OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only received SEP 2 5 1986 date entered

OCI 23 1986

1. Nam	le				
historic	Prince, Thomas	, House Num	ber of contributing	resources: 2	
and or common	Same Number of non-contributing resources: 0				
2. Loca					
street & number	2903 NE Alamed	a Street	NΔ	A_ not for publication	
city, town	Portland	N/A vicinity of	Third Congressional	District	
state	Oregon c	ode 41 county	Multnomah	code 051	
3. Clas	sification				
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious Scientific transportation other:	
4. Own	er of Prop	erty			
name	Stephen B. and	Retta F. Braun			
street & number	2903 NE Alamed	a Street			
city, town	Portland	N/A_ vicinity of	state	Oregon 97212	
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Descripti	on		
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Multnomah Count	y Assessor's Office		
street & number		610 SW Alder St			
city, town		Portland	state	Oregon 97204	
6. Rep	resentation	n in Existing	Surveys		
title	City of Portla Resource Inven		operty been determined eli	gible? yesX_ no	
date	1981		federal state	county X loca	
depository for su	irvey records Port	land Bureau of Plann	ing, 1120 SW 5th Ave	nue	
city, town	Port	land	state	Oregon 97204	

7. Description

Condition X_ excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one X original site moved date	N/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas Prince House is a good example of period architecture in the Georgian style. Built 1916-1917, the three story house with brick exterior walls, slate roof, and prominent cornice with dentils, retains intact other original architectural elements of that style including flat and relieving arch window openings with pronounced keystones and sills, entrance portico, accentuated entrance door, and double-hung wood sash windows. The Prince House is sited in its original location in a well established and well maintained park-like residential area located at the intersection of two of the principal curvilinear streets which are unique features of the Olmsted Park Addition in Portland, Oregon.

The Prince House is located on Lot 1 and the southerly 18' of Lots 5 and 6, Block 6, in the Olmsted Park Addition to the City of Portland. Olmsted Park, formerly known as Gravelly Hill, was platted to the City of Portland in 1909 and lies within the larger area known as Alameda Park Addition. The Alameda Park Addition encompasses approximately 60 blocks and extends from a natural hill top at Fremont Street known as Alameda ridge, north to Prescott Street, and from 19th Avenue on the west to 33rd Avenue on the east. The Olmsted plat is distinguished by a series of long curvilinear east-west streets, uninterrupted by north-south streets for as much as eight to ten blocks. These major streets follow the natural contours of the topography, creating irregular lots and providing some of the finest residential building sites in the city of Portland, with views of the city to the south and Mt. Hood to the east.

The first claim in the Alameda area was filed by William C. and Isabell Bowring in October, 1859. Their claim included the are known as Gravelly Hill. Upon the death of Bowring, the area was sold to Joseph N. Dolph and John H. Mitchell, both of whom were active in Portland business and politics between 1873 and 1905. Dolph's portion was subsequently acquired by Harry L. Hamblet, an agent for the Alameda Land Company, and the only official of that company to gain sufficient recognition to have a street in Olmsted Park named for him. Olmsted Park and Alameda Park were referred to in a 1910 promotional brochure which proclaimed "...View, Air, Sunshine, A Fitting Homesite - A Golden Investment is what is offered you. .." These "new and fitting homesites" were developed until sometime in 1923 by the Alameda Land Company, based upon a 1908 plan prepared for the company by John Olmsted, who was the adopted son of Fredrick Law Olmsted, and also a landscape architect. The company disbanded after all of the buildings sites were sold. The Alameda Land Company offices are listed in the 1918 Portland City Directory in #208 of the Corbett Building in downtown; in #622 of the Morgan Building in the 1922 edition of the City Directory; with no listing after that date.

The site of the Prince House is trapezoidal in shape, with the Alameda Street elvation of the house facing the narrow end of the lot on the southwest. Access to both the main house and the carriage house, sited behind and to the north of the main structure, is from the longest edge of the site on the west, or 29th Avenue.

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The Prince House, built in 1916 at a cost indicated on the building permit of \$25,000, is approximately 5,000 square feet contained on three floors and a full basement. The house is rectangular in plan, and designed as an example of the Georgian style.

Building records indicate that the Prince House was designed and built by a residential development company very active in the Portland metropolitan area during the first quarter of the 20th century. The company name was The Oregon Home Builders, Inc., with offices listed in the 1916 Portland City Directory at #1330 of the Northwestern Bank Building, now the American Bank Building, a terra cotta building that occupies the southern half of the 600 block of Morrison Street in downtown Portland. The Oregon Home Builders company has been asociated with the design. construction and subsequent sale of residences throughout Portland, but especially in the Irvington, Rose City Park and Alameda Park Additions and six residences in the Olmsted Park Addition, within two blocks of the Prince House. The building permit for the Prince House at what was then 901 The Alameda was issued to The Oregon Home Builders Company, who were listed as the architect, builder and owner. Prince purchased the home from The Oregon Home Builders in March, 1917. The house was built prior to the registration of architects in Oregon, which came into effect in 1919. The street name, The Alameda, was shortened through usage and for convenience to simply Alameda; the house address was changed in 1933 to 2903 Alameda Street.

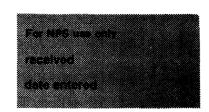
An additional association with Thomas Prince was the construction of a building at 209 10th Avenue in Portland, at a cost of \$12,000 by The Oregon Home Builders. The owner's name and address was listed as Thomas Prince, Dundee, Oregon on the February, 1917 building permit. Newspaper accounts show that Prince retained his Dundee address for certain business transactions.

Further association between Prince and The Oregon Home Builders was financial, with Prince holding an undisclosed financial interest. Prince's knowledge of and interest in that company's housing development in a fine residential area such as Olmsted Park is clear, and it follows that he would engage The Oregon Home Builders Company for the design and construction of his Portland home.

The Prince House, as built by The Oregon Home Builders, has those architectural elements found in an architect-designed residence in an historic period style. Hallmarks of the Georgian style include brick exterior walls, slate roof, large porches, bay window, large balconied entry portico, prominent roof dormers with pediments and the primary window type of multiple panes over a single light with a double-hung wood sash.

The Prince House is still used as a residence and is in very good condition. The current owner has restored the three porches, especially the wooden balustrades and wide top rail, which was recreated from a small sample of the original at the entrance porch and used throughout the extensive porch railing repairs. The current owner has restored many of the important interior elements, especially the wood door trim, base board and base shoe throughout the house. Other

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alterations made earlier that have been corrected include compatible and appropriately paneled window shutters reinstalled on the exterior, and replacement of roof slate from spares of the original slate and other roof repairs. All exterior wood trim has been repainted with the original color, based upon scraping to bare wood and matching paint samples of the first paint coat. The original hardware and brackets for the flagpole over the entrance steps remain, although covered over. Other alterations are minor, and do not detract from the integrity of the Prince House.

The basic rectangular shape of the Prince House, with projecting bay window and porch, remains unaltered, as does that of the detached carriage house. The main house has three floors and a basement. The basement has a concrete floor and walls in combination with wood post, beam and joist framing. The basement contains storage and utilities. Interior partitions are finished with 3" tongue and groove paneling. An original fireplace remains unchanged on the west wall. The original heating plant was an oil fired boiler for hot water circulation through radiators in each room of the upper floors. The radiators were removed for conversion to an oil fired forced air system at an undetermined date, with the current owner converting to gas fired forced air.

The exterior wall material of both the residence and the carriage house is brick, laid in a common bond. The main (south) elevation of the house has gable roofed projecting wings on each side of the dominant, protruding hip-roofed center element, an architectural organization predominantly found in the Georgian style after 1910. The large entrance protico, with a balustraded balcony, is asymmetrically placed at the west wing, with two large wooden columns of the Doric order flanking the entrance steps and entry porch. The porch floor is the original brick, laid in a basket weave pattern. This floor material is common to the ground floor porch, the driveway to the carriage house and to the main entry walkway leading from 29th Street.

The central element contains the wood sash casement windows from the entry hall in a flat arch opening with pronounced keystone and sill. French doors and side windows with eight lights are contained in a relieving arch opening with pronounced keystone. The doors and windows are wood sash, with fixed glazing, with the doors leading to the ground level porch, which has a wood balustrade and rail and a basket weave brick floor. Above the relieving arch opening is the original wood bracket and hardware for a porch awning. Adjacent is the dining room polygonal bay window with five six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows, and a balustraded balcony. The ground floor east wing has one primary window type of six-over-one, double-hung wood sash in a flat arched opening with pronounced keystone and sill.

The second floor windows are six-over-one, double-hung wood sash as the primary window type. The windows are usually in flat arch openings which have pronounced keystones and sills. The small cornice is boxed in with decorative dentils above the flat, continuous frieze of painted wood.

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The roof is slate, laid in a standard, staggered joint coursing with 8" \times 16" slates, with a 3" lap. The gable ridge is a strip saddle type, with the combing slate laid with the grain vertical. The hip ridge is also strip saddle, with an open valley at the gable. Slates are placed on a wood rafter roof, with 1" \times 8" roof sheathing. Slates are blue-gray in color. The three pedimented roof dormers have vertical slate siding, gabled slate roofs with a short wooden fascia return. The dormer windows are double-hung wood sash with rounded heads and curvilinear mullions forming three pointed archs in the upper sash over the single glazing in the lower sash.

The west elevation is dominated by the massive form of the end wall brick chimney, which is flanked on both the first and second floors by the primary window type of six-over-one, double-hung wood sash, with pronounced keystones and sills. The third floor windows flanking the chimney are quarter-round fan windows with curved wood frames and sash, and wood mullions radiating from a quarter-round corner mullion. The short gable end overhang is boxed in with dentils and a return of the wood fascia, similar to that found on the pedimented roof dormers.

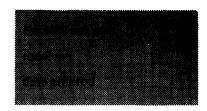
The former carriage house is used now as an automobile garage, with compatible wooden overhead doors installed in the two relieving arch openings with pronounced keystones on the main level of the principal (west) elevation. The second floor has a pair of six-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows similar to the primary window type but set in a relieving arch opening. The gable and eave ends of the short roof overhang are boxed in with decorative dentils, and the wood fascia return detail is similar to that found on the main structure. The carriage house roof was originally slate, laid in a similar pattern on a wood rafter roof with the same lap and ridge details as the main house. The slate was replaced with a composition roof at an undertermined date. The altered roofing is compatible in color with the main house roof.

The main entry and stairs, living room, sun room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and bath are on the first floor. The entrance hall has the original hardwood floor and plaster ceiling; the walls were finished with white birch paneling, which is coved at the ceiling, and are also in good condition; the accentuated entrance door, with two recessed panels and a single, fixed light, is also birch. Unlike the primary window type found elsewhere, the entrance hall has a pair of casement windows, finished to match the wall paneling.

The living room has the original painted wood panel wainscot; with the original plaster above the wainscot to the coved ceiling. The original fireplace on the west wall is marble-faced, with wood decoration. The fireplace opening is flanked by painted wood fluted columns supporting the decorative painted wood mantle. Original door and window trim, in a 4" wide convex profile, is painted wood and is in good condition.

The sun room retains the original tile floor laid in a herringbone pattern with a decorative border. The sun room has a pair of French doors, which have fixed

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glazing, and which are flanked by two small-paned side windows. The doors lead to the ground level porch. The sun room walls and ceiling display original plaster finishes which are in good condition.

The dining room has original hardwood floors and painted, 3/4 height wood panel walls, with plaster walls above. The coffered ceiling has plaster infill panels. All interior finishes are in good condition. A polygonal bay window is on the south side of the dining room. A butler's bell, mounted flush with the floor surface is operated by foot pressure, and was used originally by the host or hostess to call for domestic service while dining.

The breakfast room has the original parquet hardwood floor and painted wood panel wainscot below the primary window type on the south and east walls. Of interest is the decorative plaster frieze of acanthus leaves above bead and reel detailing, which is in excellent condition.

The rear porch has the original 3" tongue and groove wainscot paneling, similar to that found in the basement, below screened openings. The openings have been altered by the installation of single light aluminum frame windows. The kitchen has been altered with later cabinets and counter. Some original cabinet work remains.

This level also contains the butler's pantry, maid's stairs separate from the main stairs, and a small bath. The butler's pantry has been altered with cabinets, but one original counter and sink remain, as well as a dumbwaiter to the second floor. The maid's stairs serve the upper floors from the kitchen area. A small bath off of the entry hall is a recent alteration that provides the necessay convenience without intrusion into the original entry hall and main stairs.

The main stair has one landing, and features a large Palladian-style window ensemble composed of a round-arch wood sash semi-circular central fan window with radiating mullions flanked by two six-over-one, double-hung wood sash. The second floor is almost exclusively a sleeping area, with four bedrooms, two baths and a small sleeping porch. The entire second floor has the original hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings in good condition. Walls in the second floor hall are a smooth, putty finish, while room walls were finished for papering. None of the original wallpaper remains.

The master bedroom has a classicized fireplace on the west wall, with decorative plaster and painted wood detailing below the mantle. The second bedroom, with similar wall and ceiling finishes, has a wood paneled door with six lights above giving access to the second level balcony over the entry porch. The balcony has a wood balustrade and railing similar to the ground level porch adjacent to the sun room. The third and fourth bedrooms have similar wall and ceiling finishes and are in good condition. The sun porch has six light casement windows on the south, east and north walls above plaster walls. The sun porch has the original

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hardwood floor and plaster ceiling. The main bath has the original hexagonal floor tile, with 5" x 5" tile wainscot. The original 5"x 5" tiled shower enclosure has a gravity vent through the roof, activated by a pull chain. The main bath retains the china tub. The second bath has all of the original fixtures, including the china tub, pedestal sink and beveled mirrors, with hexagonal tile flooring and tile wainscot, all in good condition.

The third floor is a dormered space, with the original softwood flooring recently restored by the current owner. The walls and ceiling are plaster, with some water damage done prior to the slate roof repair. A central feature of the third floor is the open stair, highlighted by a shed roofed dormer with a double-hung wood sash window with a rounded head and curvilinear mullions forming three pointed arches in the upper sash, over a single light lower sash.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899X 1900-1916	agriculture		law literature military music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1916-1917	Builder/Architect The	e Oregon Home Builders	s, Inc.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The commodious, 2 1/2 story house on northeast Alameda Street in East Portland built for retired Yamhill County orchardist Thomas Prince in 1916-1917 is Register-eligible under criterion "c" as a well-preserved and locally distinctive example of Georgian architecture produced by a development company in a fashionable residential park. Portland's East Side was built up rapidly with the influx of population following the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in 1905. In the early 20th Century, many areas lay open to expansive residential park development, including the Ladd Estate's Eastmoreland and the Alameda Land Company's Olmsted Park. The latter was developed in the context of the City Beautiful Movement and Portland's Park and Boulevard master plan produced by the Boston-based Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm in 1903. Naturally, the East Side subdivision laid out by John C. Olmsted in 1908 and platted in 1909 conformed to the master plan, which called for residential areas to be within or adjacent to park-like settings. Between 1910 and 1923, the 175-acre Alameda Park Addition including Olmsted Park was built up with eight or nine hundred houses, many of them, like the Prince House, examples of historic period styles. Half a dozen of the houses were designed by The Oregon Home Builders, Inc. of Portland. Within the addition, the Thomas Prince House is clearly superior in scope. quality of finish work and as an example of period architecture. Prince, an investor in The Oregon Home Builders, acquired one of the first holdings to be developed. In fact, the prominently-sited house on its generous lot at the corner of NE 29th and Alameda attracted other development to the area. Although Prince had retired from his substantial attainments in fruit and nut processing in Dundee and lived in his Portland seat no more than three years before his death, the nominated property nonetheless is that which is most importantly associated with him. The only structure remaining which has a longer association with Prince is a prune drier in Yamhill County. Moreover, the nominated house has significance for its association with Thomas Prince as an investor in The Oregon Home Builders Company, which contributed materially to the quality of Olmsted Park in Portland's Alameda district.

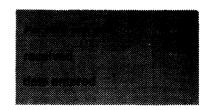
As has been pointed out above, the Prince House is located in one of Portland's best known fashionable residential subdivisons, the Olmsted Park Addition in the Alameda district. The larger addition, known as Alameda Park, is adjacent to the Rose City Park Addition and is characterized as a residential village in a park, traversed by tree-lined boulevards. Such development brought with it the unfortunate but familiar deed restrictions related to sale or rental to "...people of undesirable colors or kinds. . .;" cost of the building sites to be \$800 to \$4900, including improvement assessments, and house construction costs of at least \$3500.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geograp	hical Data			
Acreage of nominated prope Quadrangle name Portlan		n	Quadran	gle scale <u>1:24000</u>
A 1 10 5 2 18 5 14 10 Zone Easting	51 0 41 3 91 71 0 Northing	B Zone	Easting	Northing
C		D		
Verbal boundary descrip the southerly 18' of Portland, Multnomah	Lots 5 and 6, of B			ituated on Lot 1, and on to the City of
List all states and count	ies for properties overla	apping state or c	ounty boundaries	B
state N/A	code	county		code
state N/A	code	county		code
11. Form Pr	epared By			
name/title Tod D S	Schnieder			
			l ate Decemb	on 13 1085
inc ica	R. Schneider Compan			er 13, 1985
street & number PO Box 1	2026	10	elephone (503)	249-0757
city or town Portland			tate Oregon	
<u> 12. State Hi</u>	storic Prese	ervation	Officer C	ertification
The evaluated significance o	of this property within the s	tate is:		
national	state _	X local		
As the designated State Hist 665), I hereby nominate this according to the criteria and State Historic Preservation C	<i>X</i> / (of the National Hist e National Register e National Park Se	oric Preservation A r and certify that it I	ct of 1966 (Public Law 89- nas been evaluated
i itle Denut.v S	State Historic Prese	ervation Offic	er date	September 16, 1986
For NPS use only				
I hereby certify that thi	s property is included in th	Entered in the	a	10-23-86
Keeper of the National F	Hyer Legisler	Mational Regi	ster date	10-25-00
)				
Attest: Chief of Registration			date	

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In 1903, prior to their work on the Lewis and Clark Exposition master plan, landscape architects John and Frederick Olmsted, sons of the eminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, prepared and submitted to the City of Portland a master plan for park development that extended throughout the city. One of the principal elements of the Olmsted Brothers plan encouraged the City to promote the development of residential areas within or adjacent to park areas or within park-like settings.

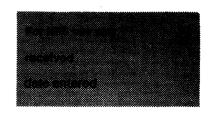
The major residential developments in Portland to achieve this were the Laurelhurst and Dunthorpe areas, but others mentioned in the Olmsted plan include Rose City Park and proposed areas to the north, west and east of Alameda ridge, to be developed as combined parkways, boulevards, parks, and residential developments. The Olmsted plan, along with the Bennett Plan of 1912, prepared by Chicago planner Edward H. Bennett, were products of the City Beautiful movement, and suggested broad patterns of transportation, park and residential development for the entire city of Portland.

An October, 1910 publication describing the development of the Alameda Park area indicated that in 1908, a John Olmsted laid out that residential area for the Alameda Land Company. Records state that a portion of the nearly 175 acres of the area was being held for a city park, and was subsequently developed by the Alameda Land Company as an example of a residential park. Improvements by that development company included gas, water, sewer, curbs, paved streets, street lights, and street trees.

The Prince House, an excellent example of period style residential architecture in the Georgian vein, has been well maintained, with minor alterations having little or no effect on the architectural integrity of the structure. The Prince House is one of three high ranking residential structures inventoried by the City of Portland in the Olmsted Park Addition, and is among the distinctive examples of the Georgian architecture in the city-wide inventory. The roughly sixty block area of the Olmsted/Alameda Park Addition contains between eight and nine hundred residential structures. Other homes in the immediate area, and on Alameda Street, include that of Thomas Autzen, who from 1919 until just prior to his death in 1958 led his regional wood products industrial empire to international fame for the production and worldwide sales of plywood, a wood product that revolutionized the construction industry. Also located on Alameda Street was the home of Edward Ferguson (1889-1957), one of the principal partners in the Alameda Land Company and a key member of several other land development companies in the Portland area.

The architect/contractor of the Thomas Prince House was The Oregon Home Builders, Inc., a residential development company active in many residential areas of Portland and which built six other homes in the Olmsted Park Addition within two blocks of the Prince House that are similarly recognized for their high architectural quality and that remain today. In scope of development, however, the Prince House is clearly superior. The company's offices were located in the Northwestern Bank Building, now the American Bank Building, located in downtown Portland.

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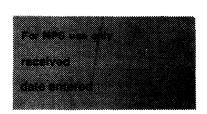
The original owner, Thomas Prince (1850-1920), was born in Kingston, Massachusetts. Prince was involved in many industrial enterprises, including the manufacture of nuts, bolts, nails and other articles for construction. He is especially known as a founder and continuing partner in the Reed-Prince Manfacturing Company of Worcester, Massachusetts. Prince came to Oregon via California in 1895 and, with his thirteen year old son Harold, settled on 9th Street in Dundee, Oregon, a small town about 40 miles south of Portland. There is no record of Prince's wife accompanying him. Prince began almost immediately to purchase surrounding land for agricultural development. His acquisitions included property that had been set aside by the founder of Dundee, William Reid, for the city cemetery. Prince swapped other land he owned with the city to allow the development of 85 acres of prunes and walnuts. The cemetery land was returned to the city for cemetery use when Prince moved to Portland.

In 1897, Prince built one of the first of several prune driers. This action heralded the beginning of Dundee as the greatest prune center in the Willamette Valley region. In 1898 Prince pioneered the first experimental orchard in the region by planting prune and walnut trees in alternate rows to gain the early prune crop while waiting for the later walnut yields. This provided for a staggered but continuous crop of fruit and nuts. Prince developed 85 acres in this manner producing exceptionally high yields from what has been credited as the largest mixed planting experimental model orchard in the state of Oregon. Prince went on to build two additional fruit and nut driers and processing plants in Dundee and continued empirically to develop techniques within the nut and fruit segment of this region's agricultural industry that are still used today. Prince also was a leader in providing expanded markets for this region's fruit and nuts through the Oregon Railway and Navigation (O.R. & N.) Company railroad spurs, making connections to Portland, the northern terminus of the Willamette Valley region, and then on to the east coast markets.

Due to ill health, Prince retired from active participation in his agricultural business in 1915, moving to the Prince House on Alameda Street with his son Harold and his daughter-in-law Marjorie Parrott Prince, the daughter of a Dundee pioneer family. Records indicate that Prince bought the property on Alameda Street in March, 1917 from The Oregon Home Builders. Thomas Prince died in Santa Barbara, California in February, 1920, while on his customary winter trip. Newspaper accounts verify his ". . 35 year residency in Oregon, living until five years ago at Dundee, where he owned the largest walnut orchard in the state, and which is widely known as a model farm. Five years ago he had a residence built at 901 The Alameda Drive in Portland. . "

Prince's will, later contested by his son, provided \$5,000 for his burial at the Kingston, Massachusetts cemetery and \$25,000 to the trustees of the cemetery association for the erection of a chapel and the perpetual care of the masoleum he had built there several years earlier.

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Thomas Prince was instrumental in the establishment of the prune and walnut industry of this region, and his experimental agricultural practices continue as the standard of today and as an integral part of one of this region's most vital industries. Further, Prince's financial interest and business association with The Oregon Home Builders, Inc., contributed in no small part to the growth and development of Olmsted Park as the high quality residential area it is today.

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