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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Irvington Tennis Club
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2131 NE Thompson Street N/A not for publication
city, town Portland N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97212

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Architecture of Ellis F. Lawrence MPS
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 August 27, 1990
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:) _____
Andrew Bryan 10/17/80
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century American Movements:
Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood shingles

roof composition shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Irvington Tennis Club, founded in 1898, is one of the oldest tennis clubs in the United States. The two story building was designed in 1911 by architect Ellis Lawrence and constructed in 1912. This building was a substantial remodel and addition to the older, one story building constructed in 1905. A large ballroom, womens locker room and upstairs apartment was added by Lawrence. The architect of the 1905 building is unknown. A concrete block addition was added in 1957, west of the original clubhouse. It is visually separated from the Lawrence design, and does not detract from the historic buildings. Currently, the club complex includes: a clubhouse, ballroom, indoor courts, an outdoor swimming pool, outdoor courts, mens and womens dressing rooms, and a weight room, sauna, and dressing rooms in the basement. The 1911 building is rectangular in plan with a side wing. It is a Craftsman Style building, clad with painted shingles and covered with a low hip roof. The Lawrence designed portion of the club and the 1957 addition are two stories with the single story 1905 portion between. The building is evaluated as a Rank II in the "Portland Inventory of Historic Resources".

SETTING

The tennis club complex is located on the north side of N.E. Thompson Street, between 21st and 22nd Avenues. The club takes up most of the block, stretching almost to Brazee Street. Located in the Irvington neighborhood, the club is in keeping with the historic residential buildings. Ellis Lawrence's own home is one block down the street from the club. Sited close to the public right-of-way, the club is surrounded by large maple and oak street trees along Thompson Street and 21st Avenue. There are hedges and flower plantings along the west and south elevations of the buildings.

PLAN

The Irvington Club occupies a large rectangular space in Lots 5-16, Block 20 in Irvington Addition. The historic buildings occupy the south portion of the block measuring 100' x 60'. The main entrance to the building is on the west elevation in the new portion of the building. The new portion consists of an office area and club lounge. The door to the ballroom is further to the east. An open doorway on the north wall of the club opens into a small alcove and hall which leads to the outdoor pool area. There are rest rooms attached to the north wall of the historic buildings. The indoor courts are located to the east off the alcove and stairs lead down to the dressing room and weight room in the basement. Off of the hall, there are steps which lead up to the viewing and meeting rooms and additional bathrooms. Beyond the swimming pool to the north and west are two outdoor tennis courts. One is full size and the other is a practice court. These courts are accessed by a door off the long hall behind the indoor courts.

The historic portion of the Irvington Club is rectangular with the ballroom occupying both sections of the building on the first floor. There is an apartment on the second floor which is accessed through the ballroom and also from the outside through a set of double-doors on the south elevation. A flight of interior stairs lead to the apartment which is situated in the northeast corner of the building.

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EXTERIOR

The historic building is sheathed with painted wood shingles and covered with low pitched hipped and gable roofs. The windows are multi-paned double hung sash and grouped multi-paned casements with wood surrounds. The main elevation of the historical section of the Irvington Club faces south onto Thompson Street. There are two sets of double doors on this elevation, allowing access to the ballroom and the apartment. Windows along this elevation are multi-pane and single pane double-hung sash with wood surrounds; the doors are paneled with multi-paned lights. A row of windows defines the one story section of the building. A series of three windows light the stairwell in the second story portion. The entrance on the main elevation to the west is flush against the facade and covered with a hipped roof supported by enlarged, shingled brackets. The entrance to the east, also with double-doors, is enclosed by a projecting vestibule. The vestibule is clad with wooden shingles and covered with a hip roof. It is finished with the same detailing as the western entrance.

The east (side) elevation is punctuated with one-over-one double hung sash windows topped with single pane transoms. A fence extends along this side elevation, past the building, enclosing the outdoor pool area and tennis courts. At the southwest corner of the building is the clubhouse addition, constructed in 1957. This building has high windows, with a flat roof. It is considered a noncompatible addition. Attached to the side elevation of the addition is the historic single story building. There is a clear division between the historic portion of the Tennis Club and the newer addition, however they are both connected inside. The outdoor courts were covered in 1969 by a concrete block enclosure.

INTERIOR

The first floor of the club is divided into the ballroom, lounge, office, the pro-shop and pro-office, serving kitchen, four indoor courts, and rest rooms. The mens and womens locker rooms and weight room is located in the basement. An apartment is located upstairs above the ballroom. The ballroom, restrooms and apartment are the interior spaces included in the historic portion of the club.

The ballroom is a long, rectangular space with oak floors and paneled walls. The ceiling is supported by an open truss system. One outside entrance to the ballroom is on the south wall through a set of double doors. A second outside entrance is also on the south wall. These double-doors open into a foyer and the exterior double doors. Off the foyer to the south, a set of stairs lead to the second story. The fireplace on the north wall of the ballroom is faced with painted brick and has a wood mantel supported by enlarged brackets. The door on the north wall opens to a hall which leads to the indoor tennis courts. Another door along this wall opens to the rest rooms on the north side of the building. The newer clubhouse addition is accessed through a door at the west end of the ballroom. A stage is located in the far west corner of the ballroom. A door to the service

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kitchen is located on the south side of the stage. Windows on the south and east walls light the room.

Second Floor

There are two separate sections of the second floor. The newer addition contains rest rooms and a meeting room with a viewing area open to the indoor courts. The historic part of the building on the second floor is an apartment and storage area included in Lawrence's original design. The second floor is accessed by a stairwell on the south side of the building. A bay of three narrow double hung sash windows light the stairwell. There is one double hung sash window at the top of the stairs. The stairs have painted, square balusters and a newel post which is finished with a square cap. The wall and ceiling surfacing of the stairwell are of horizontal tongue and groove. A storage area is located to the north at the top of the stairs and the door to the apartment to the west.

The storage area is an L-shaped room with beveled siding and one multi-paned double hung sash window. A bathroom in this space was originally used as the ladies locker room. Kitchen cupboards were added later. The painted fir floors have been carpeted.

The spacious two bedroom apartment has one over one double hung sash windows in the living room, kitchen, bathroom and dining room on the north, west and east walls. The original wood floor has been covered with linoleum and a partition wall has been added. The apartment is other wise in original condition. As one enters the apartment there are two bedrooms to the west of the central hall, a living room and dining room to the north, and the kitchen and bathroom to the east. A door in the northwest corner of the living room opens out onto a small roof porch. There was originally a viewing area on top of the single story portion which was accessed through this door.

Alterations

Virtually no changes have been made to the historic portion of the Irvington Club. Lawrence's design included adding a ballroom which occupied both the older single story building and the new two story building. This ballroom and second floor apartment remain intact as built. The 1957 addition, though attached to the historic portion, has not compromised the historic Lawrence designed building. Due to the poor condition of the historic building, the tennis club members have started rehabilitation plans which include: foundation and porch repair, rehabilitation of the ballroom, new exterior paint and a new swimming pool.

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

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ellis F. Lawrence, Architect

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

See continuation sheet

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:

Kimberly Lakin
2026 NE 52nd, Portland OR 97213

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one Portland, Oregon-Washington 1:62500

UTM References

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5	0	4	2	7	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area of less than one acre is comprised of Lots 5 through 16, Block 20, Irvington Addition, City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. It is located in Section 26, Township 1N, Range 1E, Willamette Meridian.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area encompasses less than one acre and includes the twelve lots associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kimberly Demuth, Kimberly Lakin, Patty Sackett

organization Demuth/Lakin Joint Venture date March 10, 1990

street & number 1314 NW Irving, Suite 510 telephone (503) 224-0043

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97209

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The Craftsman style Irvington Tennis Club, designed in 1911, is architecturally significant under criterion "c" as an example of the Private Clubs and Fraternal Buildings property type within the early period of the work of architect Ellis Lawrence. This club building has received a high ranking in the "Ellis Lawrence Building Survey" for its integrity, distinction, and associative value and meets the registration requirements for the National Register of Historic Places.

Situated in the historic Irvington Neighborhood, in northeast Portland, the building is an integral part of this single family neighborhood. The club historically served as a social focus for the residents of the area and still does today. Lawrence designed only five Craftsman style buildings during his forty years of professional practice. The Irvington Club is rare in terms of property type also; only two other buildings of this property type are extant in Oregon; the Sellwood YMCA and the Masonic Temple in Salem.

The original character of the historic Irvington Club building remains intact. Some of the Craftsman style design features of this building include: shingle siding, low pitched hipped and gable roofs, numerous multi-paned double hung sash windows, and covered porches with double paneled doors. Notable interior details include a brick fireplace with a large wooden mantel, hardwood floors, and an open truss ceiling.

THE CLUB

For 85 years, the Irvington Tennis Club has been a recreation and social center and catalyst for community spirit in the eastside Portland community of Irvington. Portland's first "tennis only" club, and one of the oldest in the United States was established in 1898. The first clubhouse, with its single court, was located at N.E. 21st and Tillamook Streets; one block from the present clubhouse (Klooster, p.40).

The Irvington neighborhood is named for the original donation land claim applicants, Captain William and Elizabeth Irving. In 1851, the couple filed their claim of 644 acres on the east side of the Willamette river, which included present day Irvington. In 1858, the Irvings moved to British Columbia where Captain Irving built the first steamboat in British Columbia. Captain Irving died there in 1872. After his death, Elizabeth Irving returned to Portland. The Irvington subdivision was platted in 1887 by Captain Irving's widow and three partners: David P. Thompson, Ellis G. Hughes and John Brazee. (MacColl, Merchants, p.266,292).

Although it was platted in the 1880s, Irvington saw its greatest growth following a tremendous boom in Portland's population in the early 1900s. This rapid growth spurred the development of self-contained residential communities like Irvington. This area was soon the home for middle to upper income Portlanders, and included a neighborhood park, Irvington Park, which was built on the site of a horse and auto race track (Miller Residence, NRN).

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Tennis gained an enormous popularity at the turn-of-the-century. Following a west coast tour of Eastern tennis players, the Irvington Tennis Club sponsored the first Oregon State Tennis Championships in 1906. (Klooster p.40) In 1905, club members formed the Irvington Improvement Association, and raised \$10,000 to purchase a city block between 21st and 22nd, and Thompson and Brazee Streets. C.H. Prescott, a member of the building committee in charge of erecting the new club, had once owned the property the first clubhouse was constructed on. (PBE, Klooster p.40) A one story frame clubhouse was erected at this site the same year. The architect of the 1905 building is unknown. Walter A. Goss was elected the first president of the new Irvington Tennis Club in 1905. This building soon became too small for the rapidly growing social center. In 1911, Ellis F. Lawrence (an Irvington resident) was commissioned to design plans for a two story frame addition and a substantial remodel of the existing building. The new building included a large "social room" with an outdoor balcony and a ladies locker room.

From its beginnings to the present day, the Irvington Club has remained an important social and recreational center, responsible for a continuity in community spirit in the Irvington neighborhood. The club's sponsorship of the Oregon State Tennis Championships did much to promote the game of tennis in Oregon. The club also produced several high caliber tennis stars: Walter Goss won the Oregon singles championships for three years in the 1910s, Phil Neer was the National Intercollegiate champion 1922-23, and two players, Wayne Sabin and Elwood Cooke, were ranked in the top 10 U.S. tennis players in the 1930s (Klooster, p.40).

A collection of articles published in newsletters by the Irvington Club, reveal that the club was an important social point for the neighborhood. In one article, former president Walter Goss related some of the objectives of the club:

The club no longer will be restricted to a monthly dance and card party...but it will be its purpose to enter every activity, outside of politics, which will make for the betterment of conditions in a home-loving community. Neighborliness, development of community spirit, building health, wholesome recreational activities and particularly fostering those things which will help young people to grow into useful and creditable citizens were some of the objectives...

Another article, date unknown, lamented the lack of "gens eligibilis" at a time when the proportions of eligible young men to "charming young maidens" was particularly un-equal.

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Today, the Irvington club retains its position as an important tennis and community center. State tennis tournaments held each summer draw participants from the west coast and social dances, such as the "Valentines Tea Dance" are still held in the old "social room" designed by Lawrence.

ELLIS F. LAWRENCE (1879-1946)

Ellis F. Lawrence was born in Malden, Massachusetts in 1879. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After graduating in 1902, Lawrence worked for architects John Calvin Stevens and Steven Codman. He also studied in Europe for six months, where he met and married Alice Louise Millett of Portland, Maine. In 1906 Lawrence left for the Pacific Coast where he intended to open an office in San Francisco. He stopped in Portland, Oregon along the way to visit his friend E. B. McNaughton, a Portland architect. After his visit, and the disastrous earthquake and fire in San Francisco of the same year, Lawrence decided to remain in Portland. He joined the firm of McNaughton and Raymond in November 1906. In February of 1910 Lawrence left the firm and worked independently until 1913 when his friend and former M.I.T. classmate William G. Holford joined him in partnership. (Ellis Lawrence Building Survey)

Ellis F. Lawrence was to become a prolific designer, civic activist and a visionary in city planning and education. Both his teaching and design work influenced the development of architecture within the State of Oregon. In 1914 Lawrence founded the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts in Eugene, Oregon. He organized the school around teaching methods which rejected the traditional philosophy of the Beaux Arts school. He believed in the integration of all the arts and an informal, non-competitive teaching environment; ideas which were regarded as progressive for the era. This teaching philosophy as developed by Lawrence remains the basis for education at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Lawrence eventually became acquainted with many of Portland's most influential businessmen. He also knew many nationally known figures such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Bernard Maybeck and the Olmsted brothers. He even collaborated with the noted landscape architects and city planners, John and Frederick Olmsted, on the Peter Kerr residence in Portland. Lawrence was selected as the first vice president of the American Institute of Architects and served on juries for numerous national design competitions, such as the Victory Memorial in Honolulu, the Stock Exchange Building and Bank of Italy in San Francisco. He was president of the Collegiate Schools of Architecture Association from 1932-1934.

Ellis Lawrence was also active at the city and state level in Oregon. He served as state advisory architect for the Home Owners Loan Corporation, and during 1933-1934 served on the Northwest District committee for the Public Works of Art project of the U.S. Treasury Department. He was also president for the local chapter of the A.I.A., an organization he helped to form. Lawrence was involved in the organization of the Portland Architectural Club, the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast and the Oregon Association of Building Construction. He served on the Portland City Planning Commission and belonged to the Portland Art Association, the Irvington Club and the City Club. Ellis Lawrence, his wife Alice and their three sons, Henry Abbot, Denison

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Howells, and Amos Millett, resided in the Irvington neighborhood. Lawrence worked three days a week in his Portland office and spent two days a week teaching and serving as dean of the Architecture and Allied Arts School in Eugene. He died in Eugene in 1946 at the age of 67. (Wells/Guthrie Residence National Register Nomination and Ellis Lawrence Building Survey).

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Bibliography

Lakin, Kimberly and Demuth, Kimberly. Wells/Guthrie National Register Nomination. 1989.

Lakin, Kimberly and Shellenbarger, Michael. "Ellis Lawrence Building Survey". 1989.

Polk's Portland City Directories.

Oregonian, 20 November 1973, 14 June, 1980.