

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 11 1979

DATE ENTERED

AUG 29 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fenton (William D.) House

AND/OR COMMON

Judge William D. Fenton, Sr., Residence

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

626 S.E. 16th Avenue

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Oregon

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051

**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ms. Diane S. Hardiman and Mrs. Vivian B. Conklin

STREET &amp; NUMBER

626 S.E. 16th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97214

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1021 S.W. 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Portland Historical Landmark

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Portland Bureau of Planning (424 S.W. Main)

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William D. Fenton House exhibits all the essential characteristics of the Queen Anne Style: asymmetrical plan, a multiplicity of porches, bays and projections, a flare-top chimney; variegated siding, including the use of coursed and imbricated shingles, and decorative plaster work in a porch pediment in imitation of authentic pargetry. The most distinctive feature of the exterior, however, is related in spirit to the Stick Style, and perhaps, even to the Eastlake Style. It is a bowed, wrap-around veranda which envelops the entire west, or front elevation, and extends half way around north and south facades. The frieze, railing and uprights of the porch are decorated with intricate pierced, or cut-out work in varying, stylized motifs which are echoed in the elaborate treatment of verge boards in the salient gable ends.

The exterior paint treatment has been altered from the original all ivory or beige to "Colonial blue" with deep blue and white to accent the trim. Iron roof ridge cresting is missing, as is the second story deck railing, or balustrade of the veranda. Iron cresting, appropriate to the period has been salvaged from another house in the neighborhood and is to be installed on the Fenton House as soon as possible. The balustrade, too will be replaced in kind. Among other modifications inherited by the present owners is the flare-top stack of the chimney on the south elevation. In prior years the chimney has been damaged and rebuilt with straight sides instead of the recessed panel and corbelled top which embellished the original.

The stained glass door of the side, or south entry opens into a large dining room, once the "living" room, in which original wainscoting and trim is intact. A ceiling light fixture with three original signed Quezal art glass shades has been moved from an adjacent room to illuminate the dining table. The original dining room, now a study, has wooden spindle and cut fretwork accenting either end of the room. All the woodwork is in excellent condition. Both the parlor fireplace and master bedroom fireplace have elaborate surrounds and overmantels in the Eastlake tradition, and both are functional. All the wood flooring is original and has been refinished. The kitchen has been modified somewhat.

The home was brought to "code" (Portland City Building Standards) with a HUD home improvement loan that included new roofing, porch repair (for safety) and plumbing and wiring in 1976.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1892-1894                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The fashionable home built for W. D. Fenton on SE 16th Avenue on Portland's East Side between 1892 and 1894 is significant to the city of Portland as a well-preserved example of Queen Anne Style architecture with exceptionally elaborate cut-out work embellishing gable ends and wrap-around veranda. Moreover, the house is the prime landmark in Portland associated with William David Fenton (1853-1925), distinguished lawyer, state legislator, and general counsel in Oregon for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Judge Fenton, as he was generally addressed, was commemorated elsewhere in the state--in the 1938 renaming of Fenton Hall in Eugene, longtime home of the University of Oregon Law School, the institution to which, when his health broke, the lawyer had given his outstanding library in memory of his deceased son and partner at law.

Judge Fenton, a native of Missouri, was the oldest of ten children. His family crossed the country by wagon train in 1865, when Fenton was twelve years of age, and settled in Yamhill County. At the age of fifteen, he entered the preparatory department of McMinnville College, and in 1872, he was graduated from Christian College in Monmouth. He taught school and farmed until his appointment as assistant state librarian. In 1870, "Billy", as he was affectionately called in a 1925 Oregon Journal editorial, had declined a cadetship to West Point "as he had no taste for military life".<sup>1</sup> Having read law at night during his years in Salem in the state library, William Fenton was admitted to the bar in December of 1875; the following spring was elected to the Oregon Legislature on the Democratic ticket.

In 1885, William Fenton moved to Portland to become a partner in Judge J.C. Moreland's legal firm, and in June of 1891, he joined the prestigious law firm of Bronaugh, McArthur and Bronaugh. There he represented the Southern Pacific Railroad as well as several other big corporations. After the death of Judges Bronaugh and McArthur, Fenton practiced alone with his son, Kenneth, who was graduated from Yale in 1910 and joined his father in the firm.

Judge Fenton and nine other community leaders founded the Oregon Historical Society in 1898, and Fenton was later to become its president. While in that office, he was influential in establishing the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition. In 1905, he drafted the legislation for Portland's Lewis and Clark Fair and was one of its directors.<sup>2</sup>

William D. Fenton was a well respected civic leader. He was a member of the Oregon State Bar Association and was a 33rd Degree Mason - the highest rank to be attained in the Masonic Order. While practicing law, he collected "one of the finest law libraries to be found in the entire west."<sup>3</sup> In 1921, following the untimely demise of his third son and partner at law, Fenton donated his library to the University of Oregon Law School in memory of Kenneth Fenton. In declining health, seemingly from extended court battles over the Oregon and California Company land grant case, the elder Fenton had given up his practice in later years. Fenton Hall, the home of the University of Oregon Law School built in 1905, was renamed in his honor in 1938. The Fenton Building in downtown Portland was

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	5,27	<sup>490</sup> 365	5,04,0	4,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The south 49.5 feet of Lot 3 and all of Lot 4, Block 2, Storey's Addition to East Portland, in the city of Portland, county of Multnomah and State of Oregon.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Diane S. Hardiman

ORGANIZATION

DATE

1/20/79

STREET & NUMBER

626 S.E. 16th Avenue

TELEPHONE

236-0088

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97214

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*David Stalder*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 25, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carol Shull*

DATE

8-29-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RECORDED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray Lane*  
for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/29/79

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Fenton (William D.) House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

constructed for Fenton ca. 1902.<sup>4</sup> Located at 310 S.W. 6th Avenue, the Commercial Style professional office building had undergone a series of name changes and renovations, and was razed for a parking structure in 1971.

William D. and Katherine L. Fenton were married in 1879 and had four sons, all of whom grew to prominence in the community: Dr. Ralph A. Fenton, 1880-1906 was an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist; Dr. Horace B. Fenton, 1884-1926 was a Johns Hopkins Medical School graduate; Kenneth L. Fenton, 1887-1917, previously mentioned; and music dealer William D. Fenton, Jr.

1. Oregon Journal, May 15, 1925, page 1.
2. The Oregonian, February 17, 1971, page 22.
3. The Oregonian, May 16, 1925, page 7
4. Conflicting sources: Oregon Journal, October 28, 1971 - "1902"; Oregon Journal, February 16, 1971 - "1904"; Oregonian, February 17, 1971, quotes Oregon Historical Society records - "1912"

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Major Bibliographical References

Books

- Gaston, Joseph; The City of Portland, Its History and Builders, 1911  
Vol. 3, pp. 170-171 and Vol. 1, page 3.
- Lockley, Fred; History of the Columbia River from the Dalles to the  
Sea; 1928, Vol. 2, pp. 78-84.
- Portland Historical Landmarks Commission; How Do We Know It Is Us  
Without Our Past?; 1974; pp. 30-31.
- Staehli, Alfred M.; Preservation Options for Portland Neighborhoods -  
A Report on the History of Portland's Neighborhoods and Their  
Historic Centers; 1975, pp. 43H and 47.

Chronological Newspaper Accounts:

1. The Oregonian, December 18, 1898; page 24; William D. Fenton listed with founders of the "new" Oregon Historical Society.
2. The Oregonian, December 17, 1905; page 14; William Fenton becomes president of the Oregon Historical Society.
3. The Oregonian, June 1, 1917, page 22; June 2, page 22; June 3, page 18 and
4. The Oregon Journal, June 1, 1917, page 2; June 2, page 2; June 3, page 5; Obituary and funeral notices of Kenneth Lucas Fenton, Judge Fenton's son and partner in his law firm, from 1910 (after

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2 (cont'd)

- his graduation from Yale law school) until his death.
5. The Oregonian, April 21, 1921, page 1; April 22, page 7 and
  6. The Oregon Journal, May 1, 1921, sec. 2, page 2; University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon is presented with the Fenton Memorial Law Library by Judge and Mrs. W. D. Fenton in memory of Kenneth L. Fenton.
  7. The Oregonian, May 16, 1925, page 7; May 17, sec. 3, page 8, May 19, page 4 and
  8. The Oregon Journal, May 15, 1925, pages 1 and 2; May 17, page 10; Obituary editorial and funeral notice for Judge William D. Fenton, Sr., in Portland, Oregon.
  9. The Oregonian, November 8, 1926, page 16 and
  10. The Oregon Journal, November 8, 1926, page 6; Obituary for Dr. Horace B. Fenton, internationally known Portland surgeon and son of Judge William D. and Katherine L. Fenton
  11. The Oregon Journal, December 6, 1926, page 10; Fred Lockley interviews pioneer Mrs. William D. Fenton (Katherine Lucas Fenton).
  12. The Oregonian, September 15, 1920, page 5 and
  13. The Oregon Journal, September 15, 1930, page 4; Obituary for Mrs. William D. (Katherine Lucas) Fenton, Sr.
  14. The Oregon Journal, May 13, 1938, page 15; University of Oregon Law School building renamed Fenton Hall.
  15. The Oregonian, November 3, 1958, page 17, November 7, page 6 and
  16. The Oregon Journal, November 3, 1958, pages 1 and 8; Editorial, Obituary and memorial article on Dr. Ralph A. Fenton, Portland eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, professor emeritus at the University of Oregon Medical School and son of Judge W. D. Fenton, and board member of the Oregon Historical Society. (Dr. Fenton's medical library was donated to the U of O Medical School in 1959.)
  17. The Oregonian, February 17, 1971, page 22, and
  18. The Oregon Journal, February 16, 1971, page 6; October 28, page 2; The Portland Oregon Fenton Building, named for Judge William D. Fenton, razed in preparation for a bank complex (not constructed)
  19. The Oregon Journal, November 15, 1973, sec. 3, page 10 and
  20. The Oregonian, November 16, 1973, page 17; Obituary for Mrs. Ralph A. (Mabel C.) Fenton.
  21. The Oregonian, April 28, 1975, page C-8 and
  22. The Oregon Journal, April 29, 1975, page 6; Obituary for Mrs. Horace B. (Lela G.) Fenton.
  23. The Oregon Journal, June 17, 1975, page 5; Obituary for Mrs. Kenneth L. (Adelina W.) Fenton.





W D Fenton, residence, 1892-1930

Fenton (William D.) House  
626 SE 16th Avenue  
Portland, Multnomah County,

~~Aug 29~~ 1979

JUL 11 1979

1 of 2 Historic view; ca. 1930,  
West and South elevation  
Photographer unknown  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205

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REQUESTED.

Oregon Historical Society  
1230 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205

NEGATIVE NUMBER:

55393



Fenton (William D.) House  
626 SE 16th Avenue  
Portland, Multnomah County,  
Oregon

**AUG 29 1979**      **JUL 11 1979**

2 of 2 West elevation  
1979 photo, Diane S. Har-  
diman  
626 SE 16th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214