

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000142 Date Listed: 2/28/91

Becker, Christine, House Multnomah OREGON
Property Name County State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick W. Andrews 3/14/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 3

This nomination was amended to show 0 contributing and noncontributing objects and 2 contributing and 0 noncontributing Total.

Section No. 7

This section was amended to show synthetics as the walls material.

These changes were confirmed by phone with Elizabeth Potter of the Oregon SHPO (3/13/91).

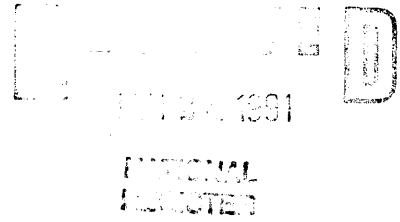
DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

142

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Becker, Christine, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1331 NW 25th Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Portland N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97210

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
James M. Hamrick January 3, 1991
Signature of certifying official Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Patrick Andrus 2/28/91

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

late 19th Century and Early 20th Century

Revivals: Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, Tenino Blue Stone facingwalls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt: composition shingleother windows: glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Present and Historical Appearance

7.1. Summary

The 1909¹ Christine Becker House located in Northwest Portland is a two story Colonial Revival style single family dwelling, designed by the noted Portland architect Emil Schacht.

The dominant feature of the Becker residence is a side-facing gambrel roof, inspired by the Dutch Colonial buildings of the northeast, which extends to enclose a porch on the front elevation. The porch is supported by massive columns. The Becker residence incorporates classical elements of the Colonial Revival style as well as those of the Craftsman style.

The Becker residence is locally significant under criterion "C", as a truly *outstanding* example of the work of a prominent architect and a *rare* example of the *Dutch Colonial* style within northwest Portland.

Shortly after it's completion, the Becker house was featured in the September 1910 issue of the "Northwest Architect", a "Monthly Magazine for the Architects, Builders and Allied Trades of the Pacific Northwest"². A copy of this issue is included in the Oregon Collection of the Knight Library. The article includes several photographs which depict the east/north elevation, as well as the entrance hall and living room, the richest and most detailed spaces within the home. Of all Schacht-designed buildings identified to date, the Christine Becker House is one of only two residential designs known to have enjoyed such publication during Schacht's lifetime.

The original drawings for the Becker residence exist. These drawings are located at the University of Oregon, in the Cachot Therkelson Collection, Special Collection Department of the Knight Library. A handwritten note found with the drawings indicates that the cost of the House, including Garage, was \$14,060.

The Becker residence is sited above street level on a corner lot, at the junction of N.W. 25th Avenue and Pettygrove Street. The floorplan is irregular with a symmetrical front facade facing East. Central stairs lead to the main entrance. The house is set back 22.6 feet from the front lot line. The rear is characterized by an intersecting gambrel roof and various projections from the main volume of the building. The second major facade faces north, and is the location of a side porch which overlooks

¹City of Portland Deed Records.

²So reads the magazine's caption.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Wallace Park.

Interior detailing of Schacht's residential designs during the height of his career shows a "Craftsman" influence, with tiled hearths, "art glass", built-in cabinetry, beamed ceilings, and, in his Colonial Revival designs, elegant classical ornamentation [3, page 40]. The Becker home is a superb example of Schacht's Colonial Revival style, incorporating all of these elements.

The property is in substantially the original condition.

7.2. Setting

The residence is located at 1331 N.W. 25th Avenue, County of Multnomah, City of Portland, in the State of Oregon. The legal description of the property is Lots 3 & 4, Block 18, in the Goldsmith's addition.

Houses and streets were renamed in 1931, and the previous address was 295 25th N. Street. The property comprises the southwest corner of N.W. 25th Avenue and Pettygrove Street, and is located approximately East-Southeast of Chapman Grade School and Wallace Park.

The area represents a diverse mix of housing, including apartment buildings and large single family dwellings. Wallace Park is directly adjacent to the Becker residence, and exhibits mature, well kept landscaping; lush lawns and old, deciduous trees. The lot originally sloped south to north, and was filled to be level during construction. Landscaping consists of several ornamental trees and hedges. A lattice fence encloses the large side yard on the southeast. A large old Japanese Maple dominates the northeast corner of the property. The original two-car garage is located behind the house, with a driveway leading up from Pettygrove street.

7.3. Plan

The living room, dining room, and den of the residence flank a central hall, which forms the main element between these public spaces and connects in the back to the rear hall, kitchen, and sewing-room. A staircase in the central hall provides primary access to the bedrooms above.

Upon entry, the formal dining room is located to the left. A "pass-through", or butler's pantry, leads from the dining room to the kitchen in the southwest corner of the house.

To the right of the entry hall, a large passage spanned by an arch, opens into the living room. A den is located to the rear of the living room. French doors open out from the den to the north facing porch.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3

At the rear of the main hall, a door accesses a separate rear hall, which connects the den, kitchen, and sewing room. A set of stairs leading down from the rear hall provides access to the finished basement. A back door in the kitchen opens to the rear porch and to the outside. A separate "servant's staircase" provides access to the second floor from the kitchen.

At the top of the central hall's staircase are three bedrooms, a linen closet, the main bathroom, and a servant's room arranged in a "U"-shape around the landing. From here the "sleeping porch" can be accessed as well.

7.4. Exterior**7.4.1. East Elevation**

The major elevation faces east on N.W. 25th. It is symmetrical with a central entrance composed of an oak door flanked by "art glass" side lights. The side-facing gambrel roof shelters a front porch which extends the length of the facade. The porch floor is surfaced with red tile. The drawings state that this tile was to be "Welsh quarried". Central stairs leading to the main entrance are flanked by a low wall constructed of random coursed ashlar. The porch ceiling is constructed of clear grain tongue and groove fir, and is supported by four massive columns -- a variant of the Tuscan Order, with an exaggerated abacus and capital which is diminutive in proportion to the shaft. Turned balusters form a balustrade which spans the perimeter of the porch. A wide frieze and cornice tops the columns. The roof is pierced by paired inset gable dormers which flank a shed roof dormer. A large flower box³ is set between the gabled dormers which have eave returns and paired, single-pane double hung windows. Window groupings on the first floor level consist of a central pane with an art glass transom, flanked by multi-pane side lights.

The foundation facing material is also of random coursed Ashlar. The drawings state that this Ashlar was to be "Tenino Blue Stone", a basaltic rock.

The main entry door consists of solid quarter sawn oak which reveals beautiful graining. A large art glass panel matching those of the flanking side lights is placed within the door.

³This flower box is non-existent today; but will be replicated in the future.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

7.4.2. North Elevation

The north elevation of the Becker residence consists of the side-facing gambrel roof form with a centrally located exterior chimney. The chimney is faced with Tenino Blue Stone. The east side of the chimney is stepped. There is a wrought iron "S" anchor and an arched inset niche. Flanking the chimney at the attic story are two quarter-round windows. Fenestration on the second floor consists of a single and paired, single-pane double hung windows. The chimney is flanked by multi-paned casements with "art-glass" transoms on the first floor. A doorway to the side porch consists of multi-paned French doors, flanked by multi-paned side lights.

The dominant feature of this elevation is the pergola, which is currently undergoing restoration. The pergola features a balustrade of turned balusters, identical to those of the front porch, and two columns, also identical to those of the front elevation, which support a lintel with carved ends, which in turn support exposed bracket ends. The porch platform is constructed of Tenino Blue Stone as well. The floor of this porch is surfaced with the same red tile as the front porch. The gable end has close formed eaves, with a frieze board defining the shape of the gambrel roof, and eave returns.

7.4.3. West Elevation

The west elevation is asymmetrical and irregular in massing. A one and one half story gambrel roof projection extends from the main volume of the house at the south end of the west elevation. The space under this roof projection houses the kitchen and, on the second floor, the "servant quarters". A second chimney, located on the inside, pierces through the roof and was originally used for the wood burning stove and oven, but serves the hot-water heater today.

Single-pane double hung windows are located in the gable end at the upper level and directly below is a porch with hipped roof, cornice and wide frieze supported by a single boxed post. There are two doors off the porch. A single pane door, with transom is flanked by nine-over-one double hung windows. A paneled door provides access to a small bathroom. The porch was originally enclosed by a lattice screen, and plans call for a "Refrigerator" (Ice Box) to be placed here.

To the north of the door off the kitchen are three grouped six-over-one double hung windows which face west at the location of the "sewing room", housed in a square projection from the main volume of the house. The north elevation of the sewing room has a single twelve-over-one double hung window. The sewing room projection has a flat roof with cornice. A shed roof dormer is located above this roof, with windows large enough to allow access to the roof. The drawings call for a sleeping porch located on the flat roof of the sewing room, with it's perimeter enclosed by a balustrade matching those of the main floor level. It is unknown whether the sleeping porch was constructed in this manner.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 5

The west facing facade to the north of the sewing rooms has a window grouping in the form of a "T", which reflects the interior arrangement of built-in cabinetry. The windows which make up the "T" are multi-paned.

7.4.4. South Elevation

The south elevation consists of the gambrel roof form with a void at the east end; the location of the front porch. Another gambrel roof projects perpendicular to the primary one from the main volume of the house. A frieze defines the line of the gambrel form, and extends horizontally at the projecting side facing gambrel and the void of the front porch.

At the first floor level there is a projection from the surface of the wall. This projection has a wide cornice and a window grouping of art glass consisting of a narrow, horizontal pane, flanked by small square panes. To the west of this projection is an eight-over-one double hung window and further west a window grouping of three, six-over-one windows at the location of the kitchen. At the second story, paired single-pane double hung windows are located directly above the boxed projection. A lunette window, with decorative wood keystone is located at the apex of the gable at the attic story.

7.4.5. Building Materials

The original roofing material is suspected to have been red composite shingle, as a scrap piece of such a shingle was recently found between floor joists. Current roofing material is a black composite roof. Exterior walls are built using standard double wall construction with 2x4 studs spaced 16" apart. Interior wall surfaces are wood lath with plaster, and floor joists are massive 2x12's spaced 16" apart. The original wooden shingles of the exterior walls have been replaced with slotted weatherboard synthetic siding by a previous owner (date unknown). The current siding's exposure to the weather is the same as the original siding's, making the change not overly apparent. All other exterior building materials, such as frieze boards, columns, etc. are unaltered and in excellent condition.

The main floor windows are of wood, and all original. A variety of single pane, multi-pane, casement and double hung wood windows are used on the main floor. The window art glass is also used extensively for some of the built-in cabinetry inside.

Second story windows were originally a combination of wooden multi-pane casement and double hung windows, but were replaced with aluminum double hung windows (date unknown).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

7.4.6. Garage

The original design of the residence called for a "carriage house/garage" combination to be built in the southwest corner of the property. However, it appears that this design was changed prior to construction to accommodate two cars instead, as the structure appears original. The garage's gambrel roof is a miniature copy of the house's main roof, with front facing gable. The front faces north and originally had a set of double french doors, but these have been replaced with modern-style garage doors. All interior walls are ceiled in six inch wide tongue and groove. Multi-pane wood casement windows are present in each of sidewalls. Siding material appears original. A ladder mounted on the inside leads up the the 'attic' story, which has a lunette window, with radiating mullions, located at the apex of the gable.

7.5. Interior

Although the large front porch and pergola create a stately character, the exterior's appearance is modest when compared with the interior of the house.

Original drawings of the residence illustrate the design of the interior built-ins, doors, mouldings, arches, coves, wainscoting, beams, columns, mantel, balustrade, banisters, railing and art glass windows. One of the interior detail drawings exhibits a note stating "To be made per sketch", suggesting custom millwork.

7.5.1. Main Floor

The Becker residence is entered through a central reception hall, which is grand and notable for its finely crafted classical detailing. Ceiling height on the main floor is 9 feet. Doors have two panels, consisting of a small panel over a large one. The hallway doors are taller than the other doors in the house, with each opening measuring 7 1/2' and topped by an architrave moulding.

The reception hall is rectangular in plan and provides circulation to the living room, dining room, and staircase. Two arches supported by engaged pilasters and a single free-standing boxed column divide the hall into a front and back half. The pilasters and column are fluted and embellished with carved capitals of the Scamozzi variant of the Ionic Order. Both arches have decorative keystones at their apex and spring from delicately carved consoles. The smaller arch spans the entrance to the stairway, while the larger arch separates the front space of the reception hall from the back half which has two paneled doors, one to the closet and one to the separate rear hall.

The stairwell consists of a single flight of stairs with oak treads, finished with a clear varnish, leading to the landing on the upper floor which curves around the stairwell opening. A slat rail balustrade, painted white, creates visual continuity with the fluted sides of the boxed column, is capped by a dark-stained oak

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 7

banister, interrupted on the second floor by three carved, dark-stained, boxed newel posts. The side of each step is decorated with a graceful scroll form, carved in low relief, while the side of the curved opening is decorated with wide panel moulding.

Superb craftsmanship and attention to detail is evident here, as well as everywhere throughout the home. The top of the central hall walls is crowned by a wide cornice. All floors, with the exception of the kitchen, are of oak. Individual slats are unusually long, and paired narrow, darker slats form a pattern around the perimeter of all rooms.

The main public spaces flank the central hall. Upon entry, the formal dining room is to the left, separated from the hall by double pocket doors with an architrave moulding.

Paneled with South American Mahogany the dining room has a large mahogany built-in buffet with glass doors and an art glass transom window above. Boxed beams with a clear grain finish decorate the ceiling. The butler's pantry is located between the dining room and the kitchen in the southwest corner of the house.

To the right of the entry hall an opening spanned by an arch supported by two boxed fluted columns leads into the living room. Flanking each of the columns are fluted pilasters, with the wall space in-between filled by panels. Facing this opening from the living room the space between the two column/pilaster pairs are finished as bookcases. The living room entrance arch is finely detailed and has a decorative keystone at it's apex.

The impressive living room fireplace mantel is supported by four diminutive pilasters of the ionic order. Below the cornice the mantel has a carved egg and dart and bead and reel ornament. The fireplace hearth is surfaced with tile. The living room is crowned with a wide cornice and has a coved ceiling.

A den is located to the rear of the living room, separated by a pair of paneled oak pocket doors with architrave moulding. Wainscoting in the den is of "selected grain eastern white oak" [2], and built-in bookcases with double art glass doors have been constructed from the same material. Between the bookshelves is a built-in desk, the working surface slightly tilted toward the front, with a drawer on each side. The desk is also of oak and faces a double multi-pane casement window. Multi-paned French Oak doors, flanked by a pair of multi-paned side lights open out to the north porch with the pergola. The ceiling has oak beams terminating in a wide cornice crowning the room.

The remainder of the house's trim is in "grain Oregon fir" [2]. A separate rear hall connects the den to the kitchen and sewing room. A set of stairs leads down from the rear hall to the laundry room of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 8

basement.

The kitchen is generous in size and was quite modern for its time. It is still largely in original condition. The wood stove and hot-water heater have been replaced with modern gas appliances, but the remainder is fully intact. Large, floor to ceiling built-in cabinets provide ample storage and flank a tiled counter with sink. One of the built-in cabinets has a small screened opening to the outside. Three large double hung windows facing the sink flood the sink area with light. An ironing board is built into the wall and folds out into the center of the kitchen. A separate "servant's staircase" allows inconspicuous movement between the kitchen and the second floor.

A back door with transom window gives way to the back porch, where the Icebox originally stood. The floor of the kitchen is of pine, the only non-oak wood floor in the house, and is currently covered with vinyl tiles⁴. The walls have the original mock brick finish which was attained by etching "mortar" joints into the plaster. A servant's bell in an oak housing with room number indicators is installed above the architrave moulding of the door leading into the sewing room.

The sewing room is adjacent to the kitchen. Its placement at the rear, together with access to the basement laundry room, the servant stairs, as well as access to the outside, allowed a servant access to all 'working' rooms without traversing the more public spaces.

A butler's pantry serves to distance the kitchen somewhat from the dining room. Built-in wall cabinets with glass doors line all four walls. Fir countertops offer workspace while base cabinets below offer drawers, shelves, and storage bins. The original copper sink is mounted in one of the countertops.

7.5.2. Second Floor

Three bedrooms, a linen closet, the main bath, plus the servant's room are symmetrically arranged around the second story landing. All floors are of oak with similar designs as on the first floor, except for the bathrooms, which have tiled floors and walls. Picture mouldings are present in all spaces, and architrave moulding crowns door frames and built-in closets. Ceiling height on the second floor is eight and a half feet.

All bedrooms, including the servants quarters, are plumbed and have sinks installed.

The servant's room is set back from the other rooms by a small hallway, affording some privacy. The

⁴But will be restored to its original state in fall of 1990.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 9

servant's room has a small walk-in closet as well as a small bath (sink only) with counter and storage. This is a small deviation from the original plan, which envisioned the sink placed in the main room on the south wall. The south wall, however, follows the curvature of the gambrel roof, which is not the same as the drawings which call for an interior wall hiding the roof line and making the room smaller. It appears that these changes were made prior to construction, but without revision of the plans. The trim in the servant's room has been painted, and had originally the same finish as the doors, which still have a clear grain finish today.

The intact original main bath is located between the servant's room and the other three bedrooms. The main bathroom walls are tiled, as is the floor. The white wall tile is medium sized and of rectangular shape, while the floor has a smaller off-white octagonal tile. Fixtures are all original and functional. A laundry chute accessible from here allows laundry to be dropped down to the basement.

Of the three bedrooms, two occupy the front half of the house. The space between them is occupied by a large linen closet, accessible from the landing, as well as two walk-in closets with sinks, one for each bedroom. The linen closet walls are finished with tongue-and-groove cedar, and have linen shelves. A built-in cabinet provides additional storage. The two large walk-in closets were joined into a master-bathroom⁵. The non-bearing wall separating the closets was reduced in length and a perpendicular wall added to divide the space into two smaller closets, one per bedroom, plus a shared master-bath room. A bathtub and a water closet made the conversion of closets to "Master Bathroom" complete. In 1989 the current owners replaced the bathtub with a tile shower, tiled the walls, and replaced the fixtures with new ones. The 1926 tile floor remains, however, and displays an intricate mosaic pattern.

All three bedrooms have built-in closets made of fir, some with drawers, and are finished in white. The two front bedrooms each have a door to the "master" bathroom, while the third bedroom has a walk-in closet with sink. The second story trim, doors, and built-ins are all finished in white. The original second floor trim finish remains unknown. All bedrooms, with the exception of the servant quarters, have embellished brass pushbuttons, which allow the activation of the servant's bell in the kitchen. The two front bedrooms each have a six-foot window seat built-in under the sill of the front dormers.

⁵City of Portland Plumbing Inspection Permit #68789, dated 7/21/26.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 10

7.5.3. Basement

The finished basement consists of a fruit room, laundry room, fuel room, boiler room (steam heat boiler), as well as a large, unnamed area. Access to the basement is either by stairs from the main floor's rear hall, or through the external door on the west elevation.

The large unnamed area was converted into a studio apartment (date unknown). The remaining rooms are still serving their intended purposes today.

7.6. Alterations

The Becker residence has had no structural alterations. Minor remodeling converting the two closets with sinks into smaller closets and a bathroom. The natural finish of the mahogany in the dining room and the oak in the den remain. The remaining trim has been painted, and in the hallway and living room this is known to be the original finish [2]. All the elaborate built-ins, mouldings, fluted pilasters etc. remain in excellent and original condition. This is true for all ten rooms including the kitchen.

In 1989 all of the built-up, cracked, blistered, and badly deteriorated paint on the exterior was carefully *removed* and new primer and paint applied.

The original shingle siding was replaced with synthetic siding by a previous owner (date unknown). Exposure to the weather of the newer siding is 9", just like the original siding which was exposed the same amount according to the drawings. All other exterior building materials, such as frieze boards, columns, etc. are unaltered and in excellent condition.

The second story wood windows were replaced with aluminum windows (date unknown).

7.7. Future Work

The following items are either in process or being contemplated. The goal of all work is to preserve and restore the original feel of the house as much as possible.

- The pergola is currently undergoing a faithful restoration and should be completed in 1991.
- The kitchen wood floor will be restored in fall of 1990.
- The upstairs windows are slated to be replaced with wooden windows of same design and like material. The plans will allow selection of windows with the original number of panes.
- The siding might be replaced with wooden shingle siding compatible with the original material.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11

- A project improving the rear driveway and access to the garage is being planned.
- A project building the sleeping porch as depicted on the plans is being contemplated.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1909

Significant Dates

1909

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Emil Schacht & Son, architects

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

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1A

SUMMARY

The two-story Dutch Colonial house designed for Christine Becker, the widow of Rudolph Becker, Sr., by the Portland firm Emil Schacht and Son was built in 1909 and featured in the September 1910 issue of Northwest Architect, a regional building trades journal. The house is located on NW 25th Avenue at Pettygrove in northwest Portland, Oregon and is notably well preserved and maintained. A two-bay garage having a gable-end front and exterior finish work to match the house is an historic and separately-contributing feature at the southwest corner of the generous double lot. The garage has its original shingle siding, although overhead doors are replacements of the original folding doors. The house meets National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of the work of the German-born Schacht in the American Colonial idiom.

Schacht's career in Portland spanned the period 1885 to 1926 and produced a sizable body of work, including over a hundred mid-scale houses in the Arts and Crafts and Colonial Revival styles. The Becker House is rated an outstanding representative of the latter category, a judgement evidently shared by Schacht's contemporaries who selected the house for publication shortly after its construction.

The long axis of the rectangular mass of the house is presented to the streetfront with the ridge of the gambrel roof parallel with a recessed porch extending the full length of the formally-composed facade. The porch, with its central approach, is detailed with a full Classical entablature supported by sturdy round columns having oversized cushion blocks. The columns are joined at the base by a railing of turned balusters. On the north end elevation facing Pettygrove Street, a pergola made up of similar membering originally served as a porch sheltering the French doors giving access to the den. The present owners are contemplating reconstruction of this missing feature.

The north end elevation also is distinguished by an outside end chimney that bisects a split fanlight at the gable peak. The chimney facing and foundation are of random coursed ashlar designated by the architect as Tenino blue stone, a regional basalt that was sought after as a building material. A distinctive feature of the facade is the prominent dormer composed of two gabled dormers with cornice returns linked by a recessed three-bay

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1B

shed dormer. Original shingle cladding was replaced under a previous ownership by synthetic weatherboard siding but without impact to the character-defining trim detail. Wood window sash are intact on the ground story, but second story windows have replacement aluminum sash. The present owners are considering reversal of the modifications in due course.

The Becker House is a competent rendering of the Dutch Colonial style in a residence of moderate scale. It is truly noteworthy, however, for the quality of its interior, which is organized around an especially handsome central reception stairhall in which a column screen and arch order employ boxed fluted Ionic columns and pilasters of the Scamozzi variation wherein volutes of the capital radiate at an angle of 45 degrees. In the dining room an elegant Jugendstil character is expressed in mahogany ceiling beams, high wainscot, built-in buffet cabinetry and transom window.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

8. Statement of Significance

8.1. Significance

The Christine Becker residence, designed in 1909 in the Colonial Revival Style by noted Portland architect Emil F. Schacht, is locally significant under criterion "C". The Becker residence is significant as an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style designed by Emil Schacht during the height of his career. Currently, there is only one Schacht designed residence on the National Register⁶.

"Emil Schacht, a significant but now largely overlooked Oregon architect, had an extensive and extremely prolific career. At various times throughout this career, he was certainly one of the busiest architects in the state" [3, page 2]. The original plans for the Becker residence are part of the Cachot Therkelson Collection at the University of Oregon. This collection "is primarily a collection of drawings, prints and plans for 269 buildings; the majority in the Portland Area. Approximately 140 of these buildings were designed by Emil Schacht, or Emil Schacht and Son, Architects" [3, page 4].

One of only two known Schacht residential designs attracting attention from publications of his time, the Becker residence was featured in the November 1910 issue of the Northwest Architect, a "Monthly Magazine for the Architects, Builders and Allied Trades of the Pacific Northwest"⁷.

The article features plans and photographs detailing elevation and interior, as well as the following text:

"Among the handsome small homes built in Portland within the past year is that of Mrs. R. becker, Sr., on Twenty-fifth street. Emil Schacht & Son were the architects.

It is a two-story frame, of 10 rooms, and is modern in every respect. At the front is a large porch with rock faced Tenino blue stone, columns and pilasters with a pergola at the side. There is also a sleeping porch, screened in from public gaze.

The living room and spacious hall are furnished in eggshell white enamel, the dining room in South American mahogany and the den in selected grain Eastern white oak. The remainder of the house is in grain Oregon fir.

⁶The Peter Jeppesen Residence, built in 1910.

⁷So reads the magazine's caption.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

The dining room has beamed ceilings and panel wainscoting. All the floors are of hard wood, there is a pressed brick fireplace with a pressed brick and stone-topped outside chimney; the house is heated with a hot water system. Taking it as a whole it is one of the most complete small homes in the city."

The Becker residence is used as an illustration in a master's thesis on Schacht's work and style⁸. In this thesis, the architect's work is characterized as follows:

"Schacht's residential designs in the period 1905 to 1915 fall into two different categories -- those influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and those that continue the Colonial Revival style tradition. Interior detailing of Schacht's residential designs during this period reveal a 'Craftsman' influence, with tiled hearths, 'art glass', built-in cabinetry, 'inglenooks', and beamed ceilings. Many of the Colonial Revival residences have elegant classical ornamentation" [3, page 40]. The Becker residence represents a tour-de-force in this regard, as it possesses all of these elements but the inglenook.

The author then uses the Becker residence as the example of a "more traditional version of the Colonial Revival Style", and goes on to say:

"This residence is notable for its elegant (and intact) interior detailing", and "While the exterior of the Becker residence is modest and unassuming, the interior is lavish, with finely crafted classical details [3, page 47].

The Becker home is intact as defined by the seven aspects of integrity: *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association*. Design, workmanship, and materials are especially important qualities under Criterion "C". The design of the Becker residence is unaltered, the workmanship superb and fully intact, and the building materials original except for the newer siding, which however still largely conveys the same look as portrayed on the original 1910 photographs. The original siding was replaced by a previous owner (date unknown).

8.2. Neighborhood History

Portland⁹ underwent it's most expansive phase in history during the period 1900 through 1910. The city's population grew from 90,000 to 212,000. This growth surge was due in part to the 1905 Lewis & Clark World's Fair, which gave the city international exposure it had not previously known.

⁸Sackett, Patricia Lynn; "A partial inventory of the Work of Emil Schacht: Architect in Portland, Oregon from 1885-1926".

⁹The information in the following two paragraphs is from the Campbell Hotel Historic Nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Much of this growth was absorbed in today's northwest Portland, an area which had been distinguished by its stately mansions, owned by many of the city's leading families. However, many of the mansions were replaced in the first two decades of this century by apartment houses. The area became, and remains to this day, an intensely urban concentration of residential, commercial, and institutional uses [1].

This mix of uses has been the source of many conflicting forces over the past decades. Industrial and institutional growth 'chipped-away' from the older residential fabric and caused the N.W. neighborhood to evolve to its present diverse state.

8.3. Comparative Study

The Dutch Colonial Revival style is extremely rare in Northwest Portland, which is a large area containing hundreds of homes, and is bounded approximately by West Burnside Street in the South, Vaughn Street in the North, Westover Road in the West, and 17th Avenue in the East. A weekend spent searching the neighborhood systematically yielded no other Dutch colonial structure even remotely comparable with the Becker residence. Thus, it is difficult to come up with a list of comparables.

Since the Dutch Colonial Revival style belongs to the Colonial Revival style in general, the Becker Residence must be compared to homes belonging to this larger category. Emil Schacht designed several homes for residents of Northwest Portland¹⁰. Three Schacht Colonial Revivals designs and one Arts & Crafts design have been identified in the NW Portland area. None of them bear the distinctive gambrel roof form, or have porches similar to those of the Becker Residence. Only one possesses comparable classical interior detailing.

8.3.1. 2374, 2382, 2388 N.W. Lovejoy, built 1905, Colonial Revival Style

These three houses all have identical exterior design, and stand next to each other. None are fully intact. On one the front porch columns have been replaced by wrought-iron, another has asbestos siding, the windows have been replaced on the third. These houses were built as speculative homes and are not custom designed.

¹⁰As well as many warehouses in the NW, and one of the Lewis & Clark World's Fair exhibition buildings.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

8.3.2. 1234 N.W. 25th, built 1909, Colonial Revival Style

This house is just a block south from the Becker residence, was built in the same year, and has received a Rank III rating in the City's Historic Resource Inventory. This former residence serves as a office complex today. Largely intact on the outside, this home had it's small side porch completely removed. The interior is comparatively simple and lacks the rich classical ornamentation.

8.3.3. 811 N.W. 20th, built 1910, Colonial Revival Style

The Venness residence is clearly the closest in stature and style to the Becker residence, although it has a very different roof form. This structure is quite large and appears to be in very good condition. Used as office space today, this is the only other known property featured in a publication during Schacht's lifetime. The Venness residence received a Rank II in the City's Historic Resource Inventory.

8.3.4. 1205 N.W. 25th, built 1906, Arts & Crafts Style

Just two blocks from the Becker residence, this 1906 Arts and Crafts is in good exterior condition. Very different from the Colonial Revival residences, it is a good example of Schacht's Arts & Crafts style, and has received a Rank of II in the City's Historic Resource Inventory.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

8.4. Emil F. Schacht 1854-1926

Emil Fuerchtegott Schacht¹¹ was born in 1854 in Sommerland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He graduated from the Polytechnic School in Hannover. In 1874, at the age of twenty, Emil Schacht arrived in the United States. He worked in New York as a draftsman for six years, during which time he became familiar with the architectural trends of the late 1870s and the early 1880s, among them the Queen Anne and Shingle styles and the then emerging Colonial Revival style. The architectural trends of this era are the stylistic influences Schacht brought with him when he arrived in Portland several years later in 1883.

In 1880, following his tenure as a draftsman in New York, Schacht returned to his native country. He married Auguste Trier on April 5th, 1880. Within several years of his return to Germany Schacht made a decision to leave his home and start a new life in the United States. The Schachts settled in "North Portland" (the area now known as northwest Portland).

Schacht's career in Portland from 1885 to 1926 began in the late Victorian period and spanned to the beginnings of the modern era. His body of work exemplifies the architectural styles that were typical throughout the country. Schacht's work continued to follow the trends typical in cities across the United States. After the turn of the century, his work was increasingly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. He was also influenced by the freshness of the Craftsman ideals espoused by Gustav Stickley.

During the height of his career, from 1905 to 1913, he was one of the busiest architects of the state. During this period, Schacht received two important commissions for public work in Portland, and several of this projects were published in local and national architectural journals [3, page 79].

Schacht used a wide variety of styles. The building type usually dictated the appropriate style. Schacht also designed simple wood frame structures - modest stores, hotels, and speculative houses that are not generally thought of as architect-designed.

Schacht was a leader in the earliest architectural association of Portland: the Portland Association of Architects, for which he served as president in 1907 and 1908. He was also involved in subsequent organizations including the Portland Architectural Club, the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast and the Oregon Chapter of the A.I.A., in which he was a charter member.

Emil Schacht's 41 year career as an architect in Portland came to an end March 4th, 1926. While

¹¹This Biography is a verbatim excerpt of [3, Chapter 1].

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

inspecting the construction of the Mayer Building which was in process, Emil Schacht collapsed to the ground. It is a fitting testament to Emil Schacht, that he worked until his last day. His death appeared on the front pages of all the local newspapers, and the city mourned the loss of a "well known Portland architect" and "prominent figure in building circles".

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

8.5. Christine Becker 1852-1916

Christine Becker was born in Germany in about 1852. The exact birth date is unknown¹². Her Husband, Rudolph Becker, also of Germany, was deceased at the time the Becker residence was built. Their two children, Sophia and Rudolph, were born in Illinois.

The Becker's had another home built for them earlier in 1893, at 726 NW 22nd Ave in Portland. They didn't occupied this house, however, and continued living in a more modest home immediately to the south of 726 NW 22nd, while renting the newer structure to Nathan Loeb¹³. These circumstances indicate that they had been in Portland for some time when the Christine Becker residence was constructed.

According to deed records, the lot for the Becker residence was purchased in 1908 by Mrs. Becker for \$7500 from Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith, of New York. Final plans are dated 1909 and construction completed in the same year.

The 1910 census shows that Mrs. Becker lived at the residence with her two children and her daughter's husband, Claude D. Smith. Also living with them was the housekeeper, Mrs. Lousie Angelking, who was also born in Germany. Mrs. Becker had no profession.

Rudolph Becker Jr's profession was listed as "Auto Livery". Indeed, Mrs. Becker owned a 1914 Buick Touring car later¹⁴. Mr. Smith was listed as being active in real estate, and apparently operated out of the Becker home in the early years. By 1915 he was the president of *Morgan & Smith Agency Inc*, with Charles Morgan the treasurer, and the place of business had changed to the Railway Exchange Bldg. in Portland. Morgan & Smith was in the "General Insurance, Real Estate, Rentals & Loans"¹⁵ business.

Mrs. Becker died on May 5th, 1916, at her son's residence on Northwest 23rd Avenue in Portland, only seven years after the completion of what was probably her most elaborate residence. Almost all of her investments were in real estate, perhaps not surprisingly, since this was her son-in-law's business. She was a person of considerable means, as her estate was comprised of considerable land holdings, several homes in the King's Second Addition, and many lots in Willamette Heights and other locations. The

¹²Census data lists her age as 58 in 1910.

¹³Nathan Joeb House Landmark Designation.

¹⁴Mrs Becker's will, Multnomah County Courthouse Case #13581.

¹⁵1916 Polk's City Directory Listing.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9

estate, of which she named her daughter Sophia the executor, went to her two children.

The Becker residence remained with Sophia Smith until 1923, and was sold on March 22nd¹⁶ to Mary M. and John T. O'Neill. The Smiths, however, did not continue to live in the residence after Mrs. Becker's death. It appears that the Smith's left Portland shortly after 1916, as the Morgan & Smith business listing disappears in 1917, and they apparently no longer resided in Portland starting in 1918¹⁷.

Rudolph Becker jr, however, spent the majority of his life in Portland. The 1910 census data lists him as divorced, and he was not married at the time of his death. He was a member of the Elk's Lodge #142, and died at age 93 in 1973. He owned and operated Becker's Auto Co. on S.W. 14th Ave for many years, and then owned Becker's Sandwich Shop at N.W. 23rd and Hoyt Street¹⁸. According to the obituary there were no immediate survivors.

¹⁶Ticor Title Records.

¹⁷Polk's City Directories, 1915-1925.

¹⁸Oregon Journal, 12/21/73, Section 4, column 6.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.23 acres Portland, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	2	3	2	9	0	5	0	4	1	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is legally described as Lots 3 and 4, Block 18, Goldsmith's Addition to the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

the nominated area follows the legally recorded lot lines of the 100 x 100-foot property historically occupied by the Christine Becker residence, from 1909 onward.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andre & Homaira Wolper, owners of property
organization N/A date August 13, 1990
street & number 1331 NW 25th Avenue telephone (503) 224-6952
city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97210

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Bibliography

- [1] The Campbell Hotel National Register Nomination, .
- [2] The Northwest Architect, The Residence of Mrs. R. Becker, Published in September 1910; Volume II, Number 5.
- [3] Sackett, Patricia Lynn, A Partial Inventory of the Work of Emil Schacht: Architect in Portland, Oregon From 1885-1926, Master Thesis, Interdisciplinary Studies Program: Historic Preservation, University of Oregon(June 1990).

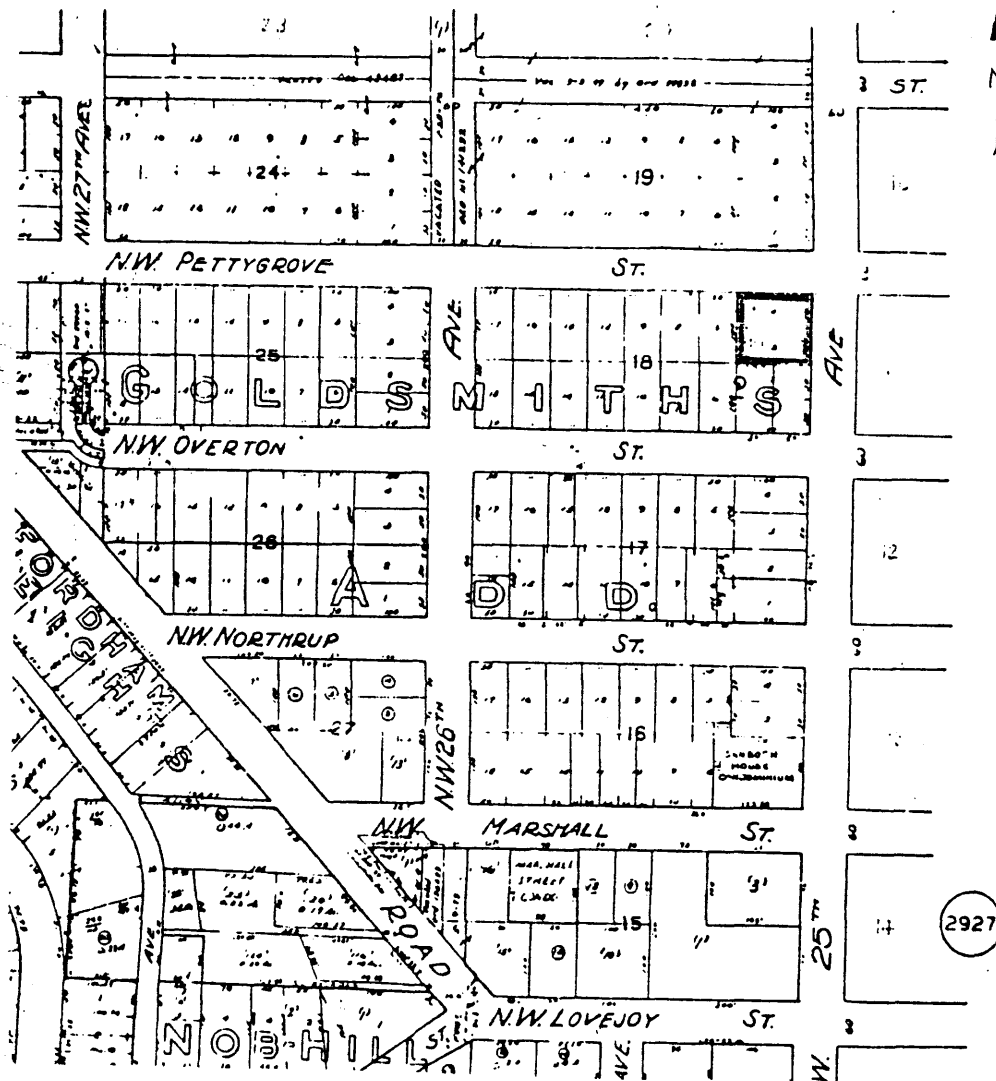
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

10.1. Assessor's Map, Overview



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

10.2. Assessor's Map, Detail

