

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: 97000130

Date Listed: 2/21/97

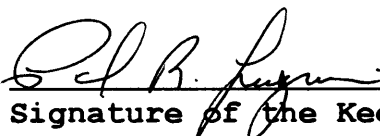
Crook, Charles, House
Property Name

Multnomah
County

OR
State

N/A
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.


Signature of the Keeper

2/21/97
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

- This confirms the appropriate areas of significance as:
- Architecture
- Community Planning & Development
- Engineering

[These areas were left off the nomination cover form.]

This information was confirmed with E. Potter of the OR SHPO.

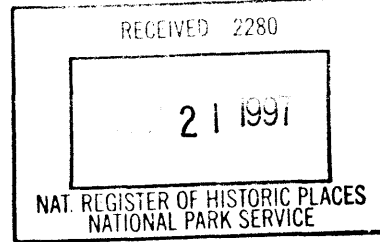
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and sub-categories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crook, Charles, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 6127 N. Williams Avenue not for publication

N/A

city or town Portland vicinity N/A

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051

zip code 97217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Jamnik January 14, 1997

Signature of certifying official DSHPO 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. 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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Domestic </u>	Sub: <u> Single dwelling </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Domestic </u>	Sub: <u> Single dwelling </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Late Victorian/ Queen Anne Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Composite shingles (composition shingles)
walls weatherboard

other shingles on second story

7. Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets)

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1894
1894-1907
1894-1939

Significant Dates 1894, 1907, 1939

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Crook, Charles Joseph

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Whidden, William Marcy

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- 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

Name of repository: Multnomah County Public Library

=====

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre (0.11 acres) Portland, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>10</u>	<u>526070</u>	<u>504583</u>	<u>303</u>
2	_____	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Fulton, President

organization Cultural Resources Management date 7/25/96

street & number 1540 SW Davenport St. telephone 503-274-2106

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97201-2230

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Matthew Grom and William Osborne

street & number 6127 N. Williams Avenue telephone 503-285-7695

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97217

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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CROOK, CHARLES, HOUSE (1894)

6127 N Williams Avenue

Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The the two and a half story Queen Anne-style house built for mechanical engineer Charles J. Crook in the Piedmont district of north Portland was completed in in 1894 from a design by William M. Whidden, a principal of the firm of Whidden and Lewis, the city's preeminent architects of the turn-of-the-century period. It occupies a standard 50 x100-foot lot and faces east onto North Williams Avenue.

Of balloon frame construction, the house rises as an attenuated cross-gabled volume from a brick foundation having a compact ground plan of 31 x 27 feet. With its weatherboard and cedar shingle cladding, asymmetries and distinctive details, the house embodies the essence of the Queen Anne Revival as it evolved on the East Coast of the United States, where it was enriched by vernacular and classical vocabulary from American Colonial architecture. Whidden's design also reflects the influence of Henry Hobson Richardson's work in its general simplicity and such details as its weighty Romanesque portico with bold round-arched opening.

The house is composed as a tall front-gabled volume with intersecting gabled sections at right angles. The north side gable epitomizes the picturesque effect that was sought in its asymmetric rear slope sweeping from the roof ridge to top of ground story. The roof has an overhanging boxed cornice on block modillions. The house is fronted by a full width veranda which terminates at the north end in the gabled porch with keystone semicircular arched portal with archivolt molding. The typanum of the portico is decoration with slit gouge work. The veranda and portico have closed railings and corners. Round Tuscan columns are secondary supports for the hip roof of the loggia portion which originally supported a small balustraded deck for front windows of upstairs bedrooms.

The windows display the full range and variety customarily used in residential work of the style, but primarily they are double-hung windows with eight lights in upper sash and architrave framements. Based on the evidence of a historic photograph of 1894, the operable windows originally were shuttered. There are both a picture window and polygonal window bay to light

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the parlor, and there is an art glass clerestory window above the built-in dining room sideboard. At the attic, there are keystone and louvered vents, a bowed shingle hood, and a frameless opening with rounded shingle jambs. Surface accents are more judiciously than liberally applied, including cartouches of diapered shingle work turned on point, and a sawtooth border on the bottom course of second story shingle siding.

The interior, organized on an open plan, bears the earmarks of high style Queen Anne convention, including an entry stairhall with fireplace, diningroom fireplace, and an inglenook-window seat in the master bedroom. High quality woodwork is characterized by paneled waincoting, paneled sliding doors, decorative gallery railings in alcoves, chair rails and picture molding. The staircase is separated from the entry by a partial column screen closed with paneling topped by a lattice railing with square module. There have been no structural alterations to the house, although trim features, such as balcony railing and shutters were removed before the present ownership. The wood shingle roof was replaced with a composition shingle cover. The original barn no longer stands, and a garage of 1979 is counted a non-contributing feature of the property.

The Crook House meets National Register Criterion C as a well-preserved and finely crafted example of small scale Queen Anne-style residential architecture in Portland. The applicant shows that it was one of the early houses built in the Piedmont subdivision, which was platted in 1889 from one of the forested tracts on the peninsula at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. As was typical of the planned communities that arose as the street car lines extended into suburban tracts, lot size and setbacks were closely standardized through deed restriction.

William Whidden (1857-1929) had been draftsman for the leading New York firm of McKim, Mead and White. He was trained at MIT and the École des Beaux Arts and joined the firm in 1882. Soon thereafter, he came to Portland with Charles McKim to supervise construction of Henry Villard's Northern Pacific Railroad terminal hotel. The Portland Hotel project was interrupted temporarily when Villard lost control of the Northern Pacific in the panic of 1884, but Whidden saw it to completion in 1888. Having decided to stay in Portland, he formed a partnership with Boston-trained Ion Lewis the following year. Crook became acquainted with Whidden in his capacity as chief engineer for the Portland Hotel from 1890 to 1903. Edward Quackenbush, developer of Piedmont, also was among the clients of Whidden and Lewis.

The property also is significant in the area of community planning and development under Criterion A since it was something of a model house for one of northeast Portland's earliest

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planned communities. Contracting with Quackenbush's investment company to provide electrical service to the Piedmont subdivision is said to have been the last civic act of the municipality of Albina before Albina was absorbed into Portland's corporate structure.

The property also meets Criterion B in the area of engineering based on Crook's distinction locally as a mechanical engineer and for his role as superintendent of the Piedmont Water Works. It is not clear that Crook designed the works, including a handsome 100-foot water tower with battered walls, flared skirting and open work which was destroyed in 1917. It is tempting, however, to draw a parallel between the Piedmont tower and archetypes of Crook's native England. Once Crook (1860-1939), a native of Kent, arrived in Portland in 1890, he supervised installation and subsequently operated "state of the art" mechanical systems for the Portland Hotel. He performed a similar function for Good Samaritan Hospital beginning in 1905. After 1907, when, presumably, the City of Portland took over management of the formerly independent Piedmont Water Works, Crook commenced a long association with the local machinery firm of Zimmerman, Willis & Brown. After Crook's death in 1939, the house was occupied by his heirs to 1976.

This application is accompanied by the endorsement of the City of Portland through Portland Historic Landmarks Commission chairman Deborah Gruenfeld. Portland recently entered the list of local governments in Oregon certified for expanded participation in the National Register program.

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Section 7 Page 8 Crook, Charles, House
Multnomah County, Oregon

Narrative Description

The Crook House is a Queen Anne Style residence with Richardsonian Romanesque elements. It is located at 6127 N. Williams Avenue, facing east in the original Piedmont subdivision in northeast Portland. The house was designed by William Marcy Whidden and built in 1894 for Charles Joseph Crook, a prominent Portland mechanical engineer. The Crook House has a cross bellcast gable roof and an asymmetrical, open plan. Significant features include block modillions at the eaves, a diamond-paned window with shingled, curved jambs on the east gable, a bowed gable end and finely detailed built-in cabinetry.

The two and a half story Crook House with attic and basement has a balloon frame and a continuous brick foundation. It is rectangular in shape and is 31'-3" wide and 27'-6" long. The wall finish on the first story is weatherboard and the wood sawn shingles on the second story have a sawtooth border. The house has a beltcourse and water table. The original wood shingles on the roof have been replaced by composition shingles.

The porch, finished with weatherboard, extends the length of the facade and has two Tuscan columns with diamond-shaped motifs at the entablature; porch openings are corbelled. The porch balusters are slender, square wood posts; the banister is beveled. The gabled entrance at the north end of the porch has a round arch opening with beadwork and a keystone. Five square openings covered with a latticework screen on the north, south, and east sides of the house vent the area below the porch.

The main window type is an eight-over-one double-hung window. Additional windows include a single sash, diamond-paned window with curved jambs on the east gable and a single sash, diamond-paned square window on the south side and west gable. The house also has two handsome stained glass transom lights with floral motifs. One is located above the front door; another is above the large single sash window on the parlor's east wall. Above the built-in sideboard on the dining room's west wall is an art glass clerestory window. A three-sided bay window on the south wall adds light to the parlor.

The house has a central brick chimney with recessed courses. There are four exterior doors. Front and back wood doors have three panels with one light; the glass in the front door is beveled. A three-paneled wood door with one light on the west wall of the upstairs bathroom opens onto a small balcony. The four-paneled wood basement door is on the north side. Doors and windows have lipped lintels.

The gables of the Crook House have decorative motifs. The east gable has two large, shingled diamond motifs on the south and north sides of paired windows; five bull's eyes form a cross above the single sash window. A decorative feature of slit gouge work is located above the arch on the gabled entrance. The bowed surface of the west gable adds an additional decorative element.

The interior of the Crook House reflects the open plan of the Queen Anne Style. Sliding doors are used to let light and air into rooms and to connect rooms into one large space. The four room plan on the ground floor includes a rectangular great hall, parlor, dining room, kitchen, and pantry. Sliding wood doors between the great hall and parlor and multi-lighted sliding doors between the dining room and parlor create an open flow of movement.

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Multnomah County, Oregon

The upper story follows the four room plan. A hall running north to south accesses upstairs rooms. These rooms include a large master bedroom, two smaller bedrooms, and a bathroom, separate toilet, and large closet. The attic is accessed by a hatch in the ceiling of the upper hall.

The Crook House has a stacked, L-shaped staircase. The main staircase is located at the north end of the great hall. The first square landing is two risers up with two six-light-over one double-hung windows at the northeast corner. The staircase continues up a half-flight to a second square landing with a mid-height one-over-one double-hung window on the north wall. Another half-flight rises to the central upstairs hall. The service stairs are stacked below the main staircase. A half-flight descends from the kitchen to a square landing and the exterior basement door; a second half-flight continues to the basement. Wood balustrades on the upper floor and in the basement have spool turned balusters and grooved banisters. Newel posts are rectangular with square caps; the upstairs posts are carved.

The main staircase has a partial column screen closed with paneling and topped by a lattice railing with square module on the south side. Principal features also include built-in cabinetry on the dining room's west wall. The cabinetry has two leaded glass doors with a lozenge motif, two inset paneled doors and three drawers. There is a wainscoted alcove in the master bedroom beneath the diamond-paned window on the south wall. An arched latticework screen with spool turned spindles and a keystone is located above the alcove. The partial column screen, wainscoting, and picture rail in the great hall, cornice and cabinetry in the dining room, fireplace mantels, and window seat are made of California redwood and are typical of the elegant Queen Anne Style. The interior walls are plaster over wood lathe.

The fireplace mantel in the great hall has beadwork and carved ends. There is a recessed panel above the mantel; the overmantel is a large latticework screen that repeats the square module of the lattice railing above the partial column wall of the main staircase. The hearth has a diamond-shaped black tile border. The dining room fireplace has a mantel with a central corbelled bracket and a dentil course; it has two Tuscan colonettes and an overmantel with beadwork. The facing in the dining room fireplace and the hearth are constructed of glazed yellow tiles applied in common bond. The great hall has a finely designed original stem pendant brass lighting fixture; two original wall sconces flank the fireplace.

Primary interior spaces retain their original organization and salient features. Where historic finishes have been replaced, the new finishes are appropriate to the building's historic function and aesthetic and cultural values of the period of significance.

The property has one non-contributing feature, a garage built in 1979 on the southwest corner of the property approximately 15' from the house.

The Crook House is situated on a 50' x 100' lot with 25' setbacks. A concrete walkway accesses the house from the sidewalk. There is a small deciduous tree, foundation plantings, and row of roses on the north side of the front yard and a deciduous hedge on the south side. Small deciduous trees grow on the south and north sides of the backyard. A wood fence constructed after 1979 encloses the backyard and extends up the north and south sides of the lot.

The original Piedmont subdivision, a "pioneer tract" on Portland's peninsula, was platted as a new upper-middle class residential area between Portland and Vancouver in 1889. The 160-acre tract, located on high land between the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, is approximately 216' above them and one mile from the Columbia Slough. The nearly level land slopes very slightly towards the Columbia River. Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, Mt. Saint Helens, and the Columbia River are visible from different vantage points. When the Investment Company developed the property, it left many Douglas fir trees to provide

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Multnomah County, Oregon

shade and it beautified the setting by planting trees along the new streets. A system of boulevards and major streets, including N.E. Portland Boulevard, North Commercial Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and N. Killingsworth Street, serves Piedmont and forms its boundaries.

The Crook House is located in the Piedmont Historic Design Zone, adopted in 1993 as part of the Albina Community Plan. Many of the homes in the Piedmont Historic Design Zone are designed in styles that were popular between 1890 and 1920, including Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, and Stick.

The Crook House has had no major alterations or additions. The balustrade on the facade was removed and the gutters replaced before the 1970s. The original wood shingles on the roof were replaced with composition shingles before the 1950s; the louvered, operable shutters were removed in the 1970s. Porch degradation due to dry rot was repaired in approximately 1945. The original barn was torn down and a new two-car garage was built in 1979. The only significant interior alteration has been the removal of the original firebox in the great hall.

The preservation plan includes repairs and reconstruction. Dry rot will be repaired underneath the gutters; non-original gutters will be replaced with new gutters constructed according to original specifications. The balustrade will be reconstructed. Original brick work will be repaired to strengthen the foundation. Plaster work is required in the great hall, dining room, upper stairway, and bedrooms.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Crook House meets National Register Criterion C because it is representative of small scale, beautifully crafted Queen Anne Style residential architecture; the Crook House is a fine example of the small house architecture of William Marcy Whidden, formerly the chief draftsman for the prestigious New York firm of McKim, Mead, and White, and later a partner in the Portland firm of Whidden and Lewis. The Crook House also meets Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. It is historically important because it represents the growth of early planned urban communities in Portland in response to new modes of transportation. The Crook House also meets Criterion B because of its association with the prominent Portland mechanical engineer Charles Joseph Crook. Crook managed or designed innovative engineering projects in Portland for forty years, including state-of-the art mechanical systems for the Portland Hotel, Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Piedmont Water Tower.

The period of significance begins in 1894 when the house was built as one of the first homes in the original Piedmont subdivision. It was featured as a demonstration house by The Investment Company, the firm that developed the subdivision. The Investment Company published a photograph of the Crook House in its 1909 promotional brochure entitled "Piedmont: The Emerald. Portland's Evergreen Suburb, Devoted Exclusively to Dwellings- A Place of Homes." The Crook House demonstrated all the desirable features of beautiful architecture and a planned community that the developers wanted to promote.

As the Chief Engineer for the Portland Hotel from 1890 to 1903, Charles Crook knew the hotel's architect William Whidden very well. No written records or drawings remain, but Charles Crook told his son Cecil Gerrard Crook that the architect for his house had been the chief draftsman for McKim, Mead, and White. Members of the Crook family were so pleased with the completed residence that Charles Crook's sister hired the prominent San Francisco architect George Alexander Wright to duplicate the house at 1325 St. Charles Street in Alameda, California in 1898. The Crook family continued to live in and own the house until the death of Charles Crook's son Cecil in 1976.

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Multnomah County

The development of the Queen Anne Style of the Crook House began with the later work of Richard Norman Shaw. The style, which looked back to the solid construction of Queen Anne's era one hundred and fifty years earlier, was introduced to America in 1876 at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Soon its popularity spread all over the country. Queen Anne architecture adopted and developed features from many previous styles. Asymmetry was a chief characteristic as porches, wings, and gables extended in many directions. Wall and roof surfaces had the patterned textures of the Victorian Gothic Style. Carved, turned ornamentation and classic Roman and Greek detailing were common.

Many late Queen Anne houses such as the Crook House also were influenced by the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. The houses of master architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) emphasized a sense of massiveness and solidity. They were characterized by rock-faced masonry walls, arches, lintels, and other structural elements. Richardsonian details such as round arched entries, towers, and deepset doors and windows found their way into many Queen Anne buildings. The round arch entrance of the Crook House was a Richardsonian element. The beaded wood arch with a keystone created a dramatic entrance.

The Crook House also showed a certain decorative restraint that marked Whidden's departure from Queen Anne architecture. Whidden subdued decorative features on the facade and executed them in shingles or weatherboarding. In that characteristic the Crook House reflected the emergence of the Shingle Style out of its roots in Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Richardson played an important role in developing the Early Shingle Style as he translated his Romanesque architecture, originally executed in stone, into the much less expensive and, in many areas, more available material of wood shingles.

The Crook House reflects William Marcy Whidden's talents in design and use of materials in small house architecture. An example of Whidden's skill in proportioning and alignment appears in the balanced relationship between windows and gables. Architectural elements such as the porch and balcony balustrades are delicately scaled to add grace and refinement. Whidden paid careful attention to such exterior features as gutters, ridge caps, and shutters. Lower porch steps were designed with returns. Even the latticework screens on the porch vents were designed especially for the Crook House. The sawtooth border of shingles and the diamond-shaped motifs on the facade added subtle elements of decoration.

The Crook House emphasizes William Marcy Whidden's skillfull blending of Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque elements. The house retains the predominant shape and volume of small Queen Anne homes. It utilizes Richardsonian features such as the arched entry for pleasing dramatic effect. The wood shingles that cover both the roof and much of the exterior blend perfectly with the forest environment of the Pacific Northwest.

The interior of the Crook House also reflects the Queen Anne Style with its great hall, open, asymmetrical plan, built-in cabinetry, and inglenook-window seat in the master bedroom. The great hall has the central fireplace, decorative main staircase, latticework screen, and wainscoting that are common to that style. Latticework screens are used to achieve the important architectural objective of enhancing the continuous flow of space. To enhance free-flowing movement, the parlor and dining room are arranged around the great hall and divided by sliding paneled and multi-lighted doors.

William Marcy Whidden (1857-1929) studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and spent four years at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He joined McKim, Mead, and White in 1882 and

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Multnomah County, Oregon

became the protégé of Charles McKim. In 1882 he traveled with McKim to Portland to supervise the construction of Henry Villard's Portland Hotel. When Villard's railroad empire collapsed, Whidden formed a partnership with William E. Chamberlin in Boston. Whidden returned to Portland to oversee the completion of the Portland Hotel in 1888. A year later he formed Whidden and Lewis in Portland with Ion Lewis (1858-1933). The establishment of their firm brought the introduction of East Coast styles such as the Shingle Style to Portland; soon Whidden and Lewis was the most respected architectural firm in the city.

Whidden's clients included important people in Portland's business and social community, such as Piedmont's developer Edward Quackenbush and Charles Crook. The firm of Whidden and Lewis made a major contribution to the development of Portland architecture. Among its many notable buildings were the Portland Hotel (1890), the Portland Public Library (1891), Portland City Hall (1895), the Meier and Frank Store (1900), and the Multnomah County Courthouse (1909). The firm designed in many styles, including Renaissance Revival, Colonial Revival, Spanish Renaissance, Queen Anne, and Shingle. By 1909 Whidden and Lewis's dominance of the Portland architectural scene was over, although the firm continued until Whidden died in 1929.

The Crook House meets National Register Criterion A because it represents Portland's early era of planned communities that grew up in response to new modes of transportation. Piedmont was one of Portland's first planned communities. The quarter section of land that became the original Piedmont subdivision was granted to Henry Walsh in 1866. The Investment Company, a real estate development company incorporated in 1887 by Edward Quackenbush, William Ladd, William Wadhams, and S.P. Lee, bought the property in 1888. Piedmont was officially platted in 1889. The Investment Company wanted to attract commuters who needed easy access to the new electric car lines. The company asked the Portland and Vancouver Railway Company to extend its line to Piedmont and deeded the company a strip along the subdivision's eastern border, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. In 1888 that line ran up to Portland Boulevard and then traveled northeast toward the Columbia River. Commuters were served by two trunk lines and two local lines of electric cars.

When Piedmont was platted, deed restrictions and conditions of sale were established to create an exclusively residential neighborhood of high quality homes. Houses had 25' setbacks and were required to be 15' from the side lot line. Minimum construction costs were \$2,500-3,000. The plat established 15' wide alleys for water, gas, sewer, electric telegraph, and telephone lines. Edward Quackenbush, the president of the Investment Company, was particularly interested in creating a rural and natural feeling in the development and did not want poles and lines to obscure the beauty of the setting.

The Investment Company designed Piedmont to appeal to upper-middle class tastes. The subdivision provided the mountain views that prosperous buyers relished. The company's 1909 promotional brochure reminded people that Piedmont had the pure air, long hours of sunshine, and lovely, healthful surroundings that they desired. Quackenbush also appealed to the prohibitionist temper of many potential upper-middle class buyers. An organizer of the Portland Anti-Saloon League, Quackenbush prohibited anyone from making or selling alcohol in the subdivision.

Piedmont was designed as a new planned community that offered its residents extensive services. An exclusive contract between the city of Albina and the Investment Company established

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electric service; that contract was the last civic act of the city of Albina. The Investment Company also created a local water system. It drilled a 200' well and built a giant water tower at the corner of Portland Boulevard and Williams Avenue. Charles Crook was the Superintendent of the Piedmont Water Tower for six years.

The deed restrictions and neighborhood conditions that Piedmont established as one of the earliest planned communities were the first of their kind in the larger Albina community. Later, Irvington and the Mock's Crest Subdivision in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood established similar rules. The Crook House represents the legacy of Portland's early planned communities.

The 1984 Portland Historic Resources Inventory lists the Crook House. Its Rank II designation establishes it as a property of individual importance by virtue of its architectural, historical, and environmental criteria, of secondary priority for landmark designation, and eligible for the National Register. The house is surrounded by many other historic structures and buildings, including two sites and structures listed on the National Register and 63 sites and structures listed on the Portland Historic Resources Inventory.

The residence also is located within the Piedmont Historic Design Zone, a zone that was established and adopted as part of the Albina Community Plan in 1993. Recognition of the Crook House as an historically significant building supports the Albina Community Plan's goal to preserve the historic character and livability of inner north and northeast Portland. A specific objective within the Albina Plan is to preserve Piedmont's heritage of historic structures and sites.

The Crook House meets Criterion B because of its association with the prominent mechanical engineer Charles Joseph Crook. Crook was born in 1860 in the village of Lewisham in Kent, England. His father was one of those mechanical engineers that England produced so plentifully in the first half of the nineteenth century. Crook's engineering family fostered his talents; Charles Crook was highly skilled when he came to Portland in 1890. He was the Chief Engineer of the Portland Hotel from 1890 until 1903 and supervised the construction and implementation of the state-of-the-art systems of the new hotel.

Crook built his home in Piedmont in 1894 and served as the Superintendent of the Piedmont Water Works from 1893 until 1907. The residence's period of significance associated with Crook's role as superintendent began in 1894 and concluded in 1907. Crook's role as the Superintendent of the Piedmont Water Works was significant because he managed the Piedmont Water Tower and the delivery of water to the Piedmont community. It is very possible that Crook also designed the tower but no written documentation remains. The gracefully designed 100' tower, built ca. 1892, testified to a particular era of technological development in independently owned water delivery services within the city. The water tower, which cost \$40,000 to construct, held huge tanks until Piedmont was connected to city water mains in 1909. Located at the corner of Williams Avenue and Portland Boulevard, arsonists burned the tower down in 1917.

During his career Charles Crook also participated in the installation of a state-of-the-art heating plant in the newly constructed Good Samaritan Hospital in 1905. He worked for the Zimmerman, Willis & Brown Machinery Company from 1907 to 1931. All of the contributions that Crook made to Portland's major engineering projects occurred while he lived at 6127 N. Williams Avenue.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Poppeliers, John C., Chambers, S. Allen, and Schwartz, Nancy B. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Scully, Vincent J., Jr. *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style: Architectural Theory and Design from Richardson to the Origins of Wright*. 1955. Rev. ed. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1971.

Government Documents

Further intensive research at the City of Portland's Archives and Record Center may reveal additional material on the Piedmont Water District.

Portland Planning Bureau. *Piedmont Neighborhood Plan*. Portland, Oregon: Portland Planning Bureau, 1993.

Multnomah County Department of Assessment and Taxation. *Tax Records, 1894-Present*.

Newspapers

Charles Crook Obituary. *Oregon Journal*, March 22, 1939.

Charles Crook Obituary. *Oregonian*, March 21, 1939.

Promotional Brochures

_____. *Piedmont: The Emerald. Portland's Evergreen Suburb, Devoted Exclusively to Dwellings-A Place of Homes*. The Investment Company, Portland, Oregon, 1909.

Interviews

William Osborne Interview by Ann Fulton, Portland, Oregon, March 28, 1996.

John Crook Interview by Ann Fulton, Portland, Oregon, June 7, 1996.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in SE 1/4 Section 15, Township 1 North, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, in Multnomah County, Oregon and is legally described as Lot 6 Block 35 of the Original Piedmont Addition.

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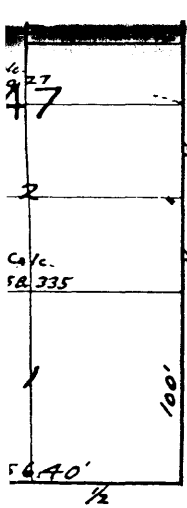
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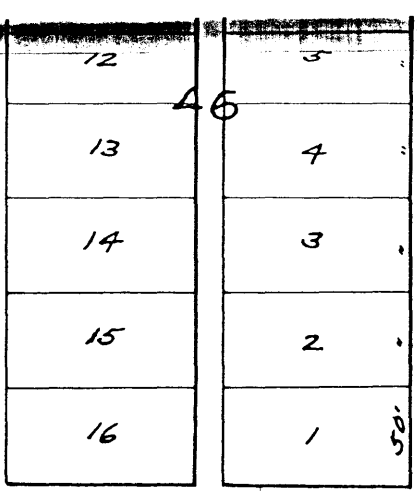
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Boundary Justification

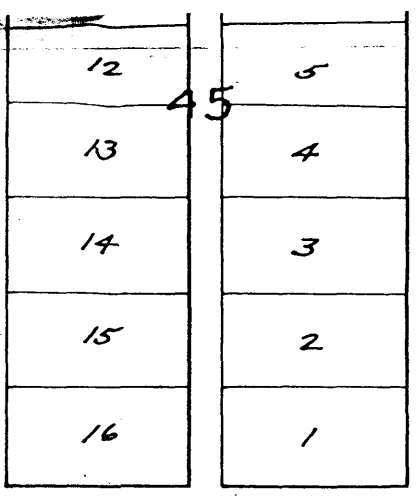
The nominated area encompasses the entire urban tax lot (50 x 100 feet) occupied by the Charles Crook House from 1894 onward.



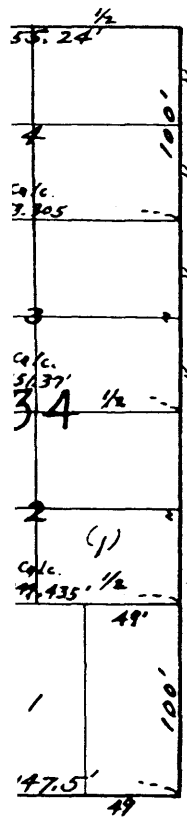
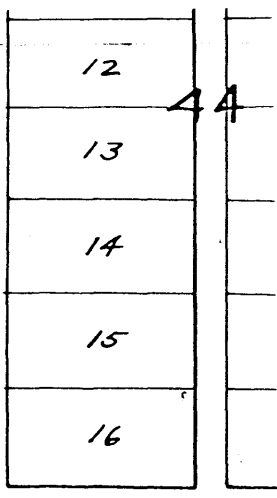
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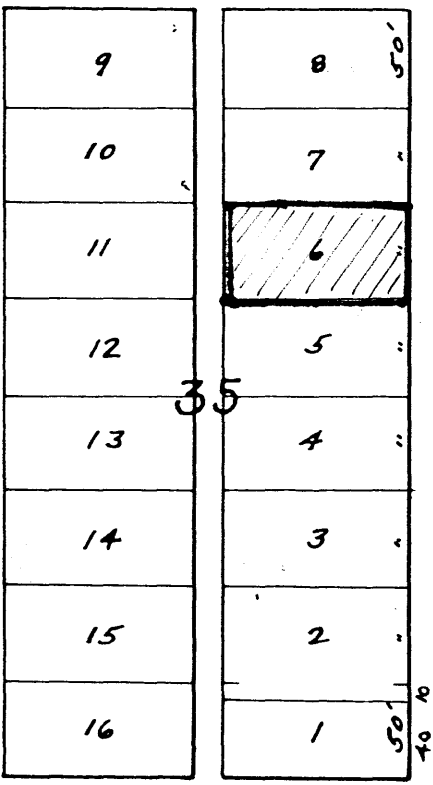
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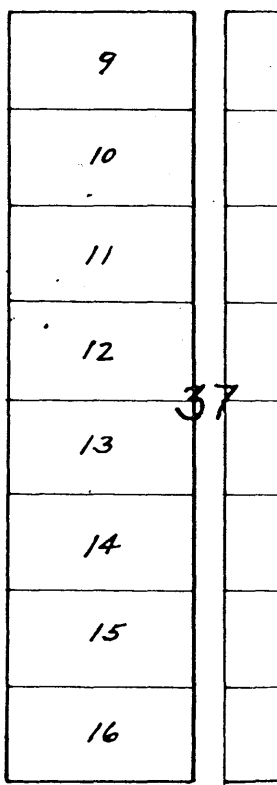
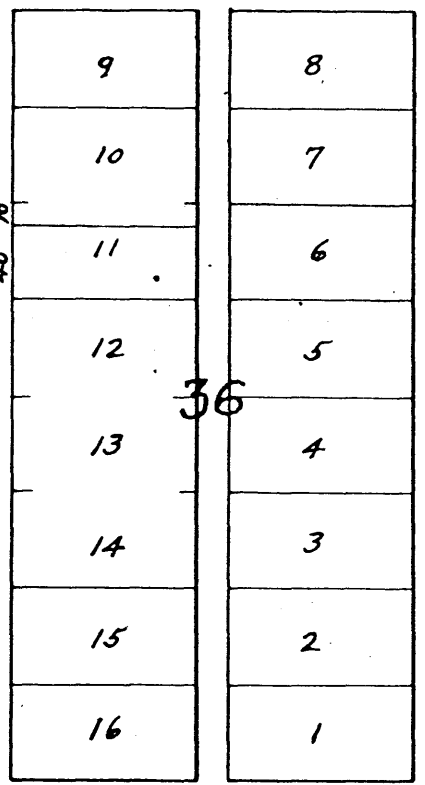
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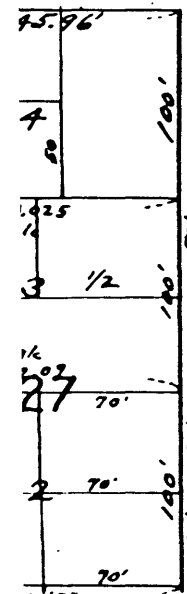
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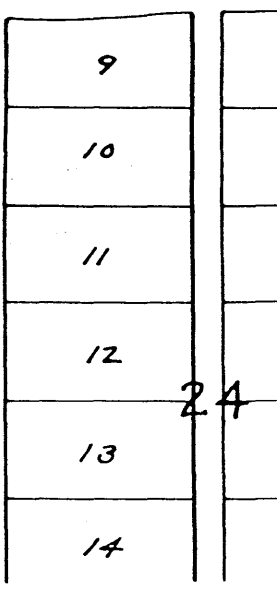
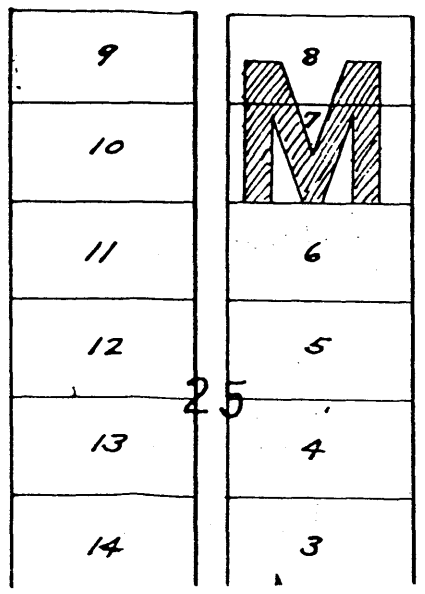
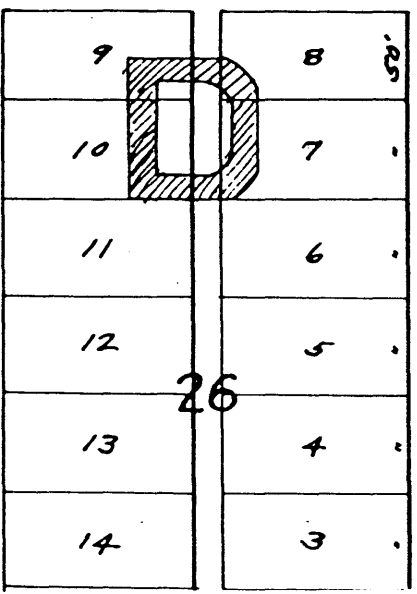
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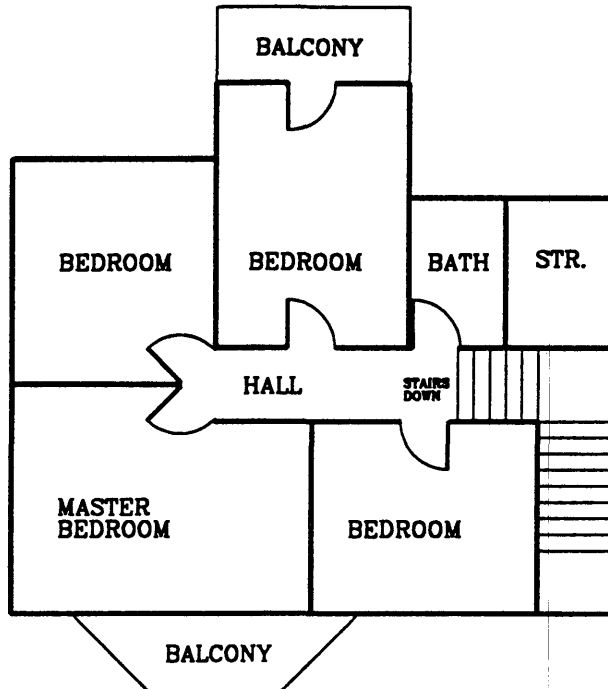


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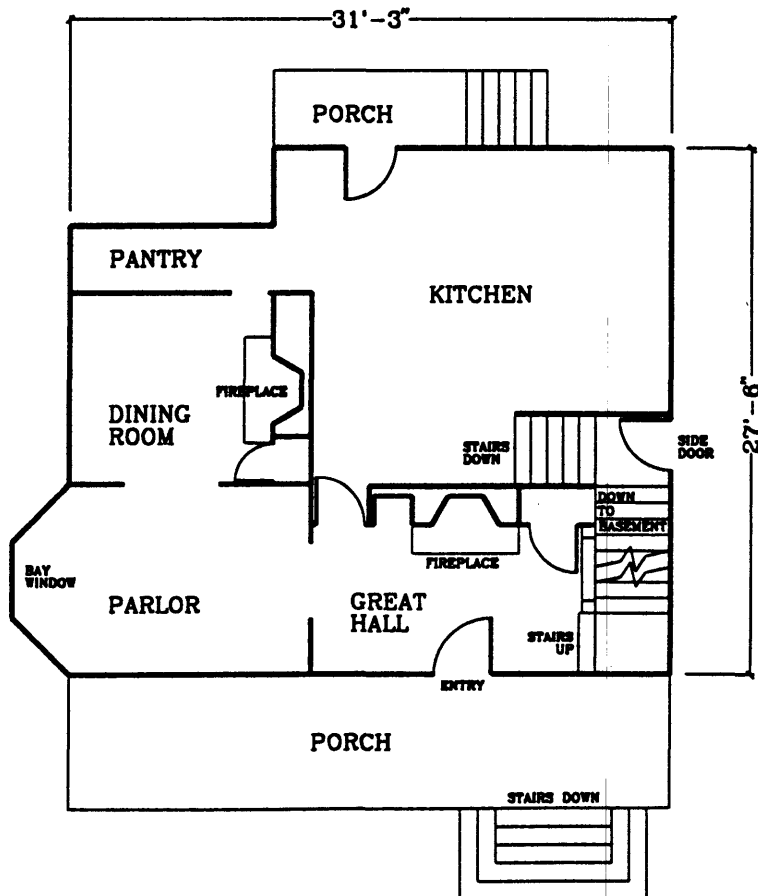


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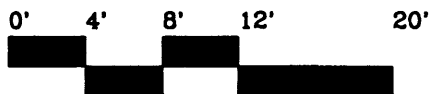




SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



Charles Joseph Crook House
 6127 N. Williams Avenue
 Portland, Oregon