

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000086 Date Listed: 3/9/92

Dr. Leo Ricen House
Property Name

Multnomah OR
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

fr *Antoinette A. Rice*
Signature of the Keeper

3/10/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification: The number of resources is amended to read 2 contributing buildings (the garage is a contributing building).

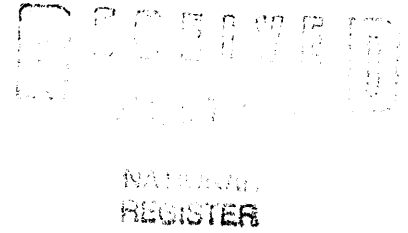
This information was confirmed with Elisabeth Potter of the Oregon State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Ricen, Dr. Leo, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2624 Northwest Overton St.
city, town Portland
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97210

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [x] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: January 3, 1992
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Movements:

Bungalow

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof asphalt (composition shingles)

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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SETTING

Dr. Leo Ricen residence is located on Lot 5, Block 26, Goldsmith's Addition to the City of Portland. The residence was built in 1921 and designed by Portland architect W.F. Tobey. Specifically located in the Nob Hill neighborhood, other landmark buildings in the area include: Frank E. Dooly house, 2670 Northwest Lovejoy; Harmon-Neils house, 2642 Northwest Lovejoy; and Portland Fire Station #17, 824 Northwest 24th.

DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

Constructed in 1921, the house was designed by Willard F. Tobey, a Portland architect who practiced for more than 50 years. This house, atypical for its time, is unique when comparing it with other residential structures in Portland.

The exterior of the house is finished in smooth stucco, painted, with wood trim. At the front of the house, over the front door, is a large covered porch, the roof of which is supported on four Ionic columns. The porch roof is distinctive, being shaped like a barrel vault at the center, with flat portions at the sides. The front windows, lighting the dining room and living room, repeat the vault roof shape, the center window having a segmental arch flanked by two side lights having square heads. Each window grouping is surmounted by a wood moulding which curves gracefully over the flat and arched window heads. Above these windows the roof eaves are curved up like an eyebrow, recalling a treatment once common to thatched roofs.

Above the entrance porch is a large dormer which has a barrel-shaped roof which repeats the expression of the porch roof. This dormer has continuous windows at the front and wrapped around the sides in the manner of the International style. The main roof is hipped, and at the sides smaller dormers repeat the barrel roof detail.

On the east elevation three shallow bays project from the wall, and at the west elevation a single bay and the fireplace chimney project, creating a rhythm and relieving the rectangular shape of the house. The fireplace chimney repeats the curve motif in inverted form, where the chimney narrows above the fireplace.

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At the rear of the house a screened porch has been added at the time the kitchen was remodelled in 1979 from a design of architect Jerry Goldsby. The present breakfast room may also be an addition, but is more likely an original porch which has been enclosed.

The house is set back from the sidewalk, allowing the bank, planted in lawn, to accommodate easily the noticeable slope of Overton Street. The adjoining lot to the west is also owned with the house, and is planted in grass.

Behind the house in the original garage, faced with stucco and repeating the curve motif in its parapet over the door. The back yard has been paved in recent years and is used as a play area.

INTERIOR

Inside, the house is in original condition, except for the kitchen and the bathrooms. The asymmetry of its plan caused by the greater width of the living room is balanced with the narrower dining room by shifting the entrance vestibule off center with the entrance hall.

Ceilings at the first floor are 9'-6" high, adding to the effectiveness of the well organized plan. The first floor living spaces form a very elegant interior for so small a house. The tile at the living room fireplace appears to be new. The study fireplace tile is original, but has been painted. This is not a working fireplace, having been designed for a gas radiant fire.

Upstairs the rooms are small and irregular in shape except for the front bedroom in the large, barrel-roofed dormer. This is a splendid space, enhanced by the strip windows. The upstairs hall is also a fine space. The upstairs area is much more extensive than is apparent on the exterior.

The house is in good condition and except as previously mentioned, in original condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1921

Significant Dates

1921

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. F. Tobey

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.11 acres Portland, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
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5	2	3	1	0	0
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5	0	4	1	8	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is legally identified as Lot 5, Block 26 of Goldsmith's Addition to the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated area corresponds to the legally recorded lots lines historically associated with the house of Dr. Leo Ricen from 1921 onward.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John M. Tess, President with Richard E. Ritz, FAIA
organization Heritage Investment Corporation date March 1, 1991
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The neat, stucco-clad one-and-a-half-story bungalow designed by Willard F. Tobey and built for the physician Leo Ricen in 1921 occupies a standard 50 x 100-foot city lot on NW Overton Street near 29th Avenue in the Nob Hill neighborhood of northwest Portland, Oregon.

Tobey, the former partner of E. W. Hendricks and John Bennes in the early years of the 20th Century, was working independently at the time of this commission. Later, he would enter into a brief association with A. E. Doyle as a project superintendent. An important part of his training was derived from his few years' employment as office boy and draftsman for the preeminent Portland firm of Whidden and Lewis, beginning in 1901.

The Ricen bungalow stands out in the neighborhood as one showing decidedly the influence of English Art Nouveau and Vienna Secession movements. Its strong, volumetric character is drawn from the build-up of a vaulted Classical portico and the massive, pedimented and segmental-arched dormer with bank of casement windows that is superimposed above it.

A pedimented segmental-arched dormer of more conventional scale is used on the west elevation, and Art Nouveau curvilinearity is introduced in the profile of an asymmetric chimney haunch and in the swept cornice of the facade, where the eavesline arches, canopy-like, over Palladian window assemblies. These arresting features and the high-quality Classical detailing of wood trim inside and out transform what is a standard, four-square hip-roofed bungalow formula and provide a stateliness carefully proportioned to the intimate scale of house and lot.

Willard Tobey's bungalow for Dr. Ricen is both too late in date and modest in scale to be considered part of the mainstream of Secessionist influence. Yet, it does show the architect's awareness of English Art Nouveau (Arts and Crafts) in the swept cornice alluding to thatched roofs and, unmistakably, it shows an awareness of the Secession-linked work of Peter Behrens in the bold, segmental-arched gables. As a well-preserved exemplar of the independent work of Willard Tobey, and as an exceptional example of the Art Nouveau vein of bungalow architecture in Portland generally, the Ricen House meets National Register Criterion C for local significance.

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In the first decade of the 20th Century, Vienna, Austria and Darmstadt, Germany (the latter under the patronage of Ernst Ludwig, Grand Duke of Hesse) were centers of reaction against the "New Art" style (Art Nouveau) that often was excessively decorative and characterized by delicate, sinuous line. The Secession movement, so-named for the society of progressive young artists in Vienna and the influential exhibitions it sponsored, was led by Otto Wagner (1841-1918), a professor at the Academy in Vienna, and the younger Austrian architects Adolph Loos (1870-1933), J. M. Olbrich (1867-1908), and Josef Hoffmann (1870-1956). Olbrich and Hoffmann had been students of Wagner at the Academy.

Drawing inspiration from 19th Century Romantic Classicism, the Secession architects emphasized formal, or symmetrical composition, blocky, rectilinear massing, simplified decoration and taut exteriors. They pursued innovation while at the same time tempering their original compositions with restraint. Their movement was influenced and enriched by designers of such outstanding rank as Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928), a Scotsman, and the German Peter Behrens (1868-1940), whose industrial work for the General Electric Company in Berlin established his international reputation. It was this fertile, peculiarly northern European reaction against Art Nouveau that gave rise to a strain of "Stripped Classicism" that was to characterize monumental architecture in parts of Scandinavia, eastern and western Europe and America in the 1920s and '30s. Eventually, the "Stripped Classical" style fell out of favor because of its strong association with the Third Reich and, perhaps not least, because it degenerated, in less accomplished hands, into a sterile and unimaginative mode.

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Dr. Leo Ricen residence is located on Lot 5, Block 26, Goldsmith's Addition to the City of Portland. The residence was built in 1921 and designed by Portland architect W.F. Tobey.

GOLDSMITH'S ADDITION

This area of northwest Portland was named after early land owner Bernard Goldsmith. Goldsmith owned the hillside that became Westover Terraces and land below the hillside that was platted as Goldsmith's Addition. Goldsmith served as mayor of Portland from 1869 to 1871. Goldsmith became a very successful businessman in Portland. He was born in Germany in 1832 and came to America in 1848. He arrived in Portland in 1860 and opened a jewelry store, assay office and traded in gold dust. In 1867 he opened a dry-goods wholesale establishment with his brothers Louis and Max. Goldsmith owned 10,000 acres of land and had about 8,000 head of cattle. He was involved with the stock business for seven years. One of the most beneficial enterprises that Goldsmith undertook was the building of the locks at Oregon City. He was president of the Willamette Falls, Canal, Lock & Transportation Company, which was incorporated in 1872. Goldsmith retired from the canal company in 1876 and from the mercantile business in 1878. In 1880 he engaged in speculation and money-lending. He died in 1901 at his home on Northwest 24th and Quimby.

In 1887 the land in Goldsmith's Addition was owned by Bernard Goldsmith's brother Louis Goldsmith. There were 31 blocks in the addition, bounded by Lovejoy, Cornell, 28th, Savier, and 23rd. Development of Goldsmith's Addition followed the pattern of the development of the neighboring Couch's Addition. The areas of Couch's, King's Second, and Goldsmith's Additions were mostly residential areas by the turn of the century. As the commercial center of Portland expanded in the early 1900s, the neighborhoods of northwest Portland began to change. The development of Goldsmith's Addition between 1900 and 1930 remained mostly residential as the commercial district developed along 23rd avenue. Apartment buildings began to be constructed in 1910. There are six existing apartment buildings in Goldsmith's Addition that date from 1910 to 1930. Other historic residences in the addition date from 1895 to 1929. The residences within the block of the Ricen residence date from 1908 to 1921.

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HISTORY OF THE RESIDENCE

Leo and Pauline Ricen purchased Lot 5, Block 26 in September of 1920 from the estate of Louis Goldsmith. Ricen hired W.F. Tobey to design a residence for their property. The house was built by 1921. Changes to the property include: partial enclosure of the basement in 1959 at a cost of \$250; removal and replacement of a doorway in 1966 at a cost of \$785; remodeling of the kitchen and a bathroom in 1977 and a deck addition.

DR. LEO RICEN

Dr. Ricen lived in the residence which he had built on Overton, from 1921 until his death in 1942. Ricen was a prominent physician within Oregon medical circles and he practiced medicine in the state for 45 years. He was a native of Odessa Russia. He came to Portland sometime before 1900. Dr. Ricen became head of the Emanuel hospital staff in 1923 and he was one of the first Oregon physicians to use insulin treatments for diabetes. Dr. Ricen spent a great deal of time in the research field and much of this time was spent in Europe. He was also a very talented artist and he won numerous awards for his paintings.

When Ricen first came to Portland he lived with his family at 269 Montgomery. He was listed in the Portland City Directory as a medical student from 1899-1901. He then became a physician in 1902. He continued to live with his family at 470 Clay and 1110 Franklin until 1909 when he was listed as living at 580 4th. He lived there for several years and then with his family again. In 1915 he is listed as living at 32-656 Flanders with his wife Pauline. They resided there until they moved into the residence on Overton in 1921.

Other owners of the residence include: W.J. Perlman, 1942-43; Blanche and Arthur Raasch, 1943-1946; James and Winnefred Gould, 1946-1952; John and Ruth Loomis, 1952-1961; Stephen and Mary Maks, 1961-1977; Irvin and Gail Handelman, 1977-1984; and Ronald Paul and Toni Berres, 1984-present.

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W.F. TOBEY, ARCHITECT

Willard Franklin Tobey was a Portland architect for more than 50 years.

Tobey was born in Aurora, South Dakota on April 10, 1883. He came to Portland as a boy of 10 in 1893. Son of Rev. Isaac F. and Mary E. Tobey, in 1901 he worked as office boy in the office of Whidden & Lewis. The following year he was a draftsman in that office, remaining until 1903 or 1904. In 1905 Tobey went to work for Eric W. Hendricks as a draftsman. In 1906 he and Hendricks became partners in the firm, Hendricks & Tobey. The next year, in 1907, John Virginius Bennes joined the partnership, which became Bennes, Hendricks & Tobey.

Tobey left that partnership in 1910 and was briefly in partnership with Clifton R. Lewthwaite in Tobey & Lewthwaite. In 1911 he was sharing office space with Wayne L. Mills, and in 1912 they formed a partnership, Tobey & Mills, which was dissolved the next year. After that, Tobey practiced alone, with an interlude in the construction business during World War I with the Palmer-Ellison Construction Co.

In 1926 Tobey worked for A.E. Doyle as a superintendent. From 1937 to 1939 he was an architect and engineer for the Public Works Administration. However, most of the time in the 1920s and 1930s he carried on his own architecture practice.

After World War II Tobey worked for Pietro Belluschi as superintendent on the construction of the new Oregonian Building. In 1953 and 1954 he was Clerk-of-the-words on construction at Emanuel Hospital. About 1956 Tobey retired from practice.

Willard Tobey died in Portland on January 15, 1972 at the age of 88. He was survived by his second wife, Mabel, and two daughters of his first marriage.

Tobey received license no 13 under the grandfathers clause when licensing of architects in Oregon commenced in 1919. He was a member of the Portland Architectural Club.

Bennes, Hendricks & Tobey designed the Blumauer Frank Drug Company Building (1909), and the Cornelius Hotel (1908), which is on the National Register. Tobey designed the First Congregational Church of Oregon city (1925), which is on the National Register. He also designed the 1st National Bank and the Public Library (1912), both in Albany, Oregon, and the First German Evangelical Reform Church in Portland (1911).

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COMPARISON WITH OTHER HOUSES

Other houses designed by Willard Tobey have not been identified in the Portland Historic Resource Inventory, but comparison with contemporary houses of the early 1920s make it clear that this house is unique in Portland. Whereas its contemporaries are in the Mediterranean, English and Colonial Revival styles or perhaps late Bungalow style, this house seems to have its antecedents in the German domestic architecture of the turn-of-the-century, which blended Neo-Classicism and the beginnings of the International style with a flavor that is distinctly Central European. Willard Tobey's first wife, Lydia, was born in Switzerland, and it may be that Tobey spent some time in Central Europe. At any rate, whether his inspiration came from travel or from some publication, his design for this house is quite mature and sure handed. The Ricen house is in excellent condition and in a stable neighborhood.

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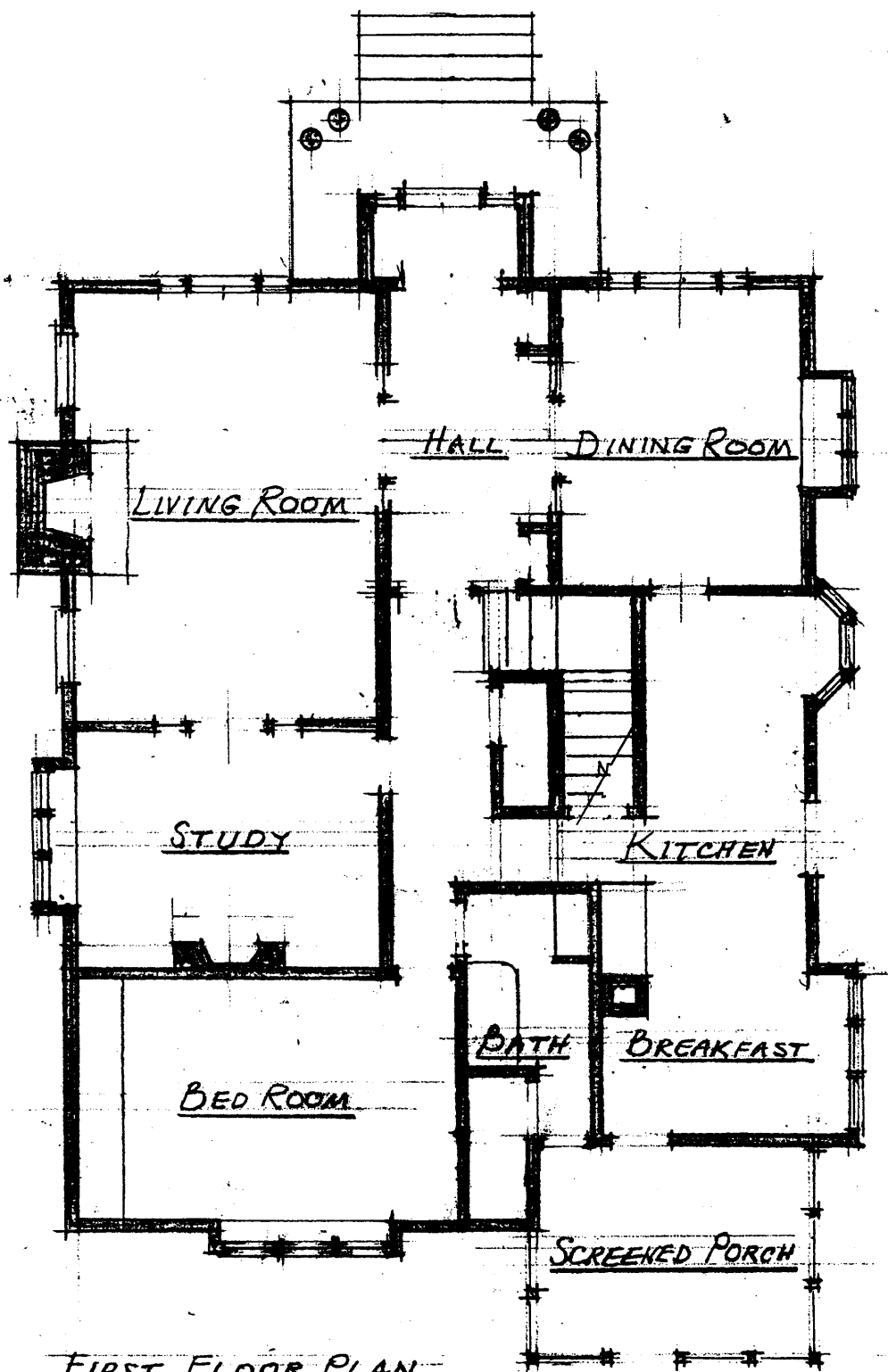
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Obituary, Dr. Leo Ricen, The Oregonian (10 Sept. 1942), p. 11.

Oregon Journal, January 18, 1972.

The Oregonian, April 27, 1966, January 18, 1972.

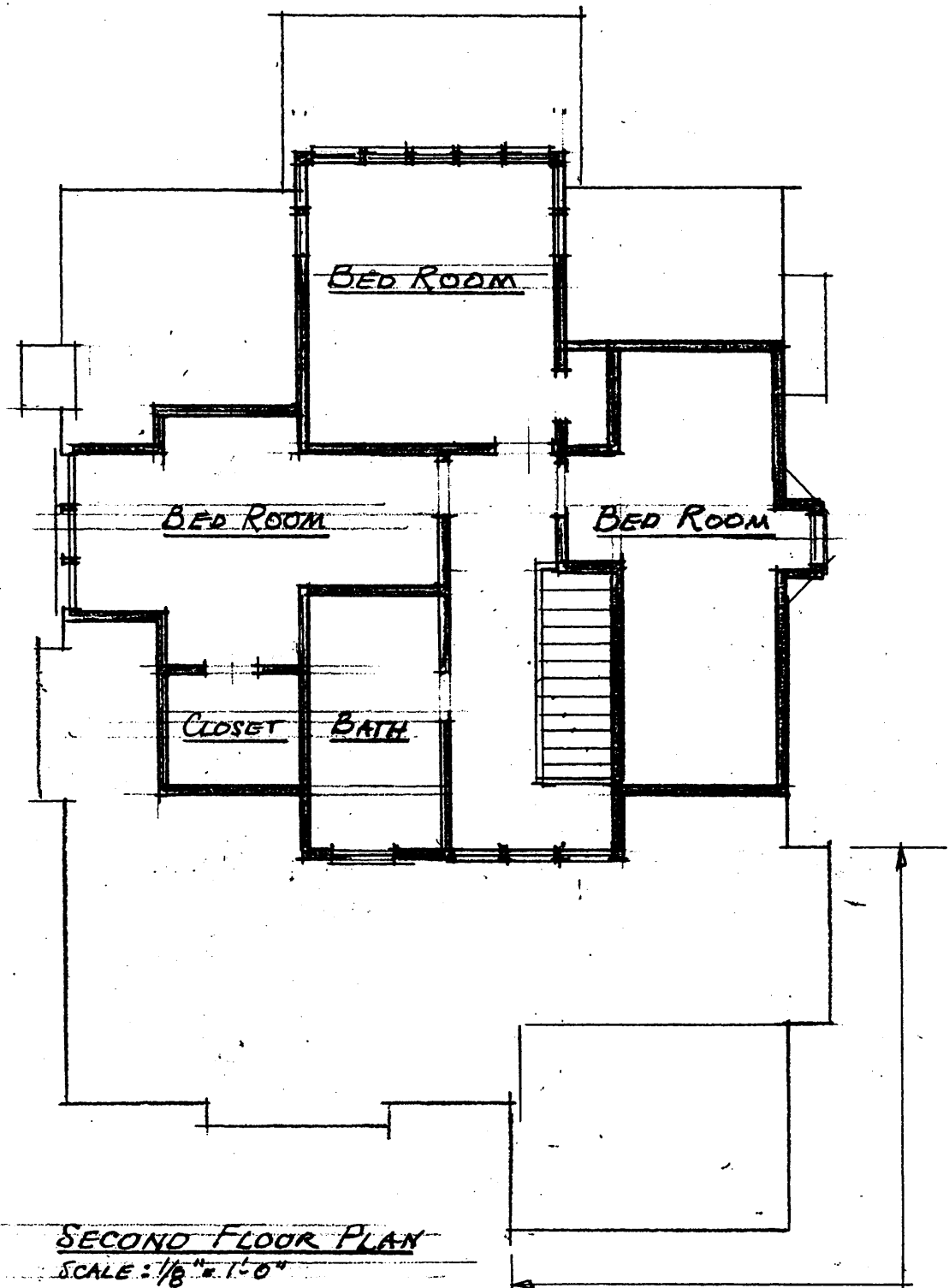
Nomination for National Register of the Clawwood Building (Hendricks & Tobey, 1905).



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



LEO RICEN HOUSE
WILLARD F. TOBEY, ARCHITECT.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

LEO RICEN HOUSE
WILLARD F. TOBEY, ARCHITECT