

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 2 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: **"Deepwood"**  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: **Port (Dr. Luke) House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **1116 Mission S.E.**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Salem**  
 STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97301**  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Oregon Second Congressional Dist.**  
**Representative Al Ullman**  
 COUNTY: **Marion** CODE: **047**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<b>Recreation</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **City of Salem (owner notified of nomination 11-7-72)**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97301**  
 STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

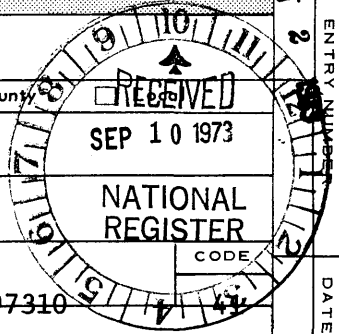
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Marion County Courthouse**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97301**  
 STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings**  
 DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**  Federal  State  County  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Parks and Recreation Section**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Oregon State Highway Division, Highway Building**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97310**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oregon  
COUNTY: Marion  
ENTRY NUMBER: 10111111  
DATE: OCT 2 1973  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

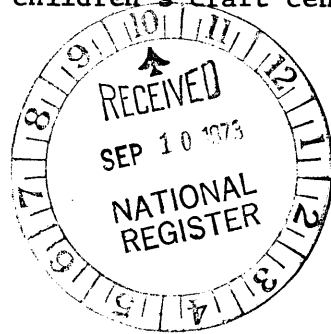
Dr. Luke A. Port constructed his elegant home in the Queen Anne style in 1894. It was designed by one of Salem's notable architects of the period, William C. Knighton. Situated within a half mile of the central business district of Salem, near the State Capitol, the Port House borders the east side of Salem's largest park, Bush's Pasture Park. The Queen Anne Revival was the vogue of the 1880s and 1890s. Houses of this mode were elaborate in texture and irregular in plan as well as in elevation. The Port House, commonly known as "Deepwood", has two stories, a full basement, observatory, veranda and porte-cochere modified for use as a sunporch. The foundation is of native "pioneer" stone, a sandstone quarried at Pioneer, Oregon, on the Yaguina River near the summit of the Coast Range. The exterior is covered with clapboard and shingle siding in contrasting strata.

The roof line is a complex variety of porch and dormer pediments, gable and hipped roofs and a square bell-cast steeple or tower roof atop the observatory. The second story cornice line is embellished by console brackets. The dressed stone chimney exposed on the south face is treated as an important feature of the house. It is pierced by a round-arched stained glass window on the first story and enclosed by a pedimented gable end above the second story. The chimney stack emerges from the gable and straddles the ridge. The window openings vary from double-hung sash windows with many small lights, to a bay window over which is a solid sash of colored, leaded glass. The walls are panelled with Eastern oak on the lower floors and cedar on the second floor.

Gardens surrounding the house also display a variety of detail. There is a formal garden hedged in boxwood and accented by an iron gazebo and ivy-covered pergolas. A birch-lined walkway, bounded by magnolia and cherry trees winds through a "secret garden." A carriage house is located to the east of the house. On the banks of Pringle Creek, which separates "Deepwood" estate from the expanse of Bush's Pasture Park, there is a woodland garden, preserved as a natural area which contains wildflowers and provides the same habitat for bird life that existed when aboriginals inhabited the region.

The City of Salem acquired the house and part of the grounds in 1971. City officials hope to raise funds to buy the remaining 2.21 acres of woodland, which would make the City's park holdings in the area contiguous. It is planned that the house will be brought up to code for public use without destroying its architectural integrity. The building will be used for low-key social and recreational purpose: wedding receptions, teas, and bridge tournaments. The unfinished basement will be altered to accommodate a children's craft center.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1894**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fast becoming an integral part of the City Park System, the Dr. Luke A. Port House, named "Deepwood" by subsequent owners, is one of the few homes of Queen Anne Revival style remaining in Salem. The formal and wildflower gardens are an attraction for gardeners and ecologists. Two historical associations add to the interest and importance of the estate. Architect William K. Knighton gained local recognition for his work on the house, and the builder, Dr. Luke A. Port, was a wealthy citizen who led an unusual and mysterious life.

William C. Knighton served his apprenticeship by working as a draftsman on the Capitol National Bank Building on Commercial Street in Salem. The bank was the work of C.S. McNalley and was copied from a design by leading Philadelphia architect Frank Furness. By 1894 Knighton had designed the Soldiers Home at Roseburg, the Masonic Temple at Corvallis, and the Port House. Between 1913 and 1917, he served as State Architect, designing the Supreme Court Building in Salem, the Administration Building at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and the State Hospital in Pendleton. In 1922, he joined partnership with L.D. Howell, and designed Salem High School, the State Office building in Salem, and the Boys Training School at Woodburn.

Luke Port was born in Sussex, England, and immigrated with his family to the United States when he was ten years of age. Port grew up in Ohio, and when the Civil War began he enlisted in an Ohio infantry unit. Following his war service he returned to Ohio to Nelsonville and continued work as a "trader." Prior to his military enlistment in 1860, Port owned real estate in Nelsonville worth \$1600, and personal property worth \$500, according to U.S. census records. Sometime before 1868, Luke Port journeyed to Warrensburg, Missouri, a farming center and county seat, a division terminal for the Missouri Pacific Railroad boasting a woolen mill, iron works and stone quarries. In 1868, Dunn and Bradstreet estimated Port's wealth at \$10,000 and the 1870 U.S. census takers listed his worth in real and personal property at \$25,000. Dunn and Bradstreet had reported in 1867 that Port was a "speculator" whose business dealings were usually "undercover". In 1880, Luke Port moved to California's Chollas Valley, two miles south of the new railhead at San Diego. He bought an elegant home there and planted a variety of fruit trees and rare ornamentals. The U.S. census of agriculture listed the value of the house at \$11,000 in 1880. Port spent the year 1881 exploring the possibilities of establishing a San Diego-Hawaii steamship company. This research brought him to Oregon where he secured an interest in coal lands, but he settled briefly in San Francisco, the terminus for the Central Pacific Railroad and the major port on the West Coast.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Duniway, David C. "Dr. Luke A. Port, Builder of Deepwood," Marion County History, Vol. 10 (1971), 39-49.  
 Maxwell, Ben, "Keith Powell Home Retains Flavor of Victorian Times," Capital Journal (October 24, 1956) Sec. 3, page 4.  
 Rocchia, Andy, "Group Hopes to Save Deepwood," Oregon Journal, (February 26, 1970).

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 10/497500  
 4974900

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	44	55	46	123	01	49
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ca. 4.0 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Paul Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: Director of Transportation  
 Date: Sept. 4, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/2/73

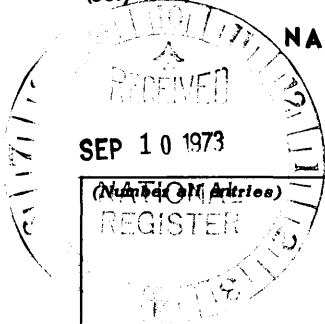
ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 9.28.73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 2 1973



SEP 10 1973

(Numbered Entries)  
REGISTER

PORT (DR. LUKE) HOUSE

2. Location

The Dr. Luke Port House is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27, T. 7S, R. 3W of the Willamette Meridian in Marion County, Oregon. It occupies the westerly portion of Block 3 of the Yew Park Addition to the town plat of Salem.

8. Significance

Port moved to Salem in 1884 and purchased a drugstore which he renamed "Port and Son, Drugs". Using colorful and imaginative advertising, the business grew steadily and was sold in 1887, at which time Dr. Port built a house in the Italian bracketed style which is still extant but moved to a new location to be restored. When Port's son, Omega, was drown in 1887 in a shipwreck in the Atlantic Ocean while on route to study chemistry in Germany, the Ports sold their Italianate house and left for Europe to learn more about the accident.

In September, 1893, the Ports returned to Salem and bought the six-acre estate which is the subject of the nomination. Port and his wife moved into the Queen Anne house they had built at a cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000 in the summer of 1894.

Little more is known about the Port family after 1895 when, following a characteristically precipitous pattern, they sold the house. Dr. Port lived at times in Salem until 1902 when he traveled to Ohio and Europe. He returned to San Diego where he died in 1906.

While in Salem, Dr. Port was active in the Odds Fellows, the GAR, and the Masons. He was interested in city development and a member of the committee that arranged for building the first bridge across the Willamette River at Salem. He accumulated a fortune estimated to be in excess of \$100,000. He held \$25,000 in stock in the Salem Water Company, and, by December of 1894, he had \$53,602 on deposit at 5 percent interest in the Capital National Bank of Salem.

"Deepwood" today is one of the interesting buildings surviving from the 19th century in Salem. It was during subsequent ownership by Clifford Brown that the gardens were designed by Lord and Schryver, one of the early and highly-regarded professional landscape architectural firms at work in the Willamette Valley. Brown's widow, Alice B. Brown, lived on in the house with second husband Keith Powell through many decades until the property was acquired by the City in 1971. It was she who bestowed the name of the estate and developed its character. Over the years Mrs. Powell occupied the property, few changes were made to the house. Certain modifications were made to the interior, and the porte cochere was remodeled for use as a sunporch when the route of the driveway was changed.