

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 Nerdrum, Hjalte House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 955 South Fifth Street N/A not for publication
city, town Coos Bay N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Coos code 011 zip code 97420

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	<u>1</u>	_____ 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	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ 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.

James Gunnick Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date April 15, 1993
Signature of certifying official
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. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. Delores Byers 5/27/93
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

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)

Colonial Revival/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls (Wood Frame)

Stucco Exterior

roof Composition Shingle (Asphalt)

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Hjalte Nerdrum House, a 2½ story Colonial Revival residence constructed in 1912, is located in the historic Fifth Street neighborhood of Coos Bay, Oregon. The house has suffered very little change over time and is in very good condition. It is clad in stucco with painted wood trim and detailing, a composition shingle roof, deep overhangs and a central, prominent entrance. The entrance porch is topped by a balustrade and supported by a quartet of Tuscan columns together with two engaged rectangular columns against the east facade. The exposed basement walls are stucco-covered concrete. The building is covered with a hipped roof with two hipped dormers facing east and a shed dormer facing west. The windows are primarily double hung with 6/2 glazing at all locations, except for the larger windows on the main floor level. The entrance door is flanked by two large sidelites and faces Fifth Street to the east.

SETTING

The Nerdrum House is located on Lots 30, 31, 32, Block 44, Railroad Addition to Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon. It is situated on the high side of Fifth Street, some seven to eight feet above the street surface. The east side of this street is near street level. The site is near mid-block between Ingersoll and Johnson Streets in Coos Bay's premier historic residential neighborhood which is situated along Fifth Street between Johnson and Golden. This three block section displays a wide variety of house types, sizes, architectural styles, etc., but most of these houses along Fifth Street were constructed by the early developers of Marshfield and Coos County. The Nerdrum House is one of the most significant homes in this neighborhood and certainly in the Johnson to Ingersoll block. The property measures 75' x 140' which includes three 25 foot lots facing Fifth Street.

The house appears to be located off center slightly northward on the property to allow for a driveway along the south edge of the house. The original curb cut and driveway exist. The driveway used to connect to an unattached single car drive-through garage which also accessed the alley to the west of the house. However, a few years ago, after careful review by the Coos Bay Planning Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office, this garage was removed due to its deteriorating structural condition. The driveway has been

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expanded for parking and no garage has been constructed to replace the original. (Reference Photograph #4.)

The concrete steps to the front entrance still remain in their original configuration as well as the brick-topped concrete retaining walls paralleling the sidewalk which contain the front yard fill. There is a wide grass median between the sidewalk and Fifth Street. The front yard includes sloped lawn area, shrubs and a large Cedar Deadora contemporary with the house. The original brick-topped concrete retaining wall separates the higher yard to the north from the subject property. A hedge separates the property from the residence to the south.

Two giant California Redwoods, dating back to one of the first owners, dominate the backyard and the alley where they stand.

Across the alley, there is a garage on a piece of property 25' x 35' which was purchased by the Powers family during their stay in the house. Powers erected this garage in the 1940's and it still stands. However, it is under other ownership and is not a part of this nomination.

PLAN

The plan of the house is fairly conventional for the Colonial Revival style. Its basement was generally committed to utility and service-type functions, the main floor to common living spaces. During the Powers family occupation, a downstairs bedroom suite was arranged for Albert Powers after he suffered a heart attack. It consisted of the former library and a new private bath. Similarly, a bath was added upstairs to make a suite for Mrs. McBride, Mr. Powers' mother-in-law. The plan is generally open, a hallmark of the Revival style.

The house is entered on the main level at the center of its east elevation. The vertical circulation core is found in this entry space where the stair ascends to the second floor through this two-story volume. One can circulate through the downstairs level moving

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clockwise from the entry to the parlor or living room to the dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen and back to the entry. To the east of the entry is the den or library space.

The second floor has five bedrooms - two each on the north and south ends and one between the pairs on the west side of the house. A corridor surrounds the opening to the entry below and is separated from this two-story volume by the original railing system. Access to the rooftop area above the front entry portico is gained through a door from this corridor to the east.

The door to the attic level is accessed from this corridor on the south side. The stair traverses upward in a westerly direction to some finished rooms at that level.

EXTERIOR

The exterior of the house is a good example of the Colonial Revival style popular from about 1890 - 1915. The facade incorporates some broad characteristics of the style, including exaggerated elements, a rectangular form and formal facade organization. The design also develops a rather exacting bilateral symmetry which makes prominent its central entry.

The exterior of the residence is clad in stucco with the remainder of the design accomplished in wood. According to research done by Stephen Dow Beckham, the house was constructed of the finest materials available in 1912. This is not surprising since Nerdrum was a savvy timber man working for the largest timber company on the coast with unlimited lumber resources. The structure is set on a concrete basement which is also stucco-clad.

Several elements of the structure are characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. The most obvious of these elements is the exaggerated portico which is radiused and balconied. The roof of this portico is supported by four Tuscan columns and two engaged pilasters against the east wall of the house. Currently, this portico is undergoing a restoration by the owner to match the photograph of the house as it was constructed in 1912. (Reference Photograph #17.) This restoration will include the installation of the classical entablature (restrained)

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and the balustraded deck. The original tongue and groove soffit material is being reused. The windows are all 6/2 and 6/1 lites with the upper individual lites nearly square. The front entry door is flanked by oversized sidelites. The door originally had a glass pane in the central panel which has been replaced by wood. The current owner intends to restore it to its original design. On all three levels, the windows have straight window heads and the second floor window heads are directly below and are abutting the frieze below the modillioned soffit.

Originally, the house had a shingle roof, now covered by composition shingles. The dormer cheeks are sided with wood shingle siding. The roof is a low-pitched hip roof with large overhangs and a modillioned cornice. Some of the details of the house evidence the Queen Anne/Eastlake influence with the lattice-like porch base (square lattice) and the diagonal porch and portico balustrade design.

There is a single chimney on the south side of the building. The brickwork for the fireplace extends upwards through the overhang to this chimney evidencing the location of the fireplace in the living room. The kitchen chimney is no longer visible above the roof as it was capped off under the roof after the use of the wood-fired kitchen stove was discontinued.

The front (east) elevation is comprised of the 2½ story facade against which is placed the one-story balconied portico. The historic porches and portico are currently being restored to the original design as seen in the photograph taken after the completion of the construction in 1913. (Reference Photograph #17.) The twin hipped dormers on this elevation have their original shingle siding extant. As is typical on all elevations, the deep overhang is articulated by a modillioned cornice underlain by a frieze board. The wood front door is bracketed by a pair of large sidelites. The porch details are being restored to replicate those set forth in the historic photograph; including the balustrade design, the lattice porch base, paneled posts, etc.

The significant feature of the south elevation is the projecting masonry for the fireplace. On the main floor level, bracketing this masonry structure, are floor-to-ceiling windows using divided lites in the same proportion as the 6/1 and 6/2 divisions elsewhere. This extension

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of the window vertically was apparently done during the Adelsperger residency. Other notable features of this elevation are basement window penetrations just above the level of the planting strip which separates the driveway from the basement wall. All other elements on this elevation are typical and are as described above.

On the west elevation, the most notable feature is the rear porch which is recessed into the exterior wall plane. This inset porch has a door which accesses the kitchen area. On the north and south ends of the porch are the locations of the old icebox and cooler for the residence. During the Adelsperger occupancy in the depression, this area was screened off with latticework to prevent neighbors from stealing foodstuffs from the outdoor refrigeration units. Another notable feature of this elevation is the shed dormer with 3/2 windows and shingle siding on its exterior walls.

The north elevation is very similar to the other elevations, excepting for the entrance to the basement via an exterior stairwell.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Nerdrum House is well preserved and, with the exceptions of bathroom and kitchen areas, has suffered very few changes since its construction. The interior of the residence is organized with the formal and living spaces on the ground floor and the bedrooms upstairs. The basement has windows which penetrate the concrete walls in some areas of the structure and is accessible from a stairwell on the north side of the house. The attic level is accessed by a stairway from the second floor corridor. It appears all of the original woodwork is intact, excepting areas in bathrooms and kitchen and areas of minor remodel. The windows are in original condition and are quite serviceable. Many of the original light fixtures remain as well as the original hardware. Much of the interior wall surface was papered in the 1970's. Stair treads, trim, railings, balusters, newel posts, etc., are all original and are well maintained. The interior wood trim in the house has been painted (excepting some of the stair components) and is in quite good condition. The second floor is generally carpeted, except the corridors which are wood. The den, entry,

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parlor and dining areas at the main level are all oak flooring laid in a concentric, diagonal pattern.

First Floor

The den or library is entered from the entry area to the north through a pair of sliding, paneled, wood doors. One door in this room remains stained (as perhaps most of the original woodwork had been finished). A previous owner has removed plate rail trim and bookcases from this room. In addition, the northwest corner had a deep wood storage unit constructed to the west of the north window. The current floor finish is modern and is placed over the original wood floor.

The living room is accessed from the entry through a pair of French doors directly opposite the entrance to the den. The most prominent feature in the living room is a brick fireplace surrounded by wood trim and some plaster covering. Bracketing the fireplace (installed during the Adelspergers' residence here), are two multi-paned glass sashes which admit a wonderful quality of east light. These windows were enlarged from the original, smaller windows, probably by extending their vertical dimension. The room is nicely articulated with wide cornice moldings. Wide base and door and window casings are typical articulation throughout the house. The original oak floors remain in evidence and are in very good condition.

The dining room is located to the west of the living room/parlor and is accessed through a pair of paneled, pocket doors, complete with original hardware. The dining room ambiance is greatly enhanced by the woodwork therein. The ceiling is false beamed (with the beams running north-south) and coincidental with the cornice trim at the perimeter. A wood paneled wainscot extends approximately five feet up from the floor on all four walls.

The kitchen is accessed from the dining room through a butler's pantry. In this room, one finds the original dish storage cabinets on the east side of the room. Historically, food was served from the kitchen to the butler's pantry where it was distributed to the plates on a sideboard on the west side of the pantry. The food was then delivered on the plates to the

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dining room to the south. The butler's pantry is close to its original configuration, with the exception of some minor remodeling to its east elevation.

The kitchen beyond has had some remodeling done to it but it is generally in the same configuration and location as the original. As was typical in this style of house in this era, the kitchen was the hub of activity and circulation. This is no exception. There are doors in each corner of the kitchen. The southwest corner has a door to the exterior and one to the butler's pantry. The southeast corner door goes down to the basement. Just west of this door is access to the laundry chute which extends from the second floor to the basement. In the northeast corner is the door to the closet through which one accesses the front entry. In the northwest corner is access to a pantry. The original dumbwaiter existed in the northeast corner of the kitchen and has (in the 1950's) been replaced with an oven stack. Recently, the owner discovered the original vertical wood wainscotting in the kitchen. This material has recently been uncovered and refinished. In addition, the original exterior screen door and transom was found in the basement and restored to its original location and condition.

Second Floor

The second floor is accessed from the main entry via a grand stair. The stair has open, stained fir treads which contrast with the painted risers and stair skirting. The treads each carry three rectangular balusters, which in turn are capped by a stained fir rail. Heavy newel posts articulate and support this assembly at the top and bottom of the stair and at the corners of the railing continuation around the perimeter of the two-story entry volume. The railing design is a simple one, is original and in very good condition.

The second floor corridor completely encircles the two-story volume of the entry and thereby access bedrooms, the attic rooms and the portico roof. The roof is accessed through a French glass door from the east side of the entry volume.

The northeast bedroom was commonly used during the house's history as a nursery. It is connected to the bedroom in the northwest corner by a bathroom which was originally a

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closet, but converted in the 1920's by the Adelspergers. This room, as do most others, retains its original trim and remains remarkably unchanged.

The middle bedroom on the west side of this level is also in its original configuration with the exception of modern panelling applied to its walls. It is connected to the south to the original main bathroom for the floor. This bathroom originally served three bedrooms before the bathroom was constructed between the two north bedrooms.

The pair of bedrooms on the south end of the second floor comprise the master bedroom suite, including the two largest bedrooms in the house separated by a master bathroom. The only significant change made in this area is the addition of some closets during the occupancy of the Adelsperger family.

Attic Level

The attic level is accessed from the second floor corridor up a stair. The attic level was designed specifically to house domestic help/servants for the household. The spaces in this area include two small bedrooms finished in painted 1 x 4 tongue and groove fir, painted wood floors with windows situated in the dormers (seen from the exterior on the east and west elevations). The bedrooms share a common full bathroom which retains original plumbing fixtures and finishes. The remainder of the space at this level is unfinished storage space.

Basement Level

The basement area was originally used for laundry, canning, storage, boiler and fuel storage. The configuration and uses of this space have not changed measurably except the boiler has been changed to one which is oil fired. The dumbwaiter and laundry chutes which extend to this area are no longer in use, excepting the laundry chute between the first and second floors. Drying lines, pie safes, storage rooms, etc., all are extant and are strong reminders of the original function and purpose of this space.

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)

Commerce
Industry

Period of Significance

1912-1941

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Signature: [illegible]

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

See continuation sheet

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SHPO SUMMARY

The two and a half story stucco-clad Colonial Revival-style residence at 955 South Fifth Street in the fashionable Fifth Street neighborhood of Coos Bay, Oregon was built in 1912 for Hjalte Nerdrum, Finnish construction supervisor of a pulp mill for the C. A. Smith Lumber Company.

The house is a well preserved and locally distinctive example of the Craftsman type having prominent Colonial Revival overtones. As such, it meets National Register Criterion C. The house occupies a 75 x 100-foot lot at the center of its block, which is raised above street level. It faces east onto Fifth Street.

Briefly characterized, the house is a brisk 41 x 56-foot rectangular volume of stucco-clad frame construction enclosed by the kind of hipped roof with overhanging eaves on outriggers that is the essential defining feature of the Craftsman type. The front roof slope is broken by a set of hipped and shingle-clad dormers. The rear slope has the elongated multi-sash shed dormer that is a convention of Craftsman houses. A simplified frieze encircles the house. Because of the taut, unarticulated surface, stylistic character is expressed primarily at the street front, where the facade is organized symmetrically and is dominated by a central bowed portico with simple classical entablature on round Tuscan columns and shadow pilasters. The portico is undergoing restoration following a remodeling of about 1946 or 1947 which eliminated uncovered side terraces and changed the configuration of the porch. The balustrated terraces and upper porch deck balustrade are being restored on the basis of photographic evidence. The entryway assembly, consolidated within an architrave framement, consists of a wide paneled door and oversized side lights of plate glass. The portico is reached by a central stairway between low wing walls. Concrete steps lead from street grade to the base of the porch.

Facade fenestration is in keeping with the Colonial Revival idiom and consists of paired double hung sash in architrave frames having six divided lights in upper sash. Smaller, straight-topped windows above the portico are arranged in a Palladian, or three-part scheme to light the upstairs hallway. Window openings on secondary elevations are irregularly placed, but of the same type. An inset porch, or recessed loggia is centered on the rear face. There is an outside end chimney on the south.

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The true distinction of the house is revealed on the interior in the quality of locally milled woodwork and in the stateliness of a two story entry hall core which is defined by a fine staircase in the Arts and Crafts tradition having a square-balustered railing and square posts with inset panels and plain cornice and block caps. Original flooring is in place, although overlaid in the main rooms with new oak parquetry. Historic plaster wall finish is exposed in some of the rooms. Wallpaper has been added in the hallway and diningroom. Interior trim, originally dark-stained, has been painted throughout. Trim elements, well proportioned to the living spaces, consist of cornice and base molding, high diningroom wainscot and false beamed ceiling, architrave door and window frames, paneled pocket doors, and a kneed bolection molding framing the livingroom fireplace surround. Interior layout is conventionally arranged and revolves around the open stairhall.

The house is significant also under Criterion A as a property vividly representing the development of the southern Oregon port's historic base industry, cargo lumber production. While the property is associated with founding figures in the leading lumber company, the link is indirect. What became an essentially corporate ownership ultimately passed to the heirs of company founders. Neither C. A. Smith nor Albert H. Powers occupied the house, and Albert H. Powers, Jr. did not come to the property until 1941, the culminating point of the historic period of significance. Thus, despite a closely intertwined pattern of ownership by various figures active in the local lumber industry, Criterion B is not considered applicable in this case.

The story of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company is typical of the pattern enacted throughout the Pacific Northwest around the turn of the century, when timber companies of the Great Lakes region scouted new growth potential in the Douglas fir forests of the western slope. Manufacturing centers took root at places, such as Coos Bay, that afforded good harbors for shipping and proximity to the prime timber tracts.

C. A. Smith, a Swedish immigrant who had built up a successful company in Minnesota, acquired thousands of acres of timber on the southern Oregon coast and, from his base in California, he opened operations on Isthmus Slough at Coos Bay. He joined with another Mid-westermer, Albert H. Powers, in forming the extraction arm of his Oregon coast operations, known as the Smith-Powers Logging

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Company. Smith's enterprises reached their peak between 1908 and 1916. So central were they to local economy they hastened permanent establishment of the Port of Coos Bay in 1912. Shipping connections were enhanced by subsequent developments: opening of the Panama Canal in 1914 and a direct rail connection to the Willamette Valley in 1916.

Hjalte Nerdrum and his brother, Rolfe, had been recruited from Finland to build and operate a pulp mill for the Smith manufacturing complex at Coos Bay. Both men built fashionable houses on Fifth Street during their brief careers in the area. The pulp mill proved impractical, and the Nerdrum brothers returned to Finland within a few years. The C. A. Smith Lumber Company headed into difficulty as a result of overexpansion and a depressed foreign market at the outset of world war. Smith was forced out as active head when the company was reorganized by its creditors in 1916-1917 as the Coos Bay Lumber Company.

The Nerdrum House was sold by its builder to the Coos Bay Pulp and Paper Company in 1915, and subsequently was occupied by other figures in the industry which provided Coos Bay its largest payroll. C. A. Smith's son, Carrol, and his wife, held an interest in the house from 1921 to 1926. The house was then owned and occupied by August Adelsperger, who had started his career with C. A. Smith as a timber cruiser. At about the time of company reorganization, he joined with a neighbor, W. J. Conrad, in forming the forerunner of the W. J. Conrad Lumber Company. Adelsperger lived in the house on Fifth Street until his death in 1937. The property was held by his widow to 1941. Next to own the house was Albert Powers, Jr., son of the co-founder of the logging company for which the town of Powers is named. The senior Powers died in California in 1930 and was succeeded at the head of the family-controlled business by his son. Albert Powers the younger was the husband of Ruth McBride Powers, Oregon's early and most eminent historic preservationist.

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SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nerdrum House is significant locally under National Register Criteria A and C. It is significant under Criterion A because it has contributed to the broad pattern of Coos County's history. It is directly associated with the development of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, a firm which, by 1912, had become Coos County's dominant single economic force and largest employer, a position it and its successors retained until surpassed by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation in 1951.

Its significance under Criterion A owes, in part, to ownership by four individuals significant in Coos County lumber: Hjalte Nerdrum, C. A. Smith, Augustus Adelsperger and Albert H. Powers. These individuals had one common bond, an association with the C. A. Smith Lumber Company. At different times, they and their descendants were the owners or occupants of the house during its period of significance; i.e., from its construction in 1912 until 1941.

It is significant under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of an urban, socio-economic, upper class residence of a type constructed in Coos County in the early 1900's. This house is a well-preserved, architecturally intact example of the Colonial Revival style of residential construction in a historically significant neighborhood which has an eclectic assortment of styles.

The Statement of Significance begins with a summary of the relationships between the four individuals, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company and the house to establish a background for the biographical and historical presentation. The statement continues with biographical sketches of the four significant individuals. This is followed by a history of Coos County's forest products industry and the role the C. A. Smith Company played in that history. The statement concludes with a story of the Nerdrum House, emphasizing the period of its significance, 1912-1941. Some Criterion C significance will be established in this story. The remainder will be included in Section 7, the description of the house.

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RELATIONSHIPS

Hjalte Nerdrum and his brother Rolfe came to Marshfield (now Coos Bay) from Finland in early 1912 at the invitation of C. A. Smith for the specific purpose of feasibility analysis, construction supervision and management of a pulp mill for the C. A. Smith manufacturing complex along Coos Bay's Isthmus Slough. Hjalte built the "Nerdrum House" at 955 S. Fifth Street, Marshfield, the property which is the subject of this nomination. Rolfe built his home two doors south of his brother at 979 S. Fifth Street. The pulp mill was both a technological and economical failure. The Nerdrum brothers and their families returned to their native Finland, probably in 1915, never to return again.

C. A. Smith, a Swedish immigrant who had built up one of the largest lumber companies in Minnesota, first visited the Coos Bay area in 1907. Recognizing the opportunities provided by the area's primeval old growth forests, Smith moved his operations from Minnesota by 1908 and established the C. A. Smith Lumber Company. This firm acquired thousands of acres of prime timberland and constructed the world's largest sawmill along Isthmus Slough in Coos Bay. Smith was also a co-owner of the Smith-Powers Logging Company with Albert Powers. This logging company provided the raw materials for Smith's manufacturing complex on Coos Bay. Powers had been persuaded by Smith to leave Minnesota, where he had been in the logging business for many years. Smith constructed his own fleet of lumber-carrying ships and these vessels plied between Coos Bay and the C. A. Smith Lumber Company's major distribution and remanufacturing center at Bay Point, California, just northeast of San Francisco. In 1912, Smith persuaded the Nerdrum brothers of Finland to help him establish a pulp mill as part of his manufacturing complex. The pulp mill was not successful and the Nerdrum brothers returned to Finland. At about this time, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company began to suffer financial difficulties as a result of overexpansion and a depressed lumber market. Creditors reorganized the company and C. A. Smith ceased to be its head. He pursued other interests outside Coos County until his death in 1925.

Augustus "Gus" Adelsperger was an employee of C. A. Smith in Minnesota. At the urging of C. A. Smith, he relocated to Coos County in 1907 and assumed the duties of compassman and cruiser for the Smith timber holdings. He was soon placed in charge of all of C. A. Smith's timber holdings. After the reorganization of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company into the Coos Bay Lumber Company, he pursued a variety of timber-related activities. One of

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these activities was a partnership with his neighbor, W. J. Conrad, in an enterprise which eventually became one of Coos Bay's larger commercial activities, the Conrad Lumber Company. Mr. Adelsperger died in the Nerdrum house in 1937.

As a young man, Albert H. "Al" Powers had demonstrated his genius for logging and forest engineering by developing a highly successful logging company in Minnesota. In 1907, he and his family came to the Coos Bay area at the invitation of C. A. Smith. He became a vice-president, general manager and substantial stockholder of the Smith-Powers Logging Company. This logging company developed a series of logging camps in the tidewater area of Coos Bay and supplied raw materials for the Smith manufacturing complex. Beginning in 1913, the logging company constructed a railroad from Myrtle Point south along the south fork of the Coquille River to Smith's extensive timber holdings in the area (which is now known as Powers and Eden Ridge). In the early 1920's, the Smith-Powers Logging Company was acquired by the Coos Bay Lumber Company as a part of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company's reorganization. In 1930, Albert H. Powers died in an automobile accident in California.

P R O M I N E N T P E R S O N S

Hjalte Nerdrum

Hjalte Nerdrum and his brother Rolfe first came to the United States at the request of C. A. Smith. For several years, Smith had been exploring the possibility of utilizing waste from his large sawmill in the production of pulp. Beginning in 1911, Hjalte spent seven months in the United States and Canada visiting over 25 of the largest pulp and paper mills in those countries. His inspection tour also included a visit to the Coos Bay area, where he analyzed available raw materials, the waste products from Smith's mill and the feasibility of using salt water in the pulping process.

Hjalte Nerdrum was no newcomer to the pulp and paper business. His father and grandfather both devoted their lives to this industry and he had already been responsible for the erection of two pulp mills in Finland. At the time he left Finland, he was the manager of one of the largest paper mills in Finland. His brother Rolfe was the mill's superintendent.

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On April 24, 1912, C. A. Smith announced plans to build a pulp and paper mill on his Isthmus Slough manufacturing complex. The plant would be constructed under the supervision of Hjalte and Rolfe Nerdrum. Hjalte was to become the general manager of the plant and Rolfe had a senior supervisory role in its operation. At the time of the announcement, both Hjalte and Rolfe had taken temporary residence in Marshfield. They immediately sent for their families, who were scheduled to depart from Christiania, Norway on June 28.

In early July, the brothers went to Portland to await their family's arrivals and the reunited families returned to Marshfield on the U. S. S. Breakwater on July 10, 1912. Late in July, they leased temporary dwelling quarters on the corner of Tenth and Donnelly Streets in Marshfield, pending completion of their new homes on South Fifth Street. Hjalte's home was constructed at 955 S. Fifth Street, Marshfield, in late 1912. It is the subject of this National Register nomination. Rolfe also built his home in 1912, two doors to the south of his brother at 979 S. Fifth Street.

As will be discussed in more detail later, the pulp mill was not a technologically or economically viable operation and it ceased to operate shortly after its completion. Hjalte and his wife Toini sold the Nerdrum House to their former employer, Smith's Coos Bay Pulp and Paper Company, on April 16, 1915. At about the same time, Rolfe also sold his home. Shortly thereafter, the discouraged and disillusioned families returned to Finland.

Unfortunately, little else is known about the Nerdrums. In reporting the arrival of the Nerdrum families to Marshfield on the steamer Breakwater, the Coos Bay Times newspaper reported Mr. and Mrs. Hjalte Nerdrum, Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe Nerdrum, Master Nerdrum and Eva Nerdrum were on board. It is impossible to tell who were the parents of Master Nerdrum and Eva Nerdrum. Local vital statistics do record the birth of a nine pound boy at Mercy Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe Nerdrum on July 27, 1912. Although the Nerdrums disappeared from local history in 1915, they made an indelible mark on the community. They contributed to and shared the Coos Bay area's dream for economic development and left behind a splendid example of contemporary architecture.

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Charles Axel ("C. A.") Smith

In contrast to the scanty information available about the Hjalte Nerdrum family, information about C. A. Smith, his family and his business accomplishments is voluminous and well documented. The information about C. A. Smith presented here is limited to that necessary for an understanding of the role his business activities played in the history of the Coos Bay area.

Charles Axel Smith was born in the Province of Ostergotland, Sweden, on December 11, 1852. At the age of 14, he emigrated to the United States and settled at Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in the Class of 1872. While attending the university, he worked as a hardware clerk in a store owned by John S. Pillsbury, at that time the governor of Minnesota. After graduation, he moved to Herman, Minnesota, and, with the assistance of Governor Pillsbury, opened a retail lumberyard under the firm name of C. A. Smith and Company. On February 14, 1878, he married Johanna Anderson and they had six children who survived to adulthood. One son, Carrol, and his wife Donna owned the Nerdrum House in the early 1920's.

C. A. Smith was an active participant in the timber industry and civic affairs. Prior to his arrival in the Coos Bay area, he held the office of Vice President of the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, served as a presidential elector for the Republican Party in 1896, was a delegate at the Republican National Convention in 1900, served as a Regent of the University of Minnesota and had been accorded high honors by the King of Sweden for the work he performed in assisting his countrymen in America.

Although the exact date is uncertain, sometime in 1905 or 1906, Smith made his first visit to the Coos Bay area. He was already well established as a wealthy, successful, lumber "baron" in Minnesota. He could see the supply of large old growth timber in Minnesota was being rapidly depleted and he had heard about the primeval old growth Douglas fir forests of Southwestern Oregon. He acquired E. B. Dean and Company on Coos Bay and that company's adjacent timberlands abutting the Coos Bay estuary.

From this beginning, he made massive investments in other timberlands east and south of Coos Bay in the upper watersheds of the Coos and Coquille River systems. His principal holdings were concentrated near Eden Ridge and near the site of the existing town of Powers on the south fork of the Coquille River. He formed a corporate partnership with Al Powers

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to create the Smith-Powers Logging Company which furnished timber for his operation. By 1914, this company had completed a railroad from Myrtle Point into his holdings at Eden Ridge.

In 1908, he opened the "big mill" on Isthmus Slough in Coos Bay. Production from this mill, the largest sawmill in the world when it opened, was transported on his own fleet of lumber ships to his distribution center at Bay Point, California, a site on an arm of San Francisco Bay approximately 40 miles northeast of San Francisco.

In 1912, Smith, in conjunction with the Nerdrum Brothers, made a heroic but futile attempt to establish a viable pulp and paper mill next to the big mill. Also in 1912, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company received the distinction of becoming the single most important element in Coos County's economy and the county's largest employer.

The years between 1908 and 1916 may be viewed as the "apex" or "golden" years of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company's operations on Coos Bay. Although the pulp mill venture was a failure, the Port of Coos Bay was permanently established in 1912 and much-needed dredging work was performed. This directly aided the transportation of Smith's products to California and overseas markets. Smith's associate, Albert Powers, was one of the first port commissioners.

On August 15, 1914, the Panama Canal opened and this provided a new avenue for lumber products to reach the east coast and gave lumber producers leverage in negotiating with the railroads over freight rates for all the Pacific Northwest ports. Another transportation alternative for C. A. Smith was created in 1916 with the opening of a direct rail connection between the Willamette Valley and Marshfield.

In spite of these positive events, the lumber company found itself in financial difficulties by 1916. The company had overextended itself in capital expenditures for the new plant and equipment and for the acquisition of timberlands. Property tax payments on the company's vast timber holdings became burdensome. The company had to write off its investment in the abortive paper mill and its foreign market for lumber products was curtailed by the outbreak of World War I.

In 1916, it was forced to sell part of its timber holdings to pay off the enormous debt which had financed the company's recent expansion. Also in 1916, a creditors' committee forced

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a reorganization of the company. It became the Coos Bay Lumber Company, with Smith as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He was only a figurehead in the new company and he ceased active direction of the business.

At this point, C. A. Smith begins to disappear from the local historical scene. Although he was never a resident of the Bay Area, he created Coos County's largest economic force and largest employer. In his later years, he devoted his time to his California-based lumber operations and other timber-related interests.

C. A. Smith died in 1925. In its April 25, 1912 edition, the Coos Bay Times Newspaper referred to Smith as possessing "undoubted economic genius" and went on to say, "He is rapidly assuming the enviable position of fairy godfather to Coos Bay." Smith's son, Carrol, and Carrol's wife, Donna E., owned the Nerdrum House from 1921 until 1926. The probable events leading up to their acquisition of the house will be discussed later as a part of the house's story.

Augustus Edward "Gus" Adelsperger

Gus Adelsperger was born in 1878. All but one of the printed sources examined for this nomination state he was born in Illinois. The dissenting source, an article about the C. A. Smith operations in the American Lumberman Magazine, says he was a native of South Bend, Indiana. Regardless of his birthplace, as a young man of seventeen, he moved to Minnesota and, in 1902, was employed by the C. A. Smith Lumber Company of Hibbing, Minnesota, as a compassman and timber cruiser. Depending upon the source consulted, he left Minnesota sometime between 1905 and 1907 to carry on similar work for Smith in Coos County. He was soon placed in charge of all the Smith timberlands. In 1909, Gus married Mable Rush and two children were born of this union: Helen Adelsperger Page and Robert "Bob" Adelsperger.

Gus acquired ownership of the Nerdrum House on May 1, 1926, from Carrol and Donna Smith, the son and daughter-in-law of C. A. Smith. Also on May 1, 1926, Gus transferred ownership of the house to his wife Mable. Lucy Adelsperger, son Bob's wife and daughter-in-law of Gus and Mable, lived in the house during the 1930's depression. According to local sources, as many as four families related in some way to the Adelsperger's lived in the Nerdrum House during the latter depression years.

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Gus was active in affairs relating to the timber industry. At one time, he was president of the Coos County Tax Association, a timber taxation "watchdog" organization supported by large timber owners. He also served for a time as secretary of the Coos County Fire Patrol Association and was president of the Western White Cedar Company. Little information is available about this company's history. When Gus Adelsperger terminated his affiliation with the C. A. Smith lumber interests is uncertain. It could have been at the time the creditors' committee forced reorganization of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company. It could have been after the business was being conducted as Coos Bay Lumber Company. We do know Gus formed a partnership with his neighbor, W. J. Conrad, and that business was the forerunner of the present W. J. Conrad Lumber Company in Coos Bay, a building materials retail business.

Gus became ill and spent his last days at home in the Nerdrum House. Since his physical condition prevented him from climbing the stairs to the second floor bedrooms, the dining room was converted to a sick room. He died in the house in 1937. Research indicates he was the only person to die in the Nerdrum House. His widow Mable lived alone in the house until 1941.

Although Gus was a "captain of industry" in the rough-and-tumble logging and lumbering business, he was a man of many interests and had a little-known domestic talent -- in his later years, he took up knitting as a hobby!

Albert H. "Al" Powers

Like C. A. Smith, the lifetime and accomplishments of Albert Powers are well documented in a multitude of sources. The information presented about Mr. Powers here will be confined to that necessary to summarize his accomplishments, establish his relationship with the C. A. Smith Lumber Company and provide the genealogy for background to his heirs' later occupancy of the Nerdrum House.

Albert (also known as "Al") Powers was born in a log cabin in the Canadian Province of Ontario on November 6, 1861, to parents of American citizenship. At the age of 16, he moved to Michigan and went to work in a logging camp. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Minnesota and started his own logging business at the age of 21. For the next 24 years, he was engaged in Minnesota logging. While engaged in logging, he formed a partnership with

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a Mr. Simpson to create the Powers-Simpson Company. This firm logged for C. A. Smith near Hibbing, Minnesota. With prime old growth timber running out in the Hibbing area, Powers was easily enticed to the virgin Coos County forests by C. A. Smith. He made plans to come to Oregon to go into a partnership with Smith in the logging business. In 1887, Albert married Johannah Hogan and seven children were born of this marriage. Ruth McBride Powers, the wife of the sixth child of Albert Powers, Albert Jr., owned the Nerdrum House and resided in it from 1941 until 1971.

In September 1907, Albert Powers moved with his large family to Marshfield and became Vice President of the Smith-Powers Logging Company, a corporation in which he had a substantial interest. The Powers family moved into a new home on Hull Street in Marshfield. To satisfy the Smith mill's insatiable demand for logs, Albert developed seven logging camps abutting the tideland waterways of Coos Bay.

By 1912, Smith could see the timber supply along the Coos Bay estuary's tidewaters would soon be depleted. The Smith-Powers Logging Company decided to build a railroad from Myrtle Point up the south fork of the Coquille River to Smith's vast holdings in the Eden Ridge area. The Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eastern Railroad, which connected Marshfield with Myrtle Point, had been completed earlier in 1893. At the same time, the logging company decided to build the railroad, they purchased the 166 acre Wagner Ranch about 20 miles south of Myrtle Point, site of the present town of Powers, for use as a company town. Mr. Powers did not want this settlement to be just another company-owned logging town, so he had it surveyed and platted into blocks with property set aside for a school and company activities. Employees of the company and other investors were encouraged to purchase lots for residences and businesses.

In late 1914, the 21½ miles of new railroad were completed from Myrtle Point to the new settlement. Although the area had been known as Wagner, or Rural, for many years, Albert was so liked by his loggers they insisted the town be named for him. In April 1915, the official plat of the town of Powers was filed at the Coos County Courthouse. This honor was not a new thing for Albert because Powers, Minnesota, was also his namesake.

From Powers, three logging spur railroads were extended into the heavily timbered lands owned by Smith. One spur went on up the Coquille River to the Land Creek drainage in the Siskiyou National Forest. Another was built along Salmon Creek to the southwest and one went toward Eden Ridge where the main body of timber owned by Smith was located.

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The Smith-Powers Logging Company became a part of the Coos Bay Lumber Company when a creditors' committee of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company forced the reorganization of that company into the new entity, the Coos Bay Lumber Company. Since the affairs of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company were controlled from offices in San Francisco and Minneapolis, and since the affairs of the Coos Bay Lumber Company were controlled by banking interests in San Francisco and Chicago, little is known about exactly when, how, or why Albert Power's interest in, and management of, the Smith-Powers Lumber Company was terminated or how his interest in the company was settled. Sometime after the Coos Bay Lumber Company assumed control of the operation, Albert Powers retired to other interests away from Coos County.

During his lifetime, Albert Powers was one of the better known men in Coos County. He was very civic minded and served on the Marshfield School District Board, on the City Boxing Commission and on the Marshfield City Council. He was one of the original Coos Bay Port Commissioners when the Port was established in 1912 and made several trips to Washington, D. C. on behalf of the Port's efforts to dredge the entrance channel. He was an intelligent, quick-witted man with a wry sense of humor. He once served as a witness in a Minnesota court case, a case where the opposing lawyer liked to taunt or deride witnesses. The lawyer tried to intimidate Powers, attacking his railroad line by saying, "You are quite an extensive railroad man, are you not?" Mr. Powers replied, "We are not as long as the Great Northern, but we're just as wide." With that answer, the judge had to rap for order.

Albert H. Powers was killed in a car wreck at Indio, California, on January 2, 1930.

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COOS COUNTY'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

In the introduction to his book, "Hard Times In Paradise Coos Bay, Oregon 1850-1986", Oregon State University history professor William Robbins makes the following statement:

" The Coos Bay District on the southern Oregon coast is a unique region in one significant respect -- it represented the last frontier for a migrating logging and lumbering industry that had its beginnings in the great White Pine forest of New England."

Professor Robbins goes on to say:

" For more than one hundred fifty years, the lumber and forest products industry has provided a prime example of migrating capital, rapid liquidation of resources and boom-and-bust cycles for towns dependent on the forest bounty."

Dr. Robbin's thesis is validated in the brief history of Coos County's logging and lumbering industry which follows. For ease of understanding, this history may be divided into five periods:

1. From the 1850's until about 1910, the industry went through a period of growth, expansion and land speculation. These were "golden" years for the timber barons and workers benefited from a constant labor shortage. By about 1907, this period of massive production and capital investment began to plant the seeds of future difficulties, but the problems were not recognized until later.
2. From about 1910 until the beginnings of World War I, the industry matured and became competitive. Some firms experienced problems associated with over-expansion and market penetration, but others had good fortune.
3. From World War I until the United States entered World War II, the timber industry experienced wide swings in activity. This was particularly evident during the early 1930's.

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4. From World War II until the early 1980's, the timber industry prospered with high demand for finished products, adequate timber supplies, low interest rates and increased productivity through technological innovation.
5. After the early 1980's, the timber industry began a decline which is still continuing. Private holdings of old growth timber have been depleted and environmental concerns have limited access to public holdings. A sagging economy, higher interest rates and the resulting lack of demand has severely curtailed domestic markets.

The C. A. Smith Lumber Company was born in the "boom" years after 1900. Its successor corporations suffered the wide swings in activity between the two world wars and enjoyed the post-World War II prosperity. It died when this prosperity ended. Its story -- also the story of Coos County's forest products industry -- is told in the following paragraphs.

Asa Mead Simpson, a California lumberman and ship builder, established sawmills in several Pacific Coast estuaries in the 1850's, including a small mill in Coos Bay in 1856. This marked the beginning of the first significant commercial lumbering activity in the Coos Bay area. Simpson also had a shipyard in North Bend. During the 1870's and 1880's, the Coos Bay area established its commercial links with San Francisco, not Oregon population centers. Capital was supplied by California investors, finished goods traveled north to Coos Bay and raw materials traveled south from Coos Bay. E. B. Dean & Company, a firm of California-based investors, purchased a small mill and shipyard in Marshfield in 1873. They constructed a new steam-powered mill capable of cutting 50,000 board feet per day. This was more than twice the existing capacity of the area's mills. By 1874, they had established nine logging camps around the Coos Bay estuary. Rough lumber was sent to finishing plants in San Francisco.

The 1890's witnessed a period of speculation in Coos County's commercial, industrial and forest land by outside capital. This speculation was spurred, in part, by the completion of a railroad in 1893 from Marshfield to Myrtle Point. Throughout the 1890's, Californians continued to dominate the Coos Bay lumber and ship building industries. Shortly after 1900, speculation in Coos Bay area timberlands reached its peak. This speculation was caused by a sharp increase in lumber prices, fear of a timber shortage and the withdrawal of timber from the market resulting from the establishment of federal forest reserves. In this period, C. A. Smith made his move from Minnesota to Coos County and brought with him

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his timber cruiser, Gus Adelsperger, and his logging associate, Al Powers. Between 1906 and 1907, C. A. Smith purchased the E. B. Dean & Company's timber holdings and sawmill on the east side of Isthmus Inlet.

Others also made substantial investments. Menasha Woodenware Company of Wisconsin put together more than 10,000 acres of timber in Coos County by 1906. The firm increased this to 100,000 acres by 1908. During the same period, the Weyerhaeuser Corporation accumulated 30,000 acres. C. A. Smith was reported to have owned or controlled 100,000 acres of timber. Timber barons like C. A. Smith engaged in many fraudulent and illegal acts to consolidate timberlands for themselves, but, with few exceptions, they completely escaped prosecution. Timber barons paid "homesteaders" to file on and "prove up" quarter-sections containing valuable timber. These lands were later purchased by the timber companies for ridiculously low prices. Timber barons also traded with railroad companies and manipulated grant lands given to these companies by the federal government as an incentive for track construction.

The year 1907 was a particularly significant "boom" year for the timber industry on Coos Bay. Markets were good, timber was cheap and abundant, labor was in short supply but adequate and C. A. Smith began construction of his "big" mill on the west bank of Isthmus Inlet across the inlet from the old E. B. Dean Mill. This mill started operation on February 29, 1908. Two hundred fifty men were employed in the mill and 350 men were employed in seven logging camps along the tidewaters of the Coos Bay estuary. The new mill produced more lumber than all the existing mills in the Coos Bay area combined. While the new mill was being constructed, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company established a distribution center at Bay Point, California, a branch of San Francisco Bay forty miles northeast of the City of San Francisco. This distribution center incorporated domestic rail and overseas ship transportation of lumber, lumberyards, a planing mill, a box factory, a specialty resaw mill and other facilities.

Smith began assembling his own company fleet of lumber-carrying ships to transport his own lumber from the new mill at Coos Bay to the distribution center at Bay Point. In 1908, C. A. Smith and Asa Simpson successfully lobbied Congress to deepen the Coos Bay entrance to 18 feet. Late in 1908, a second shift was added to the big mill. Because of the labor shortage, the second shift workers were brought from Minnesota. The mill ran two ten-hour shifts and cut 500,000 board feet per day. In 1909, the old E. B. Dean & Company

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mill was remodeled to cut spruce, cedar and the finer grades of Douglas fir. It employed approximately 100 men and cut 150,000 board feet per day.

C. A. Smith was a practical, cost-conscious individual and he became concerned over the lack of utilization of his mills' waste. In his capacity as a Regent of the University of Minnesota, he was able to persuade Dr. Frank Forter of that institution to visit the Coos Bay area and test the suitability of mill waste as a raw material for the production of pulp and paper. After his tests were completed, Dr. Frank Forter was enthusiastic about this source of raw materials. Although most local historians claim the utilization of waste was Smith's incentive to investigate a pulp operation, one historian (Peterson, "A Century of Coos and Curry") asserts Smith's timber holdings contained an abundance of sitka spruce, more than the market would absorb as dimension lumber or plywood and sitka spruce makes first class pulp stock. Regardless of his motivation, Smith contacted the Nerdrum brothers in Finland. Hjalte Nerdrum investigated other North American pulp operations, tested Smith's raw materials and examined the Coos Bay estuary's saltwater supply as a water supply for the pulping process. Mr. Nerdrum concluded the wood and water supply posed absolutely no problems for a successful pulping operation.

On April 24, 1912, C. A. Smith announced plans to build a \$750,000 paper mill employing between 75 and 100 workers. Construction of the mill was expected to start in a few weeks. The mill would produce between 30 and 40 tons of pulp daily. As by-products of the pulping operation, it would have an annual production of 15,000 gallons of alcohol, 440 tons of turpentine and 300 tons of resin. The new mill, to be located immediately south of the large sawmill, would be of concrete construction, 300 hundred feet long and 200 feet wide and range from one to three stories in height. The mill also included a 125 foot concrete chimney. The construction of the mill was expected to take one year. The mill would require three and one-half million gallons of water a day, and it was proposed to take this water from the Coos Bay estuary and filter it. According to Hjalte Nerdrum, filtered saltwater could be used successfully in a pulping operation. Smith planned to later add a refining mill for pulping by-products and a paper mill proper for converting pulp into the finished product. The year 1912 was a memorable year for the C. A. Smith Company in other ways. In that year, the Port of Coos Bay was established and Al Powers became one of the port's first commissioners. The port began an active campaign to deepen the interior channels of Coos Bay, thereby greatly facilitating the shipment of Smith's lumber to San Francisco Bay. Also in 1912, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company achieved the distinction

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of becoming the single most important element in Coos County's economy. The company was the county's largest employer and retained this distinction until 1951.

The pulp mill was completed in 1913 or 1914. Although several shipments of pulp were made, unforeseen difficulties arose, due principally to variations of the salt content of the tidewater. The salt content varied with the season of the year, the stage of the tide and with periods of heavy rainfall or dry weather conditions. This technological problem may have been solved in time, but it was complicated by other difficulties. World War I limited overseas markets and the firm began experiencing financial difficulties associated with rapid expansion. The pulp mill was closed and pulp making was written off as a bad investment. Hjalte and Rolfe Nerdrum returned to Finland disillusioned and disgraced. They had unwittingly been part of an incredible error in judgment.

By early 1913, C. A. Smith and Al Powers could see their timber supplies along the tidewaters of Coos Bay would soon be exhausted. Later that year, they began construction of a railroad from Myrtle Point south along the south fork of the Coquille River to Smith's substantial timber holdings along the river's headwaters. In the fall of 1914, a 21½ mile railroad was completed from Myrtle Point to the Wagner Ranch along the south fork. The Smith-Powers Lumber Company acquired the 166 acre Wagner ranch and platted it as a town with land allocations for a school, company activities and private residential ownership by employees. The town was named Powers, after Albert Powers.

Even though the C. A. Smith Lumber Company was operating at full capacity with its mill and the new railroad to Powers, it began to experience financial difficulties. These problems were caused by a softening in the lumber market, timber taxes on its vast holdings, the debt service on capital expenditures associated with its recent rapid expansion and the necessity to write-off its investment in the abortive pulp mill operation. In 1916, the company decided to sell all its timberland in Oregon and Northern California which were not essential to the operation of the Coos Bay area mills. This was an unfortunate time to liquidate because, also in 1916, Southern Pacific railroad finished its line from the Willamette Valley to Marshfield. Financial conditions continued to deteriorate for the company, and, in 1917, a creditors' committee took over operation of the company and changed its name to the Coos Bay Lumber Company. Smith stayed on in an advisory capacity but active management of the firm passed to investment capitalists in Chicago and San Francisco. Employees of the Smith-Powers Logging Company were notified one day that they were working for the Coos Bay Lumber Company.

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Since C. A. Smith never resided in the Coos Bay area and conducted the affairs of his company from offices in San Francisco and Minneapolis, no local information exists about the actual mechanism for transfer of the company's assets to Coos Bay Lumber Company. The records of this transfer are in private hands and not available for research. It is impossible to tell who owned what, who got paid what, who owed what or what private agreements were made between the creditors, C. A. Smith and Albert Powers. As will be discussed later under the story of the Nerdrum House, the mystery surrounding the takeover of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company is also reflected in the ownership of the house during this period.

The Coos Bay Lumber Company closed after World War I and put approximately 1,200 people out of work. The company reopened in the summer of 1919. It also underwent a creditor instigated reorganization. This pattern of operation, layoffs and suspended operations continued for the next two decades until the advent of World War II. During the early 1920's, when the firm was operating at full production, its logging camps, mills and transportation crews employed 1,500 people. The company's importance to the county economy is readily apparent when we note that, in 1920, the Coos Bay area had a population of only 7,000 persons and the total county population was only 22,000 persons.

Shortly after the creditor takeover of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, C. A. Smith and Albert H. Powers ceased to be important figures in the county's economy. It is believed both spent their last years in timber-related activities in California. C. A. Smith died in 1925 of unknown causes and Albert Powers died in 1930 in an automobile accident. Albert's son, Albert Jr., continued with a ranching business in the Powers area until his death in 1961. He and his wife, Ruth McBride Powers, lived in the Nerdrum House with their children Diana, Albert H. III and Quincy McBride from 1941 onward. Since the death of her husband in 1940, Mrs. McBride (Ruth Powers' mother) also lived with the family.

The Coos Bay region was hit hard by the depression of the 1930's. Markets disappeared and credit was unobtainable. Many Coos Bay area mills went into bankruptcy or receivership and thousands of acres of timberland became tax delinquent and were sold by Coos County for back taxes. It was not until 1937 lumber shipments out of Coos Bay finally reached their record 1923 levels. Unfortunately, shipments declined again in 1938 and remained depressed for several years. The December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor drew the United States into World War II and brought a prosperity to the Coos Bay lumber economy which lasted into the early 1980's.

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In 1956, the Georgia Pacific Corporation bought the Coos Bay Lumber Mill and 120,000 acres of its timberland. This timberland contained six billion board feet of lumber. To pay for this acquisition, Georgia Pacific sold large blocks of this timber to other firms, principally Coos Head Timber Company, Moore Mill and Lumber Company and U. S. Plywood Corporation. Georgia Pacific completely restructured the old Coos Bay Lumber Company and controlled its operations from offices in Portland. This change in structure and control created a good deal of ill will in the Coos Bay area. The company's operations were plagued by layoffs, quitting and employee resentment.

Some time after the Georgia Pacific acquisition, the old pulp mill structure was razed. The concrete building had stood idle for many years with its windows all broken out. Its 125 foot smokestack had become a landmark -- sturdy and tall -- but it was unused. It was finally toppled by a charge of dynamite.

Because of its timber sales to other firms and its policy of rapid and ruthless harvesting of its timberlands, in just 25 years, Georgia Pacific had decimated the six billion board feet of timber it acquired from the Coos Bay Lumber Company and its purchases from public sources. In 1979, Georgia Pacific permanently closed its Bunker Hill (former "big mill") operation. In 1982, Georgia Pacific moved its corporate headquarters from Portland, Oregon, to Atlanta, Georgia.

And so the story of C. A. Smith, Hjalte Nerdrum, Gus Adelsperger, Albert Powers, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company and the Smith-Powers Logging Company comes to an end. During the past ten years, the timber industry in Coos County has remained depressed because of a sluggish national economy, higher interest rates, lack of demand, lack of privately-owned supplies of old growth timber and environmental concerns. Several years ago, Weyerhaeuser closed its North Bend mill complex, and today no major mill is operating on Coos Bay or in Coos County. As Professor Robbins so aptly stated, the highly migratory capital associated with the forest products industry has moved on. It will be many years, if ever, before the forest products industry once again is the dominant economic force in Coos County.

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THE NERDRUM HOUSE

The Nerdrum House was constructed on Lots 30, 31 and 32, Block 44, Railroad Addition to Marshfield (now Coos Bay), Coos County, Oregon. Reference should be made to Exhibit One, the property's chain of title, throughout this story of the house. Hjalte and Toini Nerdrum purchased the property from L. A. and Nellie Whereat, probably in May or June of 1912. They recorded their deed July 3, 1912. On July 8, 1912, the Coos Bay Times newspaper reported a real estate "boom" was in progress on South Fifth Street in Marshfield. The newspaper reported ten lots had changed hands within the last few weeks and all lots were going into the hands of persons who would construct residences on them. The story went on to say Hjalte and Rolfe Nerdrum had already acquired five lots.

By July 23, 1912, site preparation had begun on the Nerdrum lot and house plans were being completed. No information is available about the house's architect, builder, or final construction cost. In his historic property inventory of 1974, Dr. Steven Dow Beckham stated the Nerdrum House was "one of the finest homes ever built in the Coos Bay area", and "only the best materials were used in construction".

The house was of wood frame construction, two stories high with a finished attic designed for storage and servants' quarters. It had a full concrete basement, accessed from both the kitchen and the north exterior of the house. The house had three attic dormers, two on the east elevation and one on the west elevation. The house's windows were uniform throughout, 6/1 or 6/2. The exterior of the house was finished in stucco and the interior rooms were plastered. Many interior rooms had wainscotting. The first floor of the house contained an entry, den/library, kitchen, butler's pantry, dining room and parlor or living room. The second floor contained two pairs of bedrooms, each pair sharing a common bath; and the mistress and master bedroom suites, each sharing a common bath. The finished portion of the attic contained several bedrooms, a bath and a common area for servants.

One of the most impressive features of the house was the main entry, viewed both from its exterior and interior perspectives. Photograph #17 shows the house as it was completed in 1913. Note the entrance is dominated by a combination circular porch and balcony supported by four round columns. The front door opened into a dramatic, two-story high foyer or entrance. A graceful staircase lead from the entrance up to the second floor hallway which surrounded the entrance. This hallway provided access to the bedrooms,

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bathrooms and attic. This open, dramatic, two-story, entrance figured prominently in a house tradition which will be described later.

The dejected and disillusioned Nerdrums sold the house in early 1915 and returned to their native Finland. On April 16, 1915, the Coos Bay Pulp and Paper Company recorded their deed to the property from the Nerdrums. From this date until 1926, the ownership and occupancy of the house is shrouded in mystery. The Nerdrums financed construction of the house with a mortgage from a commercial source. As near as can be determined, when the Nerdrums left, his former employer, the Coos Bay Pulp and Paper Company, paid off this mortgage and took title to the home. In the following year, 1916, Coos Bay Pulp and Paper transferred ownership of the house to the C. A. Smith Lumber Company. During the period 1916-1917, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company was reorganized into the Coos Bay Lumber Company by a creditors' committee. The house was undoubtedly part of the assets involved in this reorganization because, on November 30, 1917, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company deeded the house to the Coos Bay Lumber Company.

As noted earlier in this statement, the Coos Bay Lumber Company was, itself, reorganized, and the property was transferred by the Coos Bay Lumber Company's receivers to Donna E. Smith in late 1921. Donna was the wife of Carrol Smith, the son of C. A. Smith. Although Donna received the property from Coos Bay Lumber Company in her name alone, when she conveyed the property to Gus Adelsperger in 1926, her husband Carrol had to execute the deed along with her because, under Oregon law, he had a tenancy by the courtesy in the property. Donna and Carrol Smith may have received the property in satisfaction of some obligation owed to C. A. Smith in connection with his company's reorganization. After three quarters of a century has elapsed, it is impossible to determine who lived in the house during its ownership by the Coos Bay Pulp and Paper Company, the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, the Coos Bay Lumber Company and Donna and Carrol Smith. It is also impossible to determine why the house was transferred or what the considerations for the transfers were.

Gus Adelsperger recorded his deed to the house from the Smiths on May 1, 1926. On the same day, a deed from Gus to his wife, Mable, was recorded. It seems more than simple coincidence that a former senior official of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company should become an owner of the house after an extended period of financial turmoil which saw the reorganization of both the C. A. Smith Lumber Company and the Coos Bay Lumber Company. Did Gus Adelsperger have some legal or financial claim against his former

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employer or his former employer's successor? It is an interesting mystery which may never be solved. A young girl, Florence Churchill, who worked in the house from October 1924 until July 1925, worked for the Adelsperger family, who was in residence at that time. The Adelspergers, however, did not receive title to the house until a year later!

With the Adelspergers' residency, the Nerdrum House once again became a warm family home. The Adelspergers' two children, Helen and Bob, grew up in the home. The Adelspergers began an important house tradition by placing a tall, beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the dramatic, two-story entrance-foyer each year. This tradition was continued by the next owner, Ruth McBride Powers and has been reinstated by the current owner, M. Patricia Williams.

During the Adelspergers' residency, the house attained its social significance as a socio-economic, upper class home. Mrs. Ralph Lockhart (the former Florence Churchill) recently reminisced about her employment in the house as a young maid and domestic helper from October 1, 1924 until July 1925. She describes Gus and Mable Adelsperger as socially prominent, influential members of the Marshfield business community and as nice, caring employers. The majority of Mr. Adelsperger's time was devoted to business affairs. Mrs. Adelsperger directed the activities of the house, planned menus and sewed extensively for herself and the family. Mrs. Lockhart recalls in vivid detail a "stag" dinner given by Mr. Adelsperger for a few of his closest friends while Mrs. Adelsperger was out of town. The centerpiece of the dinner, a roast suckling pig with an ear of corn in its mouth, was especially prepared for the event by the chef of the Chandler Hotel in Marshfield. Young Florence prepared and served the remainder of the dinner. Dr. Dix, a neighbor and prominent local physician, was one of the guests. W. J. Conrad, a neighbor and Gus's future business partner, was another guest. The current owner of the property recently discovered the skeleton of the suckling pig buried in the back yard!

Gus Adelsperger died in the house in 1937. His widow Mable continued to live there until 1941, when she sold the property to Ruth McBride Powers, the wife of Albert H. Powers, Jr.

Mrs. Powers and her son, Quincy, recently reminisced about their residency in the house. The Powers Family (Albert H., Jr.; his wife Ruth McBride; their three children Diana, Albert H. III and Quincy McBride; and Ruth's mother, Mrs. McBride) moved into the house in 1941. Mr. Powers would spend most of the work week in Powers and return to

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the house on weekends. Mr. Powers died on June 11, 1961 and, almost immediately, his widow moved to Portland where her daughter Diana was living at the time.

About 1946 or 1947, the uncovered decks flanking the central portico were removed because of dry rot and the round central portico with columns was replaced by a square structure with square posts. Interior modifications made by the Powers Family included a private bath for Mrs. McBride's bedroom in 1941, and, later, a downstairs bedroom suite (den or library and new bath) for Mr. Powers following a heart attack.

Quincy was six years old when he came in 1941, and he lived there until he reached young adulthood in 1957. Quincy Powers vividly recalls going out on the front porch as a small boy and discovering the porch covered with ash and soot which had been carried from the many sawmill "wigwam" burners which dotted the Coos Bay estuary. The site of this ash in his memory is combined with the pungent aroma of Port Orford cedar drifting from the nearby Evans Products Company battery separator plant.

Ruth McBride met Albert Jr. at a fraternity party while they were both college students in California. He was a University of California student at Berkeley and she attended Stanford University. While the Powers family was in residence, the house often had guests and the owners entertained frequently. Ruth was well known throughout the community for her Daughters of the American Revolution teas. They also continued the Christmas holiday festivities, including the large tree in the entry. Ruth uses the word "welcoming" to describe the house during her residence.

The house's historical significance by its association with Coos Bay area history, the four owners or occupants bonded together by the C. A. Smith Lumber Company and its architecture ends in 1941 after the fourth, and final, family took up residence.

Although the last of the Powers family left the house in 1961, Ruth McBride Powers retained ownership of it for another ten years. In 1971, Phil and Nina Waters acquired the Nerdrum House. They owned a local radio station and were active in social and civic affairs. During the period of their ownership, the house received minor alterations, including the hanging of velvet wallpaper above the wainscotting in many of the rooms. Phil Waters died in the late 1980's, and his widow Nina sold the house to M. Patricia Williams in early 1990.

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Patricia Williams is operating the house as a bed and breakfast, the Coos Bay Manor. The altered central portico is being replaced to replicate the original construction. Patricia Williams has made substantial progress in furnishing the home in "period" furniture of the early 1900's. While she does not intend to reintroduce a wood cook stove and classic icebox to the kitchen, she has recessed appliances and made other minor restorations to help recreate the room's original "open" feeling. The basement has yielded many doors, transoms, plumbing fixtures, cabinets and other items which were a part of the original house. These have been reincorporated into the house, in the historic position of use, if possible.

The Nerdrum House today is a well-preserved, architecturally-intact example of a socio-economic upper class residence in the Coos Bay area. It is one of the finest, if not the finest, examples of its type remaining in the area. The Nerdrum House brings together in one structure the hopes, accomplishments, disappointments and lives of four families who had a profound and lasting influence on the broad pattern of Coos County's history.

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EXHIBIT ONE

Records of Nerdrum House from Coos County Clerk.
955 South Fifth Street, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
Lots 30, 31 and 32, Block 44, Railroad Addition
to Marshfield (now Coos Bay), Coos County, Oregon.

Property was platted in October 1890 (see map A-102), by Chas. H. and Mary Merchant.

<u>Name #</u>	Registered Owner: Marshfield RR Addition <u>B 44 Lots 30-31-32</u>	Date Sale <u>Recorded:</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Page</u>
4310	Chas. H. & Mary Merchant	06/25/05	41	202
4211	Marchant Land Company	03/28/06	42	416
5922	Mary Pomeroy	07/03/12	63	312
1961	L. A. & Nellie Whereat	07/03/12	63	313
7032	Hjalte & Toini Nerdrum	04/16/15	71	298
7441	Coos Bay Pulp & Paper Co.	08/30/16	73	618
958	C. A. Smith Lumber & Mfg. Co.	11/30/17	77	108
7777	Coos Bay Lumber Company (by receivers)	12/14/21	86	143/4
9378	Donna E. & Carroll Smith (son of C. A. Smith)	05/01/26	99	499
2354	Gus Adelsperger	05/01/26	99	500
2354	Mabel Adelsperger	06/12/41	139	501

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<u>Name #</u>	Registered Owner: Marshfield RR Addition <u>B 44 Lots 30-31-32</u>	Date Sale <u>Recorded:</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Page</u>
2621	Ruth McBride Powers	04/02/71	microfilm reel 71-4-57545	
2298	Nina Waters	04/18/90	microfilm reel 90-4-1205	
190	M. Patricia Williams Trust			

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

Noted in the statewide inventory by Steven Dow Beckham.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately .45 acres Coos Bay, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0
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4	0	1	4	2	0
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4	8	0	1	1	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is composed of Lots 30, 31 and 32, Block 44, Railroad Addition to Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These three lots define the historic and current property boundaries.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve L. Clay, A. I. A., and Carl Sandstrom, Jr.
organization Crow/Clay and Associates date November 27, 1992
street & number 833 Anderson Street telephone 503-269-9388
city or town Coos Bay state Oregon zip code 97420

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The following information is submitted for all of the photographs:

Property: The Nerdrum, Hjalte House

Address: 955 S. Fifth St.
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Photographer: Steve L. Clay

Date: August 1992

Negatives: Steve L. Clay
833 Anderson Avenue
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Exterior Photographs:

Photograph #1: Front view (east elevation) from Fifth Street.

Photograph #2: Closeup of front entrance from Fifth Street.

Photograph #3: Southwest corner of house from driveway to alley.

Photograph #4: West elevation from alley.

Photograph #5: Northwest corner from adjacent yard.

Interior Photographs:

Photograph #6: View of northwest corner of entry area including view into adjacent

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- library/den.
- Photograph #7: View of northwest corner of entry and entrances to second floor rooms from landing in corridor.
- Photograph #8: View of south side of entry area with view into parlor or living room and to second floor corridor.
- Photograph #9: View from entry south into parlor or living room.
- Photograph #10: View from parlor or living room west into dining room.
- Photograph #11: View from the dining room to the east into the parlor or living room.
- Photograph #12: View from the dining room northward into the kitchen and butler's pantry.
- Photograph #13: View from butler's pantry south into dining room.
- Photograph #14: View from the entry up the stairs into the northeast corner of the second floor circulation area.
- Photograph #15: View of the stairwell corridor and railings and the northeast portion of the second floor. Bedroom door visible.
- Photograph #16: View from the second floor landing to the southeast towards bedroom entrances and doorway to the attic level at left.

Historic Photograph:

- Photograph #17: View of house from Fifth Street, circa 1913.

INGERSOLL

(NEVADA)

SEE MAP 25 13 35BC

90' SOUTH

25	6600	6500	1	4700	40
25			2		39
25	6400		3		38
25	4		4	4800	37
25	6300				36
25				4900	35
25	6200			5000	34
25					33
25				5100	32
25	6000	6100	44		31
25	CS 57A249				30
25	5900			5200	29
25					28
25	5800				27
25				5301	26
25	5700				25
25				5300	24
25					23
25				5400	22
25					21

80' SOUTH

25	4600	4500	1	4000	40
25			2		39
25	4400			2500	38
25				2400	37
25	4300			2600	36
25					35
25	4200			2700	34
25					33
25	4100			2800	32
25			38		31
25	4000			2900	30
25					29
25	3900			3000	28
25					27
25	3800				26
25				3200	25
25	3700			3300	24
25				3400	23
25	3600			3500	22
25					21

80' SOUTH

1/4 COR

RAILROAD

7th STREET

5th STREET

4th STREET

JOHNSON

(OHIO)

1AM)

25	7000	6900	6800	6700	1	40	7800	7900	8000	40
25					2		39			39
25					3		38			38
25					4		37			37
25	7100				5	7700	7600			36
25					6					35
25	7200				7		7500			34
25					8					33
25	7300				9		7400			32
25					10					31
25					11					30
25					12					29
25					13					28
25					14					27
25					15					26
25					16					25
25					17					24

:S)

25	8100			9700	40
25				CS 57A268	39
25	8200			9600	38
25					37
25	8300			9500	36
25					35
25	8400			9400	34
25					33
25	8500			9300	32
25					31
25				9200	30
25					29
25				9100	28
25					27
25				9000	26
25					25
25	8600			8900	24

:TT)

ADDITION 37