Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The W.R. Mackenzie Residence, built ca. 1893-4, and designed by the Portland architect firm of Whidden & Lewis is located on a 100' by 100' corner site (Lots 1 & 2) at SW Kings Court and SW Kings Avenue in Block 1 of Johnson's Addition.

The area in which the Mackenzie Residence is located in known as Kings' Hill, an area that has always been closely related to the growth and development of Portland. Being one of Portland's first affluent residential neighborhoods, the early residents were the city's most monied and influential citizens. Events and decisions which took place within the boundaries of present day Kings' Hill often affected the lives of those outside its perimeters and on occasion even had an impact on the entire Northwest.

Early residential development of Kings' Hill was slow because of the topography of the land and the large parcels of land held by early owners. In 1890 Harvey Scott, editor of the "Oregonian" for 40 years, published a book describing various sections of Portland. Scott observed of the Kings' Hill area that, "The big plats, grassy and set with small trees, lie wide, with but few houses, but those present (are) large, stately." The area was, he proclaimed, "by popular consent -- and still more by prevailing prices -- forever dedicated to dwellings of wealth and elegance."

Street car developments in the 1890's made the city's core much more accessible from Kings' Hill and resulted in increased land values in the area, further establishing Kings' Hill as a wealthy residential enclave.

At the time the Mackenzie Residence was built Portland was ending a period of economic expansion which dated from 1887-93 and continued after the Lewis & Clark Exhibition in 1905. Millions of dollars were being invested in new construction throughout the city. Specifically, in the Kings' Hill area larger homes were being built on smaller plots of land making the area more dense. It is from this period that the majority of architecturally significant buildings date, with several houses in the area being designed, like the Mackenzie Residence, by the prominent Portland architect firm of Whidden and Lewis.

Kings' Hill perpetuation as a wealthy residential neighborhood continued into the twentieth century. As Portland continued to expand space became more precious and costly, and house lots in the Kings' Hill area continued to shink. As in the case of the Mackenzie Residence which originally sat on a three lot section of the block and today sits on a two lot section. Although dwellings were less "a complete whole" in themselves, they were no less impressive in design and size. The area continued to house some of Portland's most prominent lawyers, doctors, politicians and business people, such

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as Solomon Lipman, T.B. Wilcox, Judge Wallace McCamant, and Samuel King.

In most recent years, the growth of Portland, the highly assessed land and zoning on Kings' Hill have altered the character of the hill, and in many cases, been the demise of older, architecturally noteworthy homes. Particularly within the last twenty years, eightto twelve-story apartments have been constructed on entire blocks. The fringes of the district have been developed for commercial use. In addition, the high cost of maintaining single-family residential structures has encouraged the conversion of many older homes to office space. Fortunately, the Mackenzie Residence is one of the remaining structures which has retained its use as a single-family unit over the years.

The original owner of the house and whom the house is named for, W.R. Mackenzie, resided with his family in the house from ca. 1893-94 till 1915.

Other landmark buildings located in Kings' Hill include the Theodore B. Wilcox Residence (Whidden & Lewis, 1892), Judge Wallace McCamant Residence (Whidden & Lewis, ca. 1899), L.A. Lewis Residence (David C. Lewis, 1900), J.N. Barde Residence (Carl Lind, 1926), James D. Honeyman Residence (Whidden & Lewis, 1900), and the Charles Cornelius Residence (Architect Unknown, 1900).

STRUCTURE

The structure of the house is typical of the period: brick foundations (with the exception of the garage, added later, which is concrete); 2 x 4 stud framing with wood floor joists and rafters. A low pitched, hipped roof caps the structure.

There are four levels to the house including the basement. The floor to ceiling measurements are as follows: basement 7'6", first floor 9'0", second floor 8'6", and third floor 8'0".

The garage, at basement level, was added in 1922. It extends under the 10' x 31'addition (2 stories) on the southside of the house which had been added prior to that time, as had the 14' x 35' addition at the eastside or back of the house. There is no record of when these were added, but the foundations, as well as differences in the detailing of the cornice, indicate they were not part of the original scheme.

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STYLE & EXTERIOR

The exterior of the house is executed in the Federal Style. The original house, a simple three story, one before modification, was purer stylistically than what we see today; however, the sparse classical decoration that is characteristic of the style is used consistently on both old and new. The house is clad in clapboard siding and punctuated with rusticated wood decoration which is typical of wooden Federal Style buildings: the decoration imitates stone construction.

The original house is symmetrical in plan with large covered porch at the central entry. On the facade the windows, with shutters, are symmetrically placed and diminish in size accordingly by floor: first floor, large; second floor, medium size; third floor, smaller. The windows on the sides are more informal in their arrangement and are of secondary consideration, as the house is meant to be viewed from the front. There is large molding that runs around the building just above the second floor, that serves the same purpose as a string course. Above, a cornice completely encircles the structure at the roof, partially obsuring the hipped roof. It is composed of simple modillions juxtaposed above a row of dentils (on the south and east wings, as well as on the projecting porch, the dentils appear in the cornice but the modillions are omitted). All exterior corners of the structure are trimmed with wood in imitation stone corner stones. A wooden balastrade caps the projecting porch and matches the detail of the handrail below.

The exterior is in good repair and original condition, but in need of paint.

INTERIOR

The walls and ceilings on the first and second levels are plaster on wood lath, with the ceilings of the first and second levels having been replastered. The ceiling of the third level and the walls are of $7/8'' \ge 3 1/2''$ tongue and groove. Ceilings in the basement are exposed.

Woodwork throughout the structure has been painted, (formerly the trim and woodwork was stained) as are the walls, with the exception of the main staircase leading to the second level; which has been refinished. The main stairway is open well, made up of 3 flights of stairs. Above the first landing is located a double-hung,

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1 over 1, sash window, of leaded glass.

Within the structure are located 4 fireplaces, 3 on the main floor in the study, living room, and dining room. The fourth is located on the second level in the master bedroom. All have rectangular openings, but are distinct from one another in decorative features and trim. All fireplaces are intact and operative.

Doors throughout the structure are mostly original being rectangular 4 panel doors, with the exception of the double hung doors which lead to the dining room, living room, and connect the study with the living room. These doors are 6 paneled with 2 tiers of 3 panels.

Floors throughout the building have been carpeted as well as the main stairway.

Alterations to the interior have been mainly in the kitchen and on the 3rd level. Overall, the original interior is intact and in good condition, (with the exception of having been painted).

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Whidden & Lewis introduced the Georgian in residential design, the Second Renaissance Revival in public buildings, and the classically detailed Commercial Style in office buildings.

Besides the Mackenzie Residence, there are a number of notable examples of their work within Kings' Hill. Namely, the Wilcos Residence (1892), the McCamant Residence (1899), the L.A. Lewis Residence (1900), and the Honeyman Residence (1900); all landmark structures.

Besides residential structures notable commercial structures by Whidden & Lewis include the Postal Building (1900), the Hamilton Building (1893), and Portland City Hall (1892-95); all National Register properties.

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- Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rothburn Withey, <u>Biographical Dictionary</u> of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles, 1956.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mackenzie Residence is a fine example of style and the work of the distinguished Portland architect firm of Whidden & Lewis. Located in an area where many other large houses have already been converted to use as business offices, the Mackenzie Residence today has retained its original use as a single-family unit; and plays an integral part in the make-up of Kings' Hill.

Although the residence is named after W.R. Mackenzie, the prominent railway financier, accountant and Portland Academy bursar; other prominent and influential individuals have also occupied the house. After Mackenzie moved in 1915, Chester G. Murphy, a widely known attorney, rancher and athlete with his wife, resided in the house until 1921-22; they then sold to Robert S. Farrell, of the firm of Everding & Farrell, Portland foodstuffs and produce firm, and whose father planted the "Sycamore" at Park & Main and whose son R.S. Farrell, Jr. was Oregon Secretary of State; the Farrell's left in 1950.

From 1950 until 1956, Dr. Z.C. Edelson and family had the house, followed by Ramond O. Marks, architect. Today, Terry O. Bernhardt, Real Estate Appraisal and Investment Analysis, owns the house.

William M. Whidden and Ion Lewis were both trained at M.I.T. After graduation, Lewis worked in the Boston office of Peabody & Stearns, and later formed a partnership with Henry P. Clark.

Whidden, after four years at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, joined McKim, Meade & White in New York. Accompanied by McKim, Whidden came to Portland in 1882 to supervise work on railroad magnate Henry Villard's Portland Hotel. Villard's financial collapse in 1883 ended work on the hotel and Whidden returned to the east coast.

In 1888 the partially completed hotel was acquired by a local syndicate headed by H.W. Corbett and William Ladd who invited Whidden to return to Portland to oversee construction. A year later Whidden was visited by his friend and classmate, Ion Lewis, who stayed on and joined Whidden in partnership.

The arrival of Whidden & Lewis marked the arrival of current eastern styles, and architecturally speaking, Portland had "come of age".

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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