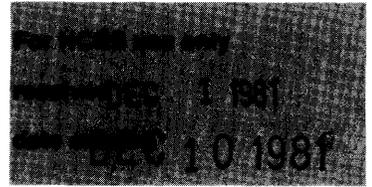


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



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

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

1. Name

historic Jacobs-Wilson House

and/or common Tabor Swiss Chalet

2. Location

street & number 6461 S. E. Thorburn Street not for publication

city, town Portland vicinity of congressional district Third

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Duane Stanley Bietz

street & number 6461 S. E. Thorburn Street

city, town Portland vicinity of state Oregon, 97215

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 S. W. 4th. Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon, 97204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jacobs/Wilson residence completed in 1913 is a 2 1/2 story, wood frame, "Swiss Chalet" design with a native stone foundation. Located in a high quality residential area on the west slope of Mt. Tabor, the site commands a grand view across the valley and the Willamette River to Portland's west hills. Though the original one acre site has been reduced by sales along the northeast and south (see map), the property still retains its original character, and is graced with many fine old plantings, including a Bing cherry tree alleged to be over a 100 years old.

Pedestrian access to the property is through a gabled pavillion with paired gates that is flanked by low rubble stone walls along Thorburn Street. A curving path leads to the covered side entrance porch that projects from the northeast corner.

PLAN

The basic shape is a rectangle, approximately 30' across the front and 40' deep. The corner entrance hall is the circulation hubs for the entire house: a "U" shaped stairway serves the upper floor; a short hall with the basement stair access leads to the kitchen in the southeast corner; and to the west, through a pair of glazed doors is a grand living room that extends to the west wall of the house. Adjacent to the living room on the south through a large framed opening is the dining room which features a slant bay at the south wall. Off the dining room is a doorway to the kitchen, which has been altered, and at the southeast corner a half bathroom that occupies a portion of the original south side entry. Across the full rear width of the house is a projecting 8' deep porch with pairs of glazed doors from both the dining room and living room.

The upper story consists of a central stair hall, 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Above the first floor porch was a sleeping porch which has been enclosed to house a utility area and one of the bathrooms.

The full basement includes an apartment at the west end where the sloping site meets the basement floor level, a furnace room, and a variety of utility and storage spaces.

South and west of the house is the original detached carriage house, and beyond to the west is the garage built in the 1930s. The small, battlemented carriage house is faced with random ashlar to match the foundation of the house.

INTERIOR FINISHES

Wood trim throughout is vertical grain fir with a dark stain and varnish finish. Flooring is tongue and groove oak. Typical windows are casement with 6 or 8 lights, 11" square. Glazed doors at the entry, to the living room, and to the west porch are similar to sash but have 12 lights. Other doors have a square upper panel, some solid and some with 4 lights, and a solid lower panel. Solid panels are of either smooth vertical grain fir or V-groove vertical boards.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Fully panelled walls and ceilings characterize the entrance hall. The main stairway features simple square newel posts with chamfered edges, a formed rail, and turned balusters. (photo #7)

Paired doors to the living room are centered on the long axis and are framed in the living room by 9" x 9" chamfered posts and a continuous fir architrave with a cap molding. Flanking the doorway are recessed bookcases with leaded glass doors and panelled ledges, above which are recessed plaster panels with segmental arch head boards. Centered on the long east wall is the projecting fireplace (photo #8) that features a round arch opening and square red brick hearth and facing. Inset above the keystone and in the arch spandrels are cast terra cotta units with designs of undetermined symbolism (photo #9). Masonry is surrounded by paneled pilasters and a frieze topped with a bracketed mantel. Fir paneling continues to the ceiling above the mantel. On each side of the fireplace are pairs of 8 light casement windows with plaster side panels and a continuous plaster band above the architrave. Below the sills is a panelled wainscot, continuous in the living and dining rooms. On the west wall is the pair of 12 light doors, flanked by typical 8 light casement sash.

The opening between the living room and dining room is also framed by 9" x 9" chamfered columns with simple caps as at the entrance hall. Doors and windows on the west wall of the dining area duplicate those in the living room. The slant bay at the south wall, recently restored, has the typical casement windows. Centered on the east wall is a built-in china cabinet (photo #11) with 4 bays of leaded glass doors above and solid panel doors and drawers below. Ceilings in both the living room and dining room are beamed with plaster panels.

Second floor walls and ceilings are plaster. Doors, casings, baseboards and other wood trim matches the dark stained fir of the first floor.

UTILITIES

Original gas lighting was replaced with electric within a few years of construction. Some early electric light fixtures remain - most notable is the carved wood chandelier in the dining room (photo #10)

The original warm air heating system is basically intact though much of the equipment has been modernized. Several ornamental cast brass air grilles remain.

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DATE ENTERED	DEC 10 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

EXTERIOR

As with the interior, the exterior displays characteristic elements of the "Swiss Chalet" style. The front (east) facade is symmetrical and is covered by a broad overhanging gable roof that projects to the north to cover the side entry porch. Broad shed roof dormers extend along the north and south providing window space for second floor bedrooms. Original cedar roof shingles have been replaced with composition shingles. Main roof and dormer rafters are exposed. Main roof rafters, barge boards, struts, and brackets have scroll cut soffits.

Brackets support the second story where it overhangs along the north and south walls. Siding is band sawed cedar - in a vertical board and batten pattern at the second level, and horizontally lapped in alternating 6 1/2" and 2 1/2" courses at the first floor.

Second floor window heads at the front have a continuous head band - at the rear, windows have a short continuous shed roof. The projecting second level porches at the front and rear and the west porch at the first floor are supported by knee braces. Porches have plain board rails, square rail posts and scroll cut rail panels. (Panels on the first floor west porch were restored in 1980.) Below the central east porch are the kitchen windows under which is a continuous planter box, also supported by brackets. Similar planter boxes can also be seen under windows on other walls. Flanking windows at the first floor front have shed roof brows supported at the edges by scroll cut struts.

The basement level is of rubble stone believed to have been quarried in the Mt. Tabor area. The chimneys on the north and south are constructed with the same stone as is the carriage house which is distinguished by a crenellated parapet.

The later garage has a gable roof, bevel siding, scroll cut struts and other details that match the original house.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) community development
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jacob/Wilson House achieves significance as an early and well preserved Portland example of "Swiss Chalet" residential design, and as the first house to be constructed on the west slope of Mt. Tabor, which in subsequent years developed into one of the city's fine residential areas. ¹

Frederick Alva Jacobs was born in Chillicothe, Missouri, September 15, 1870, a son of Wesley A. and Bolina Jacobs. Jacobs began his education in Missouri, attended prep school in New York, and later entered the University of California at Berkely, then near the family home in Oakland. Following his graduation and marriage in 1894, Jacobs became manager of the Germania Life Insurance Company. Some time after 1900 he joined Oliver C. Stine of San Francisco in the real estate business and the Jacobs-Stine Company was formed. In 1906 Jacobs came to Portland to manage the local office. Three years later he acquired the grand house on King's Hill at the southeast corner of Salmon and King Streets, now known as "Jarvis House".

The business was reorganized as the Fred A. Jacobs Company in 1910 and was advertised in City Directories as the "Largest Realty Operators on the Pacific Coast." Harvey G. Beckwith and C. W. Hodson, both prominent in Portland real estate circles, were officers of the company. While Jacobs' advertising claims may have been somewhat exaggerated his firm was very active in residential development, especially in Portland's east side, and he also began a large venture in the downtown area - a 12 story, quarter block office building at Broadway and Yamhill Street designed by prominent architect Ellis F. Lawrence. For reasons unknown the building was not constructed.

In 1911, Jacobs' mother Bolina, then a widow, moved into the King's Hill house with Fred and his family. According to interviews with long time Mt. Tabor residents, Bolina Jacobs had spent time in Switzerland where she developed a fondness for Swiss house design, and she moved to Portland on the condition that her son would build her a "Swiss Chalet". Local legend has it that the plans actually came from Switzerland. When completed in 1913 the "Chalet" was the first residence built on Thorburn Avenue, a curving extension of Stark Street that skirts the west side of Mt. Tabor. (The first part of Mt. Tabor to be developed was Tabor Heights on the south side which was platted in the early 1890s. The Mt. Tabor area was annexed to the City of Portland in 1905, but the area on the west side remained generally undeveloped until the platting of Palmyra Addition, several years after completion of the Jacobs/Wilson Residence).

¹Such clear-cut examples of the Folk Arts and Crafts, or 20th Century Chalet Style are rare in Oregon. This noteworthy example embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the up-building of Portland's East Side.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .56
 Quadrangle name Mount Tabor, Oregon-Washington
 UMT References

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

A	1 0	5 3 1	5 4 0	5 0	4 0	6 7 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
C						
E						
G						

B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
D						
F						
H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 10, 11, 12, except East 10' of Lot 10, Block 4, Palmyra Addition.
 Plat of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

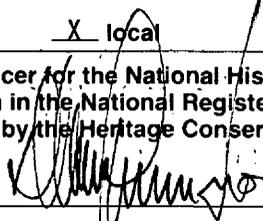
name/title Duane S. Bietz/George A. McMath, FAIA
 organization Allen-McMath-Hawkins - Architects date April 20, 1981
 street & number 213 S. W. Ash Street, #210 telephone (503) 228-5154
 city or town Portland state Oregon, 97204

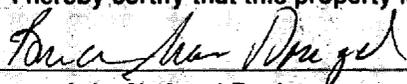
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 
 title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 20, 1981

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date 12/10/81
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest:  date 12/9/81
 Chief of Registration

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The Jacobs' "Chalet" was the first of its kind built on the east side of Portland, and is among the earliest of the genre in the entire City. A few examples remain from the same era, all located in Portland's southwest hills, but none are more faithful to the original swiss model than the house built for Bolina Jacobs. Unfortunately Mrs. Jacobs had only a few years to enjoy the house - she died in 1920 and the "Chalet" was bought by prominent auctioneer, John T. Wilson, a native of Canada who had come to Portland in 1893. Wilson and his family occupied the house for nearly a half century. After Wilson's death his daughters, Ivy and Winifred continued to live in the "Chalet" until 1968 when they sold it to Mr. Earl Dier.

The present owners, who acquired the house in 1976, have completed several restoration projects (see section 7.) and are planning to rehabilitate the kitchen in a manner compatible with the original design of the house.

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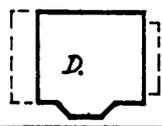
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Snyder, Eugene E., Portland Names and Neighborhoods: Their Historic Origins, Portland, 1979.
- Mac Coll, E. Kimbark, The Shaping of a City, Portland, 1979.
- Lockley, Fred, History of the Columbia River Valley, Vol. III, p. 119, Chicago, 1928. (re: John T. Wilson)
- Carey, Charles Henry, History of Oregon, Vol. III, p. 569, Chicago-Portland, 1928. (re: Fred A. Jacobs)
- Portland Architectural Club Yearbook
Portland, 1910. (re: Jacobs' Office Building)
- Multnomah County Property Records
- Portland City Directories
- Sanborn Insurance Maps
- Interviews by the current owner with members of the Wilson family, and with long time residents of the area.

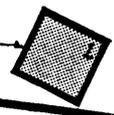


S.E. ASH ST.

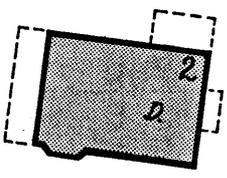
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NORTHEAST P.L.

S.E. THORBURN AVE.

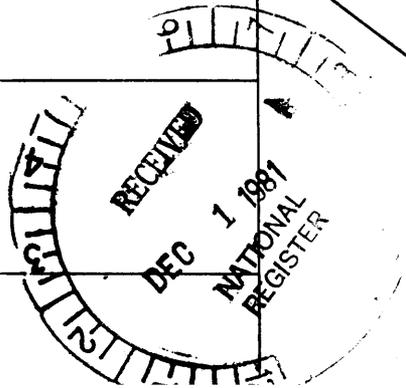
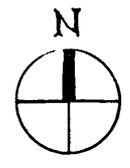
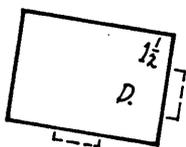
GARAGE



CARRIAGE
HOUSE



ORIGINAL
SOUTH P.L.



DATA FROM
SANBORN MAP · VOL 9
1925 CORRECTED TO 1935
SCALE 1" = 50'