

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Maegly, A. H., House

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number 226 SW Kingston _____ not for publication

city, town Portland _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Bruce and Karen Arden

street & number 226 SW Kingston

city, town Portland _____ vicinity of _____ state Oregon 97201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW 4th

city, town Portland _____ state Oregon 97205

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Portland Historical Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 6, 1970 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Portland Historical Landmarks Commission, Portland Bureau of Planning

city, town Portland _____ state Oregon 97205

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date _____ |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The A. H. Maegly House (1915) is a stuccoed, reinforced concrete construction of two stories on basement. It was one of the early houses to be erected in fashionable Arlington Heights overlooking the city of Portland. Rectangular in plan, and oriented with its long axis north to south, the house measures 65 x 44 feet. It has a tile-covered, low-hipped roof and similarly-covered porches centered in the facade and north end. The west porch is a porte cochere through which a unit-paved driveway swings. The semi-circular drive is lined by a concrete balustrade, box hedges, shrubs, and a variety of small ornamental trees.

Openings in the ground story wall are unframed. Among the numerous porches, is a recessed porch at the northwest corner of the house onto which both library and livingroom open. The corners of the house are marked by concrete piers which rise uninterrupted, except by an encompassing string course, frieze and brackets, to the roof overhang. It is the spreading rooflines of the main volume and porches and the treatment of the upper exterior wall which give the house its distinctive Prairie School appearance. Narrow, mullioned windows are grouped in ribbon fashion high under the eaves, and their horizontal continuity is set off by an ornamented clay tile string course at the sill line and the enriched frieze which the windows abut. Two oriels, or window bays cantilevered from north and west walls are tied into the encircling decoration, and their base sections are enriched by panels of rinceau ornament. Each corner pier and free-standing porch upright is embellished with a single over-sized decorative bracket on each face somewhat in the manner of Frank Lloyd Wright's early work.

The interior spaces are arranged around a central hallway and curvilinear stairway with bannister and handrail. At the east end of the entry hall axis is the diningroom with its view window overlooking the garden terrace, downtown Portland and Mt. Hood beyond. Livingroom, library, maid's room and kitchen make up the rest of the ground story space. The livingroom, trimmed with specially-selected Honduras mahogany, has a wide chimneypiece with ceramic tile surround, mantelpiece and overmantel frame, paneling, and archway screens -- all in the Arts and Crafts tradition. The basement contains additional maid's quarters, laundry, boiler and fuel room, and billiard room. The second story, typically, contained, in addition to bedroom suites, a sleeping porch and balconies over the downstairs porches.

Following is the description of current owner Bruce Arden:

Of particular note is the architect's use of ornamentation. With greater emphasis on the second story, he used standard pieces. Bennes created a frieze immediately below the eaves that encircles the house. The only break is at the corners where he placed great brackets.

On all porch columns, Bennes used a bracket on each side of the column combined with a frieze to form the capitals of the columns. Although the frieze is similar of the one employed under the eaves, the brackets are quite different from those placed under the eaves.

When studying the several facades one observes an achieved balance without the use of symmetry. The exterior walls are stucco and ornamental cast plaster over inter-locking block tile construction. The windows of the second story are tied together by a band of tiny, stylized blossom medallions. This same type of band is found elsewhere to complete some individual element and tie it to the rest of the design. There are bands of windows or projecting bays and very seldom does one see a single window. Some of the window bays are accented by elaborate plasterwork. The architect's use of the frieze, the medallion bands, and the column capitals all establish the character of the house and served to unite his design.

No study of the exterior is complete without a view of the extensive grounds. The

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original twelve porches were all a means to draw the house and grounds together. The mature clusters of Japanese maples, the large caliper cedrus and other mature plantings effect a co-ordinated relationship with the parks and gardens surrounding the house. The greenhouse, gardener's shed and garage all relate to the main house.

The only changes to the structure have been the removal of one second story porch (done by the original owners) and the change in use of one sleeping porch to a laundry room. The bath fixtures, the original millwork, the light fixtures (designed and built by Fred Baker) are for the most part intact.

One is drawn into the house by the original circular brick driveway to a beautiful and elaborate porte cochere. Once inside the front door, one can immediately sense the quality and attention to detail demonstrated throughout the interior.

The finest European craftsmen were employed to create an interior typical of a man of taste and means in 1914. Bennes had a love for fine woods. The living room wood, the main stairway and banister are all examples of fine Honduran mahogany. (The wood is said to all be from one log chosen by Bennes himself.) The wood has a reddish cast but is essentially rich brown. The living room and study woodwork received many finish coats and all were hand rubbed. Bennes' partner reported that this finish process went on until Mr. Maegly and Mr. Bennes were satisfied and that everyone finally lost track of the number of finish coats. The rest of the woodwork is Port Orford cedar and although painted at the time of building remains in beautiful condition.

The entire ground floor consists of an entry hall, powder room and guest closet, study (with handcrafted, built in mahogany and glass bookcases; a built in window seat over intricate grill work housing the radiators, and a corner fireplace); living room, dining room, kitchen and pantry. The rooms are all spacious. Each room has a great number of windows and each ground floor room has a door or doors leading to an outside terrace or porch.

The living room, dining room and kitchen all have direct views of downtown Portland and Mount Hood. There is a large tiled fireplace with a carved mahogany mantle that adds to the already warm, inviting feel of the living room. The French doors in the living room and dining room all reflect the consistent attention to detail evidenced in all the woodwork. The majority of the hardware throughout the house is detailed and original to the house.

There is a stairway going to the lower level of the house where one finds a large and comfortable billiard room. The floor is made of narrow strips of maple, the woodwork is all natural finish fir and there is a large fireplace in the center of the room. In addition, there is a coal room, furnace room and maid's quarters on the lower level.

The second floor consists of four bedrooms, three enclosed sleeping porches, and two bathrooms. Two bedrooms have doors leading out to second story porches. One overlooks the grounds and gardens and the other allows one a vantage point view of Washington Park and all of downtown Portland.

The master bath has a large, complicated round shower, the foot bath, the large porcelain tub, toilet and pedestal sink are all original.

The emphasis on the second floor was that of practicality. However, items like a built in vacuum system and intercom system (non-operable at this time), both gas and electric fixtures show that the owner went to great expense to have a house that reflected the finest of all available at the time.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1914 - 1915 **Builder/Architect** John V. Bennes

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The fashionable house completed for wealthy Portland broker A. H. Maegly in Arlington Heights overlooking downtown Portland in 1915 is the foremost example of Oregon architecture clearly influenced by the Prairie School -- Frank Lloyd Wright and his followers. It was designed by John V. Bennes, who received his early training in Illinois and whose admiration for the Prairie School architects was well known. With its tile roofs and ornament taken from the Italian Renaissance, Bennes' design is Mediterranean in spirit, but its slab-like roof overhangs, the Wrightian decorative brackets, the cantilevered second story bays, and the strong horizontal emphasis created by ribbon windows and tile string course and frieze are stylistic characteristics of Prairie School architecture.

The sturdily-constructed reinforced concrete house with its cement plaster and clay tile finish is exceptionally well preserved, inside and out, having been maintained by Maegly's daughter, Mrs. E. M. Reinecke, until 1972. It represents an early use of reinforced concrete for house construction in Portland. In fact, obituary notices claimed the Bennes was "the first architect to design a reinforced concrete building in Portland." Bennes resided in a building he designed in the same Prairie School/Italian Renaissance vein for his own use on nearby SW Marconi.

Notable interior features of the Maegly House are the specially-selected Honduras mahogany woodwork and an array of lighting fixtures designed by noted Portland draftsman-designer Fred Baker, whose work complements important houses and public buildings throughout the city. Maegly's hobby was horticulture, and the gardens surround the house are noteworthy for the collection of Japanese maples which she planted.

The Maegly House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Prairie School Style, examples of which are rare in Oregon. It possesses high artistic values and integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling and association with both client and architect.

Aaron H. Maegly, co-owner of a successful Portland brokerage business, was born in Kansas City, Missouri on October 1, 1854. He came to Oregon in 1878 and settled in Portland in 1890. He was an original owner of the Maegly-Tichner Building, and, with his partner, Tichner he was known for handling large amounts of money without written agreements and without dispute.

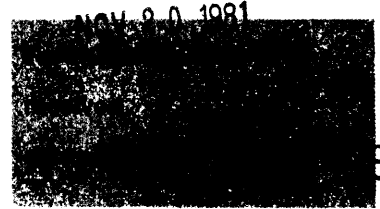
John V. Bennes II, was born in Peru, Illinois, August 23, 1867. He was one of five sons, all of whom were apprenticed to their architect father. His formal architectural training took place in Chicago and in Prague, Illinois. He began his professional career at age 20 and continued in Chicago for fifteen years.

Between 1900 and 1905 he lived and worked in Baker, Oregon, in partnership with William Hendricks. In 1906 he moved to Portland, where he maintained his practice until his death in 1943.

Bennes designed numerous buildings for the State Board of Higher Education between 1915 and 1935, including campus facilities at Oregon State College, Eastern Oregon State College,

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Southern Oregon State College, and Oregon State Normal School. Among his Portland projects were the Hotel Cornelius, the Liebes Building on Broadway and the Blumauer-Frank Drug Company Building in Portland. Harry Herzog served originally as Bennes' draftsman and later as his partner in the firm.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Obituary articles: Aaron H. Maegly, Portland Oregonian (July 4, 1942), 5; John V. Bennes, Portland Oregonian (November 3, 1943), 9.
Vaughan, Thomas, and McMath, George A., A century of Portland Architecture (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967), 141.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon - Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 10 523030 5040790
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, of Block 4, Goldsmith Addition to the Plat of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Arden

organization

date May 15, 1980

street & number 226 SW Kingston

telephone 503/221-4803

city or town Portland

state Oregon 97201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

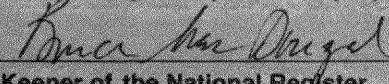
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 10, 1981

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


for Keeper of the National Register

date 12/2/81

Attest: 

date 12-1-81

Chief of Registration