

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME									
address: 477 NW Overlook Ave Gresham, Multnomah County (97030) assoc addresses: location descr:	historic name: Amundsen, Roy E. and Hildur L., House current/other names: block/lot/tax lot: township/rng/sect/qtr sect:								
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS									
resource type: Building elig evaluation: eligible/significant prim constr date: 1961 second date:	height (stories): 1.0 total elig resources: 1 NR Status: Individually Listed date indiv listed: 07/15/2019	total inelig resources: 3 primary orig use: Single Dwelling second orig use: primary style: Modern Period: Other secondary style: Contemporary primary siding: Horizontal Board secondary siding: Stone:Other/Undefined plan type: Other Late 20th Century Type							
		orig use comments: prim style comments: Northwest Regional, Modern Movement: Wrightian sec style comments: siding comments: architect: Harold Amundsen: Designer, Consulting Architect: Burton Jared Goodrich and Barney Grevstad builder: Hans B. Grevstad and Harold Amundsen							
comments/notes: 5/3/18 HRR submitted. TZ									
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS									
Survey/Grouping Included In: Gresham Northwest Neighborhood RLS 2012	Type of Grouping Survey & Inventory Project	Date Listed	Date Compiled 2012						
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY									
NR date listed: 07/15/2019 ILS survey date: RLS survey date: 11/02/2012	Special Assessment <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th>Status</th> <th>Term</th> <th>End Yr</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Active</td> <td>1st</td> <td>2030</td> </tr> </table>		Status	Term	End Yr	Active	1st	2030	106 Project(s): None Federal Tax Project(s): None
Status	Term	End Yr							
Active	1st	2030							
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION									
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>									
<p>The Roy E. and Hildur L. Amundsen House, at 477 NW Overlook Avenue, is located west of downtown Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon, in a neighborhood of mid-century houses (Figures 1 and 2). Completed in 1961, the house was erected on an irregularly shaped lot, facing east toward Overlook Avenue (Figure 3). The house sits on 0.32 acres (13,950 square feet). It has a large front and back lawn with perimeter plantings along the foundation. The 1,554 square foot, single-story residence is a wood-framed structure with intersecting flat roofs. It sits on a concrete foundation. The Amundsen House is significant as an intact, Wrightian-styled, architect-designed house built in one of Gresham's fast developing mid-century neighborhoods. The house has most of the character-defining features commonly found in Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian house designs, including horizontal orientation; single-story; no basement or attic space; a small size—around 1,500 square feet; floor-to-ceiling wood-framed windows and clerestory windows; a prominent hearth; a slab-on-grade foundation with radiant floor heating; a flat roof with wide overhanging eaves; simple entrance; and minimal ornamentation. Usonian houses used flush cabinets to create efficient storage without degrading the clean, simple lines of the design, and the Amundsen House features flush cabinetry. The home uses natural and local materials, such as sandstone quarried from Wilkinson, Washington, to construct the central hearth and western red cedar for the interior and exterior walls. Windows are wood-framed fixed, with some casement and levered windows. The residence has a built-up, asphalt flat roof over the main body of the house and a clerestory roof over the living room, with a slight pitch. The pitch was added in 2017 when the roof was repaired after failure. The pitch is not visible from the public right-of-way. The Amundsen House's interior walls are finished with natural wide horizontal board-and-batten siding that matches the exterior of the house. Original fixtures and hardware are present throughout. The entrance to the house is centered on the façade and opens into the main body of the house. The house has three main volumes; the southernmost houses the kitchen, utility area, a bathroom, and a bedroom; the central volume (where the front entrance is located) contains the dining area and living room; and the northernmost section has two bedrooms and a bathroom. A two-car carport is located on the south façade. A concrete drive curves slightly from the street to the carport, and a sidewalk leads from the driveway to the front entryway. There are three non-contributing outbuildings on the site: two garden sheds, and a shed-roof, wood storage structure, all of which are outside of the period of significance. The house has undergone few alterations since its construction and has retained its character defining features. The Amundsen House has had only three owners since its design and construction. The house has retained its original materials and it has not been adversely altered from its original design. Necessary repairs have been sensitive to the house's design, and the largest alteration to the building was the addition of a slight pitch to the roofline, which is not visible from the right of way. Therefore, the house has retained a very high level of historic integrity in its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Roy E. and Hildur L. Amundsen House is an excellent example of the type and is remarkably intact and unaltered.</p>									
HISTORY									
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>									
<p>The Roy E. and Hildur L. Amundsen House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level as an excellent, intact example of a Wrightian-styled, architect-designed residence in Gresham's Northwest Neighborhood. The house displays many distinctive characteristics of Wright's Usonian designs in its small size, slab-on-grade foundation with radiant floor heat, horizontal emphasis, natural ornamentation, use of floor-to-ceiling glass windows, central hearth, and minimal ornamentation. The period of significance is the year the house was constructed, 1961. The Amundsen House was designed by Harold Amundsen for his parents, Roy and Hildur, in 1960 when he was a student at University of Oregon. Amundsen was listed as the designer of the plan with Burton G. Goodrich and Barney E. Grevstad as the A.I.A consulting architects. Goodrich was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most trusted Taliesin apprentices (1934 to 1942) and Grevstad (who was Harold Amundsen's uncle) was a successful Seattle architect who had designed many modern commercial structures by this time, as well as several residential designs, including his own similarly-styled house in Seattle, Washington. Barney Grevstad's father, Hans B. Grevstad, a Seattle homebuilder, came to Portland to build the Amundsen House.</p>									
RESEARCH INFORMATION									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obituaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Permits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Archives <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs						
Local Library:		University Library:							
Historical Society:		Other Repository:							
Bibliography:									



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