

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 1 1985

date entered FEB 28 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic View Point Inn

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 40301 NE Larch Mountain Road N/A not for publication

city, town Corbett N/A vicinity of Third Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Karen and Douglas Watson

street & number 40301 NE Larch Mountain Road

city, town Corbett N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97019

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW Fourth

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Multnomah County Planning Resolution has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Multnomah County Department of Environmental Services  
(Planning Commission files)

city, town Portland state Oregon

## 7. Description

**Condition**                      **Check one**                      **Check one**  
 excellent                       deteriorated                       unaltered                       original site  
 good                               ruins                               altered                               moved                      date \_\_\_\_\_ n/A  
 fair                                   unexposed

2891 8 S 877  
**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The distinctive View Point Inn (1924) is significant as an architectural feature and prominent landmark along the Columbia River Gorge. It is of particular interest as the best preserved example of 1920s tourist inns remaining along the lower section of the historic Columbia River Scenic Highway. The large white shingle structure in the Arts and Crafts style, is nestled on Thor's Heights between Portland Women's Forum Park and Vista House (National Register property). The inn is visible from the park vantage point and has a panoramic view of the Columbia River.

Thor's Heights promontory at the site of the hotel is 1125' above sea level. The inn is situated on .96 acres at the junction of the old Columbia River Highway (National Register Historic District) and Larch Mountain Road (formerly Brower Road). The property comprises Lots 1 and 2, Thor's Heights, in Sections 30 and 31, Township 1 North, Range 5 East of the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon.

Landscaping of the property is roughly semi-circular, reaching from the western exposure of the inn (primary facade) to the edge of the ridge of Thor's Heights). A few old plantings, including baby roses, are visible where the lawn expanse meets the underbrush. Two rock-faced terraces are articulated with small rock-faced piers and a walkway sloped from the verandah to the generous lawn. Near the western edge of the lawn is a large circular stone-faced pond (unfilled) surrounded by irises.

To the south of the property bordering Larch Mountain Road are various mature plantings including a 25' boxwood hedge; two variegated pink weigelia; two white hawthorne; and a long row of pine trees. Near the pine hedge is a single fir tree. At the far north edge of the property is a 10' x 20' wooden storage shed (thought to be original), with a new shake roof. At present, landscape maintenance has been deferred, due to more urgent structural maintenance necessary to stabilize the inn.

Designed by architect Carl L. Linde, the massive wooden structure exhibits elements of Tudor style, but may be more aptly identified as a belated example of the Arts and Crafts style. The building, according to its second owner, was constructed at a cost of \$47,000. It has a large, prominent gabled roof, gabled roof dormers, and gabled wings. The main volume of the inn measures approximately 62' x 30'. All porches, all exterior walls, and the major interior first floor walls are of heavy timber construction.

The exterior is sheathed with wood shingles, 5¼" to the weather. Boards are applied to the walls to amplify the half-timbered effect. Shingles are painted off-white and timbers are painted dark brown, a close resemblance to the original white and black color scheme. Most of the original multi-light windows and doors remain, although several upper story windows are thermal-paned wood sash replacements.

On the west, or primary facade, three gabled dormers are featured in the flared, or bell cast, shake roof. The lower portion of the huge sloping roof covers a 10' verandah which was once screened and used as an additional dining area. This verandah has five bays. There are triple posts at each corner and paired posts between. The 11½" x 11½" posts are secured to the concrete foundation by steel plates. The verandah ceiling is

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finished with 3¼" tongue and groove boards with beveled edges. The wood floor is a recent restoration. To maximize the western view of the river, Linde provided five 15-light French doors with sidelights between the verandah and the great hall.

On the southwest of the main gable is a smaller extension of the main gable which features a sunporch at the ground elevation. This 12' x 22' room has multi-paned window and door openings.

The rear, or east elevation, contains two gabled wings with multi-light windows and a gabled roof dormer. Tudor detailing is evidenced in contrasting color roof rakings and vertical boards. There is a door leading to the kitchen from the outermost projecting wing; another door is at the north end of the southern exposure. A large red brick chimney with four chimney pots is located in the center of the main gable. At the far end of the east elevation is a flat roof double garage with double bi-folding doors containing multi-light windows. An unpaved road serves as a drive-way along this portion of the inn.

The north elevation is comparatively plain with the garage projection; two multi-light French doors (leading to the great hall); and three fixed multi-light sash at the end of the verandah at the ground elevation. Above, at the second story elevation, are three wood sash windows. The structure rests on a concrete foundation and has a basement measuring 978 square feet.

The ground floor interior contains approximately 2320 square feet. Facing the west and the verandah is the intact great hall, formerly the inn dining room, which measures 61.5' x 21'. The great hall originally contained approximately 30 dining tables to seat 125 dining patrons. It has 14' high ceilings and 7'5" high fir veneer paneling with mouldings accented in orange and green. The flooring is 2¼" maple. Load bearing posts are covered by pilasters. Upper walls and ceilings are finished in white wall board, though the original finish was sand finished plaster.

In the center of the east wall is an arched fireplace constructed of river and volcanic rock. The fireplace has a mantle with cavetto mouldings at top and bottom.

Each bay of the great hall contains a pendant light fixture thought to be designed by lighting expert Fred Baker. These original fixtures are circular with six candles attached to a wrought iron rim and suspended with black chain. Two other original fixtures are located in the two center exterior bays leading to the verandah. These are simple wall sconces and were apparently supplied by Baker's lighting firm.

To the right of the fireplace are original double doors leading to the serving room and kitchen beyond. Both areas have been renovated; the opening between the two smaller rooms has been enlarged, creating a larger continuous space and exposing heavy timber framing previously plastered over. This is the only spatial change in the structure. The former serving area retains a large walk-in wooden freezer and wooden fir flooring. To the north of the freezer is the former women's restroom and a powder room, presently used for storage.

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Access to the small entrance hall is gained from the east end of the great hall, or through the sun porch (which was an overflow dining area). The mens' restroom off the entrance hall has been remodeled with modern plumbing fixtures. From the entrance hall is an elbow stairway with simple fir newel post and plain fir balusters leading to the second story.

The upper level of the inn contains approximately 1683 square feet with four bedrooms and two bathrooms in their configuration. Between the major bedrooms at each end is a large sitting room with a fireplace flanked by two large bookcases. The fireplace is of orange glazed tile surrounded by fluted pilasters and a mantle resting on scroll brackets. All woodwork including baseboards and ceiling moulding are painted white. The floors are of 2½" maple. There are two original white wall sconces mounted beside the fireplace, and two single light white pendant ceiling fixtures (perhaps supplied by the Fred Baker firm) in the sitting room. Original door hardware and light switches have been retained, as well as a claw-footed bath tub in the northeast bathroom.

Historically, the bedrooms and the sitting room, which could contain about twelve cots, accommodated as many as 26 overnight guests. An expansive view of the western gorge slope was offered to the guests from dormer window openings in the north and south bedrooms, and from the commodious sitting room.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (tourism)
<b>Specific dates</b>	1924	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	George Alfred Canzler (builder) Carl L. Linde (architect)	

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The View Point Inn (originally named the Palmer Place), prominently situated on Thor's Heights near Corbett, is located on the old Columbia River Highway one mile west of Vista House at Crown Point and three quarters of a mile east of the Portland Women's Forum Park. Constructed in 1924 at the junction of the scenic highway and Larch Mountain Road, for Grace H. Palmer, the inn was operated until 1962. Constructed in direct response to the rise of automobile touring and the development of the Columbia River Gorge Highway, the View Point Inn is eligible under Criterion "a." As the only inn remaining intact from the galaxy of resorts built near Crown Point, it meets Criterion "c." The inn is additionally significant under Criterion "c" as the only known inn designed by Carl L. Linde, one of Oregon's foremost architects.

The inn was the result of the growth of automobile tourism in the Columbia River Gorge. This industry derived from the "Good Roads Movement" (the ideal of constructing hard surfaced roads to benefit farmers, industrialists, and tourists) that arose shortly before the First World War (1914-1918). The eccentric millionaire Samuel C. Hill conceived the idea of a scenic highway along the south bank of the Columbia River. In 1913, Oregon responded to Hill's vision by creating a State Highway Department. The department hired a brilliant engineer, Samuel C. Lancaster, to build the highway. When completed in 1915 it was widely hailed as an aesthetic and engineering masterpiece. Lancaster began to advertise the tourist potential of the highway on a trip to the Eastern states in 1916 and 1917. As Hill put it, "we will cash in, year after year, on our crop of scenic beauty, without depleting it in any way."

Among the jewels of the highway and a focal point for tourists were Vista House and Crown Point. Crown Point is a basaltic promontory of the Columbia Gorge. It was one of the two sites where the highway was dedicated between Troutdale and Hood River in 1916. Atop Crown Point stands the Vista House (1918), an observation point for the Gorge. Vista House was designed by the architect Edgar Lazarus following Samuel Lancaster's suggestion that an observation point be placed at Crown Point.

Famous resort inns such as the Chanticleer Inn on the site of the Portland Women's Forum Park, the Crown Point Chalet above Vista House, the Wayfarer Inn in Corbett, and Faresh Hall in Bridleveil arose to serve the tourists. From Portland, rental touring cars and limousines were available from the Columbia River and City Sightseeing Service to bring tourists to the area.

(continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .96

Quadrangle name Bridal Veil, Washington - Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	0	5	5	8	7	5	0	5	0	4	2	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The View Point Inn occupies Lots 1 & 2 of Thor's Heights, Multnomah County, Oregon, which are located in Sections 30 & 31 of T1N, R5E, W.M., Multnomah County, Oregon.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code county code

state None code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Dodds

organization History Resources date June 30, 1984

street & number 1665 NW 131st Avenue telephone (503) 644-8921

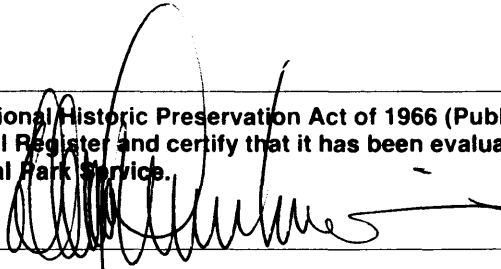
city or town Portland state Oregon 97229

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

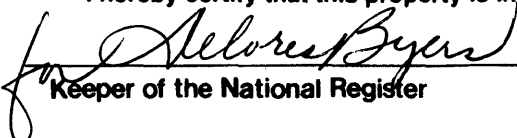
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 9, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2-28-85

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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In the 1920s tourism in America became democratized and big business because of the "Good Roads Movement," the inexpensive mass-produced automobile pioneered by Henry Ford and his competitors, a higher standard of living, a reduced work week, and a desire to escape the pressures of urban life. In 1920 every other car in the world was a Model T. In 1925 the Ford Motor Company made an automobile every 10 seconds. By the end of the Twenties the Model T cost its lowest price ever, \$290. Paradoxically, millions of Americans rushed by machine to places of natural beauty to flee a mechanizing nation. Henry Ford himself took a series of camping trips in the years 1914-1924 in the company of Thomas Edison, naturalist John Burroughs, and rubber tire magnate Harvey Firestone.

View Point Inn is a result of these developments. It is constructed on land originally owned by Lorens Lund. A Danish immigrant, Lund had come to the United States in 1870 where he met his Norwegian wife, Mari, who had arrived in 1859. The Lunds acquired 120 acres of land in 1884 and 1895 under the Homestead Act. Their acreage was located overlooking Crown Point in an area they eventually platted as Thor's Heights, in honor of the mythological Scandinavian deity who lived on a high place (Breidablikk) overlooking the entire world. In 1914 the Lunds donated a portion of their property to Multnomah County for highway purposes. They, Osmond Ryal, and George B. Van Waters, also gave to the City of Portland in 1917 the property where Vista House stands. Much of the Lunds' land was sold after 1917 and the site of the later View Point Inn was acquired by the Grace H. Palmer Corporation in 1924.

Grace Palmer and her associates, who included Fred Heilig of the theater family, opened the inn on 4 June 1925. The inn, named the Palmer Place, was designed by Carl Linde in the mode of a Shingle Style resort inn with half-timber detail. It was intended to be a tea room and restaurant (specializing in chicken dinners) with facilities for private parties. In spite of its attractive design and charming setting 1125 feet above the Columbia River, Grace Palmer and her children, Geraldine and Harry, were not successful in managing the Palmer Place. Their property was repossessed by the Union Savings and Loan Association and passed into the hands of William Moessner in 1927. His wife, Clara, assisted him in the running of the inn.

Moessner, a native of Pforzheim, Germany, was an experienced restaurateur. He had served as chef de cuisine at the Benson and Portland hotels before buying the Palmer Place which he renamed the View Point Inn. His enterprise advertised such diversions as hiking, fishing, and boating. During the prosperous Twenties and the depressed Thirties the Inn drew many guests, some of them famous. Julius Meier, the department store magnate and governor of Oregon (1931-1935), came frequently to breakfast. Meier's Menucha estate (extant) was one mile to the west of View Point Inn. On one occasion the governor accompanied delegates from a California Soroptomist convention to a banquet at the inn. One of the guest books, in possession of the current owners, records the names of Prince Friedrich

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of Potsdam (son of the former Crown Prince of Germany), Baron and Baroness Blixens-Fenicke of Denmark, and Baroness Ellen of Sweden. Lily Pons, Andre Kostelanetz, and Thomas Dewey were also reported to have been guests. The Inn, open all year, was quite luxurious and its guests paid as high or higher rates as at the Columbia Gorge Hotel, Cloud Cap Inn, and Timberline Lodge in the 1930s.

The Second World War, with its gas rationing and shortage of labor, ended these prosperous days. The Inn was closed. Although William Moessner reopened his inn after the war, it was only a temporary reprieve for it. When the new Columbia River Highway (now Interstate 84) was opened in the 1950s, traffic bypassed the View Point Inn. Moessner served the inn's last meal in 1962. After his death on 11 September 1979 the property passed to his nephew, Erwin Goeltz, who sold the property to Douglas and Karen Watson in 1982.

Carl L. Linde (1867-1945) became an active figure in Portland area architectural design. Immigrating with his family from Germany at the age of six, Linde settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended the German-English Academy and, while enrolled there, the young man also became apprenticed as an architect.

Linde's early career is largely undocumented, though it has been recorded that he was a brewery architect in Milwaukee and was a staff architect for Ryerson Steel in Chicago. After his arrival in Oregon in 1906, he became a draftsman for Edgar Lazarus, who designed the Vista House (National Register listed and HABS property) in 1916.

Before he obtained his architectural license in 1921, Linde worked for the firms of Whidden and Lewis, A.E. Doyle, and Whitehouse and Foulhoux. Beginning in 1921, Linde maintained his own architectural firm, and specialized in the design of residences, beach houses, apartment houses, and schools. His large apartment designs were favored with diplomatic names, such as the Jacobethan style Ambassador (1922) and the Twentieth Century style Sovereign (1922), both of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. English and Mediterranean elements were common in the forms created by the architect. The Royal Arms, Imperial Arms, Hamilton Arms, the Embassy, and the Envoy were also designed by Linde. His Ongford apartment, however, is early modern stylistically. Two garden court apartments, the National Register listed Holman Gardens (1928) of the halftimber style, and the 1923 Irvington Court Apartments in the Jacobethan style, reflect further diversity in the architect's creative design. His flexibility as an artist is also apparent in the 1926 Portland North Park Block sand stone and bronze fountain entitled "Rebecca at the Well" (Shemanski Fountain) which he designed with sculptor Oliver Barrett.

Linde also produced large, stately houses, including the 1932 Jack L. Eassen residence in Norman Farmhouse style; the 1928 Spanish Colonial Otto Poole house;



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the Tudor-style Zimmerman home of 1928; the 1926 Jack Barde residence of Mediterranean design; and the 1926 English cottage of Dr. Frank McCauley.

Linde was vice-president of the Oregon chapter, AIA, in 1934, and director of the Society of Registered Architects in 1935. At the beginning of the Second World War he became associated with the Corps of Engineers, United State Army, at Vancouver Barracks, and worked there until his death at age 78 in 1945.

Linde designed the View Point Inn in 1924. Originally known as the Palmer Place, the inn was commissioned and built at a reported expense of \$47,000. by Grace H. Palmer. The View Point is the only tourist resort structure known to have been designed by Linde, though several beach houses were designed by the architect during his career. The massive shingle inn is a distinct departure from the Tudor or Mediterranean style structures of brick and reinforced concrete commonly created by Linde.

Linde's architectural connection with the Columbia River Gorge area apparently began some years prior to the development of the View Point Inn. In 1917 the architect designed a giant arch as a gateway, or formal entrance, to the Columbia River Highway. Though the arch was never executed, it was to have been a monumental structure featuring the Oregon shield that "each passing motorist...[might] find something to remind him of his native state and make him feel at home."

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- Nash, Roderick. From These Beginnings: A Biographical Approach to American History. 3rd ed. vol. 2. New York: Harper and Row, 1984.
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B. Government Documents

- Lancaster, Samuel C. "The Columbia River Highway in Multnomah County," in First Annual Report of the State Highway Engineer. Salem: n.p., 1914. Multnomah County. Deed Book 667, . 449. 1914. Multnomah County Courthouse. Oregon State Highway Commission. Nineteenth Biennial Report, 1940-50. Salem: State Printing Department, 1950. Portland. Historic Resources Inventory. 1983.

C. Newspapers

- "Carl L. Linde Dies in Sleep," Oregon Journal (Portland), 13 July 1945.
- "Gateway is Proposed for Formal Entrance to Columbia River Highway," Sunday Oregonian (Portland), 7 Jan. 1917.
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- Pintarich, Paul, "Landmark Nominees Wanted," Morning Oregonian (Portland) 10 July 1980.

D. Interviews

- Baker, Fred C. Interview with Sheila Finch-Tepper, 5 July 1978. Oregon Historical Society Oral History Collection.
- Canzler, Elizabeth B. Interview with Linda S. Dodds, 27 June 1984 (telephone).
- Davis, Delbert F. Interview with Linda S. Dodds, 14 May 1984 (telephone).
- Finch-Tepper, Sheila. Interview with Linda S. Dodds, 30 May 1984.
- Graff, Beatrice. Interview with Linda S. Dodds, 9 May 1984 (telephone).
- Nesbit, Sharon. Interview with Gordon B. Dodds, 10 May; 1 June 1984 (telephone).

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E. Ephemera and Unpublished Material

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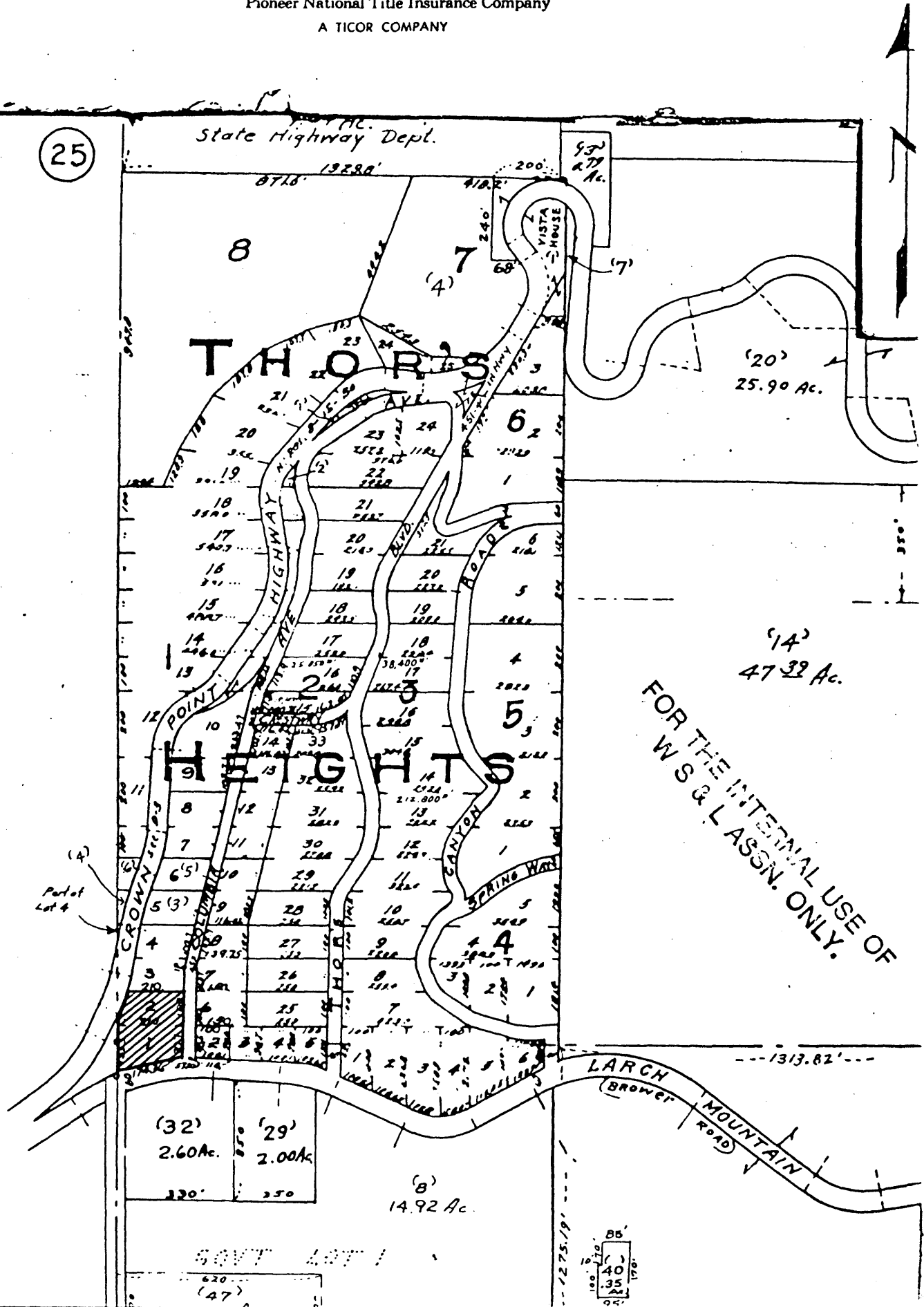
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District to the National Register of Historic Places. 1983.

View Point Hotel Business Card. 1934. Troutdale Historical Society.

View Point Inn  
40301 NE Larch Mountain Road  
Corbett, Multnomah Co., Oregon

The sketch below is made solely for the purpose of assisting in the liability for variations, if any, in dimensions and location ascertain

Pioneer National Title Insurance Company  
A TICOR COMPANY



View Point Inn  
40301 NE Larch Mountain Road  
Corbett, Multnomah Co., Oregon

