

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Jackson
Theme 5c, 10b
Name
(Common) Mon Desir Dining Inn
(Historic) Woodlawn Farm: Conroe Fiero House
Address 4615 Hamrick Road
Central Point, Oregon 97502
Present Owner Stanley Smith
Address 4615 Hamrick Road, Central Pt., Oregon
Original Use Residence
Date of Construction 1910

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Conroe Fiero house is a one and one-half story, wood frame building in the Tudor Revival style, located on the westside of Hamrick Road, northeast of Central Point. Erected in 1910, this house has a steep gable roof and was originally a "U" shaped plan. The exterior is shiplap siding, except for the applied half-timbering and stucco, in the upper half story of the double projecting gables on the east (front) elevation. A partially recessed veranda reaches across the front elevation, cutting into what would have been the base of the projecting gable on the south end of the building. The building has been structurally changed by the addition of banquet facilities on the southwest end and a kitchen wing to the northwest corner, both on the west (rear) elevation. The front elevation appears unchanged when compared to a 1912 photograph. The building is in good condition and has served as a dining inn for the past 30 years.

Woodlawn Farm was built for Conroe Fiero, and his bride Grace Andrews. Fiero commissioned Whitehouse and Fouilhoux, a Portland architectural firm, to design a home that would sit in the center of a 140 acre orchard estate. The hinges, light fixtures, and other various pieces were hand forged by Honeyman Hardware of Portland.

Conroe Fiero, a Chicago millionaire, came to the valley during the orchard boom of the

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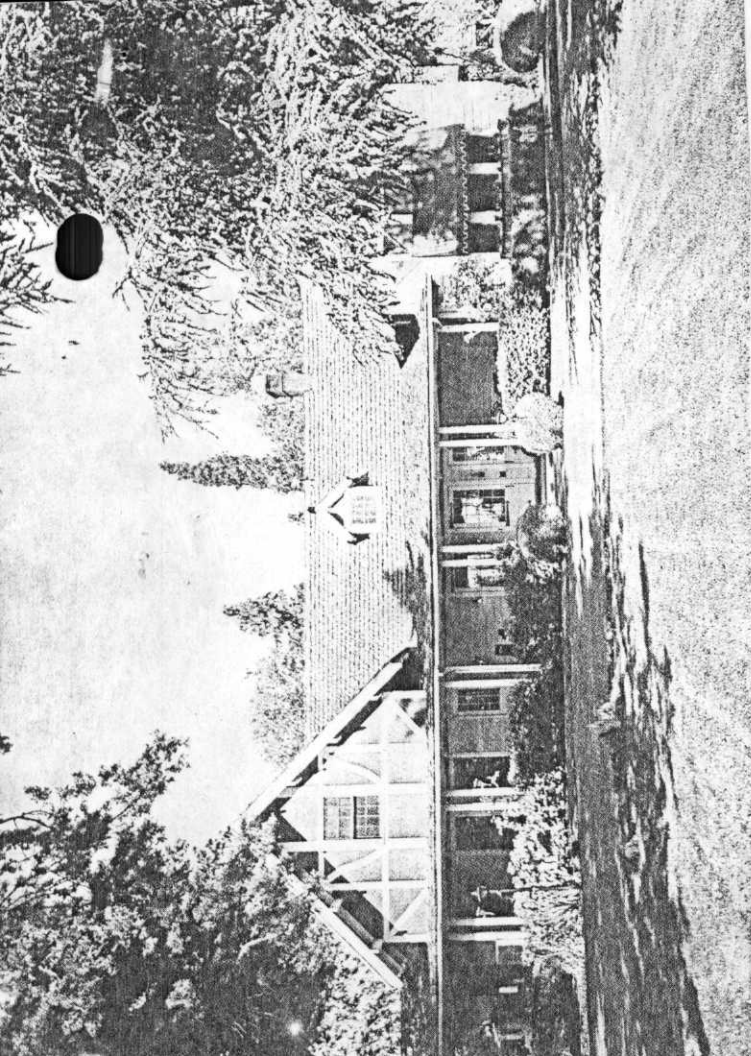
Recorded by L. Scott Clay Date 04 April 1979

Photography by Marjorie Edens. S.O.H.S., Neg. No. 35mm-31-21

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Fiero, Grace Andrews. Interview with Seth Bullis, 1963. Southern Oregon Historical Society.
"The Mon Desir Story," promotional publication. Gandee Printing Center, Medford. No date.

Please enclose map. Township 37 ^N _S 2 ^E _W Section 1B Tax Lot 4000



STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Jackson

Theme State Marker

Name
(Common) Mon Desir

(Historic) Woodlawn Acres: Conro Fiero

Address 4615 Hamrick Road House
Central Point, Oregon

Present Owner Mon Desir Incorporated

Address 4615 Hamrick, Central Point,
Oregon

Original Use Home

Date of Construction 1910

Physical description of property and its historical significance:

The Conroe Fiero House is one of the few remaining examples of orchard mansions in the Rogue River Valley. The bungalow Tudor Revival Style home was built in 1910 by Portland Architects Whitehouse and ~~Foullhouk~~. The house is in good condition as it now serves as one of the valleys finest dining inns.

The land on which the Conro Fiero House is located begins at a point on the East line of DLC 55 in Township 37 South, Range 2W, Section 2, Tax Lot 4000. The house is located on the west side of Hamrick Road, Northeast of Central Point. Orchard properties surround the Conro Fiero House.

The Conro Fiero House is a one and a half story home with a "U" shaped plan and steep gable roof. The exterior is shiplap siding except for the applied half timbering and stucco in the upper half story of the double projecting gables on the East(front) elevation. A partially recessed veranda reaches across the front elevation, cutting into what would have been the base of the projecting gable on the south end of the building.

Subsequent additions to the building have been the addition of banquet facilities on the SW end and a kitchen wing to the NW corner, both in the West elevation. The front remains unchanged. The entrance to the house has been moved to the new addition.

The interior of the Conro Fiero Home remains relatively unchanged. The addition of wallpaper and carpeting over the wooden floors changes the

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Recorded by Judy A. Floyd Date July 28, 1980

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):
Jackson County Historical Sites Survey 1979, p. 197-198
Tape 18, Interview of Grace (Andrews) Fiero by Seth Bullis, 18 June 1963.

Please enclose map. Township 37 ^N _S 2 ^E _W Section 2

CASA FILE AVAILABLE
DUPLICATION OF # 252
564

cont.

appearance, but the original house floor plan remains intact. As one enters the home to the left lie the new additions; to the right one enters the original home. The walls are wooden and/or a combination of wood and stucco. A ceiling to floor brick fireplace with copper trim is a focal point as one enters the now main dining room or formerly the living room. Ceiling to floor bookshelves west of the fireplace on the North wall have been removed and a door constructed to enter the kitchen. Three large, sixteen lite wooden doors open onto verandas on both the East and West sides of the living room. These doors are no longer accessible, but the Fiero's opened these doors for entertainment.

Mr. A. Conroe Fiero, son of Mr. A.W. Fiero, a wealthy Chicago businessman, came to the Rogue Valley at the turn of the century to become a millionaire. Conroe built this orchard mansion for his bride Grace Andrews on one hundred and forty acres of orchard land. This was the period when the orchard boom came to the Rogue Valley. Their home became the center of the most lavish entertaining with an Eastern flair, new and thrilling to the Southern Oregon Community. The guest list of the Woodlawn Orchard Mansion frequently included some of the more famous names of that era including that of our ambassador to Spain, Stan Griffis. Conroe was active in the Medford business community, social affairs, and the development of the Rogue Valley Fruit industry. By 1917 the Fiero's had lost everything of their fruit crops to freeze.

Miss Grace Andrews was famous on the New York stage. She rose to stardom under the guidance of David Belasco. Belasco was labeled by New York Times as "The greatest producer and stage director of his time." Grace made her Broadway debut in "Beverly of Grastark" in 1908 on Belasco's stage. Grace was a member of the Andrews Opers Company family of Minnesota. When the opera company was dissolved, the family moved to Rogue Valley, around 1903. The family pursued agricultural interests, but their greatest contribution was in the cultural development of the valley, music and theater.

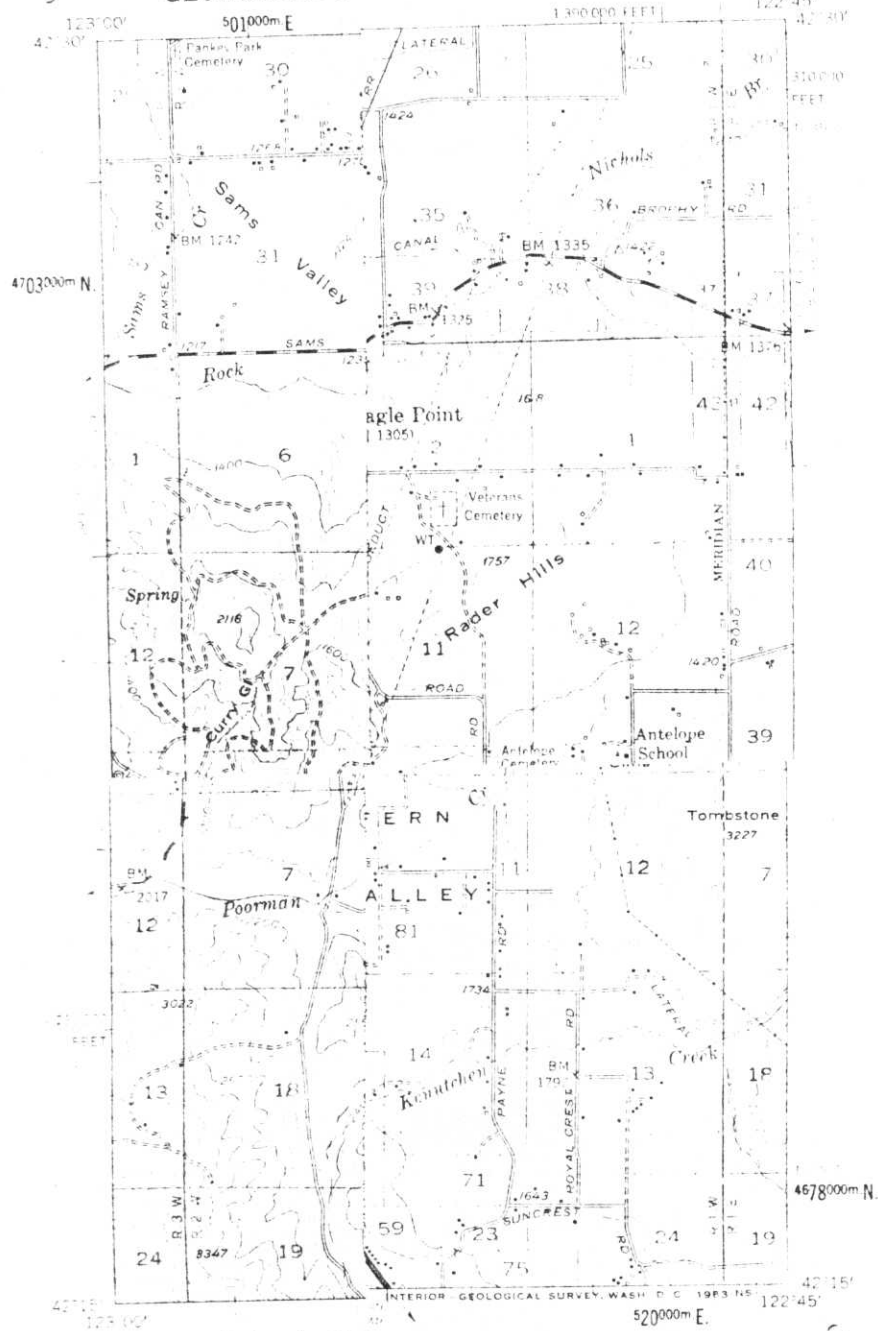
Miss Andrews met Conroe Fiero in 1909 on one of her visits from New York. After their marriage she continued with her career, residing in the valley during the off season. It was during one of these visits in 1914 that she starred in a local film "Grace's Visit to the Rogue River Valley." This motion picture was used as a Jackson County promotional film at the 1915 San Francisco Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The film is now in the collection of the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Jacksonville, Oregon.

The one hundred and forty acres remained one property under three different owners until George T. and Lillian E. Ehrheart bought the property in 1943. They bought the six acres which the Fiero Home now sits and made the home into a Southern Chicken Dinner restaurant. After six months and failure, J.M. Alexander and Julia Jemma Tummers bought the home. Julia made the home into a dining inn and named it Mon Desir. Julia Tummers with her excellent preparation of American and European cuisine has made Mon Desir one of the finest dining places between Portland and San Francisco. Mon Desir has been honored by the Wine Advisory Board of California with one of the three "Superior Wine Service" plaques issued in Oregon. Mon Desir has been the dining stop of many movie stars and influential personages. In 1957 Mon Desir was listed in Life Magazine as one of the forty-nine best of American Roadside Inns.

Due to ill health in 1966, Julia Tummers sold Mon Desir to Stanley D. and Thomasine E. Smith. The Smiths maintained the dining inn for thirteen years. Mon Desir is now under new ownership by two families from Ashland, Oregon: Al and Donna Carver and D n and Linda Jackson.

The Conroe Fiero Home was designed by two Portland architects; Whitehouse and Foyou. Mr. Foyou later designed the famous Radio City in New York. In 1909 a jury was chosen by the Oregon Chapter of the A.I.A. to select "the ten most notable examples of architecture." One of the ten buildings chosen was the University Club built in 1913 by Whitehouse and Foyou.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 MEDFORD QUADRANGLE
 OREGON—JACKSON CO.
 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs and by planimetric surveys 1954
 Polyconic projection, 1927 North 10,000-foot grid based on Oregon
 Red tint indicates areas in which landmark buildings are shown
 Dashed land lines indicate approximate boundaries
 Unmarked elevations are shown in feet
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator zone 10, shown in blue

ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1963
 Light duty
 Unimproved dirt
 U.S. Route
 State Route

MEDFORD, OREGON
 N4215—W12245/15
 1954

FIERO (CONRO) HOUSE
 10/508825/4692175

JACKSON COUNTY CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1990 ADDENDUM FORM



T 37S R 2W S 1B TL 4000
 Theme Agriculture; Architecture
 Common Name Mon Desir
 Historic Name Fiero, Conro House
 Address 4615 Hamrick Road
Central Point, Oregon
 Present Owner Walter, Russell D.
 Address 4615 Hamrick Road
Central Point, Oregon
 Original Use Residence
 Present Use Restaurant/Residence
 Date of Construction 1910
 Ranking: Primary

Date of Photo 3 March 1992 National Register Yes Date 1981
 Negative No. DV:27 Determination of Eligibility Yes Date _____
 Slide No. DG:21 Statewide Inventory Yes

See following pages

Recorded by Clay/Atwood Date 1979/1991

Sources Consulted:

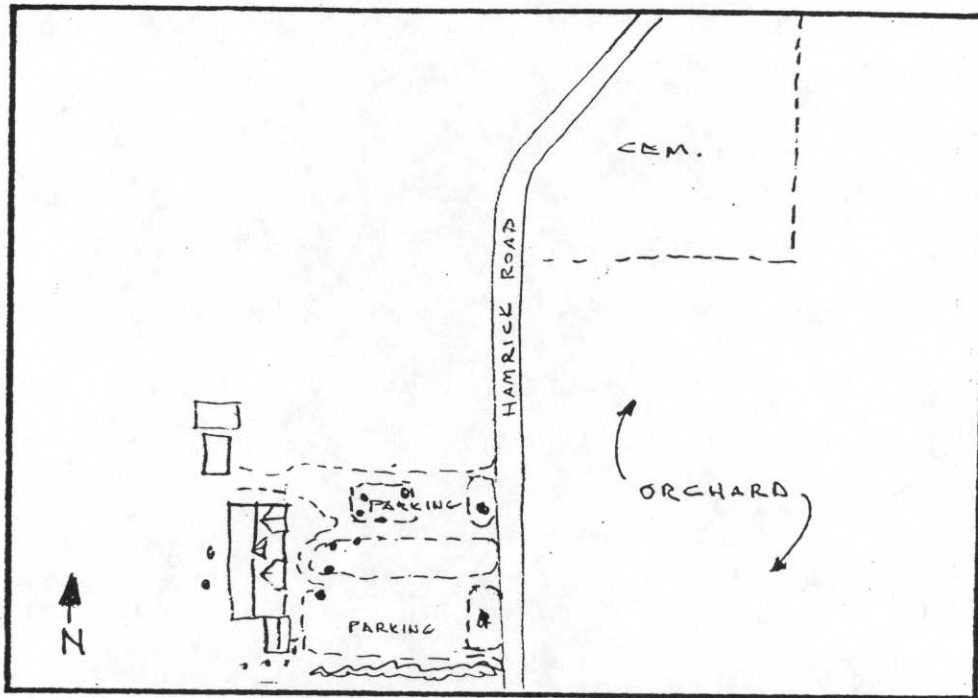
1992 Field Check: No changes noted

SHPO No. 252

JC No. 204

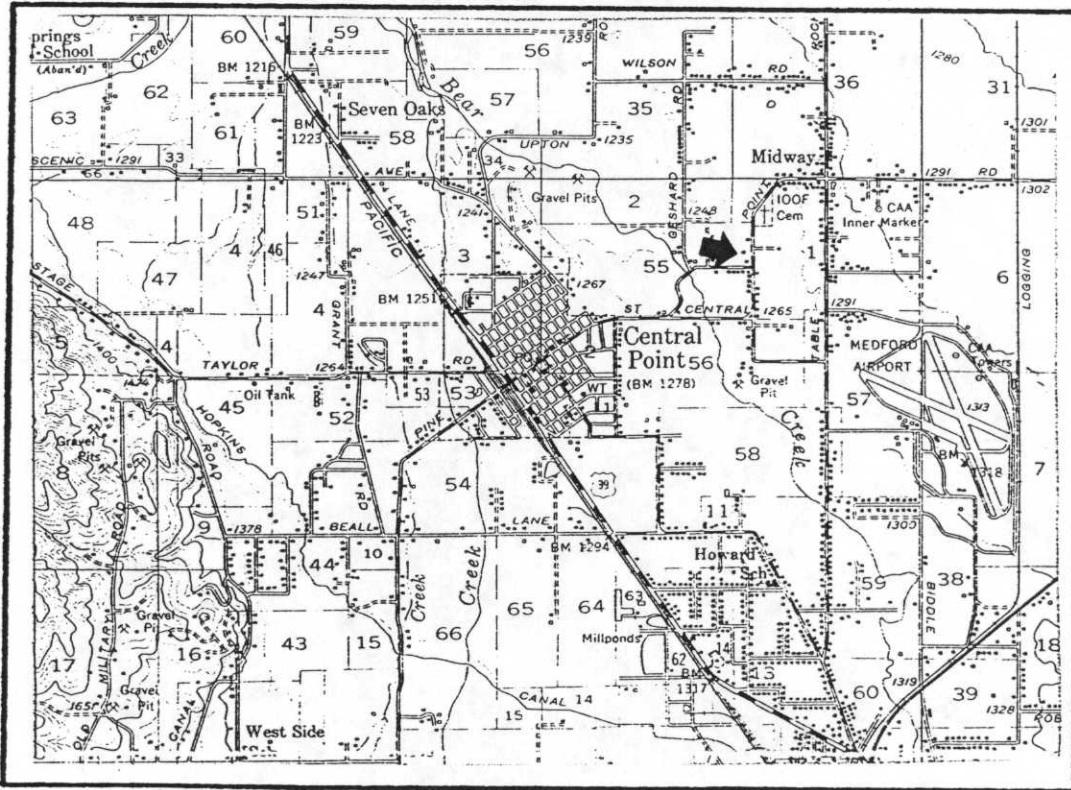
JACKSON COUNTY CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY

NAME: Fiero, Conro House



VIEW: _____

DATE OF PHOTO: _____



QUADRANGLE: Medford: 1954

SHPO NO _____

JC NO 204