladen House of 1895 and the Wallace House of 1908. Side wings, when they occur, are usually two story and set well back from the front elevation. Out of six buildings with wings, the White House is the only residence with identical side wings that are an integral part of the facade design. The facade of the White Residence exemplifies the Colonial Revival ideal of balanced proportions.

The houses have hipped roofs with wide overhanging eaves and cornice boards accented by dental courses and block modillions. Roofs are predominately hipped and have massive chimneys and prominent dormers. Some dormers are set into a wide fascia that is set back and above the cornice. The addition of a widened fascia before the roof slope begins was a device used by the design team to make the attic story higher and therefore more livable; it is found on only three Whidden and Lewis Houses, the Henry Edwards House, circa 1904, the Max M. Lang House, circa 1905, and the White House, 1903-04.

Especially noteworthy are the formal, symmetrical facades that are defined by corner quoins or pilasters in the Classical mode. Full entablatures are present at the roof-wall juncture, often with a widened frieze board. All of the houses have central balustraded porches, some of which are two-story in height. The larger dwellings often have a railed front terrace associated with the entrance porch.

Two types of porches occur regularly--a two story porch with colossal columns, a single bay, and a one story portico with a flat roof. The MacMaster House, 1895 and the Hirsch House, 1904, have different interpretations of the larger porch, while the Buehner House of 1908 has a two story porte cochere. More common to the residences is the smaller portico with paired squared and rounded columns. This Whidden and Lewis trademark is best exemplified by the 1897 Sladen House, the circa 1900 Edwards House and the Isam White House, which also has a balustraded terrace on three sides.

According to Marlitt (1989:3-28), Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival style interiors typically have center-hall plans, with the "great hall" also serving as the living room. Small entrance vestibules open into the hall. The houses all have formal dining rooms and libraries on the main floor. Hardwood paneling in the main rooms and grand staircases can be found in the larger, more imposing homes. The great hall of the White House,

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with its elaborate staircase and oak paneling, "was among the finest rooms in the city at the time" it was built.⁸ No expense was spared by the Whites in creating a richly finished interior to match the exterior grandeur of their home. Of the 18 Whidden and Lewis houses under discussion the White House was one of the two most expensive to build. It cost 30.8 cents per cubic foot for a total cost of \$34,496.80. The only house with a higher total cost was the Winslow Ayer Residence (1809 NW Johnson) at \$44,295.09 or 26.9 cents per cubic foot. Half of these 18 houses cost \$10,000 or less to build. The White residence is an outstanding example of Whidden and Lewis design, as it features many distinctive elements, both interior and exterior, that are characteristic of the design team's residential work.

Northwest Neighborhood Colonial Revival Style Houses

The Northwest Neighborhood boundaries used in this comparative analysis are: Vaughan Street to the north; 16th Street north to Marshall Street, Marshall west to 21st, 21st north to Vaughan on the east; base of the West Hills to Macleay Park, with a westward jog to include Willamette Heights on the west; and Burnside Street on the south.⁹ There are 34 Coionial Revival style residences in this defined area, not including the White House and the other Whidden and Lewis buildings.¹⁰ Thirteen of the 34 buildings have no physical integrity; 21 are relatively intact. Only two are comparable to the White House in size and design.

The following discussion focuses on the 21 Colonial Revival houses in the area not associated with Whidden and Lewis. Seven of the buildings were originally constructed as apartments, and they continue to be used as multi-unit dwellings today. The remaining residences were built as single family homes, but only three are still used for that purpose. Four of the houses have been converted into apartments, two into office space, and the current status of five buildings is unknown.

The apartment buildings, two to four stories in height, have prominent multi-level porches with colossal columns and balustrades, and are clearly distinguishable from the Whidden and Lewis Coionial Revival buildings in the area. There are two Dutch Colonial Revival style dwellings in the study area, neither of which relate to Whidden and Lewis design. One carries the distinctive gambrel roof, pierced by connected twin dormers; the second residence, designed by Emil Schacht in 1910, has ribbon windows across the upper facade and a front porch stretching between two projecting porches.

Two other residences have Colonial Revival detailing but they do not feature elements common to Whidden and Lewis design. They are asymmetrical buildings with hip roofs, dormers, wide overhanging eaves, and centrally located porticos. Colonial Revival ornament is confined to the entrance porch.

⁸Marlitt, op. cit., p. 16.

⁹Boundaries chosen on basis of Abbott (op. cit.) Overview.

¹⁰See Continuation Sheet, Section 8, p. 18 for list of addresses.

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Five stylistically similar buildings are not as large as the typical Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival residence, but they do carry some elements of the design team's style. Of particular note are heavy corner pilasters defining the main block, extra wide frieze board of the entablature, prominent dormers in hipped roofs and central entrance porticos with Classical detailing. One of the houses has a two-story, round bay on the facade.

The remaining five residences in the study area more closely approach the ideal of Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival styling in design. Each building, in form and detailing, has several elements commonly used by the design team. The houses are large, two and a half story, rectangular buildings with either hip or gable roofs pierced by dormers. One dwelling has a two-story polygonal bay and another a side wing. Two of the buildings are of brick construction, one with distinctive corner quoins. Three of the facades have balanced proportions and prominent central porches with balustrades and column supports.

However, only two of these residences are on the scale and proportion of the White House (909 NW 24th and 733 NW 20th). Each has the richness of exterior detailing and massing that is common to a dwelling designed by Whidden and Lewis. Of particular note are the expansive dimensions, balanced Colonial facades and elaborate entrance porches. Although these two former residences match the elegant styling of the White House, they have undergone interior conversions for apartment and office use; one building sustained fire damage. The level of integrity for the interiors is in question.

King's Hill Colonial Revival Style Houses

The King's Hill District of Portland abuts the Northwest Neighborhood on the southwest. It is bordered by Washington Park on the west, 18th Street on the east, Burnside on the north, and SW Jefferson on the south. The neighborhood, recently listed as a National Register District, consists of a concentrated array of early, high-style residential buildings, most in excellent condition.

There are 19 Colonial Revival style residences in the King's Hill area,¹¹ which includes ten houses designed by Whidden and Lewis. Six of the buildings have no physical integrity but 13 are intact. This discussion focuses on the intact Colonial Revival houses in the area not currently associated with Whidden and Lewis.

Two types of Colonial Revival style residences are discernible in the King's Hill area and neither exhibits Whidden and Lewis characteristics. The first type does not have the elaborate detailing nor the balanced proportions of diverse elements commonly associated with Whidden and Lewis design. Only a few devices used by the design team are in evidence. The second type is represented by only one dwelling. It carries no Whidden and Lewis design elements, and in fact, may date to a later period.

¹¹See Continuation Sheet, Section 8, p. 18 for iist of addresses.

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When comparing the Isam White House to other Colonial Revival style residences in northwest Portland and King's Hill, it is clear that the White House demonstrates an excellence of design, quality of materials and craftsmanship that is unsurpassed in the area for a single-family Colonial Revival style building.

PORTLAND JEWISH SETTLEMENT AND THE WHITE FAMILY

The first Jewish settlers arrived in Portland In the 1850s. By the end of that decade they had expressed intention to create a permanent presence in the city with the formation of ethnic organizations such as the Congregation Beth Israel. By 1860 Jews accounted for 4.7 percent (135 people) of the city's population. Over the next decade the Jewish population increased 245.9 percent while the city as a whole grew by 188.6 percent. By 1880 768 Jews, out of a population of 17,577, resided in Portland. Many Jews had come and gone, financially defeated by the Depression of the 1870s, but others, including Isam White, had established themselves firmly in the foundation of Portlands professional and merchant classes and left strong marks on Portland's early history.

Isam White was born In Bavaria in 1836. At the age of eight he came to the United States with his mother and his eldest brother Levi. The family settled in Montgomery, Alabama for a period and then started for the west by way of Cape Horn. They lived first in San Francisco, arriving in Portland in 1855. The White brothers were pioneer Jews, among the first to settle in Portland. The U. S. Census of 1860 shows the Jewish population in Portland of 1860 to be 135, out of a total city population of 2874.

Isam and Levi White opened a dry goods store at the corner of Washington and Front streets and quickly created a highly successful venture. The 1860s were boom times for the partners and by 1870 Levi White, the more financially successful of the two brothers, listed \$10,000 real and \$30,000 personal property, making him one of Portland's wealthiest merchants.¹² Isam White listed \$5,000 in real estate and \$15,000 personal property.¹³ Eventually the retail store was converted into a wholesale establishment under the firm name of L. White and Company. After a time the brothers merged their interests with those of the Goldsmith Company under the name of the White-Goldsmith Company and eventually sold out. Isam White retired from the business in 1880. His brother passed away in 1895.¹⁴ Isam White was a recognized leader in

¹²Cline, Robert Scott, <u>Community Structure on the Urban Frontier</u>: the Jews of Portland, Oregon, 1849-<u>1887</u> (Thesis, Portland State University, 1982, OHS Manuscript Library).

¹³1870 Census of City of Portland

¹⁴Oregonian, October 30, 1909. (isam White obit.)

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democratic circles, a prominent Mason, a builder of the Concordia Club, and a building fund contributor for Temple Beth Israel. He served on the board of directors for Oregon City Woolen Mills in the early 1870s.¹⁵

"The Jewish leadership, or more accurately, the wealthier Jewish merchants and professionals, took an active interest in the civic and business life of the city," stated Robert Cline in his thesis study of pioneer Portland Jewry. "Men like Goldsmith (Bernard), Wasserman (Philip) and the White brothers sat on the boards and associations that oversaw the orderly development of Portland. With William Ladd, Henry Corbett, Reverend Thomas Eliot and others, they worked toward a common end." Cline iater discusses Portland's "old line" elite, defined by wealth, community service and family residence in Portland prior to 1870 and places the White brothers in this group along with other prominent Jews, Ben Selling, Philip Wasserman, Bernard Goldsmith and Joseph Teal, the third wealthiest resident of the city in 1870.

In 1873 White married Rose Rosenfeld of Portland. The couple lived next door to the Arlington Club at 389 Alder Street before moving to the subject house. The Whites travelled throughout the world and frequently entertained. They had no children.

At his death in 1909 from diabetic complications, White left \$5,000 for the Portland Open Air Sanatorium, situated high upon a bluff in Milwaukie, Oregon. The gift, the largest ever received by the institution to that date, was used to build the Isam White Memorial Building to house ten people.¹⁶

Rose Rosenfeld White was born April 18, 1852, in New York City, the youngest of 19 children. Her parents died when she was small and she was brought around the Cape to Portland by the time she was six. She attended St. Mary's academy when the nuns first arrived from Montreal, and was one of the school's earliest graduates (1862-64). She appears in the 1870 census as a member of the Henry Ahpel household. Ahpel was a grocer from Hamburg. Mrs. White was a long-time member of the Congregation Beth israel.¹⁷

During an interview by the Oregon Journal at her 100th Birthday celebration, "Aunt Rosie" as she was known to family and friends, recailed the subject house. "I used to entertain a lot.... years ago when I lived at 20th and Everett Street. It was a beautiful house....¹⁸ After leaving the 20th Street address in 1914, Mrs. White moved to the Benson Hotel where she lived for the remainder of her life, passing away in 1954 at the age of 101.

¹⁵Oregon Historical Quarterly, v. 32, p. 259, 1931.

¹⁶Oregonian Sunday Journal, October 5, 1913.

¹⁷Oregonian, January 4, 1954 (obit.)

¹⁸Oregon Journal, April 18, 1952.

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Mrs. White bequeathed eighty percent of her estate to the formation of the Isam and Rose White Benevolent Fund.¹⁹ The fund was established in 1956 with \$350,000. Ten percent of the income from the fund is used for indigent persons living in Multnomah County and needing convalescent care, nutritional care, and rest for cure. The other 90% of the income is divided annually among nine charities which Mrs. White named: The Visiting Nurses Association, First Hebrew Association, Children's Home, Neighborhood House (Council of Jewish Women), Fruit and Flower Mission, Salvation Army, Congregation Beth Israel, Goodwill Industries, and the Multnomah County Chapter of the Trust for Infantile Paralysis (March of Dimes). Now administered by the Oregon Community Foundation, the Trust today has a net value of \$838,292 and provides a significant contribution to Multnomah County each year.²⁰ The original trustees of the fund were William McCulloch, Sam Stern, Aaron Frank, Max S. Hirsch and S. Mason Ehrman.²¹

¹⁹Will of Rose White, 1/54, Jewish Historical Society, Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

²⁰Oregon Community Foundation, 1/91.

²¹Oregon Journal, April 12, 1956.

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Property Ownership History for 311 NW 20th

- 1904-09 Isam and Rose White. Isam died 1909.
- 1909-23 Rose White. Although she legally owned the property until 1923, Rose White moved to the Benson well before this. The last listing for her at this address appears in the 1914 Polk's Portland City Directories. A newspaper clipping²² indicates that the Max Fleischmans may have lived in the house during this period.
- 1923-24 Harvey and Mabel Holman Osborne purchased the property in 1923, reportedly to use as a mortuary, but ran up against city regulations.²³
- 1924-30 Security Savings and Trust held title during this period although it may have been rented by John T. and Mary M. O'Neill. Mary O'Neill's name appears in Portland City Directories at this address from 1926-28.
- 1930-43 Mary M. O'Neill, who leased to boarders, owned the house during this period. Boarders who appear in the reverse directories Include Almeda and Albert S. Boyd (1930-36) and Mae and Mayo T. Burton (1937-). Mr. Boyd was a salesman with the Power Plant Engineering Company, and later did restaurant work; Mr. Burton was a driver for the Rainier Brewing Company.
- 1943- Hilma Carlson owned the house and used part of the first floor to operate the Cape Cod Tea Room, a place of "old world charm...excellent food...furnished with art and antigues."²⁴

present David Druse and Jack Hilyard

²²no source indicated

²³Publication unrecorded, "Conversations..", 10//1/64.

²⁴Publication unrecorded, p. 412.

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Whidden and Lewis Colonial Revival Houses in Portland*

Northwest Portland 2210 NW Flanders 2347 NW Flanders 2363 NW Flanders 2381 NW Flanders 1809 NW Johnson 2424 NW Lovejoy 732 NW 19th 311 NW 20th

King's Hill area 806 SW King 1046 SW King 1115 SW King 1131 SW King 2187 SW Main 2188 SW Park 2329 SW Park 834 SW St. Clair 1041 SW Vista 1135 SW Vista

Southwest Portland (not King's Hill) 305 SW Curry 11175 SW Riverwood

Southeast Portland 5511 SE Hawthorne

*Compiled from the Portland Historic Resource Inventory, <u>Matters of Proportion</u> by Richard Marlitt, and the Whidden and Lewis Job List compiled by H. Fredricks at OHS.

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Whidden and Lewis Comparitive Photos (listed in order of construction date)





Brooks-Trevett, 1891

2347 NW Flanders

William MacMaster, 1895 1041 SW Vista



William Brewster, 1898

Joseph Sladen, 1897

2210 NW Flanders

2424 NW Lovejoy



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834 SW St. Clair

James D. Honeyman, 1900

Leo Hirsch, c.1900-1905

1115 SW King

No Name, c.1900-1905

2329 SW Park



Henry Edwards, c.1900-1905 2187 SW Main



Edward King, c.1900-1905 806 SW King

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Charles F. Adams, 1904

2363 NW Flanders

James Russell, 1904

1135 SW Vista



Winslow B. Ayer, 1904 1809 NW Johnson



Max Lang, 1905 2188 SW Park

William R. McKenzie, 1902

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1131 SW King

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Richard Koehler, c.1905

732 NW 19th



Lucien Wallace, 1908

2381 NW Flanders

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Colonial Revivals Houses (not Whidden and Lewis) in context area*

Northwest Portland 2046-48 NW Flanders 2056-58 NW Flanders 2068 NW Flanders 2381 NW Flanders 2386 NW Hovt 2039 NW Irving 2274-76 NW Irving 1937 NW Johnson 2256 NW Johnson 2266-68 NW Johnson 2066 NW Kearney 2076 NW Kearney 2086 NW Kearney 2130-38 NW Lovejoy 2415 NW Lovejoy 2642 NW Lovejoy 2670 NW Lovejov 2544 NW Marshall 2554 NW Marshall 2324 NW Quimby 2489 NW Raleigh 2911 NW Raleigh 3115 NW Thurman 3328 NW Thurman 3454 NW Thurman 821-829 NW 16th 831-39 NW 16th 733 NW 20th 811 NW 20th 209 NW 23d 831 NW 24th 909 NW 24th 935 NW 24th 1234 NW 24th 1331 NW 25th

916 SW King 1060 SW King 1150 SW King 2168 SW King's Ct 2187 SW King's Ct 2168 SW Main 2210 SW Main 909 SW St. Clair 1011 SW Vista

King's Hill

*compiled from Northwest District Association style list

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Basement Plan

ISAM WHITE HOUSE

