National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries	3.		_			
1. Name of Property						
	Price O	L. Hous				
	N/A	. n. , 110 ac				
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2. Location						
street & number	2681 SW I	Buena Vis	ta		N/	not for publication
	Portland				N/	∆_ vicinity
state Oregon	code	OR	county	Multnomah	code 051	zip code 97201
3. Classification						
Ownership of Property		Category of	Property	1	Number of Resou	urces within Property
x private		x building	(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local		district	. ,		1	buildings
public-State		site				sites
public-Federal		structure	•			structures
		object				objects
					1	0 Total
Name of related multiple pro	perty listing	:				buting resources previously onal Register <u>N/A</u>
4. State/Federal Agency	Certificat	ion				
In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia Deputy State State or Federal agency and	ty X meets l e Histori	does	n get m	ne National Regis	ter criteria. See d	et forth in 36 CFR Part 60. continuation sheet. _July 8, 1988 Date
In my opinion, the proper	ty meets	does no	t meet th	ne National Regis	ter criteria. See d	continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or	other official					Date
State or Federal agency and	bureau					The second secon
5. National Park Service	Certificat	ion				
I, hereby, certify that this pro						/
entered in the National F See continuation sheet. determined eligible for th Register. See continua determined not eligible for National Register.	Register. Register. Register.		Jelous	Byen	Entered in National Re	the S/11/8
removed from the Nation other, (explain:)	_		• .			
	_			Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action

unctions (enter categories from instructions) tic/single dwelling
tic/single dwelling
(enter categories from instructions)
n <u>concrete</u>
concrete, basement story
stucco over wood frame
clay tile
wrought iron decorative element

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The O. L. Price residence, constructed between December 1928 and August 1929, is an excellent example of the Mediterranean style of architecture. The residence was designed by architect Ellis Fuller Lawrence of Lawrence, Holford, Allyn and Bean, Architects. This two and one half story residence with a mezzanine level and two basement levels, has a formal main facade which faces west onto S.W. Buena Vista Drive and a less restrained east facade. The interior of the residence consists of the highest quality craftsmanship, a trait which was typical in Ellis Lawrence's work. Much of the interior is embellished with classical details such as the pilasters, ceiling mouldings, and paneling. The house is in good condition and has been unaltered except for the rough exterior stucco which was recently added to the west facade, and the kitchen which was remodeled in 1968. The new owners plan to rehabilitate the kitchen using the original plans as a guide.

SETTING

The O. L. Price residence is located on the east side of S.W. Buena Vista Drive and south of S.W. Buena Vista Place, in Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon. The neighborhood is occupied by large single family homes. Small shrubs planted next to the house conceal the basement level on the west facade. Across the street to the west, large conifers conceal the residences. The Price house is situated on a lot which slopes to the east. The landscaping behind the house is vastly overgrown. Once a garden of native plants and flowers, the new owners would like to eventually restore the landscape.

PLAN

This two and one half story house is irregular in plan. The main volume of the building is rectangular with projections on the north, south and east elevations. A one story garage wing is located on the south elevation, a two story projection on the north elevation accommodates the servants' quarters and stairwell; a three story L-shaped wing and a two story septagonal bay project on the east elevation. The house consists of five levels, two and one half stories are visible on the east elevation. Red tiled hip roofs cover the main volume and the north and south projections. The roofs of the L-shaped wing and the septagonal bay are flat and function as balconies. The windows in the house are leaded glass multi-paned casement or fixed.

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EXTERIOR

West Elevation

The two and one half story primary facade is flush with the sidewalk. The exterior surface, originally a smooth, brushed stucco finish, has been restucced to a rough finish. The second floor of the primary volume consists of two bays which flank a central slightly projecting bay. Windows on the second floor level are leaded glass casement in groups of two and three. A double casement window in the central bay extends from the second floor level into the mezzanine level serving to light the stairwell on the interior. A decorative wrought iron balcony is located directly below these windows and two cast stone scrolls are located on either side of the window. A wooden beltcourse distinguishes the second floor from the lower mezzanine level which is unadorned except for the central window and balcony.

The main entrance portico projects from the south bay and is topped with a red tile gable roof and embellished with two cast stone scrolls. The arched entry has flat keystone detailing in cast stone. Decorative iron grillwork tops the wooden eight paneled door which is flanked by leaded glass sidelights. Two wrought iron light fixtures hang on either side of the entrance and two cast stone planters are located on the brick step which leads to the front door. The basement level contains fixed leaded glass windows.

The west facade of the servants' wing contains leaded glass casement windows on the first and second floors. A curved stucco wall partially conceals the servants' entrance. The single story garage wing is large enough to accommodate two cars. The wooden garage doors are original.

South Elevation

The second floor of the main volume contains two leaded glass casement windows and is slightly recessed from the mezzanine and first floor. The wooden beltcourse extends across this elevation. A large stucco covered chimney with three terra cotta flues projects on this elevation to the east of the garage wing. The south facade of the L-shaped wing contains a pair of casement windows at the mezzanine level.

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East Elevation

The second floor of the main volume on the east elevation contains one pair of casement windows flanked by two French doors with sidelights. The French doors open onto a balcony which is the roof of the L-shaped wing. The L-shaped wing extends across the entire portion of the main volume on this elevation. The mezzanine level of the L-shaped wing has a group of four casement windows on the north end, two double casement windows in the center and a pair of French doors on the south end. The French doors open onto a balcony which is the roof of the septagonal bay. The mezzanine level of the servants' quarters wing contains a set of double casement windows.

The first floor of the L-shaped wing and septagonal bay contain groupings of leaded glass casement windows. French doors which open onto a balcony are located to the immediate north of the septagonal bay. The balcony is supported by turned wooden posts. A corrugated plastic roof and iron railing have been added. The septagonal bay is made up of seven sets of paired casement windows. A pair of casement windows are located on the first floor of the servants' wing.

The basement level contains groupings of casement windows on either side of the septagonal bay. The garage wing contains a door and the servants' wing contains a single casement window.

The stucco covered concrete sub-basement contains a single nine-paneled door located in the center of the septagonal bay.

North Elevation

The north elevation of the main volume contains one double casement window on the second floor. The mezzanine level on the L-shaped wing contains two sets of casement windows. The mezzanine level of the servant' wing contains one set of casement windows. The first floor of the servants' quarters contains a fixed multi-paned window and one small narrow window. The first floor of the L-shaped wing contains a pair of French doors and a single casement window. The doors open onto the balcony. A pair of French doors are located at the basement level of the L-shaped wing and a wood paneled door is located immediately next to the French doors which open onto the balcony. A set of stairs leads to the ground from this balcony level. A single casement window is located on the servants' wing on the basement level.

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INTERIOR

Some of the most beautiful detailing in the O.L. Price residence is the interior woodwork. The close attention to interior detail and fine craftsmanship which Ellis Lawrence is known for is apparent in this residence. The interior of the building is restrained, yet elegant, and almost entirely intact.

The original specifications note that clear American black walnut was to be used for all wood paneled surfaces. The plans show the floors to be oak, and all the treads and nosings on the stairs were specified white oak. Carved woodwork embellishes the front entryhall and main stairwell. The bathroom floors were specified tile, built-in fixtures in the bathrooms such as paper holders, soap dishes, tumbler holders, and towel bars were especially designed for the home.

Second Floor

A central staircase and landing separate the two bedrooms on the second floor to the north and south. The rooms are designated on the original floor plans as Chamber No. 4 and Chamber No. 5. A bathroom with a tile floor, tub and toilet is located between the two bedrooms, east of the upstairs landing. Both bedrooms contain French doors on the east side which open out onto a balcony. This balcony, which stretches across the east facade at the second story level offers a beautiful view of Portland. The bedroom, floors and the stairs have carpeting over the original oak floors.

Mezzanine

The main stairwell and hall, located in the center of the west wall, is flanked by the open hall below. The "chambers" are located along the eastern half of the building. The mezzanine level is composed of the master bedroom, Chamber No. 1, with bath; a second bedroom, Chamber No. 2, with bath, and Chamber No. 3, the servants' quarters also with bath. Chamber No. 1 is situated in the southeast corner of the house. It is a large room with French doors on the east elevation which open out onto the septagonal balcony. A walk-in closet, wardrobe and bathroom are off of the bedroom. Both this bathroom, and the bathroom attached to Chamber No. 2, contain original hexagonal floor tiles and tiled walls. Chamber No. 2, located in the northeast

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corner of the house, contains built-in bookcases and windows on the east and north walls. A door from Chamber No. 2 leads to a small hallway which opens to the servants' wing and stairs. These back stairs lead to the kitchen on the first floor.

First Floor

The first floor is made up of a central entrance hall, study and servants' stairwell to the north, and garage and half bath to the south. The living room, sunroom, dining room, and kitchen are located along the eastern half of this level. The entrance to the house is from the west, off S.W. Buena Vista Drive. The floor of the entrance vestibule is covered with a red quarry tile. A closet is located to the left of the entrance and a bathroom and door leading to the garage is to the south of the entrance hall.

The entrance foyer is the most spectacular space in the house. Paneled wainscoting of American walnut covers the walls. This room has high ceilings with an ornamental plaster crown moulding. The front door is topped by an elaborate broken scrolled pediment with finials and framed with turned spindle moulding and elaborate leaded glass sidelights. A carved wood frieze containing urns is located between the entrance hall and the landing which leads to the living room. A set of stairs to the south of the landing lead to the basement.

Den

The den is located to the north of the entrance hall and is accessible through this hall. It is paneled in American walnut, floor to ceiling, and has a fireplace and adjustable built-in shelving in the east wall. Leaded glass casement windows are located on the west wall. A door on the north wall of the den opens to stairs, which lead to the back hall of the kitchen and down to the basement. The den has a boxed wood ceiling beams, and the floor is carpeted.

Living Room

The living room is situated directly east of the entrance hall separated by a landing. The west wall of the living room contains a bay of seven paired casement windows. The fireplace has a pink tavernelle marble frontpiece. It is surrounded by an egg and dart decorative wooden mantle. The living room has parquet wood floors and the crown mouldings have classical detailing.

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Sun Room

The sun room, south of the living room, has a fireplace on the north wall which is also faced with a pink tavernelle marble frontpiece, and has a classically detailed mantle. A small closet with a leaded glass door is also located on this wall. Three pairs of casement windows are on the east wall. The room also has parquet wood floors and classical crown moulding.

Dining Room

North of the living room is the dining room. Paneled double doors topped with carved sunburst lunettes separate the living and dining rooms. This room also has parquet wood floors. French doors on the east wall lead to a small balcony. Built-in shelving is located on either side of an arched recess on the west wall. This wall is decorated with fluted pilasters on either side of the arch. The door to the kitchen, which has a carved sunburst lunette transom, is located on the north wall. The painted wooden crown moulding near the ceiling is a fretwork pattern.

Kitchen and Nook

A breakfast nook and kitchen are located north of the dining room. The breakfast nook has windows on the east wall. A swinging paneled door leads to the kitchen, which was remodeled in the 1960's. All the original paneled cupboards have been removed and a vinyl floor covers the original floor. A hall behind the kitchen leads to the back stairs which lead to the servant's wing and basement.

Basement

The basement contains a gameroom, wet bar, a tool room, laundry room and half bath. Access is gained to the basement from stairs off the main entrance, and through a second flight of stairs in the servants' wing. The basement is similar to its original design. A large game room is located in the eastern portion of the basement. There is a brick fireplace on the south wall of this room which is original. The ceilings of the game room were lowered and suspended in 1967. A storage room south of the game room was converted into a wet bar at that time. A tool room is behind the wet bar to the west. A laundry

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room is intact and shown as part of the basement on the original plans. There is also a half bathroom located in the northern portion of the basement.

Alterations

The O. L. Price residence is in good condition and has had minor alterations since its construction in 1928-1929. The Prices occupied the house from 1930-1950, when Fred and Ruth Schroeder purchased the property. The Schroeders resided in the house until 1966. David Russel purchased the home at that time and resided there until 1972, when it was bought by Margie and Carl Miler, who owned and occupied it until it was purchased by Ron and Barbara Higbee in 1987. The alterations include: restuccoing the west facade within the last 12 years; suspended ceilings added to the game room in the basement and wet bar added in 1967; kitchen remodel in 1968; and new wall to wall carpeting for the upstairs.

8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in nationally states	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□E □F □G
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture	Period of Significance Significant Dates 1928–1929 1929
	Cultural Affiliation N/A
Significant Person O.L. Price (1877–1982)	Architect/Builder Ellis F. Lawrence Lawrence, Holford, Allyn & Bean

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

The historic residence of Ore Lee Price, president and manager of the Oregonian Publishing Company, in Portland Heights, a fashionable residential neighborhood in Portland, Oregon, is a stucco-faced and clay tile-roofed building in the Mediterranean style. It was designed by Ellis F. Lawrence, principal in the Portland architectural firm of Lawrence, Holford, Allyn and Bean. The house was completed in 1929.

O.L. Price (1877-1982) served as legal counselor and confidential secretary to Henry Pittock, wealthy publisher of <u>The Oregonian</u>. Upon Pittock's death in 1919, Price became sole executor of the estate and was elected to the board of the Oregonian Publishing Company. By the time Price commissioned work for his house on Buena Vista, he was president and manager of the company. The Prices occupied the property from 1930 to 1950.

The imposing two-story house with daylight basement measures 74×53 feet in its ground plan and is composed of flat-roofed volumes backing up a central, rectangular, hip-roofed main block. A string course marking the division between stories circumscribes the exterior high on the wall. The pictorial quality of the facade is the result of dark voids of frameless windows and delicate scroll volutes framing a gable-roofed portico and reveals of a projecting second-story stairwell window section.

Because of the bold, vertical planes of its chimneys and clean lines as a whole, the house has a stripped down modern feeling which makes it distinctive in the firm's residential work in the Mediterranean idiom. Historical ornament, including wrought iron balconette, entrance lamps and stylized elements of the arched entryway (archivolt, keystone and quoins), is sparingly used. The interior is finished in the traditional manner and is characterized by high quality materials and classical detailing. As an outstanding example of its architectural type in Portland and in the body of work by Ellis Lawrence as a whole, the nominated property meets Criterion C in the category of architecture. Lawrence is noted in the annals of Oregon architecture not only as a designer but as the long-time first dean of the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Drimon, location of additional data.
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	Primary location of additional data: State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	X Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	
10. Geographical Data	
	Oregon-Washington 1:24000
LITAL Defenses	
UTM References A 110	
	Zone Easting Northing
C D	
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated property is located in the SE4 Sect	ion 5, Township 1S, Range 1E, Willamette
Meridian, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.	It is legally described as Lot 14 of
the Altavista Addition to the Plat of Portland, Ma	ıltnomah County, Oregon.
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The nominated area of approximately 13,600 square	feet encompasses the entire lot
developed in 1928 and 1929 and occupied by O.L. Pr	rice from 1930 onward. The nouse is
the sole contributing feature of the property, as	the garage is an integral part of the
house design.	
	See continuation sheet
11 Form Proposed By	
11. Form Prepared By name/title Kimberly Lakin and Kimberly Demuth	
organization Northwest Heritage Property Association	tes date December 15, 1987
street & number PO Box 1871	telephone (503) 227-6357
city or town Portland	state Oregon zip code 97207

9. Major Bibliographical References

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The O. L. Price residence at 2681 S.W. Buena Vista Drive in Portland is noteworthy but not nominated for its association with the first owner, Ore Lee Price, a prominent businessman and attorney, who became the sole executor of the Henry Pittock estate in 1919. Mr. Price became the president and manager of the Oregon Publishing Company in 1927, three years before occupying the residence on S.W. Buena Vista Drive, built for he and his wife, Margaret Beharell. The Prices lived in the house until 1950. The house was designed by architect Ellis Lawrence, of Lawrence, Holford, Allyn and Bean. Construction of the home began in December 1928 and was completed in August 1929. Price house is primarily significant under Criterion C as a distinctive design by Ellis Lawrence, a prominent Portland architect and founding dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon. Lawrence was known for his close attention to detail and lavish interiors which can be seen throughout the interior of this building. Lawrence successfully combined his arts and crafts design philosophy with the formal classical detailing within this Mediterranean style house.

Ore Lee Price was born on August 25, 1877 in Champaign County, Illinois. He moved to Oregon in 1892 with his family and studied at Pacific College in Newburg, Oregon graduating in 1897. He attended law school at the University of Oregon, receiving his degree in 1900. During the summers, he worked as a law clerk at the Portland firm of Cake and Cake. After one year of working independently in Newburg, Price returned to Portland to work with Cake and Cake for the next five and one half years.

In 1903, Price married Margaret Beharell. They had two daughters, Margaret Hazelmary and Barbara Lee. In 1906, Henry Pittock, a wealthy Portland businessman and Oregonian publisher, asked Price to serve as his confidential secretary and attorney. The Oregonian stated in 1925, "Mr. Price had a background of character that appealed to Mr. Pittock when the close relationship that was to continue for many years was first established."

When Henry Pittock died in 1919, O. L. Price and C. A. Morden, manager of The Oregonian, were given "full and complete power

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and authority" over his estate for 20 years. As Kimbark MacColl stated in his book The Growth of a City, "The central provision of the will dealt with The Oregonian, if it was not obvious before, the newspaper had been nearest his heart. Above all else, he wanted it protected for as long as possible." Price was also named sole executor of the will as Mrs. Pittock was deceased. By 1920, Price was elected secretary and member of the board of directors of the Oregonian Publishing Company. In 1927 he became president and manager of the Oregonian Publishing Company, taking over C. A. Morden's position. Upon assuming his new duties, Price was reported as stating, "The Oregonian must be kept faithful to every trust and above all, reliable. It should be first on the street when sure its news is correct, but it should never be first out with unreliable news." (OR. 1/13/72) In 1928, Price commissioned Ellis Lawrence to design a house for him on S.W. Buena Vista The Portland directories list Price as living there beginning in 1930 until 1950 when he and his wife moved into an apartment.

Through his administration of the Pittock estate, Price became a board member of over 20 corporations. He served as vice president of Northwestern National Bank until its scandalous demise in 1927.

Price was credited by John Ainsworth, president of Portland U.S. National Bank in the 1920's, as being one of three men responsible for saving not only the Pittock reputation, but the reputation of the Portland banking industry in general, through his responsible handling of a crisis situation at Northwestern National Bank. Due to the fraudulent actions of investor Jack Wheeler and Northwestern Bank manager Emery Olmstead, the Northwestern Bank, primarily regarded as a Pittock bank, was unable to meet its financial responsibilities in March of 1927 when a draw on the bank occurred. O.L. Price, representing the Pittock estate, contributed \$2 million in cash and bonds to cover contingent liabilities. E. S. Collins, a Northwestern Bank stockholder, also contributed \$2 million. At this point the U.S. National Bank and First National Bank publicly announced they would guarantee all deposits, thus calming a potential public panic which could have proved devastating for the Portland banking industry. Ainsworth, in referring to the incident, named Pittock estate trustees O. L. Price and C.A. Morden and stockholder E. S. Collins "heroes". Kimbark MacColl attributes this to the loyalty to the Pittock name, "...the

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preservation of the family's honor did not carry a price tag. The Pittocks lost over \$2 million." (The Growth of a City, p. 377) Though the Northwestern Bank was lost to the Pittock estate, Price managed to keep The Oregonian in business through the Depression Era. He retired from his position as manager in 1939 at the age of 62. His 20 years of trusteeship had ended at this time. Price continued to work in the legal profession after his retirement from The Oregonian until 1955 when he was fully retired. Price died in 1972 at the age of 94. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Al Kader Shrine, Sigma Delta Chi, Phi Delta Phi, the Arlington and Waverly Country Clubs, and the Masonic Lodge.

ELLIS FULLER LAWRENCE (1879 - 1946)

Lawrence, Holford, Allyn, Bean

Ellis Lawrence, a notable Portland architect, worked independently in Portland from 1909-1912. As his firm grew over the years, he added the partner Holford, and later Allyn and Bean. The Price house is a Lawrence design, as his initials are on the drawing as approving the drawings. Within the firm of Lawrence, Holford, Allyn and Bean; Allyn was the technical partner and Bean was a general manager and assistant. Holford, Lawrence's longest term partner, was the designer for all of the firm's Episcopalian church projects. His involvement in residential designs of the firm is vague. Holford's son, Dr. William Holford, Jr., claims his father was responsible for the design of the firm's work in the Dunthorpe area of Portland. Holford's style tends to be more restrained and traditional than that of Lawrence. The two men may have collaborated on designs. According to Dr. William Holford, Jr., his father was the "practical person" in the firm noting that Lawrence was particularly interested in decorative detail. (Personal interview by Mike Shelbenberger, November 6, 1987.) Ellis Lawrence was one of Portland's most prominent architects of the early 20th century in addition to being the founding dean of architecture at the University of Oregon. Lawrence's commissions throughout the years were with some of Portland's most elite, powerful and influential characters.

Lawrence was born in Malden, Massachusetts in 1879, and attended M.I.T., receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees in 1902. He then worked for architects John Calvin Stevens and Steven Codman for three and one half years in Maine. He studied for

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six months in Europe where he met and married Alice Louise Millette of Portland, Maine. In 1906, on his way to open an office in San Francisco, Lawrence stopped in Portland, Oregon to visit his architect friend, E. B. MacNaughton. Lawrence decided to remain in Oregon after this visit and briefly worked for Edgar Lazarus as a draftsman before joining the MacNaughton and Raymond architectural firm. In 1909, Lawrence opened his own firm. E. B. MacNaughton dropped out of the architectural field to become a very successful banker and financier. The friendship between MacNaughton and Lawrence must have brought Lawrence much of his impressive clientele. In 1912, William Holford joined Lawrence in partnership. Holford, also from New England, had been a classmate of Lawrence's at M.I.T., ten years earlier.

Through Ellis Lawrence's training in the field of architecture, he adopted a design philosophy which originated in England with the Arts and Crafts Movement. He was a strong advocate for the incorporation of artists and craftsmen into the architectural design process. This philosophy permeates his work, as is evident in the fine detail work in the Price house. In 1914, Lawrence founded the University of Oregon School of Art and Architecture as he was instructed by the State Board of Regents. He organized the school with a teaching philosophy which rejected the Beaux Arts teaching traditions in favor of an informal, non-competitive setting. This philosophy was regarded as progressive for the era and is still the basis for the teaching style at the University of Oregon.

Lawrence had many friendships with other prominent businessmen and architects. He met with Frank Lloyd Wright in Eugene when he came to speak and he worked with the Olmstead brothers on the Peter Kerr mansion in Portland. He also sat with architect Bernard Maybeck on a judging committee. He was selected as the A.I.A.'s first vice president and served on numerous national competition juries such as the Victory Memorial in Honolulu and the Stock Exchange Building and Bank of Italy in San Francisco. In 1932-1934 he became president of the Collegiate Schools of Architecture Association.

On a statewide level, Ellis Lawrence served as state advisory architect for the Home Owners Loan Corporation and during 1933-1934, he served on the Northwest District Committee for the Public Works of Art project of the U.S. Treasury Department. He also served as president of the local chapter of A.I.A., an

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organization for which he was partially responsible for forming. Both Lawrence and Holford actively engaged in organizing the Portland Architectural Club, Architectural League of the Pacific Coast and Oregon Association of Building Construction. Lawrence served on the Portland City Planning Commission for several years in addition to being a member of the Irvington Club, City Club and the Portland Art Association.

Ellis Lawrence resided in the Irvington neighborhood in Northeast Portland with his wife Alice Millett Lawrence and his three sons, Henry Abbott, Denison Howells, and Amos Millett. He worked three days a week in his Portland office. The other two days he would take the "Red Electric" to Eugene to teach and run the School of Art and Architecture.

The C. L. Price house is an excellent example of Lawrence's work in both its plan and in the details. Ellis Lawrence designed the Price residence in 1928 during the peak decade of business for his office. Having been in business in Portland since 1906 he was, by 1928, a well-established and highly respected architect. Price and Lawrence originally lived near each other in the Irvington neighborhood. Price attended the church which Lawrence had designed (Westminster Presbyterian Church), and they had many mutual business associations. The Mediterranean design of Price's house is a style of which Lawrence was fond. The rear portion of the house is stripped of almost all stylistic references and is primarily an expression of function. This elevation is the most complex, with its many levels and balconies. The exterior and interior are tied closely together as each window and level relates to a function of the interior spaces.

The interior of the Price house is classically detailed carrying through the Mediterranean stylistic character of the exterior. Lawrence's love of fine craftsmanship is evident throughout the house, but expecially on the first floor. It is remarkable that virtually all of this detail remains intact including light fixtures and hardware.

Lawrence's client list included many of Portland's most notable businessmen. The houses he designed are often grand homes, many of which are still extant. The Price residence, however, is the grandest of the Mediterranean style homes of his design in Portland.

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Portland Historic Resource Inventory, 1982. Portland, Oregon.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, Portland, Oregon; 1909 updated to 1935.

Telephone interview with R. A. Schroeder by Kimberly Demuth, December 9, 1987.

































