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 for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	······································
historic name	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number 1625 NE Marine Drive	not for publication
city or town Portland	<sup>□</sup> vicinity
state Oregon code _OR county Multnomah code _051	zip code <u>97211</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I here nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standard in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional require Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X meets does not meet the National Registe that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _X_ locally.	ls for registering properties ements set forth in 36 CFR
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	Date of Action $3/2/06$
determined eligible for the National RegisterSee continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register	
other (explain):	

### 5. Classification

Multnomah, OR County and State

Ownership of Property (check as many as apply)	Category of Property (check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
private public - local public - state public - Federal	x building(s) district site structure object	ContributingNoncontributing2buildingssitessitesstructuresobjects2Total	
	Name of related multiple property listingNumber of contributing resource(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)listed in the National Resource		
N/A		None	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
Domestic/Single Dwelling Domestic/Secondary Structu	Ire	Domestic/Single Dwelling Domestic/Secondary Structure	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
Late 19th & 20th Centu Tudor Revival		foundation: <u>concrete</u> walls: <u>brick, stucco, wood</u>	
		roof: <u>stone</u> Other:	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.

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### **Summary**

The Raymond Fisher House is located at 1625 Marine Drive in Portland, Oregon, on a large lot set between Marine Drive to the south and the Columbia River to the north. Built in 1929, it was the first house constructed in the Golf Acres development associated with the Columbia-Edgewater Golf Course located across Marine Drive just to the south of the property. The house is a 4,000 square-foot, one-and-one-half story, Tudor-style residence with an irregular footprint. It is constructed of brick on the first story, and stucco with false half-timbering above. The hipped roof with multiple projecting gables is slate. The house stands on a deep terraced lot that slopes gently from Marine Drive down to the river's edge.

### Setting

The Fisher House is located on a .64-acre lot between Marine Drive to the south and the Columbia River to the north. Marine Drive is a very busy two-lane thoroughfare providing access to the many industrial areas located along the river. The neighborhood was developed in association with the Columbia-Edgewater Golf Course, which is located across Marine Drive to the south. The golf course is landscaped with large evergreen and deciduous trees. The houses along the north side of Marine Drive are mostly large, single-family homes with private river access and attractive views across the Columbia.

The lot on which the Fisher House is located is terraced, with the highest part to the south near Marine Drive. The house faces south, and the front yard is landscaped with mature foundation plantings. There is a large hedge and a fence along the south perimeter of the lot, which acts as a buffer against busy Marine Drive. The driveway enters from the southwest corner of the lot and extends along the west perimeter to a semi-detached, two-car garage.

The house has a daylight basement at the north (rear) facade. Here, the manicured lawn slopes gently down to the river, where a fence separates the yard from a steep ivy-covered bank and a private boat dock. There are no foundation plantings or trees in the backyard. A concrete walk runs down the middle of the lawn to the dock.

# Exterior

The Fisher House is a one-and-one-half story, Tudor-style residence with an attic and a daylight basement. The foundation and basement level are poured concrete. The first story is sheathed in dark red brick, and the second story is sheathed in smooth stucco with vertical, false half-timbering. The slate roof consists of a hipped main section with projecting gables on all four sides. The majority of the windows are paired, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash with lead cames.

The primary facade faces south. The westernmost section consists of a one-and-one-half-story projecting gable. A secondary gable projects from the western half of the main gable. To the east of the smaller gable is the main entrance, which is set under a one-story hipped-roof. The entrance has a round arch, wood door with cast-iron hinge straps and a small window. To the east of the door is a tall narrow eight-light window. The second story of the gable is marked by a set of paired six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The gable end has weatherboards and a vertical, louvered vent on the uppermost portion.

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The eastern section of the main facade has a set of three, six-over-nine, double-hung sash windows with a low wrought-iron balconet.

The west facade faces the driveway. It has a projecting two-story gable extension with a catslide roof to the north. A gabled dormer projects from the roof to the south of the projecting gable. At the northwest corner of the house is a garage that appears from the south (front) elevation as a detached, one-and-one-half-story building. It is sheathed in brick on the front façade, and stucco on the north (rear), where its full basement is revealed at ground level. The garage reflects the style of the main house, with a pair of wood beam doors on its south façade, and a double-gable roof. The basement level is used for storage.

Between the northwest corner of the house and the garage is a gate that provides access to a small patio at the rear of the house. From the patio, one can enter the kitchen, located in the northwest corner of the house, or descend a string of concrete stairs to the ground-level backyard.

The north (rear) elevation faces the Columbia River. This facade is primarily sheathed in stucco. A two-story volume with a flat roof projects from the center of the façade. Original to the house, this unadorned bay served as the maid's quarters. There is a prominent cross gable above the flat roof of the maid's quarters. To the east of the gable, on the second floor, is the sleeping porch, which projects dramatically from the master bedroom. The flat-roof porch is sheathed in weatherboards and ventilated by a pair of casement windows. Below the sleeping porch, a terrace at the first story provides access into the living room through a set of French doors. A large picture window in the living room overlooks the terrace. Stairs located directly below the sleeping porch descend to a ground-floor patio. A stuccoed concrete wall that supports the living room terrace is pierced with three round arches here. In the covered passage behind the arches, three sets of French doors open into the house's basement party room.

The rear of the garage is also visually prominent at the north elevation. The back wall of the garage is a twoand-one-half-story poured concrete wall covered with stucco. The wall is unadorned, and pierced with a window at the first story, and a window and pedestrian door at the basement level. A one-story, stuccoed concrete wall extends seamlessly from the façade at ground level, toward the east, forming the north-facing support for the patio above.

The east elevation is marked by a gabled dormer bisected by an exterior brick chimney. The chimney is flanked by double hung six-over-six sash on the first story and in the dormer.

# Interior

The interior of the Fisher House retains a high degree of integrity in both organization and features. The house contains approximately 4,000 square feet of living space on three floors with an unfinished attic. The floors are oak, the walls are finished in textured plaster, and the trim is clear walnut.

The main entrance of the house opens up into a reception hall. The hall has a coved ceiling and textured plaster walls, which are seen throughout the house. The reception hall is divided from the stair hall by a plaster segmental arch. The woodwork throughout the house is stained walnut with a clear finish. Flanking the front door are catenary-arch plaster niches with walnut shelves. These niches are seen throughout the house as well. A deeper telephone niche is located on the west wall of the hall.

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A segmental-arched pocket door with glazed, leaded doors in the east wall of the hall leads to the spacious living room. This room is anchored by a very large fireplace covered in Batchelder tiles, and flanked by six-over-six, double-hung leaded windows. The north wall has a large plate-glass picture window overlooking the Columbia River, and a set of leaded French doors leading to the terrace. The south wall has a three-part window of six-over-nine double-hung sash. Details include a generous crown molding and picture rail.

Across the reception hall from the living room is the dining room, accessed by leaded glazed French doors. This room is simply appointed with crown molding and leaded sash windows.

The kitchen is accessed from a swinging door in the north wall of the dining room. The kitchen has been completely modernized and contains no historic materials. An arch in the north wall of the kitchen leads to a small breakfast nook with built-in corner cupboards. Also in the north wall of the kitchen is a staircase to the basement with access to the rear terrace.

A door in the east wall of the kitchen provides access to a long service hall, which leads north to the original maid's room and bath, located in the flat-roof projection on the north side of the house. The bath has been recently renovated with all new finishes and fixtures.

A door from the service hall leads back to the main stair hall, which is located just to the south of the original maid's quarters. A door in the north end of this hall leads to the basement level. The main staircase flares and widens slightly at the bottom. The round wood rail is supported by unusual wrought-iron balusters decorated with metal leaves.

Upstairs there are three large bedrooms. The master bedroom on east side of the house has a private bath, three cedar lined closets and a sleeping porch located to the north of the master bedroom. The sleeping porch has two sets of paired, six-light windows on the north side of the porch that open outward toward the Columbia River. Another set of these windows is on the east side of the porch, allowing for a significant breezeway when all the windows are open. The second bedroom is located on the south side of the hall; two paired windows are located on the south wall, and a second paired window is located on the west wall overlooking the driveway. The third bedroom has one window in the southwest corner, and two paired windows on the west wall. Each of the bedrooms have the same kind of windows seen throughout the house: six-over-six, double-hung sash. Each of these secondary bedrooms has a closet and trunk room. The hall bath, which is located on the north side of the stair hall, just to the east of the third bedroom, has been completely remodeled.

The basement level contains a large party room with a high, beamed ceiling and a large fireplace in the east end. The north side of the room has three sets of leaded French doors leading to the arcaded ground-level terrace. Catenary-arched niches containing sconces are located all around the room. The west portion on the basement contains the service areas including the laundry area, boiler, and storage areas. To the northwest of the party room is an additional storage room, which is located directly under the original maid's quarters. Directly south, down the hall, is a bathroom.

# **Major Alterations**

There have been very few alterations to the Fisher House. The primary changes have been to the kitchen and bathrooms, which have been completely modernized within the last ten years.

### 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

Х	A Property is associated with events that have
	made a significant contribution to the broad
	patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

\_\_\_\_C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

\_\_\_\_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- \_\_\_\_\_A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- \_\_\_\_\_B removed from its original location
- \_\_\_\_\_ C a birthplace or grave
- \_\_\_\_ D a cemetery
- \_\_\_\_\_E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- \_\_\_\_\_F a commemorative property
  - \_\_\_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance Within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- \_\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Community Planning and Development** 

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation** 

Architect/Builder

Akers, O.M, architect

Primary location of additional data:

- \_\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_\_ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- \_\_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Statement of Significance**

The Fisher House is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the rising popularity of subdivisions associated with golf courses and country clubs in the United States in the 1920s. The Fisher House is located in Golf Acres, a two-plat subdivision for single-family homes originally designed in the 1920s for members of the Columbia Edgewater Country Club. Designed by architect Ora M. Akers, and constructed in the Tudor style, the 1929 Fisher House was the first and only house constructed on Plat 2 at Golf Acres before the Great Depression stalled the development.

# **Early Subdivisions**

The earliest planned communities in nineteenth-century America were privately owned and exclusive neighborhoods for the wealthy, located within cities. Gramercy Park in New York formed an association in 1831. They attached 'restrictive covenants' to the deeds of the properties located within their exclusive neighborhood. Boston's Louisburg Square developed in 1844 with similar covenants and a commonly owned private park. As transportation such as the horse-drawn trolley and soon after, commuter trains, began to operate, those who could afford it began to relocate outside of the city.

Llewellyn Park, was located twelve miles from New York across the Hudson River in New Jersey. Designed in 1852-1853 by Alexander Jackson Davis, Llewellyn Haskell developed a traditional English Villa Park on the outskirts of New York over a period of seventeen years. Common ground was surrounded by home sites ranging in size from one to twenty acres, all linked by ten miles of tree- and shrub-bordered carriage roads. The plan included a curvilinear road and natural open space at the center that were unprecedented at the time.<sup>1</sup>

In Philadelphia, wealthy landowners living just outside of the city began subdividing their large estates, offering large lots for prestigious houses facing main streets, and smaller lots for semi-detached and row houses on side streets for less wealthy buyers. William Hamilton subdivided the northeastern portion of his estate into a new development known as The Woodlands.

In 1868, Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux planned the community of Riverside, Illinois, which stressed rural as opposed to urban amenities. While the aristocracy formerly would settle in posh neighborhoods downtown like Gramercy Park or Louisville Square, in Chicago many of these residences were converted to boarding houses, while the upper classes retreated to the suburban estates in the suburbs of Lake Forest and Highland Park, which consisted of picturesque lots with trees, small hills and ravines with views of Lake Michigan.<sup>2</sup> The middle classes strove toward those same ideals and the low cost of commuting by train allowed them the opportunity to live in new suburban developments like Riverside. In 1873, the Chicago Times published a lengthy supplement entitled "Our Suburbs: A Resume of their Origins" where it described healthy and thriving neighborhoods in accessible suburban locations which were ideal for the middle classes to raise and educate their children.

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By the beginning of the twentieth century in America, it was clear that middle and upper class Americans were ready to live outside of urban centers in picturesquely designed subdivisions that emphasized natural open space. A precursor to city planning, privately owned subdivisions were developing their own restrictions on development and property use, in order to protect the beauty of their developments.

### **Twentieth-century Suburbs**

Suburban development in the early twentieth century was heavily influenced by the City Beautiful movement in city planning. A hallmark of the Progressive era, the City Beautiful movement grew out of a resurgence in interest in formal planning theories and classical architecture demonstrated at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The ideals of comprehensive planning, master planning, and collaboration with experts in other fields became key influences in the development of residential suburbs in the United States, as developers moved from developing one city plat at a time to acquiring large parcels and developing them according to a master plan. In addition to comprehensive planning, the City Beautiful movement promoted the importance of aesthetics in the city planning process. The rising value of aesthetics manifested itself in the early twentieth century in parklike settings for public utilities such as reservoirs and dams, an emphasis on community parks and playgrounds, and the addition of greenways and boulevards to city and neighborhood plans.

# The Country Club Suburb

The 1920s saw the proliferation of master planned suburban developments. Proximity to major traffic arterials, both rail and road, became important to home buyers, who also wanted easy access to shopping areas, schools, churches, and recreation areas. The construction boom that fed the development of these planned suburbs reflected a booming United States economy in the early years of the 1920s.<sup>3</sup> The primary cause for the overall increase in demand of construction was the increase in population nationwide. During this period after the first World War the national population increased by an average of 1,600,00 annually. The overall increase was due in a large part to immigration. However, there were also significant portions of the population migrating from rural areas and farming communities to urban areas, resulting in a record-breaking demand for both singlefamily and multi-family housing. Growth in per capita income during the post-WWI period resulted in a demand for improved dwellings and structures of various types, including theaters, social clubs, places of work and recreation. Larger incomes meant an increase in the number of people able to own automobiles, a greater demand for highway construction and the need for garages and service stations. It was easier for families to acquire credit on limited capital. The post-WWI construction of single-family houses reached a peak nationally in 1925, a year before the peak in multi-family structures. The private automobile and improved roads greatly enlarged the area where homes were located and the suburbs were becoming more developed. The percentage of families owning their homes increased during this time period. Offices, banks, stores, garages and warehouses were the most common types of structures built during this period. Social and recreation, religious and memorial buildings also showed a general increase along with educational and public buildings.

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A rising and increasingly professional middle class fueled the proliferation of the planned suburban community. Deed restrictions, used since the advent of planned communities in the 1850s, became commonplace in cities across the United States and added to the appeal of the suburbs. The planned suburb of the 1920s increasingly boasted boulevards, community parks, a clubhouse or community center, and access to a nearby country club. The emergence of the "country club" suburb collided in the 1920s with another rising trend, the popular sport of golf. With its park-like grounds and upper-class provenance, it enhanced the aesthetic sensibilities of the planned suburb while providing the recreation and leisure activities that a burgeoning middle class was increasingly able to afford.

# Golf and the Development of Golf Club Communities

Golf originated from a game played on the eastern coast of Scotland in the 15th Century. Players would hit a pebble around a natural course using a stick or primitive club. Golf's status and popularity quickly spread throughout the 16th century due to its royal endorsement. King Charles popularized the game in England and Mary Queen of Scots introduced the game to France after she learned it in England while studying there. In fact the term caddie comes form her cadets from the French military who helped carry her clubs. Golf clubs became popular in Scotland, Ireland and England as well as English colonies like India, Hong Kong, Canada and America. Golf equipment was handcrafted and expensive. The game of golf was typically reserved for the wealthy. However, in 1848 metal golf clubs began to be produced, making the game more affordable for the average person. The first international golf tournament was the Amateur Golf Championship of India and the East in 1893. In 1894 the United States Golf Association (USGA) was established to regulate the game in the United States and Mexico. Golf courses in America were usually landscaped parklands unlike those in the United Kingdom, which were typically "links" courses. Golf was made an Olympic sport in 1900. The Professional Golfers Association (PGA) was formed in 1916. By the mid forties, the PGA sponsored a tour, which consisted of twenty-two events throughout the year.

Oakhurst Links is widely thought to be the earliest organized golf clubs in America. Developed by a group of golf enthusiasts living in the area of White Sulfur Springs, West Virgimia, the club was formed in 1884 with six members.<sup>4</sup> Outside of Washington D.C. two large rural tracts were combined to make the Petworth subdivision, one of the city's largest and earliest suburban subdivisions. The Petworth subdivision was recorded at the city's surveyor's office on January 16, 1889. The streets were laid out as an extension of L'Enfant's plan for the original City of Washington (south of Florida Avenue.) It was expected that \$200,000 would be spent for the entire 387-acre subdivision. An electrified streetcar line provided regular transportation between the new "bedroom community" of Petworth and the employment, shopping, and cultural opportunities of the city. The Petworth Subdivision included a golf course in the northern part of the subdivision, the Columbia Golf Club, which was constructed in 1898, and was a primary attraction to new residents of the suburban community.

A residential subdivision outside of Miami bordered Miami's Golf Links, was originally platted in 1910 as the Golf Links Addition, but replatted as the Highland Park subdivision. FCB LeGro opened the Highland Park

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subdivision on January 12, 1911. The subdivision featured two landscaped traffic circles and a park at its northern border, and reflected many of the design ideals which were so popular among the upper middle class Americans in the early twentieth century.

St. Andrew's Golf course was established in 1925 outside of Chicago. Built on 244 acres of farmland it had 18 holes on course #1. In 1929 course #2, Lakewood was completed. Like many subdivisions designed in conjunction with golf courses and country clubs, Lakewood Housing Subdivision was platted with homesites for members along the golf course.

### **Portland's Suburban Development**

The development of suburbs in Portland generally followed the national trends. The city came into being legally in 1851 when the small settlement received its charter from the Territorial Legislature. When the city was incorporated, it included the area today roughly bounded from SW Sherman to NW Pettygrove, and from the river to 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. For the next 30 years, there was little change in Portland's boundaries, though population and buildings grew rapidly. The city served as the primary link between the rich agricultural lands, forest and trade opportunities created by the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Population increased from 800 in 1860 to 8,300 in 1870. The growth accelerated as steamers replaced sailing barks and the federal government established a customs house. Growth continued into the 1880s as the transportation infrastructure and technology continued to improve. In the 1890s, Portland was a prosperous trade port, rich in lumber and agriculture, with rail links through the Willamette Valley and a transfer point from river- to sea-going vessels. One of Portland's most dynamic growth periods occurred between the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition and the First World War. The exposition attracted outside capital to a city that, at the turn of the century, was enjoying the profits of several prosperous industries, including lumber manufacturing, wheat exports, and shipping. After the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905 there was significant interest in Portland by investors, businessmen, developers, and workers. During the years between 1906 and 1914, the local population surged and the economy flourished.<sup>5</sup>

### **Residential Development in East Portland**

While the east side of the river developed later than the city core, it grew quickly after the Morrison Bridge was opened in 1887 and the rapid extension of the street railways beginning in 1888. <sup>6</sup> The street railways provided easy and inexpensive access to downtown from neighborhoods on the eastside of the river. Specifically, the Sunnyside development, platted in 1891, was located between E. 33rd and 44th Avenues, and just northeast of Sunnyside was Laurelhurst.

Developed by Ladd Estates, the Laurelhurst neighborhood was platted in 1907; the original plat was thirty acres in size with a large park at the center. It was advertised as a "High Class Residence Park." Restrictions were in place, such as no apartments, hotels, flats, stables or commercial buildings of any sort, and no sale of alcoholic

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beverages. A tennis club and center for neighborhood activities was also available for homeowners in Laurelhurst. The Sandy Boulevard streetcar line served the area, and a second line came down Glisan Street allowing easy access to downtown in fifteen minutes. The city purchased the land for the park.<sup>7</sup>

Another planned suburb, Ladd's Addition, was developed in East Portland as a model community for railroad workers. Ladd provided sidewalks, a modern sewer and water system, gas and electric lights and also added a restriction prohibiting saloons from being developed and forbidding the sale of liquor anywhere within Ladd's Addition.<sup>8</sup>

Eastmoreland, also developed by Ladd's Estates, was a residence park located in SE Portland, adjacent to Reed College. In 1910, Ladd contracted with Doyle, Patterson and Beach to design a master plan for the college and an adjacent residential development on 275 acres with 1,270 homes.

### **Golf Course Communities in Portland**

Expansive business growth occurred in Portland in the 1920s, reflecting the national trend. Portland experienced a 16.9% increase in population between 1920 and 1930, reflecting a large migration of people from the rural and farming communities to the urban areas. Unemployment was low throughout the twenties.<sup>9</sup> Local bank resources doubled during this period, and most of the loan and mortgage money went to developers and land speculators for higher cost residential, farm and industrial properties, or to more expensive single-family homes.<sup>10</sup> Portland's burgeoning middle class entered the 1920s looking for the same residential amenities popular in other parts of the country, and golf was a popular addition to the country club suburbs in Portland.

The first golf in Oregon was played at Gearhart in the late 1880s. Nine holes were laid out at the Gearhart site in 1892. The Waverley Golf Club was Oregon's first regulation course and opened in 1896. Just before the turn of the century a golf course was established in Eugene. Tualatin opened its course in 1912. In 1917, the city added a golf course to the Eastmoreland residence park in southeast Portland. It was the city's first municipal golf course; at the time, there were only three golf courses in the city and they were all private: the Waverley, Portland, and the Tualatin. By 1918 there were seven courses. By 1929 there were sixteen courses listed in the Portland City Directory.<sup>11</sup> They included: Alderwood Country Club, Columbia Country Club, Eastmoreland Municipal Golf Links, Glendoveer Golf Course, Inverness Golf Club, Lake Oswego Country Club, Multnomah Golf Club, Peninsula Golf Club, Portland Golf Club, Riverside Golf Club, Rose City Park Golf Course, Ruby Golf Club, Tualatin Country Club, Waverley Country Club, West Hills Municipal Golf Links, Wildwood Golf Club.

# **Columbia Country Club and Golf Acres**

In December 1920 the Portland Oregon Land Company purchased land from Leonard Gertz. J.O. Elrod, an engineer and timber buyer was President of the Company at this time. CC. Crow wrote in the 1932 Annual

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Columbian: "The first thing J.O. Elrod did was to interest some golf enthusiasts in the proposition of building a course. This done, the services of A.V. Macan, one of the best golf architects on the Pacific Coast were sought. Mr. Macan refused even to figure on the job until he had first spent several days going over the ground himself determining whether he could construct a course there that would reflect credit on his judgment. His study showed that the property had great possibilities, and later he was engaged to lay out and superintend the work."<sup>12</sup> Arthur Vernon Macan was from Victoria, British Columbia. He designed the Royal Colwood Club in Victoria and by the end of his career had designed 60 golf courses. His design of the Columbia Golf Course was modeled after Muirfield in Scotland, with the outward 9 holes turning clockwise around the perimeter of the property, and the inward nine generally turning counterclockwise. Macan was a lawyer and a golfer who won the 1912 and 1913 PGA Championships. On January 12, 1924 the Articles of Incorporation were filed for the Columbia, and the Columbia Country Club held its first meeting on January 23, 1924 with fifty men. On February 6, 1924 the first meeting of the Board of Directors was held with their first offices at 283 Stark Street.

The first officers were E.C. Darnelle, President of Swift and Co., C.C. Colt, Vice President of First National Bank and J.O. Elrod. The initiation fee was \$200 paid at \$10 a month. Oscar Furuset, an attorney and the 44th member of the club stated: "At the time I joined the Columbia, I had never seen a golf course and was anxious to see what one looked like, so the first Sunday in March, 1924 I drove out to the place where Tom Donaca told me the course was located. The road which now runs in front of the club property was nothing but a muddy track and all I could see was a plowed field about a quarter section in size."<sup>13</sup> Original members paid dues to the club for about 18 months before the course was ready to play.

At the time the Columbia Country Club was constructed, it was the eleventh golf course constructed in the Portland area. At the time it was built there was: the Waverly Country Club, Tualatin Country Club, Alderwood Country Club, Multnomah Golf Club, Portland Golf Club, Eastmoreland Municipal Links, Ruby Gold, Glendoveer, Rose City and West Hills. The Columbia Country Club officially opened on July 11, 1925. The Oregonian reviewed the course: "of the 11 courses read for play, none, in the opinion of experts who have seen them all, is more beautiful, none better constructed, none more carefully thought out, none offer a fairer test of golf.<sup>14</sup> The clubhouse was opened in June 1926. Designed by Emery Olmstead in the English Tudor style, it was located north of Bridgeton Road (now Marine Drive) along the bank of the Columbia. There was a spacious women's and men's locker room, and each included a large fireplace, white tile showers, wide maple benches and heavy rugs. The lounge had a picturesque view of the river and the main dining room had large windows and French doors which opened onto the porch which looked out over the Columbia.<sup>15</sup>

# **Golf Acres**

Golf Acres was a residential subdivision that was designed and platted by the Columbia Country Club and intended for sale to members of the Club. Plat 1 of Golf Acres included the Golf Course(Lot 1) and 40 residential lots. Three curvilinear roads: Golf Court, Columbia Ave. and Levee Road were platted off of the existing Gertz Rd. Most of the lots are located around the main golf course, and with the exception of Lots 2

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and 3 in the upper NW corner of the plat, all of the lots are irregularly shaped to take advantage of the natural topography of the site. Plat 1 was recorded on October 9, 1924. The golf course and lots of Plat 1 were designed by A.V. Macan and filed by the Portland Trust Company. While designer A.V. Macan created a golf course community for members of the Columbia Country Club, no deed restrictions were placed on any of the lots in Golf Acres, and no design standards were ever drafted for this development. Therefore, as houses were constructed, a haphazard mix of designs and styles resulted.

### **The Fisher House**

Plat 2 of Golf Acres included lots 42 through 57, and was recorded in October 1925 by the Portland Trust Co. Plat 2 had sixteen lots and was located north of Bridgeton Road (now Marine Drive) along the Columbia River. The Columbia Country Club clubhouse was originally located north of Bridgeton Road and east of lot 42, northeast of the main golf course. Unlike the irregularly shaped lots to the south on Plat 1, all of the lots of Plat 2 were 100' wide and averaged about 250' deep. The Fisher House was the first house constructed on Plat 2 of Golf Acres.

Local businessman Raymond Frank Fisher purchased Lot 49 at Golf Acres in 1929 and hired local architect Ora M. Akers to design a house for him and his wife Catherine. Fisher was originally from Aurora, Indiana. He moved to Woodburn, Oregon when he was twelve years old, in 1901. He attended Oregon State University and operated the Raymond F. Fisher Chevrolet Company in Portland from 1922 until 1954. According to Portland City Directories Fisher operated an automobile garage and service station and sold new cars in the north Portland neighborhood of St. Johns. Only later in his career did he exclusively sell only Chevrolets.

Fisher hired local architect Ora M. Akers to design his house at Golf Acres. Akers began offering designing and drafting services at the 506 Lewis Bldg. in Portland, three years after he and his wife Bertha moved to Oregon. In 1924 through 1929 O.M. Akers served as an architect, with offices at 705 Couch. Akers was very active in Portland in the 1920s, designing primarily apartment buildings in the Mediterranean or Mission style. Many of Akers' buildings are characterized by stucco walls and red clay tile roofs. He is also listed as the architect on several residences in Portland, including some in the Ladd's Addition National Register Historic District in southeast Portland. All his residences were constructed between 1924 and 1929, and were designed in a range of styles, including Colonial Revival, English Cottage, and Craftsman.

It is unclear whether it was Akers or Fisher who initiated the Tudor style for the Fisher House. Akers was clearly competent in the picturesque period styles of the day, and designed the Fisher House with an acute understanding of the Tudor Revival style. The only other building in Plat 2 at Golf Acres at the time may have served as the inspiration for the design of the Fisher House; the Columbia Country Club clubhouse was designed in the style, three years earlier.<sup>16</sup> With the exception of a couple of houses in Plat 1, south of Bridgeton Road, Fisher's house was the only house constructed in Golf Acres before the Great Depression plunged the Columbia Country Club and Golf Estates into severe financial difficulty. In fact, the Fisher House and the

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clubhouse remained the only structures on the north side of Bridgeton Road until 1937 when the second house was built, on lot 47. After that time, there were no houses constructed on Plat 2 until the 1940s, when seven more houses were constructed. Three more were built in the 1950s. The remaining houses were constructed after 1980. As with Plat 1 there were no design standards or deed restrictions on the lots, therefore each house was constructed according to the personal wishes of the owner, resulting in a variety of architectural styles.

# The End of an Era

The Great Depression years in Portland reflected the grim national trends. The population in Portland only increased by 1.2 % between 1930 and 1940. Construction had also become more affected by national financial trends. In 1932 only two buildings were constructed in the downtown area, none were built in 1933 or 1934, one was built in 1935 and two in 1936. No buildings were constructed in 1937 and only one or two a year were built until the start of WWII. Unemployment in 1930 was at 10.5% for the State of Oregon, with 17.4% of those working in the building industries unemployed. The local trend followed the national one with unemployment peaking at 25% in 1933."<sup>17</sup> In May of 1931, US National Bank found itself unable to loan more than 25% of its deposits in Portland. To avoid a run on bank deposits, both US National and First National banks ran full page ads in all the daily newspapers in December of 1931, notifying bank depositors that legal notice would be required before withdrawals would be allowed.

The Eastmoreland Municipal Golf Course almost closed during the depression due to its high number of debts. Lifetime memberships were sold at \$100 each and saved the course. The Riverside Golf and Country Club, a close neighbor of the Columbia Country Club also experienced some difficulties during this time period. On August 29, 1929 their clubhouse burned to the ground. Luckily the fire occurred before noon on the very day their insurance lapsed. They were able to reconstruct their clubhouse which opened in October 1930. The Spokane Savings Bank which held the Riverside mortgage went bankrupt and was taken over by the State Banking Department of Washington. During the Depression years memberships dropped significantly. The Bank continued the club's operation until 1935 when a group of members organized to buy back the club. They were successful and officially incorporated on May 20, 1936.<sup>18</sup>

# **Columbia Country Club: The Great Depression**

In 1926, in order to obtain capital for building the clubhouse, \$150,000 in bonds were sold to club members and secured by a mortgage held by the Portland Trust and Savings Bank. Unfortunately after the stock market crash in 1929 and the resulting economic fallout, members became unable to make payments on the mortgage. The club's taxes were delinquent from 1928 through 1931 and in 1932 the club had stopped paying interest on the mortgage held by Portland Trust and Savings which still held a principal of \$100,500 in January of 1933. As a result, Portland Trust and Savings filed foreclosure action against the Columbia Country Club on January 5, 1933. Formal action was held off for two years, until on February 5, 1935 a decree called for \$60,000 in promissory notes held by club members, its land and equipment. No lots were sold because of legal difficulties

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arising from the foreclosure and no new homes were constructed in Golf Acres between the time Fisher's home was completed in 1929 and 1937 when a new home was constructed at 1735 NE Marine Dr.

On May 24, 1934 the Columbia River Land Company was incorporated by Oscar Furuset, Marvin Rankin and B. Lee for the purposes of rescuing the Club, and its land.<sup>19</sup> By this time membership in the club had been reduced significantly, and a new manager, Verne Perry was hired in 1937 to help increase membership and turn the club around. Between 1937 and 1945 Perry had illegal slot machines installed in the Club. These slot machines were extremely profitable.<sup>20</sup>

After World War II, reflecting a general improvement in the economy as well as the government providing the low interest V.A. loan, a significant number of lots in Golf Acres were sold to members of the Club and development began again, with five houses being constructed in 1940. The houses constructed after World War II were primarily one-story minimal tract houses. The era that supported the construction of grand English Tudor houses like the Fisher house and the Clubhouse at the Columbia Country Club had passed.

# **Comparative Analysis**

Of the ten golf courses that were operating at the time the Columbia Country Club opened in Portland, these five remain within Portland today:

Waverly Country Club (1896), Portland Golf Club (1914), Eastmoreland Golf Club (1918), Rose City Golf Club(1923), and the Glendoveer Golf Club (1924). Of these five golf courses, two of the courses are municipally owned and operated (Eastmoreland and Rose City).<sup>21</sup> In the 15 years from 1933 through 1947 only four new golf courses opened. Many more closed due to the economic depression. Portland lost Ruby's, Multnomah Country Club, Inverness, Peninsula, Monagh Lea, Alderwood, West Hills, Lloyds' and Bob'O Links. Course building picked up again with three new layouts opening in 1948 and 1949 and 18 in the 1950's.

Columbia Country Club appears to have been the only golf club, in Portland, in the 1920s, to have designed and constructed a subdivision as part of its original planning. There are in Portland neighborhoods with golf courses, and golf courses with neighborhoods, but none appear to have been developed together, as was the case with Golf Acres and the Columbia Country Club. Waverly Country Club began acquiring pre-platted lots around its nascent golf course in 1898, and sold them as needed to finance golf course development and other improvements, into the 1930s. Eastmoreland was a residential district that received a municipal golf course after it was developed, and Rose City saw residential development spring up around a municipal golf course. While the Glendoveer Golf Club did not appear to have any residential area associated with its golf course. While the Glendoveer Golf Couse was not developed originally in conjunction with a residential subdivision, a zoning district was established in 1949 that maintained a residential area around the course that utilized the course's open space as its center.

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Within Golf Acres, the Fisher House stands out as one of three houses remaining from the 1920s development period at Golf Acres. The first house at Golf Acres was a one-story house constructed in 1925 on Lot 3 of Plat 1, in the NW corner of the plat at 1425 NE Marine Drive. This house has been remodeled significantly so it now appears to be a modified ranch style and the original lot subdivided into three lots, so it is unable to convey the subdivision's historical associations. The second house was constructed in the SE portion of Plat 1 in 1927 on Lot 24 at 9200 NE Levee. This lot has also been subdivided and the original house altered. No other houses were constructed on Plat 1 in the 1920s. Eight houses were constructed on Plat 1 in the 1930s, and eight more were constructed in the 1940s. The Fisher House was finally joined in Plat 2 in 1937 by one house, followed by seven more in the 1940s. In December 1979, the original Columbia Country Club clubhouse burned to the ground. A new clubhouse was constructed south of Marine Drive in 1981. In the late nineties a new 105-lot subdivision was platted north of Gertz Rd, west of Levee Rd and south of the original golf course.

### Conclusion

The Fisher House is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the rising popularity of subdivisions associated with golf courses and country clubs in the United States in the 1920s. The Fisher House stands at Golf Acres, a two-plat subdivision designed in a picturesque park-like setting for members of the Columbia Edgewater Country Club. Designed by O.M. Akers, and constructed in the Tudor style, the Fisher House was the first house constructed on Plat 2 of Golf Acres. Due to a fire that burned the original clubhouse down in the 1970s, the Fisher house is the only remaining structure in Plat 2 at Golf Acres from the 1920s development phase, and the only building at Golf Acres that retains excellent integrity from that period. The gap in construction between the Fisher House and subsequent development represents the vulnerability of Portland's 1920s economy and conveys the severity of the effects of the Great Depression on the country club suburb.

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# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Stilgoe, John. **Borderland.** (Yale University Press, New Haven, CT; 1990) page 52.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 115.

<sup>3</sup> National Bureau of Economic Research. Recent Economic Changes in the United States; Report of the Committee on Recent Economic Changes, of the President's Conference on Unemployment, (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1929). page 219.

<sup>4</sup> Oakhurst Links. The Oakhurst Story: The Early Story. May 15, 2005. < www.oakhurst1884.com >

<sup>5</sup> MacColl, E. Kimbark. The Shaping of A City: Business and Politics in Portland, OR 1885 to 1915. (The Georgian Press, Portland, OR) 1976.

<sup>6</sup> MacColl, E. Kimbark. The Growth of A City: Power and Politics in Portland, OR 1915 to 1950. (The Georgian Press, Portland, OR; 1979). p118-119.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, page 70.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> MacColl, E. Kimbark. The Growth of A City: Power and Politics in Portland, OR 1915 to 1950. (The Georgian Press, Portland, OR ) 1979.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. page 65.

<sup>11</sup> Portland City Directory (R.L. Polk & Co. Portland OR; 1929) page 1946.

<sup>12</sup> Barbour, Richard, Columbia Edgewater; 1924-1999. The First 75 Years of the Friendliest Club in Town. (Columbia Edgewater, Portland OR; 1999) page 5. <sup>13</sup> Ibid, page 6.

<sup>14</sup> **Oregonian**; June 11, 1925.

<sup>15</sup> Barbour, Richard. Columbia Edgewater; 1924-1999. The First 75 Years of the Friendliest Club in Town. (Columbia Edgewater, Portland OR; 1999) page 10.

<sup>16</sup> Polk, R.L. Portland (OR) City Directories: 1920-1933. (R.L. Polk & Co., Portland OR) 1920-1933.

<sup>17</sup> MacColl, E. Kimbark. The Growth of A City: Power and Politics in Portland, OR 1915 to 1950. (The Georgian Press, Portland, OR; 1979). page 395.

<sup>18</sup> Riverside Golf and Country Club. Riverside Golf and Country Club History. May 20, 2005. <www.riversidegcc.com>

<sup>19</sup> Barbour, Richard. Columbia Edgewater; 1924-1999. The First 75 Years of the Friendliest Club in Town. (Columbia Edgewater, Portland OR; 1999) page 14.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Myers, Kent C. Golf in Oregon. (Ryder Press, Portland, OR:1977) Appendix.

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Multnomah, OR

County and State

Fisher, Raymond and Catherine, House Name of Property

### 10. Ge

10. Geographical Data					
Acreage of Property64 acres					
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)					
1 <u>10 527515 5049522</u> Zone Easting Northing		3 Zone		ng	Northing
2		4			
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)					
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)					
11. Form Prepared By					
name/title Kimberli Fitzgerald, Preservation Consultant			- 2. 2		
organization	date				
street & number <u>6381 SE Heike Ct.</u>					
city or townHillsboro		_ state _	OR	_ zip co	de <u>97123</u>
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:					
Continuation sheets					

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner		
name Rod Buck		
street & number <u>1625 NE Marine Dr.</u>	telephone	
city or town Portland	state <u>OR</u> zip code <u>97211</u>	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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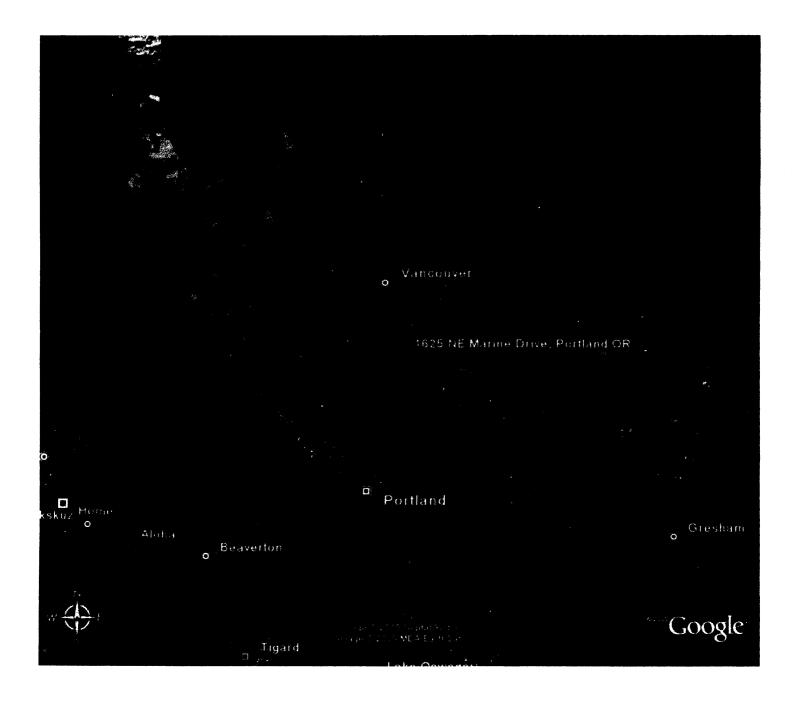
Section number 10 Page 1

# **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated parcel contains Lot 49 of Golf Acres Plat 2 in northeast Portland. Tax Lot Id # 171733.

# **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the physical property historically associated with the Fisher House.



FISHER, RAYMOND and Catherine, House

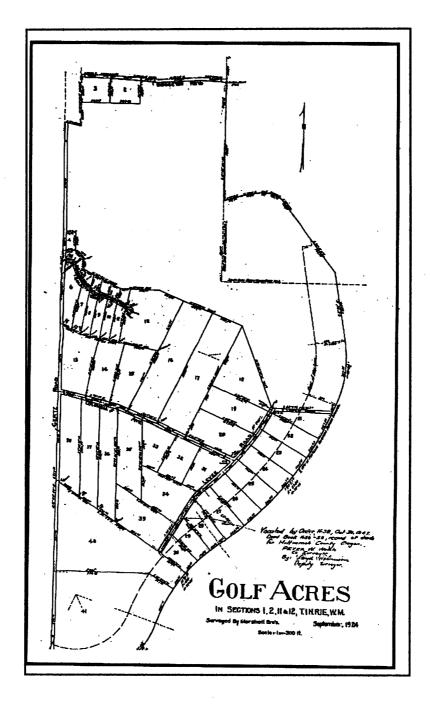
VICINITY MAP



# FISHER, RAYMOND and CATHERINE, HOUSE

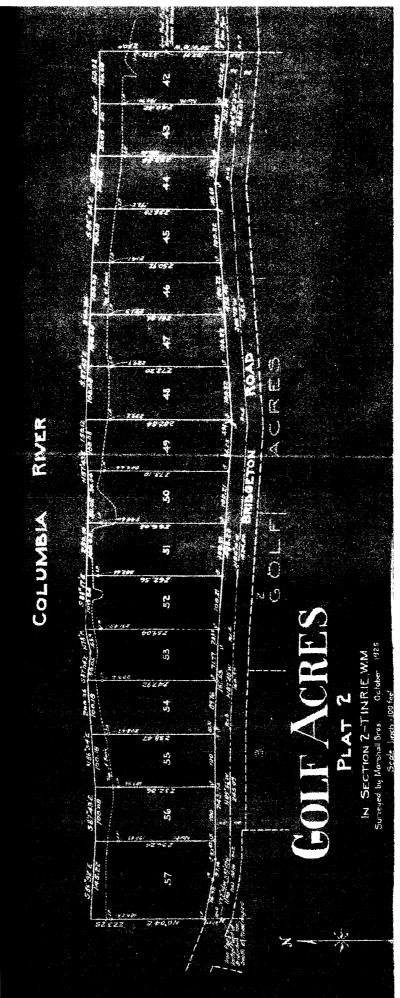
VICINITY MAP

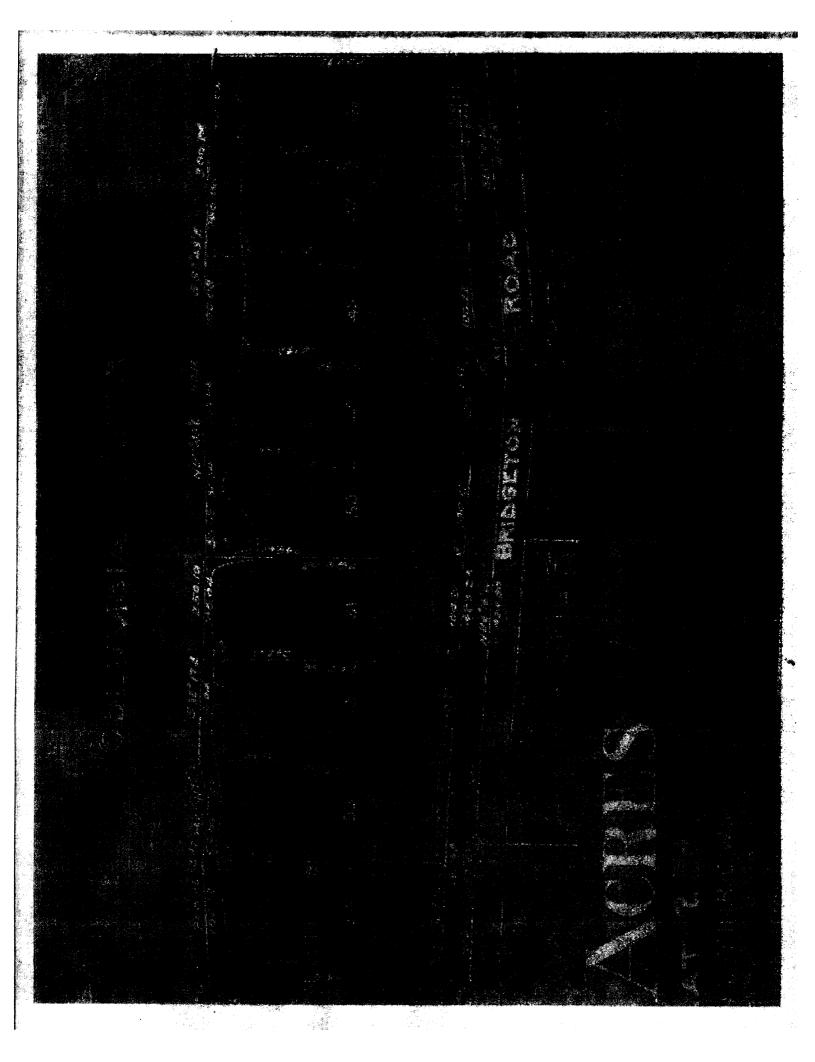
FISHER HOUSE MULTNOMAH County, OR



PLAT 1

risher House Multnoman County, or





FIREPLACE LOWSK TSKRACE Ø PARY ROOM BASEMENT scale: 5/ 52'' - 1'-0''  $\frac{1}{1}$ đ PATH STROACE BOLER ROOM STORAGE

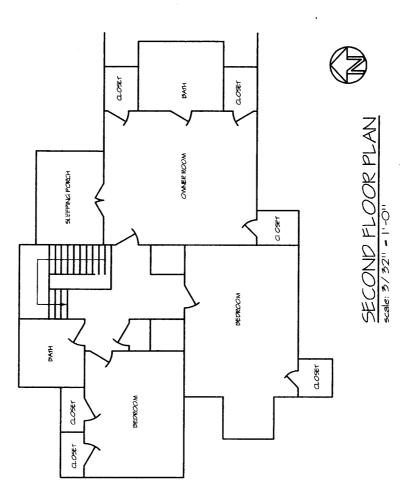
4

# FISHER, RAYMOND AND CATHERINE HOUSE

FIREPLACE TERRACE LIVING ROOM FIRST FLOOR PLAN scale: 3/ 32" - 1'-0'' CLOSET WOODIS. CINW HING down PNINIA KITCHEN outdoor DREAKPAST gate Driveway GARAGE

FISHER, RAYMOND AND CATHERINE HOUSE

FISHER, RAYMOND AND CATHERINE HOUSE



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Photographs Fisher, Raymond and Catherine, House 1625 NE Marine Drive, Portland Multnomah, OR

Photographer:	Kimberli Fitzgerald
Date:	May 2005

Photo List

#1	Exterior View:	Looking NW at South Facade
#2	Exterior View:	Looking NE at South and West Facades
#3	Exterior View:	Looking N at Garage and West Facade
#4	Exterior View:	Looking S at North Facade
#5	Exterior View:	Looking S at East end of North Facade
#6	Exterior View:	Looking S at W end of North Facade
#7	Exterior View:	Looking S at North Facade; Sleeping Porch Detail
#8	Exterior View:	Looking N toward Columbia River from Sleeping Porch
<b>#9</b>	Exterior View:	Looking NW to Columbia River from roof of Maid's Quarters
#10	Exterior View:	Looking W at First Floor Patio
#11	Exterior View:	Looking S at # Façade of House
#12	Exterior View:	Looking SE at SE corner of property
#13	Interior View:	First Floor: Front Entry Door, Looking South
#14	Interior View:	First Floor: Living Room, Looking SE
#15	Interior View:	First Floor: View from Living Room through Hall to Dining Room, lookingWest
#16	Interior View:	First Floor: Original Maid's Quarters, Looking NE
#17	Interior View:	First Floor: Dining Room, Looking S
#18	Interior View:	First Floor: Kitchen, Looking SE
#19	Interior View:	First Floor: Kitchen, Breakfast Nook, Looking N
#20	Interior View:	Central Stair, Looking N
#21	Interior View:	Detail of Ironwork on Central Stair, Looking E
#22	Interior View:	Second Floor: Landing, Looking N
#23	Interior View:	Second Floor: Master Bedroom, Looking SE
#24	Interior View:	Second Floor: Master Bath, Looking E
#25	Interior View:	Second Floor: Sleeping Porch, Looking N
#26	Interior View:	Second Floor: Guest Bathroom, Looking N
#27	Interior View:	Second Floor: Guest Bedroom, Looking W
#28	Interior View:	Basement: Patio Doors, Looking NE
#29	Interior View:	Basement: Boiler Room, Looking NE
#30	Interior View:	Basement: Boiler Room, Looking SE

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