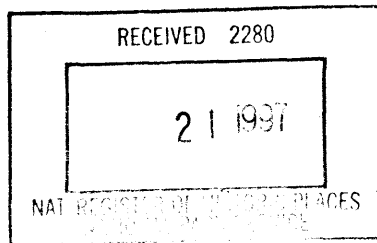


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 an 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 subcategories 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 Pierce, Edgar T., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1610 Fir Street S. N/A not for publication

city or town Salem N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Marion code 047 zip code 97302

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 Hannah January 10, 1997  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

2/21/97  
Date of Action

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**PIERCE, EDGAR T., HOUSE (1932)**

1610 Fir Street S

Salem, Marion County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The two-story French Renaissance-style residence of Marion County banker Edgar T. Pierce in Salem's Fairmount Hill neighborhood was designed by Clarence Smith in close consultation with his clients over a period of three years and was completed in 1932. Clarence Smith was the leading designer of fashionable houses in historic period styles in the capital city in the 1920s and '30s.

The house occupies a double lot of just under a quarter of an acre at the southeast corner of Fir and Lincoln streets, where the hillside falls off to the north and east. The house is sited at the back of the lot at its highest vantage point, where it opens, hinge-like, to the street corner. The sloping front lawn is retained along the north street border by a low, ivied ashlar wall and is shaded by a stand of mature oaks. Landscaping is otherwise limited to foundation shrubbery and a curving brick-paved walkway from Fir Street.

The house is composed as a rectilinear kitchen/dining and garage/service core with an oblique livingroom wing having a tent-roofed octagonal entry stair hall tower centered on the facade. The main volumes are enclosed with high hip roofs with varied dormers. Exterior walls are faced with varicolored brick and, partially, with shingles at the second story of the rear elevation. The roofline is broken by tall brick chimneys having corbelled neckings and clustered flue caps. Typical windows are multi-light casements, but there is a polygonal window bay at the north end of the livingroom wing which affords a view of the city and Willamette Valley plain spreading out to the northeast. Decorative shutters were a feature of the house from the outset, and decorative ironwork, as seen in the balconette on the west elevation and in the bannister of the circular staircase, also is a characteristic eclectic detail of the period. The quality of the facebrick is noteworthy. It is laid up at the window heads to form flat arched lintels with keystone, radiating voussoirs. Roofing material, originally an asbestos composition shingle, was replaced recently with asphalt shingles.

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Interior finish work is characterized by plaster walls, standard high-quality millwork, all painted; French doors, a fine circular staircase, and kneed segmental archways. The livingroom is lowered a few steps below the main floor level. Above it is the master bedroom. Fireplaces are on the east wall in these rooms. The livingroom chimneypiece is a Free Classic design with depressed arch over the firebox surround, a shell cartouche and fluted pilasters. There have been few structural alterations to the house in 60 years. Kitchen space has been remodelled, and a secondary rear upstairs bedroom was combined with the bath of the masterbedroom.

The Pierce House meets National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of 20th century historic period architecture in the French Renaissance style in Salem. Although numerous examples of builder's versions of Norman Farmhouses are found in fashionable neighborhoods in the capital city, this one is distinctive in terms of craft, scale and siting. Within the body of documented works by Clarence Smith, some 24 in all, the house is prominent. Smith's clients usually were more given to the American Colonial, English Arts and Crafts, or Mediterranean styles.

This application is welcome for its review of the career of Clarence Smith (1894-1951), a native Portlander who apprenticed with architects in Portland -- notably, Charles Ertz -- and New York. He studied at Cornell University School of Architecture before returning to Portland at the end of the First World War. He became associated with the well-known firm of Sutton and Whitney, whose works were noted for craft detail and fine brickwork. About 1923, Smith came to Salem and began working as a draftsman for a leading local contractor, Cuyler Van Patten. By 1926, he was working independently as an architect although he never fully completed the State's requirements for registration. Smith was an adept designer with an eye for picturesque detail and pleasing, livable interior space.

The house is noteworthy, but is not nominated for its association with Edgar T. Pierce, who was deputy State Superintendent of Banks at the time he first entered the house. He held the position for a year before a new administration was voted into the statehouse. It was the role of the Superintendent of Banks to support the State Banking Board (consisting of the State's three chief executives) in regulating and examining all state banks, trust companies and mutual savings banks chartered under State law as well as the trust departments of national banks. Pierce, a Linn County native and 1913 graduate of Oregon Agricultural College, entered the banking business and successfully managed the Aumsville and Turner State Banks until they failed in the Depression, just as the house for his family on Fairmount Hill was being realized. The family lived in the house three years before vacating it for Governor and Mrs. Charles Martin to rent for the duration of the gubernatorial term. Martin appointed Pierce to a State post as finance officer

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for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Oregon, a position which led to his appointment in 1938 as financial advisor to the State Land Board. Like the State Banking Board, the Land Board was composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer. The Land Board's responsibility was to manage and sell school grant lands and certain other assets and invest the proceeds for trust funds such as the common school fund. In 1940, Edgar and Ursula Pierce returned to the house on Fir Street and lived there four years. They sold the property in 1944. After the Second World War, Pierce was appointed clerk of the State Land Board and served in that capacity through 1961.

It was during the historic period of ownership by Edgar and Ursula Pierce that the house entered into a secondary association as unofficial governor's residence under leasehold. Charles H. Martin (1863-1946), Democratic Governor of Oregon from 1935 to 1939, was better known by his contemporaries as General Martin, since he had compiled a long and distinguished military career before retiring to Portland, his wife's home town. The Illinois native and West Point graduate had reached the pinnacle of his active service after the First World War as Assistant United States Army Chief of Staff. He was elected to Congress in 1931 and served two terms before becoming Oregon's governor. One of the hallmarks of his career was promoting legislation to step up State and local law enforcement powers during demonstrations by organized labor that marked the Depression years. He also brought to completion the State Capitol Reconstruction project occasioned by the loss of the old statehouse to fire at the opening of his term.

Edgar T. Pierce House

Marion Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

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

Contributing Noncontributing
1 buildings
sites
structures
objects
1 Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

French Renaissance

foundation concrete
walls wood frame
painted brick cladding
roof composition shingles
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Edgar T. Pierce House is a fine example of the French Renaissance style, one of the very best in the Salem area illustrating that particular style. It was designed by the well-known Salem architect Clarence L. Smith and built in 1932 for the Edgar T. Pierce family. The painted brick house has two stories, an irregular, steeply-pitched roof with minimal eaves, and two tall brick chimneys. The central octagonal entry with steep, octagonal roof opens into a circular entry hall. The two wings of the house form a 45 degree angle. Almost all windows are casement, either single or in pairs and harmonize with the French-style doors that feature a multi-light top with wood paneling below.

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### SUMMARY

The Pierce House is a fine example of the French Renaissance style, one of the outstanding in the Salem area illustrating that particular genre. It was designed by the well-known Salem architect Clarence L. Smith and built in 1932 for the Edgar T. Pierce family. The painted brick house has two stories, an irregular, steeply-pitched roof with minimal eaves, and two tall brick chimneys. The central octagonal entry with steep, octagonal roof opens into a circular entry hall. The footprint shows a rectangular mass with an oblique wing, (the living room/master bedroom). Almost all windows are casement, either single or in pairs and harmonize with the French-style doors that feature a multi-light top with wood paneling below. The slightly sloping lot has mature oak trees to the north of the house and a rock wall along the north sidewalk. A double garage is to the south of the house, with a concrete driveway from the west side. An elaborate pool area (non-historic) occupies all the back yard space.

### SETTING

The Pierce House is located on a portion of Lots 11 and 12 Block 9 of the Fairmount Park Addition at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Fir Streets. The lot measures 90' (north and south) by 105' (east and west) and slopes down slightly on the north side. Wide, paved streets in a grid pattern form the well-established neighborhood of substantial houses, some dating from the early part of the century. A curved brick sidewalk leads from Fir Street to the front entry; about halfway along this sidewalk, stepping stones lead south to the garage area. Five mature oak trees with plantings below stand north of the house; an ashlar retaining wall lines the north streetfront. Ivy was planted at its base. Plantings of native shrubs and other evergreen shrubs accent the front of the house. The rear of the house (not visible from the street) has an elaborate swimming pool area (non-historic) with tile and cement trim, and high brick fence along the east and south lot lines. The Pierce House is beautifully sited with the grouping of oak trees to the north and a view of the Cascade Mountains to the east.

### PLAN

The two-story brick house has a centered entry door opening into a circular entry hall; a circular stairway ascends from this room. The living room is to the left and down two steps; it measures 24' 9" by 17' 9". To the right the west wing of the house measures 19'

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by 26'. From the circular entry hall a short hall leads through French doors to the dining room; a butler's pantry connects the dining room to the kitchen. The kitchen is more directly approached from the entry hall; a breakfast nook angles to the left at the east end of the kitchen. A hallway leads to a study on the west side of the house, and a bathroom is off the other side of the hallway to the east. Doors lead to the garage on the west and the pool area on the south and east. The upstairs has three bedrooms, one on the north side and two facing west, one original bathroom, and one non-historic bathroom with closet space that encompasses a former bedroom. The basement has a large laundry room, an all-purpose room, now used for fitness equipment, and a recreation room with small kitchen and bath.

### EXTERIOR

The Pierce House has a multiple hip roof with a steep pitch covered with asphalt shingles laid in a double overlap pattern. Copper flashing replacing the original has been recently installed. There is a minimal eave overhang. Two tall brick chimneys have corbelled tops. The house is brick which was originally painted white and still retains some paint. It features quoins on all corners and flat arches above the windows. There is some dentil trim under the eaves. The central octagonal entry tower has a steeply-pitched octagonal roof; the entry door is centered in the tower. With the exception of the larger west bedroom and the entry tower, all second story windows are in dormers with shed roofs; the west dormer has a balconette with wrought iron railing. There is a very small gabled dormer also on the west side; all dormers are clad with wood shingles and painted dark gray. All windows are multi-pane; most are casement, single and in pairs. There are wooden shutters on some windows. The foundation is concrete.

### Northwest Elevation

The northwest or main facade of the Pierce House has a centrally located entrance in an octagonal tower, three side of the tower are exposed on the exterior and the entry door opens in the center section. The heavy ten panel door has its original brass hardware and is covered by a semi-circular awning. The entry door is flanked by a window on the left and wrought iron light fixture to the right; a mail drop is to the right of the light fixture. It also features a window on the second story directly above the entry door. To the right of the entry tower the living room wing has two paired multi-light casement windows with shutters. The second story shed dormer with three windows is centered in the wing. To the left of the entry the dining room wing features a large multi-pane window with

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wooden panels below the window and full length shutters. Directly above is a second story windows, also with shutters. One chimney punctuates this facade just to the right of the entry tower.

### West Elevation

The west elevation of the Pierce House has three evenly spaced single multi-pane casement windows on the first floor and a centered paired casement window with wooden panels below and full-length shutters on the second floor. A very small gabled dormer is set into the roof directly above the second story window. A shed dormer to the south features a paired dormer. A double garage is located directly to the south of the house and shares a continuation of the roofline; it has a single, large automatic door. Wrought iron light fixtures flank the garage door. A wrought iron gate and door leading to the pool area are between the south side of the garage and the lot line; a large brick pillar marks the south lot line.

### Southeast Elevation

The southeast elevation of the Pierce House includes mainly the pool area which was originally the back yard. Fences along the lot lines to the east and south define the area. The non-historic pool and surrounding terrace occupy all the available space. To the north of the pool area, the brick chimney is situated in the center of the living room wall and is flanked by center-opening narrow French doors with wooden panels in the lower 1/3. The chimney projects from the house from the ground up in a five-sided configuration.

### North Elevation

The north elevation of the Pierce House consists of the narrow wall of the living room. It features a three-sided bay with single casement windows on each canted side and paired casement windows on the wide center section. Small basement windows are visible at ground level.

### Entry Hall

The circular entry is in the center of the house, the stairs to the second floor follow the curve opposite the entry door. The stairway has a small, turned newel post and wrought



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iron balusters, alternating a plain baluster and a baluster with a twisted section in the center. The balustrade continues in the upper hall. To the right and down two steps is the living room. To the left and through a very short hall French doors with lower wooden panels open into the dining room. On the exterior wall of this section an original brass wall sconce features two lights. A passageway to the kitchen and rear of the house exits the entry hall to the left of the dining room hall and the stairs to the basement are situated under the stairs as they ascend to the second floor. The walls are rough-plastered and the floor is newly-laid oak. A non-historic light fixture is centered in the entry hall.

Living Room

Down two steps from the entry hall, the living room measures 24' 9" by 17' 9" and has windows on west, north, and east sides. A classically styled fireplace is centered on the east wall; the surround is wood and features fluted pilasters and a centered medallion with leaf motif and a small mantel. The fireplace is flanked by narrow, two-leaf French doors with five lights in each door and wooden panels at the bottom. A three-sided bay with canted ends is centered in the north wall; 10-light casement windows are set singly in the canted ends and paired in the center section. Paired 10-light casement windows are a feature of the northwest wall. All windows and doors have original brass hardware. There is a modest coved crown molding accentuating the nine-foot ceilings. Walls and ceiling are a smooth plaster. The room is carpeted, and apparently always has been.

Dining Room

The dining room measures 17' 8" by 15' and is entered through French doors, each with nine lights and a lower wooden panel. The most outstanding feature is the original crystal chandelier with a fruit motif featuring blown glass pears, apples, and other fruit. It was reportedly made in Czechoslovakia. Two single casement windows are on the west wall and paired casement windows is located on the north wall. Wallpaper covers the walls to a low wainscot height, the lower portion is heavy, textured paper, painted. A simple crown molding surrounds the room at the eight foot ceiling height and at the top of the wainscot. On the south side of the east wall solid one panel swinging doors lead through a butler's pantry to the kitchen. The dining room has its original oak floor and brass hardware. The butler's pantry is lined with cupboards featuring glass doors above and paneled doors below.

Hallway

The hallway from the entry hall to the kitchen has an arched ceiling with one panel doors to kitchen, a small office, and bathroom. There are also a closet and clothes chute to the

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basement. A second stairway to the basement descends here. This part of the house has glass door knobs rather than the delicately made brass flower motif knobs that are features of the main rooms in the house.

### Downstairs Office

The small downstairs office space was originally the maid's room; it faces west and has a multi-light single casement window. The door to the office has eight lights with a panel below and wallpapered walls. The original narrow board fir floor has been stained a dark red.

### Kitchen and Breakfast Nook

The kitchen occupies its original space, but cabinets and layout have been changed. Through the kitchen and at the east end is a breakfast nook with built-in seating on two sides. Paired eight light casement windows look out to the pool area. The walls are wallpapered and there is a modest crown molding. There is a replacement light fixture.

### Upstairs Central Hall

The upstairs central hall features an ironing or sewing room in the front or west portion of the tower; this room has one single casement window.

### Master Bedroom and Bath

Continuing north to the master bedroom, on the east wall there is a fireplace with a tile surround of six" square tiles in a soft beige color with a border of 3" by 6" tile with an organic Arts and Crafts motif of vines and leaves in a soft green. The tile hearth is slightly raised. From the three foot height, the east and north walls slope slightly inward. Three six-light casement windows are on the west wall with built-in cupboards from the floor level. Another window on the north wall also has built-ins surrounding it. Walls have a rough finish plaster. The upstairs door hardware features glass door knobs. The master bath of through the door to the south and was completely redone within the past year or two. The bath area was provided by the complete remodeling of the fourth bedroom. It features a Jacuzzi, two wash basins, window seats under the eight-light casement windows flank a shower. A large walk-in closet fills the southern part of the room configuration.

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Bedrooms

There are two bedroom in the west wing of the Pierce House. The larger of the two, nearer the stair landing has eight-light paired casement windows in the north side and west sides. The closet has a two-panel door. Flooring is narrow cut fir. There is a cove molding at ceiling height and a baseboard. Walls are wallpapered.

The second smaller bedroom is to the south and a six-light paired casement window and a closet. The room is wallpapered and has a rough textured ceiling.

Bathroom

The small bathroom at the south end of the upstairs hall has original tile in back of the wash basin and on the floor. Yellow three' by six' tile, with bluegreen trim lines the room. Green hexagonal tile cover the floor. The original porcelain toothbrush and glass holders are in place near the sink. The room is wallpapered with a rough textured ceiling.

Basement

The basement is completely finished and contains a large laundry room with luggage room and an all-purpose room now in use as a fitness room ; these rooms have multi-pane windows opening onto bricked light wells. On the north end of the house is a recreation room with small kitchen and bath. It features a fireplace with brick surround and a Craftsman-like element decorating the opening which is topped by a segmental arch. The north wall has two small multi-pane windows opening at ground level and a large entertainment center flanked by bookcases and small fluted pilasters. The room has a beamed ceiling and recessed ceiling lights.

Pool Area

The pool area occupies all of the property in the southeast corner of the lot. The tiled pool occupies a large portion of the space, the remainder of the terrace is tiled or covered with concrete. A high brick wall defines the property line. The pool was completed between 12 and 15 years ago. On the exterior, a small portion of the house, directly above the kitchen is clad with wood shingles, matching those that cover all the dormers. The two double leaf French doors in the living room open onto this terrace. The back wall of the double garage forms the west wall of the area.

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### Alterations

Alterations to the Pierce House are minimal. The only structural change has been the alteration of a bedroom area on the second floor overlooking the rear of the house. The bathroom off the master bedroom and the rear bedroom have been restructured to form a large bathroom and large closet. Windows remain unchanged in the area.

In the 1980s a swimming pool was added to the back yard. The entire area is either tiled or cemented with a pool and patio occupying all the space.

Edgar T. Pierce House  
Name of Property

Marion Oregon  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1932

**Significant Dates**

1932

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Clarence L. Smith

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

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National Park Service

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PIERCE HOUSE

The Edgar Pierce House, built in 1932, is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of the French Renaissance style as designed by local Salem architect Clarence L. Smith. The house is one of many period style houses designed by Smith and built from 1923 to 1942, one year after he left the Salem area. Some characteristic elements of the style displayed by the house are the steeply pitched hipped roof, the octagonal tower with conical roof, tall chimneys, quoins, and multi-paned casement windows. The house has had few changes and retains its integrity inside and out.

The Pierce House is also noteworthy, but not nominated for its association with people of importance in Oregon State government. Original owner Edgar Pierce served for many years as head of the State Land Board. Tenants in the Pierce House from 1935-1939 were Governor and Mrs. Charles Martin during Martin's term of office. Later owners and occupants during the non historic period were Secretary of State and Mrs. Clay Myers.

#### Clarence L. Smith

Clarence Smith (1894-1951) was born in Portland, Oregon. He served as an apprentice for three years to Charles Ertz and later worked for O.L. Depuy, both in Portland. He traveled to the East Coast and worked as a draftsman with Gibb and Waltz in Ithaca, New York, (1915-16), Green and Wicks in Buffalo, New York, (1916-17), Kidd of New York City, (1918), and returned to Portland to work for the architectural firm of Sutton and Whitney. During his stay on the East Coast Smith also attended the Cornell University School of Architecture for two years. Smith came to Salem to work as a draftsman for contractor Cuyler Van Patten. He is listed in Polk's City Directory for Salem as early as 1924 as a draftsman for Van Patten. He actually began designing residences in 1923. In the 1926-27 Polk's Directories he is listed as an independent draftsman with an office in the Oregon Building. From 1928 through 1931 he is listed as an architect/draftsman with an office in the Oregon Building. In 1932 Smith is listed as an architect and remains in that category through 1941 when he moved from Salem.

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Clarence Smith took the examination of the State Board of Architect Examiners in 1938 and passed in all but one subject, architectural history. He took the examination again in 1940 and officially qualified for a license by senior examination with the State Board of Architect Examiners but he did not pay his fees after that year. He may have been helped in his quest for a license by numerous letters of recommendation from community leaders. Smith was highly regarded in Salem as a creative architect and designer. A list of 24 houses he designed in and near Salem is included in this nomination. There are approximately ten period style houses designed by Smith in the Fairmount Park neighborhood giving an excellent, concentrated overview of the broad range of styles he was conversant with. The original plans for the Pierce House, donated by former owners Clay and Elizabeth Myers, are on file at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

### Edgar T. Pierce

Edgar Pierce was born in Harrisburg, the son of a rancher and graduated from Oregon Agricultural College in 1913. He entered the banking business and had two banks in Marion County, the Aumsville State Bank and the Turner State Bank, both in small towns near Salem. In 1932 the Pierce family home in Salem, designed by Salem architect Clarence Smith, was completed at a cost of \$17,000. Mrs. Pierce had conferred with architect Smith for three years while planning the house. The first year the family lived in the house, 1932, Mr. Pierce continued with his work at his Aumsville and Turner banks; the following year he lost his banks due to the financial situation brought about by the Great Depression. In 1933-36 he worked as a bank liquidator, and he also managed to repay his own bank clients. The Pierce family lived in the French Renaissance house on Fir Street for three years, 1932-35. In 1936 the house was rented to then Governor Charles H. and Mrs. Martin; the Martins lived in the house during his term as Governor of Oregon through 1939..

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Section number 8 Page 3

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In 1936-37 Mr. Pierce served as Financial Supervisor for the Works Progress Administration, a federal project. In 1938 he began work as an advisor for the State Land Board. The State Land Board had as its responsibilities the management and sale of all state school lands, the administration and investment of funds arising therefrom and the administration of other trust funds. In 1940 the Pierce family moved back into the house at 1610 Fir Street and lived there until 1944. Mr. Pierce continued in his position as advisor until 1947 at which time he was appointed Clerk (the senior officer) of the State Land Board, a position he held until 1961..

Ursula Pierce was a member of the Aurora Colony Becke family.

In 1944 the Pierces sold the house to A. W. and Dorothy Burgoyne for \$17,000, the same amount that the house had cost to build. The Burgoynes were owners of a used car agency. Roy and Bertha Simmons bought the house in 1949 and owned it for one year; in 1950 it was sold to Norman and Florence "Dolly" Merrill. Mr. Merrill was a general manager for the Blue Lake Packers, later known as Agri-pac. The Merrills lived in the house until 1968 when it was sold to Secretary of State and Mrs. Clay Myers who lived there for 13 years until 1975.

### Charles H. Martin

Governor Charles Martin (1863-1946), usually referred to as General Martin, had a long and distinguished career in the military before becoming Oregon's 21<sup>st</sup> governor in 1935. Charles H. Martin was a native of Illinois and an 1887 graduate of West Point. He served in the Philippine Insurrection, 1898-1901, the Boxer Rebellion in Peiping, China, and in the Mexican border expedition, 1915-17. During World War I he was with the Army of Occupation in Germany and later served as Assistant Chief-of-Staff in Washington D.C. His last military service was in Panama, 1925-27. General Martin served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives representing District #3 from 1931-1935.

Mrs. Martin was the former Louise J. Hughes of Portland, and after retiring from the military the Martins returned to Oregon to live, taking up residence in Portland. In 1931 and again in 1933 General Martin was elected to the United States Congress from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District in Oregon. He was elected Governor of Oregon on the Democratic ticket and inaugurated in January 1935 serving in that position until January 1939.



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Governor Martin's term of office was filled with controversy, perhaps fanned by his picturesque vocabulary and forthright manner. Labor relations were strained and there were outbursts of violence including fires blamed on lawless leaders. These cases were vigorously pursued and settled. Governor Martin promoted law and order through the newly organized Oregon State Police Force and county sheriffs. The Governor was opposed to many of President Franklin Roosevelt's policies and the Oregon State Grange and labor unions tried to initiate a recall against him but without success.

Shortly after Martin's term of office began the Oregon State Capitol Building burned. This initiated a debate over where to build the new Capitol Building. Governor Martin favored a site on Candalaria Heights; some advocated building a new structure on the foundation of the old building. Eventually it was decided to change the orientation of the Capitol Building and keep it in downtown Salem. As governor, Martin was instrumental in increasing the available funding for rebuilding the state capitol. Governor Martin was the first governor to occupy quarters in the new Capitol, built in 1937-38. After Governor Martin lost the Democratic primary to State Senator Henry Hess of Union and Willowa counties and did not run for a second term as governor, the Martins returned to Portland to live. He was later honored as Portland's "First Citizen".

Regarding the possible eligibility of a nomination to the National Register of the Pierce House under Criterion B as the home of a notable person, the Martins had two homes in Portland, both before and after his terms as governor. From 1928 through 1931 the Martins lived at 1150 King St., (at that time 252 King St.); and after residing in Salem during his term as governor, from 1939 through 1944 at 2325 SE 21<sup>st</sup> St. After Governor Martin's death in 1946 Mrs. Martin continued to live there until 1952. Both houses are still extant.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are many French Renaissance/Norman Farmhouse houses in the Salem area; the style was extremely popular in the 1920s and 30s as one of the period styles in favor then. None of the houses surveyed exhibits the elegance of plan and materials, the quality of workmanship, and the beautiful siting of the Pierce House. Its positioning near the back of the lot emphasizes the scale of the house and the baronial mood it creates.

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Several examples of the French Renaissance/Norman Farmhouse are located south of Market Street on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets including three stuccoed houses at 1250 21<sup>th</sup> featuring a small gabled entry with arched doorway, and an exterior brick chimney; 1260 21<sup>st</sup> with casement windows, a Tudor arched doorway and a shed dormer; and 1285 20<sup>th</sup> illustrating the style with double-hung windows, a painted exterior brick chimney and dormers. Two similar examples with wood cladding are the house at 1270 20<sup>th</sup> with lap siding and decorative shingles in the gable ends, small fluted pilasters flanking the entry door, and a variety of window styles, and 1065 20<sup>th</sup> with a central entryway and manufactured wood shake cladding. Other examples are found in the Gaiety Hill/Bush/s Pasture Historic District and include the one and one-half story French Renaissance house at 755 High St., SE sided manufactured wood shakes, a large 2-story example at 985 High St. with wood siding and double-hung windows, and at 505 Mission a 1926 one and one-half story version designed by Clarence Smith featuring shingle siding, however, this house has been moved. All of the above-mentioned houses have steeply pitched gable or cross gable roofs and minimal eaves and were constructed mainly in the 1930s. In Rosalind Clark's book Architecture Oregon Style the Pierce House is one of three structures chosen to illustrate the French Renaissance style.

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The following list of houses designed or built by Clarence L. Smith was provided by his wife, Mildred Smith. Further research was provided by David Duniway, Salem historian, who listed the house dates when they first appeared in the R.L. Polk City Directories and the Pacific Telephone Directories.

Telephone first listed	Address	Owner
March 1923	155 Lincoln W	Harry and Lora Hawkins
Sept. 1923	2121 High S	Dr. Chester and Marion Downs
March 1924	360 14 <sup>th</sup> N	Dr. Harvey and Ethel Clements
April 1925	222 Lincoln W	Curtis and Barbara Cross
Dec. 1925	290 Leffelle W	Burt and Marjorie Ford
	260 13 <sup>th</sup> N	George and May Chambers
	727 Summer N	Clarence L. and Mildred Smith
June 1926	170 Leffelle W	P.D. and Clara Quisenberry
Dec. 1926	370 Summer N	David and Beryl Eyre
June 1927	1625 Commercial S	Sam and Lottie Adolph
June 1930	125 Lincoln W (now the home of Willamette University presidents)	Otto and Modjeska Johnson
Dec. 1932	255 Leffelle W	Edward R. Viesko
	266 Leffelle W	Dr. Charles and Mildred Robertson
	1610 Fir	Edgar and Ursula Pierce
	545 Mission	Elizabeth Lord

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March 1934	285 Leffelle W 787 Cross	Conde and Marie McCullough Custer and Virginia Ross
April 1936	Zena	James and Ethel Mott
April 1937	578 Cascade Drive 796 Winter N (home of Oregon's governors during the early 1980s)	Francis and Bernice Smith Herbert and Rose Stiff
April 1938	460 Mission 790 Winter N	Walter and Della Smith Hollis and Marjorie Huntington
April 1939	420 Leslie	Ethel L. Patton
May 1942	760 Liberty	Robert and Marguerite Rieder

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Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners, Clarence L. Smith file, (Oregon State Archives).

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1959.

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Edgar T. Pierce House  
Name of Property

Marion Oregon  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 105' by 90' (0.22 acres)

Salem West, Oregon 1:24000

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	0
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4	9	6	3	7	0
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4	9	7	4	4	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing  
2 

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3 

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Zone Easting Northing  
4 

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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 Marianne Kadas

organization Marianne Kadas Consulting date August 1, 1996

street & number 3602 SE Alder telephone (503) 238-9859

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97214

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Jane LeFors

street & number 1610 Fir Street S. telephone (503) 362-9636

city or town Salem state Oregon zip code 97302

**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 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

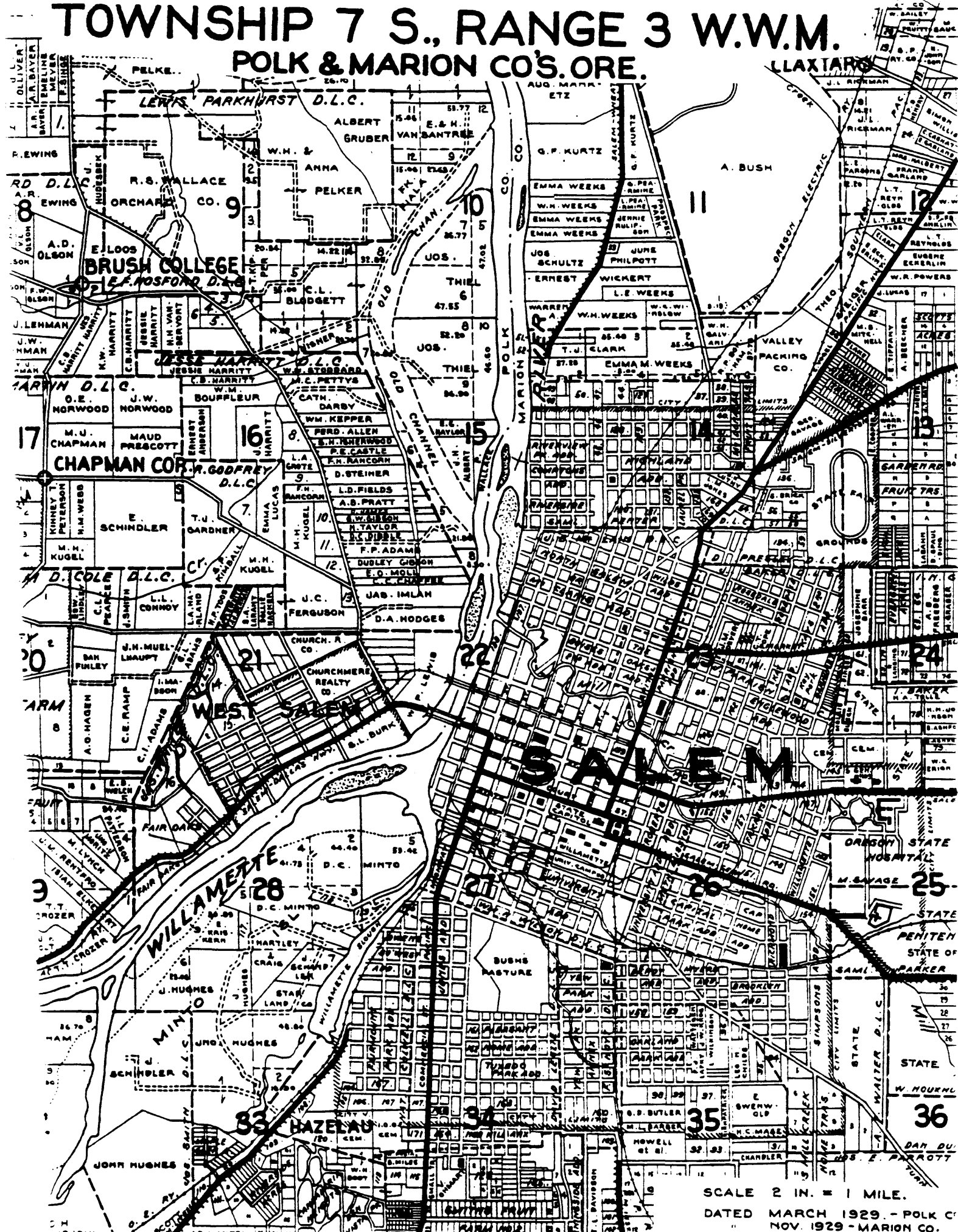
The nominated area is in Section 34, T7S, R3W, Willamette Meridian and is legally described as the west portion of Lots 11 and 12, Block 9, Fairmount Park Addition to Salem, Marion County, Oregon. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 5100 at said location.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This lot (105 ft. by 90 ft.) defines the current property boundary.

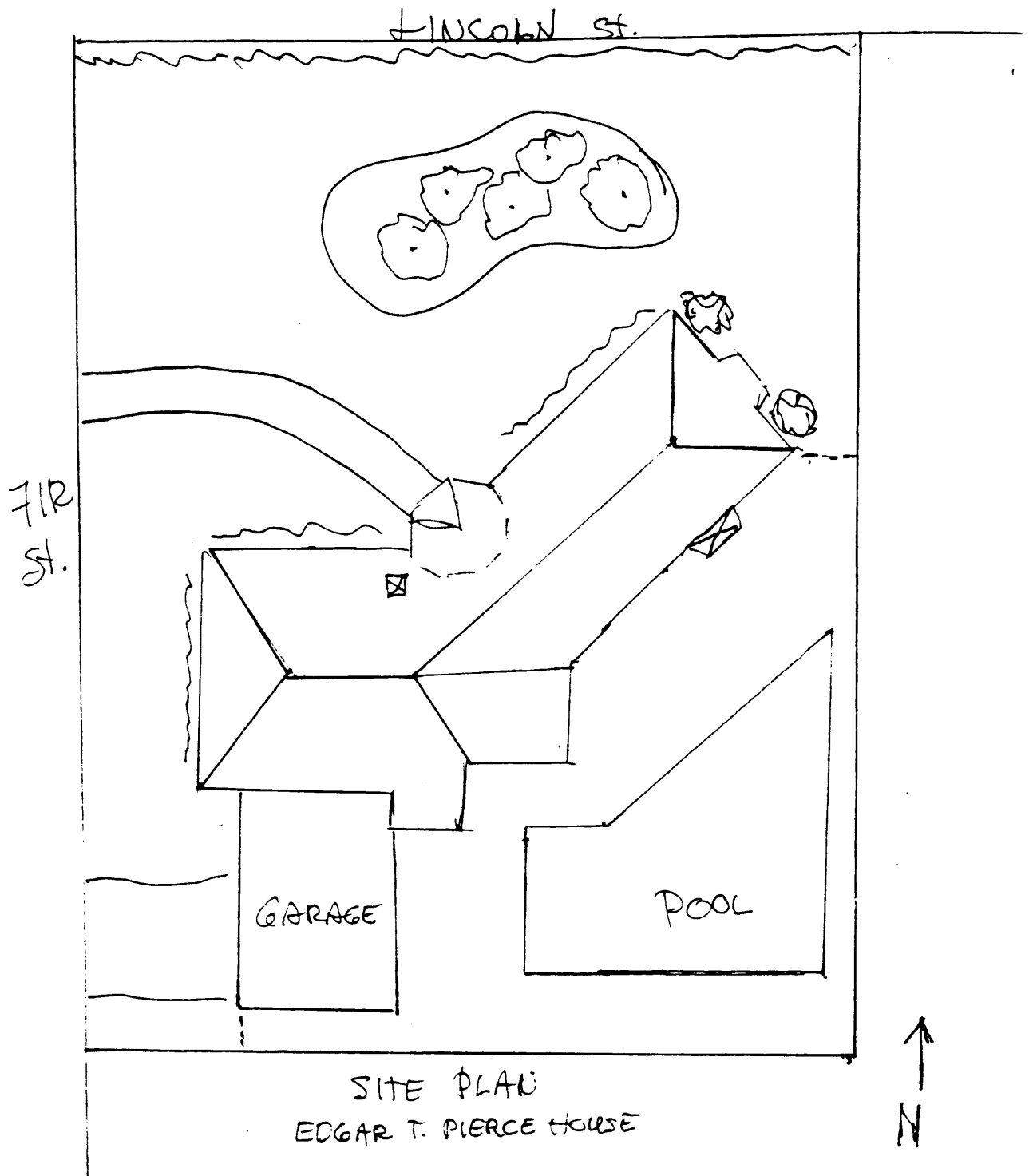


# TOWNSHIP 7 S., RANGE 3 W.W.M. POLK & MARION CO'S. ORE.

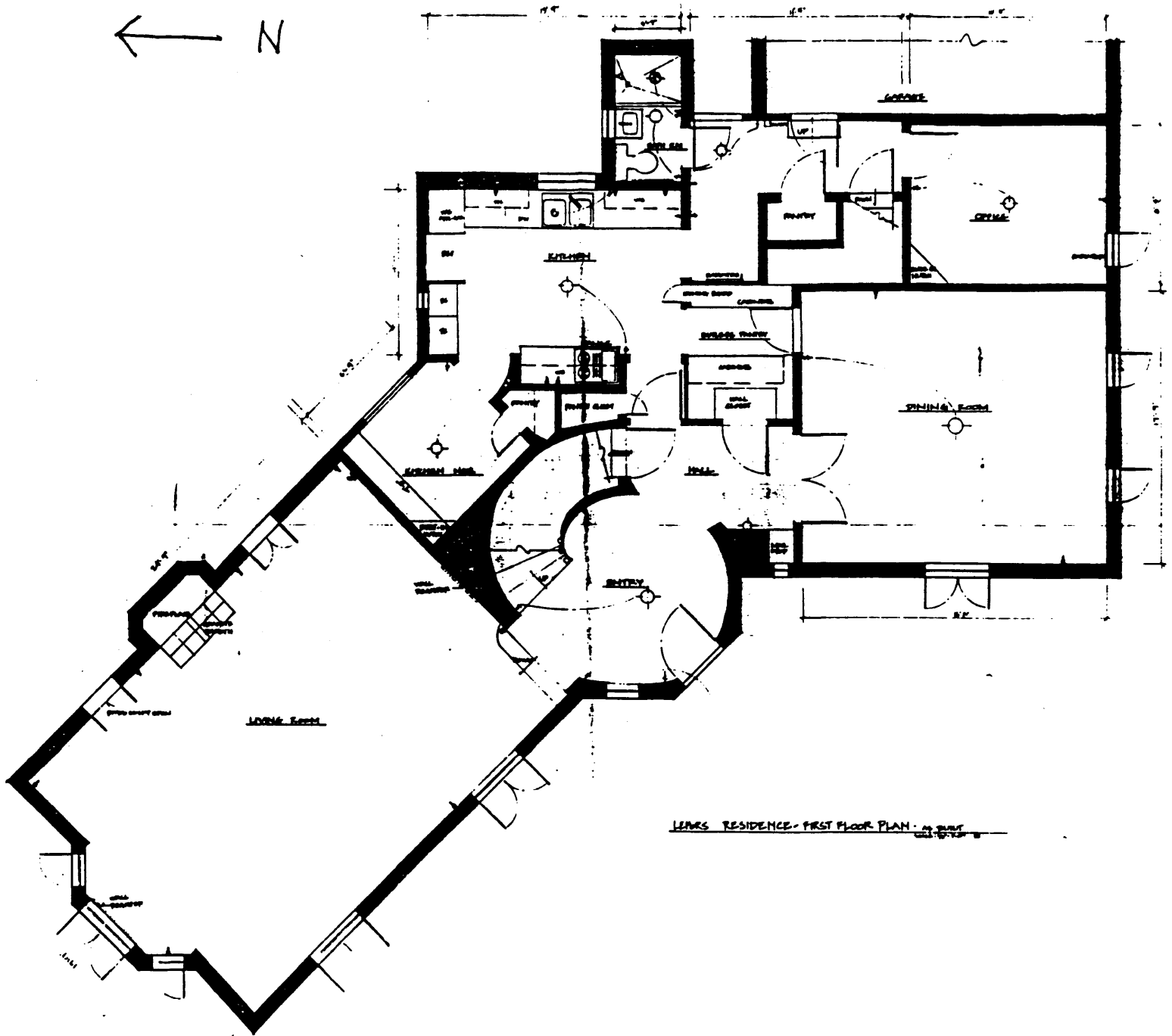
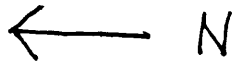


SCALE 2 IN. = 1 MILE.  
DATED MARCH 1929. - POLK CO.  
NOV. 1929 - MARION CO.



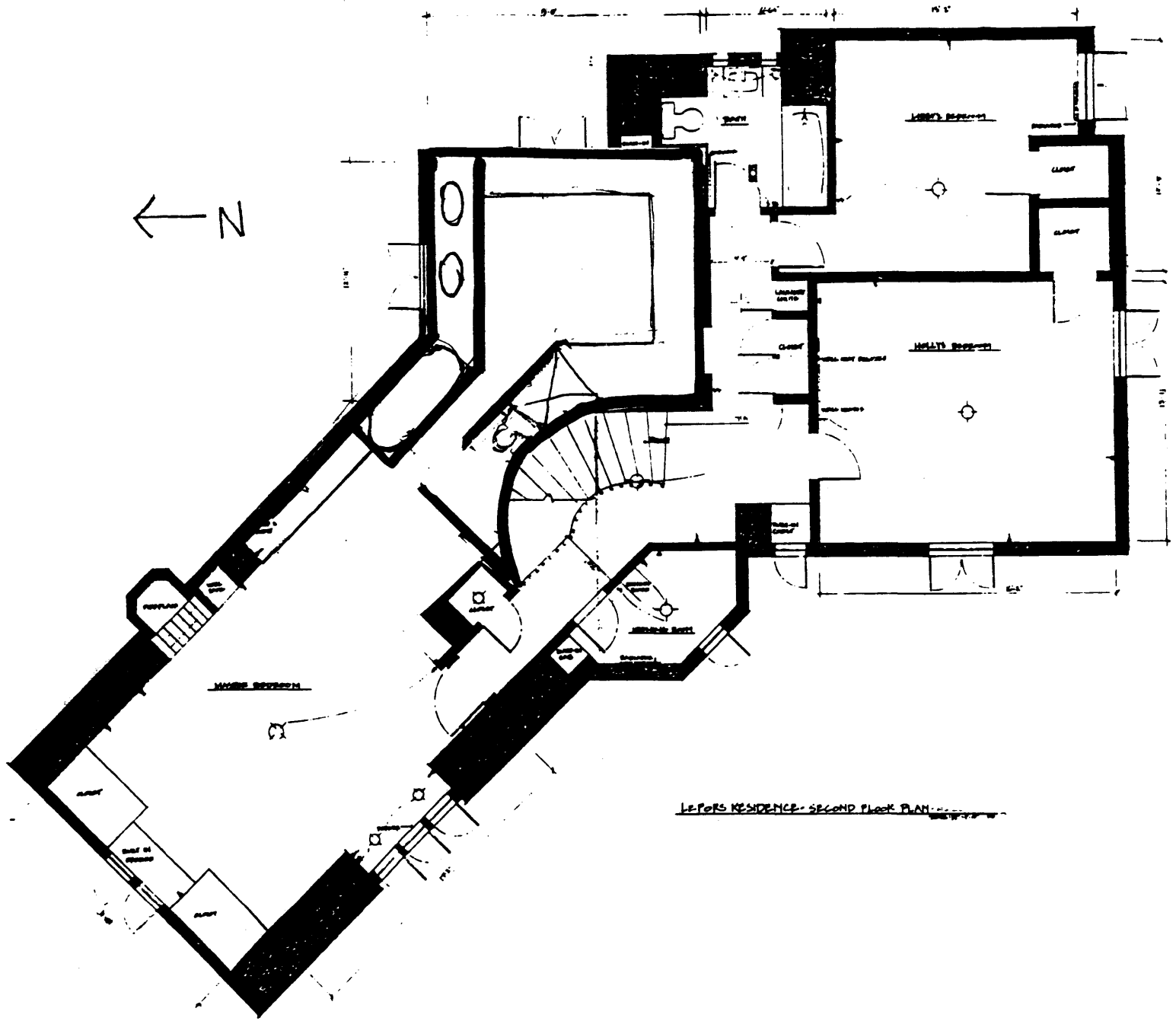


SITE PLAN  
EDGAR T. PIERCE HOUSE

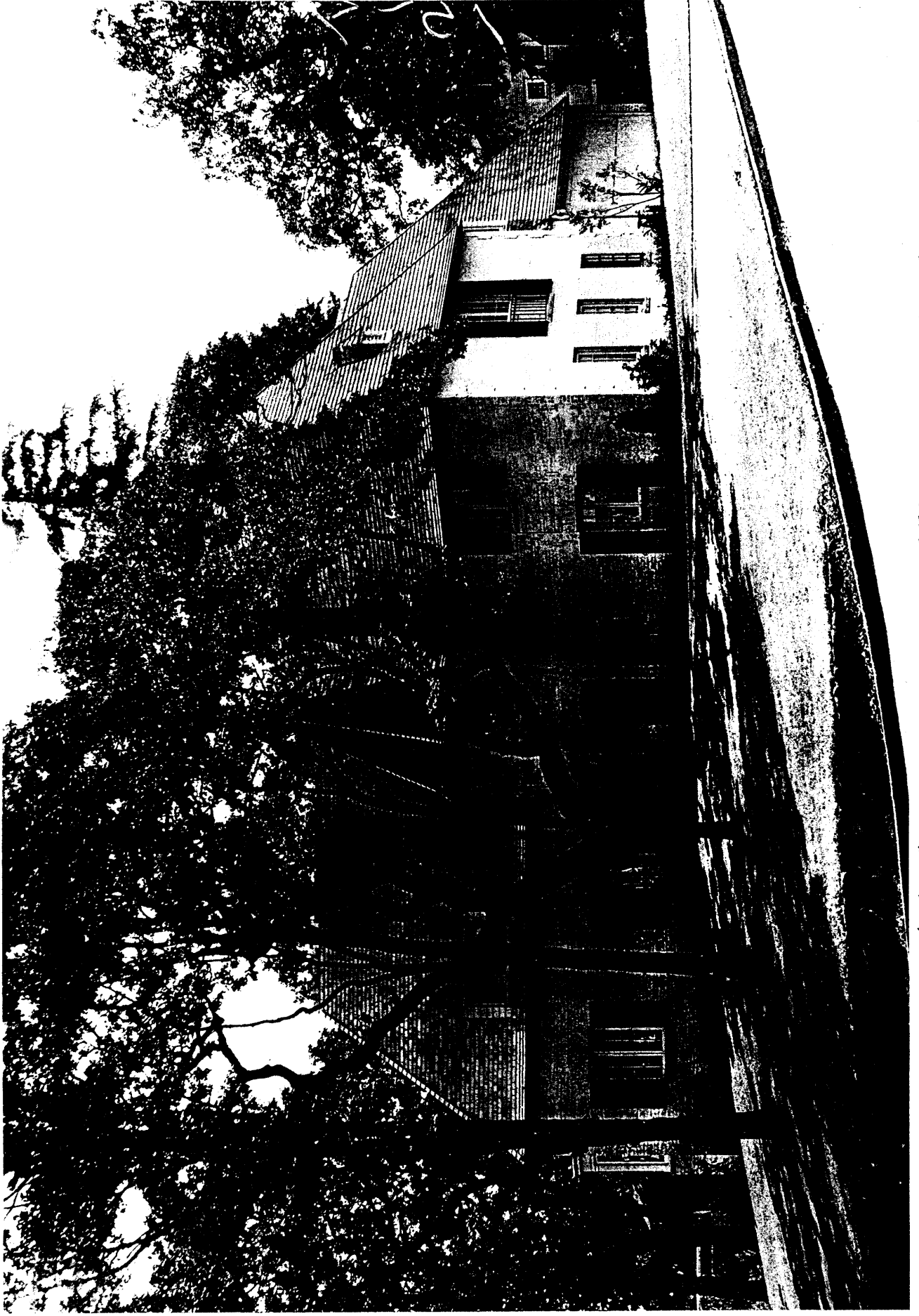


LEARS RESIDENCE - FIRST FLOOR PLAN - 21.5.1912

Edgar T. Pierce House  
First floor



Edgar T. Pierce House  
Second floor



Trover photo from the Oregon State Library (undated) EDGAR T. PIERCE HOUSE, 1610 Fir Street South, Salem, Marion County OR42  
Duniway, David, South Salem Past,  
Salem: Marion County Historical Society, 1987.

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The following information is submitted for all photographs:

Property: Edgar T. Pierce House

Address: 1610 Fir Street S.  
Salem, Oregon 97302

Photographer: Robert Van Vactor

Date: June, 1996

Negatives: Marianne Kadas  
3602 SE Alder  
Portland, OR 97214

Photographs:

Photo #1: Northwest elevation, looking southeast

Photo #2: North elevation, looking south

Photo #3: West elevation, looking east

Photo #4: Southeast elevation, looking northwest

Photo #5: Entry hall and circular stairs, looking southeast

Photo #6: Living room fireplace, looking east

Photo #7: Original dining room chandelier from Czechoslovakia

Photo #8: Original brass wall sconce, entry hall

Photo #9: Original brass door hardware, front entry door

Photo #10: Upstairs bathroom with original tile