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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Davidson-Childs House  
other names/site number Childs, Leroy, House

2. Location

street & number 725 Oak Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Hood River N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97031

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		1	0 Total

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  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date September 1, 1989  
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:)

Entered in the National Register

*Alvina Byrne* 10/30/89

*[Signature]* Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Stick Style

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood: weatherboard (shiplap)roof asphalt: composition shingleother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Childs Residence, a distinctive Stick Style building located on Oak Street in Hood River, Oregon, is significant under Criteria B and C. The residence was constructed ca. 1904 by Payton Davidson for his son Frank Davidson. Davidson was a prominent in early development of Hood River as manager of the Lost Lake Lumber Company for many years before starting his own company, the Davidson Lumber Company. The residence displays many characteristics of the Stick Style in its massing and finely crafted details and reflects Davidson's occupation in the lumber business. The one and one half story residence is L-shaped in plan and has a cross gable roof with front clipped gable dormers. The dormers flank a small, decorative central porch on the upper story which surmounts the hip roof front porch on the first story. A central gable roof, decorated with diagonal bracing and stick work, projects from the main porch roof. The porch is embellished with chamfered posts, decorative brackets, and panel cutouts in a circular and clover design. Other decorative details on the exterior includes; leaded glass in the upper panes of the front windows, a simple sunburst gable ornament on the rake ends and a sun porch, located on the east side, which is enclosed with multi-paned windows, french doors and a low paneled wall. Decorative details on the interior include an egg and dart molding under the wood mantel in the living room, a finely crafted turned balustrade on the main staircase and projecting window and door cornices. The residence is an excellent example of the Stick Style and is the only one remaining of this style in Hood River.

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SETTING

The Childs Residence is located on Oak Street, mid-block between 7th and 9th streets in the Waucoma Addition to Hood River. The residence is sited on the south side of Oak Street on a prominent location overlooking the Columbia River to the north and downtown Hood River to the east. The building is on the edge of the transitional area from commercial or public buildings to residential. The residence is elevated above street level on a steep hillside. A high concrete retaining wall is located at street level; narrow stairs lead to the sidewalk in front of the property. The double lot measures approximately 100' x 200' and is sited on the west portion of the lot. The lot located on the east side of the house is flat and is adjacent to a gravelled parking lot owned by United Telephone Company of the Northwest. A wood slat fence defines the property line on the south and a laurel hedge lines the western property boundary. The lot is sparsely planted; a large fir tree is located in the northwest corner of the front yard and large ash trees line the south property line. Residential dwellings are south and west of the house. The residence is accessed by a long, gravel road south of the property on State Street.

SITE

The Childs Residence was originally located two lots to the east on Oak Street. The house was moved to its present location in 1988 by the current owner, Jean and William Smith. The previous owners, the United Telephone Company, purchased the building in 1980 and used the residence as office space. In 1987 the company vacated the residence and planned to demolish the structure to make room for a company parking lot. Due to public concern over the preservation of the residence, the telephone company put the building up for sale with the stipulation that the structure would be moved from the site. Jean and William Smith purchased the building and relocated the house to a site two lots to the west, on property which they previously owned. The new lot is very similiar to the original site.

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EXTERIOR

The Stick Style residence is one and one half stories and L-shaped in plan. The cross gable roof is covered with composition shingles and a corbelled chimney is located on the rear gable. Two clipped gable dormer windows and an open porch project from the front elevation of the building on the upper one half story. The dormers have one over one double hung wood sash windows and are embellished with brackets which support the overhanging eaves. The dormers flank the centrally located porch. The porch is covered with a gable roof and supported by chamfered posts and brackets. A simple sunburst gable ornament decorates the gable end which is clad with narrow flush horizontal siding. The top of the porch window opening is finished with a horizontal board decorated with scallops. The low half wall enclosing the porch is sheathed with narrow, flush vertical siding.

The ends of the side gables of the main roof are embellished with the same simple gable ornaments and brackets. Wood shingles clad the exterior of the building above the frieze board and shiplap siding sheaths the remainder of the building. The siding is finished with cornerboards. The majority of the windows are one over one double hung wood sash with the exception of a multi-paned window on the east elevation and two fixed pane windows on the rear elevation. The two windows on the front elevation are decorated by oblong, leaded glass panes in the upper sash. The building is supported on a concrete block foundation and finished with a watertable with a projecting molding cap.

The Stick Style front porch extends across the full length of the front elevation. The porch is covered with a low hip roof and supported by paired square posts with chamfered corners and diagonal bracing. Wood cutout panels in diamond and clover patterns embellish the area between the paired post. A simple wood balustrade with a molded top railing extends around the perimeter of the porch. A small gable roof projects from the center of the main porch and is supported by diagonal bracing. Diagonal stickwork covers the flush horizontal siding on the rake end of the central gable.

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A sun porch, enclosed with a series of multi-paned windows, is located on the east elevation. The areas between the porch windows are decorated with pilasters capped with projecting cornices. Below the windows is a low half wall comprised of recessed panels. French doors are located on the east and south sides of the porch. An upper deck, enclosed with a low panelled balustrade, is located above the sun porch and extends the length of the south elevation. The deck is accessed by a door in the south bedroom on the upper story. A new wooden deck on the south elevation and part of the east elevation is comprised of a simple wood balustrade.

**INTERIOR**

The interior of the Childs Residence is symmetrical in plan with a centrally located front door. The front door is decorated with beveled and leaded glass and leads to the living room. The west end of the living room is embellished with a fireplace on the south wall. The fireplace is set at a diagonal and has a simple wood mantel embellished with egg and dart molding beneath. The firebox surrounds are brick. All the original projecting molded door and window trim and baseboards are intact in the living room as well as the hardwood floors. New bookshelves line the east wall of the living room. Originally bookshelves were located on the north and west walls of the room. The dining room is adjacent to the living room in the southwest corner of the residence. The room is a large, open space with hardwood floors. A fixed pane window is located on the south elevation of the room. A doorway on the east wall leads to the kitchen.

The kitchen was remodeled in the 1950s by the Childs family. An L-shaped counter is in the center of the room and cabinets are on the east wall. A fixed pane window is on the south wall above the sink. The bathroom and utility room are located in the kitchen on the north wall. The original basement stairway was located where the utility room is currently. It was blocked off when the residence was moved in 1988 and no basement was excavated when the new foundation was poured. A doorway, flanked by sidelights, on the east wall

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of the kitchen leads to the sun porch. The sun porch is comprised of a series of seven multi-paned windows and french doors on the south and east walls. Panels with recessed central sections are located below the windows. The ceiling has the original cove moldings intact. The staircase to the upper floor is located in the northwest corner of the room adjacent to the opening to the living room.

The staircase to the upper floor is embellished with turned newel posts and balusters. The stairs have been recently carpeted. The second floor is comprised of a central hall, two bathrooms and three bedrooms. A bedroom with a small, connecting bathroom and the main bathroom are located on the west side of the hall. The main bathroom has the original clawfoot bathtub intact. Another bedroom is on the east side of the hall. The south end of the hall terminates at the back bedroom which has a door to the upper deck on the south wall. A door at the north end of the hall accesses the small gabled porch on the front elevation. All the rooms upstairs have been renovated with the installation of new carpet and wall paper. The original moldings and baseboards are intact.

**HISTORIC ALTERATIONS**

Historic alterations to the building include modification of the porch on the east elevation and the addition of a upper one half story on the rear ell. According to the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the back ell was originally a one story wing and the porch on the east elevation was a smaller, open porch. The 1909 Sanborns indicate an one story addition on the rear ell of the building. By 1916, an upper one half story was added to the rear ell. The 1928 Sanborn Maps show the east porch was enlarged and modified to an enclosed sun porch.

**ALTERATIONS**

A deck was constructed in 1988 on the east elevation of the building. A fire wall was installed over the west elevation of the residence in 1981 by the United Telephone Company when it was used as office space. The wall extends above the roof line

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approximately two feet; the gable ornament is still intact on the rake end. The telephone company also widened the opening between the living room and dining room during their occupancy. The kitchen was remodeled in the 1950s by the Childs family. At that time the fixed pane windows were added to the dining room and kitchen. The wall in the downstairs rooms were sheet rocked in 1988 due to the damage incurred to the plaster when the building was moved.



**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

Agriculture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1904

1923-1930

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1904

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Leroy Childs (1888-1963)

Architect/Builder

Payton Davidson, builder

\_\_\_\_\_

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**

Acreage of property less than one Hood River, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area of less than one acre is located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 25, Township 3N, Range 10E, Willamette Meridian, in Hood River, Hood River County Oregon. It is legally described as Lots 22 and 23 of the Waucoma Addition to Hood River. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 8100 at said location.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is a 0.46-acre parcel occupied by the residence built by Payton Davidson in 1904 and historically associated with Leroy Childs from 1923 onward. The house was originally located on an adjacent parcel to the west but was relocated under threat of demolition to the neighboring parcel.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sally Donovan and Kimberly Demuth  
organization Northwest Heritage Associates date March 1989  
street & number PO Box 1871 telephone (503) 227-6357  
city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97207

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The house built in Hood River, Oregon for local lumberman Frank Davidson in 1904 meets National Register Criterion C as a clear-cut, although belated example of Stick Style architecture, the only one of its type remaining in Hood River.

The building was relocated to its present site on Oak Street under threat of demolition in 1988. Originally located two lots to the east of its present site, the building had been acquired by the United Telephone Company for use as an office in 1980. When it was vacated seven years later, the dilemma was resolved when the current owner moved it and rehabilitated it as a residence. The house remains in its historic context and retains its original orientation to Oak Street, overlooking the Columbia River to the north.

The two and a half story, L-shaped house of frame construction has a main volume with gable roof ridge paralleling the street. It is clad with shiplap, or drop siding. The building's stylistic character is exhibited chiefly on the facade, which is symmetrically composed, having clipped gable wall dormers on either side of the central entrance bay. A full-length veranda is fronted by a braced gable hood and is surmounted by a central gabled balcony. It is the proliferation of medieval motifs, including the gables and collar beam gable decoration combined with stylized punched and cut-out ornament, which most distinguishes the house as an example of its picturesque type.

The building was enlarged in its historic period by the addition of second story space to the ell and by enclosure of an east side porch as a sun room. During its recent use as an office building, the entire west end elevation was resided with vertical boards as a fire wall, and openings on the west end were modified in the process. A massive parapet gable was added above the roofline as part of the fire wall. The non-historic parapet gable is readily removable. The interior retains its essential character-defining features, including staircase with turned newel post and balusters, diagonal parlor chimneypiece having wood mantel and brick firebox surround, door and window architrave moldings, baseboards, and hardwood floors.

The property is significant also under Criterion B as the property most importantly associated with Leroy Childs, superintendent of the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Experiment Station in Hood River from 1915 onward. Childs entered the house in 1923 and continued to reside there until his death forty years later. His was an outstanding contribution to local economy through his work as an entomologist and plant pathologist during the period the Hood River Valley emerged as a major producer of apples and pears. He introduced to the Valley methods of controlling disease and insect damage to the crop. Childs's position as head of the experiment station in a prime fruit growing area of the state entailed a professorship at the Oregon Agricultural College. His advanced research and published work on insecticide spraying and other remedies set new

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standards in Oregon fruit culture for which he was nationally recognized by his profession and the orchard industry alike.

Childs was not just an implementor of research generated elsewhere. He was a leader in devising new methods of treating fruit tree diseases. He conducted experiments throughout his career, but several noteworthy remedies were developed by Childs soon after he acquired the house on Oak Street. For example, experiments he conducted between 1921 and 1925 determined that lime sulphur was an effective agent for controlling pear and apple blister mites. Also in the 1920s he and a colleague discovered the causal organism of the apple and pear canker, and he introduced a parasite imported from Michigan to wipe out a widespread infestation of apple aphids.

**THE CHILDS RESIDENCE**

The Childs Residence is the only remaining example of a Stick Style residence in Hood River. The residence was constructed by Payton Davidson for his son Frank about 1904 and displays distinctive characteristics of the Stick Style. The style was derived from the earlier Gothic Style inspired from publications such as Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of the County Houses (1850).<sup>1</sup> The Stick Style was considered one of the few truly American architectural styles. It became popular in Oregon because of the (continued)

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lack of historic precedent allowing the builder more creative freedom and remained popular from the 1870s through the 1890s.<sup>2</sup> Characteristics of the style include a steeply pitched cross gable roof, overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, shiplap siding with various kinds of secondary siding material and one over one double hung wood sash windows. Decorative features include applied patterns of diagonal, horizontal or vertical boards applied over the main sheathing material, decorative truss gable ornaments, diagonal porch braces, and circular cutouts and perforations.

The Childs Residence is an excellent example of the Stick Style and displays distinctive characteristics of the style. The residence has a steeply pitched cross gable roof with decorative stickwork ornament on the gable ends and is sided with a combination of flush vertical boards, wood shingles, and shiplap siding. The front elevation is articulated by the clipped dormers and a front porch which is surmounted by a smaller open porch on the upper story. Stick Style details on the porches include applied stickwork on the gable end, a simple gable ornament, brackets, diagonal bracing between the chamfered porch posts and decorative cutouts in clover and circular patterns. The finely crafted detail work and the quality lumber reflects craftsmanship of Payton Davidson, the builder and owner the Davidson Lumber Company.

The residence was built by Payton Davidson for his son Frank about 1904 during a time great expansion period in Hood River. Payton lived adjacent to the house on the east side in a log home which was built about 1892.<sup>3</sup> Payton Davidson worked as the manager of the Lost Lake Lumber Company along with L.M., William, Arthur and Frank Davidson for many years before starting his own lumber company, the Davidson Lumber Company.<sup>4</sup> Payton Davidson also was active in the early development of Hood River and served on the city council for many years. Frank Davidson, Payton's son, worked at the family's lumber business and was instrumental in organizing a plan in 1904 to supply Hood River with a city water system.<sup>5</sup> The residence was occupied by the Davidsons until it was sold to the Childs on June 26, 1923.

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## LEROY CHILDS

Leroy Childs, a well known horticulturalist in the Hood River Valley, was Superintendent of the Mid-Columbia branch of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station of the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences from 1915 to 1952.<sup>6</sup> He was born in Alhambra, Ca. in 1888 to A.O. and Nettie Childs.<sup>7</sup> The Childs, natives of Michigan, moved west and purchased a large citrus orchard near Redlands, California. His family's love of nature and plants greatly influenced Leroy's career direction. Leroy Childs graduated from Stanford University in 1913 with a Bachelor of Arts specializing in entomology and plant pathology.<sup>8</sup> He worked for the United States Forest Service after graduation and then worked briefly with the California Commission of Horticulture as an assistant secretary before accepting a position as an assistant entomologist with the Oregon Agricultural College in Corvallis, Oregon in 1914.<sup>9</sup> Childs was transferred in July 1914 and accepted the position as the Superintendent of the Mid-Columbia Experiment Station branch in Hood River.

Childs duties as Superintendent included conducting research and experiments with methods of controlling diseases and insect infestation afflicting the fruit trees. He provided orchardists and farmers with the most up to date method in caring for their orchards and fields. Childs published many articles, papers and bulletins while Superintendent of the station which were recognized for the time as the new standards for the industry. He also wrote a weekly column "Let Us Spray" for many years in the Hood River News which gave practical advice on the care of orchards and current methods of controlling insect and disease infestation.<sup>10</sup> He was known for his advanced ideas and set standards in the field of fruit spraying and fruit tree culture. Childs' position at the station also included a professorship at Oregon State University teaching entomology and plant pathology. He held the position until his retirement in 1952 and then became Professor Emeritus at the University.<sup>11</sup>

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Childs was also very active in the fruit industry outside of the Mid-Columbia Experiment Station. He was a member of the Apple Grower's Association from 1918 until his death in 1963, serving on the Board of Directors from 1947 to 1961 and chairman from 1953 to 1961.<sup>12</sup> In 1958 Childs was presented one of the most prestigious awards in the field, the Hartman Award. The award was given to the most outstanding and distinguished horticulturist of the year by the Oregon Horticultural Society. Childs was known in the Hood River Valley as the "father of modern valley horticulture."<sup>13</sup> Other affiliations of Childs included membership in the American Association of Entomologists, American Society for the Advancement of Science, and the Society of American Economic Entomologist which he served as vice-president in 1925.<sup>14</sup>

The Childs owned a large orchard in the upper Hood River Valley which they purchased in the early 1920s. The 40 acre orchard, the River Ridge Orchards, was located north of Dee, Oregon and was the source of many of Leroy's experiments with various types of spray insecticides and cultures of fruit trees.<sup>15</sup> Childs was a forerunner in early pear growing in the area and in 1922 he planted 22 acres with pears which at that time, was one of the largest pear orchards in the state.<sup>16</sup>

Childs was also very active in the town of Hood River and served on many boards and committees throughout his lifetime. He served on the Hood River City Council from 1932 to 1934, on the School Board from 1928 to 1938 and was involved in the Chamber of Commerce.<sup>17</sup> For relaxation he loved to play music, specializing on the mandolin and piano and was member of the Elks and Masons.<sup>18</sup> Leroy remained active as an horticulturist in the Hood River Valley until his death in April of 1963.

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### THE CHILDS FAMILY

Shortly after Leroy Childs arrival in Hood River in 1914, he met Hazel Holmes, a resident of Underwood, Washington. Hazel Holmes was born on February 24, 1891 in Burr Oaks, Michigan and attended Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>19</sup> Hazel and Leroy met at a dance and were married shortly afterwards on December 16, 1915. The couple moved to a house on the east side of Hood River in close proximity to the Experiment Station and remained in the home until they moved to the residence at 707 Oak Street in 1923. The Childs' occupied the residence until 1974; Leroy Childs passed away in the family home in April 1963 and Hazel remained in the house until she moved to California in 1974.<sup>20</sup> Hazel was active in the Episcopal church in Hood River and was known for her love for gardening. She died in California January 28, 1977. The Childs' had three children; Leroy Winston, Allison Oliver, and Sally Ann. Leroy Winston died in WWII and Allison died in 1964 in a car accident. Sally Childs Randall currently lives in California.

### THE HOOD RIVER FRUIT INDUSTRY

The fruit industry began early in the Hood River Valley. Nathaniel Coe, the founder of Hood River, planted some of the first fruit trees in the valley after settling on his Donation Land Claim of 1854. As the population of the valley increased, orchards became an integral part of the landscape. The rich valley soil and temperate climate made the area conducive to fruit growing. With the platting of Hood River in 1881 and the arrival of the railroad in 1882, the Hood River Valley developed into a thriving fruit growing region and central shipping point for the exports of goods from the valley. As technological improvements advanced in the area, such as improvement in irrigation systems and better navigation of the Columbia River, the fruit growing industry became a lucrative business. Apples, strawberries, and other fruits were planted in the valley in the 1880s and 1890s and the Hood River Fruit Growers Union was organized in 1893, the first farmers cooperative in the Pacific Northwest.<sup>21</sup> The fruit industry continued to develop and many fruit related businesses flourished in the area. Large quantities of fruit were shipped from the valley



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annually and the fruit industry became the most important economic base of the valley along with timber.<sup>22</sup>

## THE MID-COLUMBIA EXPERIMENT STATION

The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station of the Oregon State University College in Corvallis, Oregon was established in 1888 after the Hatch Act was instituted which provided annual grants for agricultural research at the land grant colleges.<sup>23</sup> The Experiment Station started with only a few scientist , a single lab and a 35 acre farm. Due to Oregon's varied climate and soils, it became evident that satellite branches were needed throughout the state.<sup>24</sup> The first branch was opened at Union, Oregon in 1901 and subsequent stations were established in Burns, Kalamath Falls, Medford, Ontario, Pendleton, Moro, Hermiston, Redmond, Madras, Aurora, and Hood River.<sup>25</sup>

The Mid-Columbia Experiment Station in Hood River was established in 1913 by legislative action.<sup>26</sup> At the time the Hood River Valley was the most important apple producing area in Oregon. The rise in fruit production and increasing number of independent growers in the area necessitated the improvement of managing and protecting the orchards against disease and insect damage. The demand for professional research and evaluation was eminent. The station was organized in July of 1913 but very little was done until Leroy Childs came to Hood River in July 1914 as Superintendent of the station.<sup>27</sup>

Childs was instrumental in the early development of the station and worked on methods for controlling many of the diseases and insect infestation afflicting the fruit trees. One of his first studies examined methods of controlling the rose leaf hopper. The study was stimulated by an outbreak of the insect in 1912-13 and subsequently Childs published the "Life History of Control of the Rose Leaf Hopper" in 1918.<sup>28</sup> He was also one of the first in the Pacific Coast to conduct experiments on the control of the fruit leaf roller worm (1914-15) and devised a oil spray that destroyed the eggs. From studies conducted from 1916-19, Childs proved the effectiveness of controlling insects and pests by the application

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of various kinds of sprays, a progressive process for at that time, and published an article on "Spray Gun vs. Rod and Dust in Apple Orchards" in a 1920 Experiment Station pamphlet. From 1925 to the time of his retirement in 1952, Childs worked on many methods of controlling various insect damage and diseases afflicting the fruit trees. Some of his study subjects included the pear leaf blister mite in 1921 and methods of controlling it and the apple canker which he cited as the most serious and widespread disease in the valley in 1929. He introduced aphid parasites to Hood River in 1929 as a means of controlling apple aphids and reported on the first uses in DDT in the Hood River Valley. Childs used DDT for controlling the codling moth in 1944 with excellent results and in 1947 started the present mite control program.<sup>29</sup>

Childs was responsible for many research projects and programs throughout his 38 years as Superintendent of the Mid-Columbia Experiment Station. He was instrumental in the establishment of the station from its beginning. The station was originally located in downtown Hood River but in 1925 it was moved to its current location, two miles south of town. The Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research Center, as it is called today, is comprised of offices, laboratories, greenhouses, an insectary, and conventional and controlled atmosphere storage facilities. It operated on 56 acres of land. The center provides growers with the current information concerning plant protection and management and ways of improving production. The research center is a lasting tribute to the continual efforts and knowledge of horticulturist, Leroy Childs.<sup>30</sup>

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- 1 Rosalind Clark, Architecture Oregon Style (Portland: Professional Book Center, 1983), p. 78.
- 2 Ibid., p. 78.
- 3 Interview with Ruth Guppy, Historian, Hood River, Oregon, by Sally Donovan, 5 February 1989.
- 4 Hood River Glacier, 7 March 1902.
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

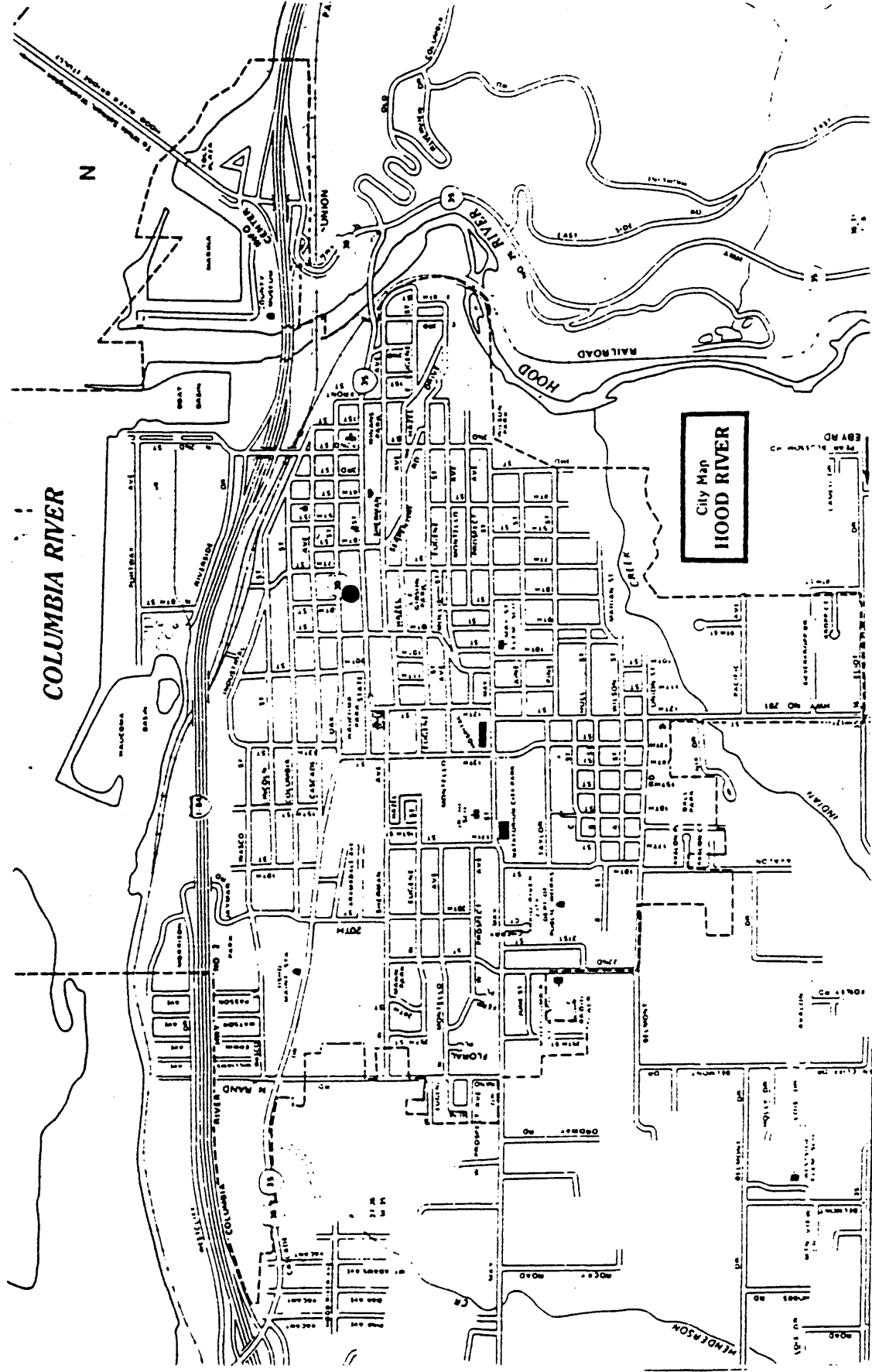
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Hood River City Map

03N 10 D  
HOOD RIVER  
25C D

SE 1/4 SW 1/4 EC. 25 T. 03N. R. 10E. WM.  
HOOD RIVER COUNTY  
1:400

THIS MAP WAS PREPARED FOR  
ASSESSMENT PURPOSE ONLY.

SEE MAP 24 10 25  
CANCELLED NO. 5

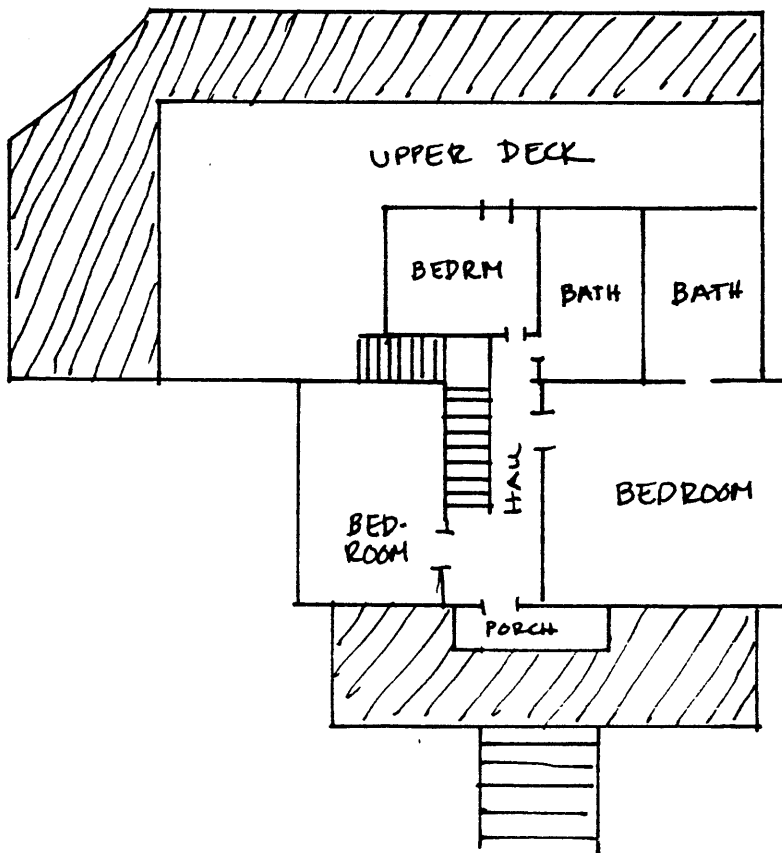
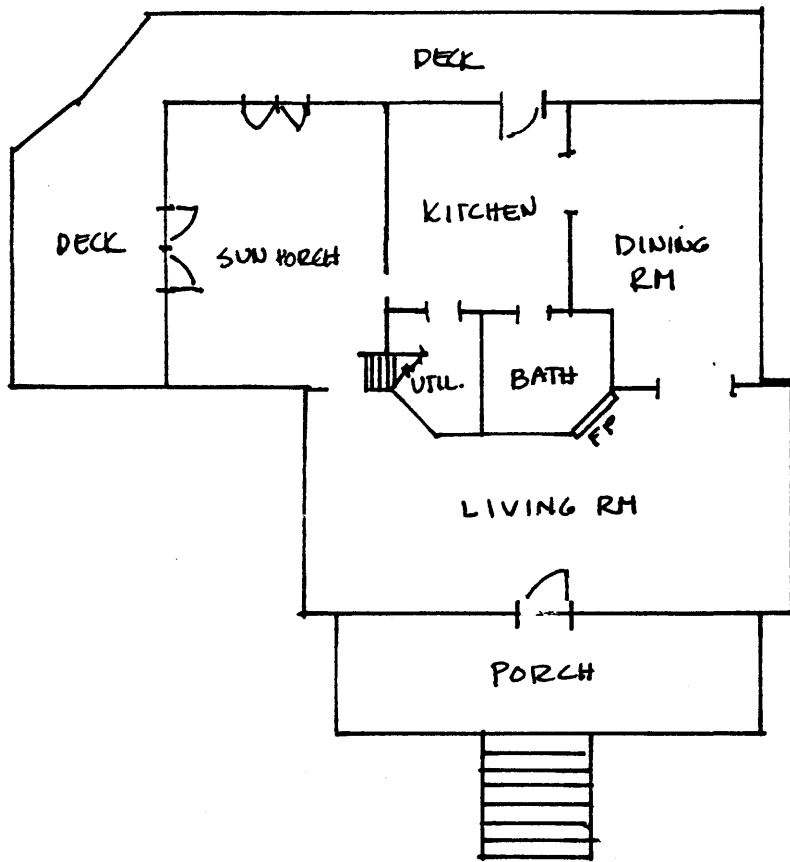
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SEE MAP 24 10 25C

SEE MAP 24 10 26A

# DAVIDSON-CHILDS RESIDENCE



NOT TO SCALE