

**Historic
Resource
Inventory**
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON.



2-336-02033

2033 N.W. Glisan Street

Couch's, Block 281, Tax Lot 1
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 2927
Northwest District Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Couch School
OTHER NAMES: Metropolitan Learning Center

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: School

DATE BUILT: 1915

STYLE: Jacobethan

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Naramore, F.A.

ORIGINAL OWNER: School District No. 1

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-18022-7570
ZONING: RH

Rank II
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Nob Hill (potential)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:
Flat roof with parapet. Exterior finish of brick. Glazed terra cotta decorative elements include Tudor arches around entrances, relief panels above entrances, and decorative panels inset into parapet. Cavetto cornice below parapet.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

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2-336-02033

(NOT THIS BUILDING!)

Education: Couch School was moved to this site in 1915 from its original site which it had occupied since 1882.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City of Portland Buildings Bureau microform and card files.

Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, automated data files, and card files (Portland, 1980).

Portland Public Schools, PROFILES OF PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Portland, Oregon).

OLD ADDRESS: 671 Glisan Street

Present owners, as of May 1980: School District No. 1
MAILING ADDRESS: 631 N.W. Clackamas Street, Portland 97232

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 565-18, 608-8, 608-9

Score - Design/Construction: 10
Score - Historical: 5
Score - Rarity: 0
Score - Environment: 10
Score - Integrity: 15
Score - Intrinsic: 15
Score - Contextual: 20
Score - Total: 72.5

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
COUNTY: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

HIST. NAME: Couch School
COMMON NAME: Metropolitan Learning Center
ADDRESS: 2033 Northwest Glisan Street
CITY: Portland
OWNER: School District No. 1
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3107, Portland, OR 97208

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1914
ORIGINAL USE: Education: school
PRESENT USE: Education: school
ARCHITECT: Naramore, F.A.
BUILDER:
THEME: Culture: Education
STYLE: Jacobethan

T/R/S: TIN RIE S33
MAP NO.: 2927 TAX LOT: NA
ADDITION: Couch's Addition
BLOCK: 281 LOT: 1
ZONE: RH QUAD.: Portland
ASSESSOR NO.: R180227570

RESOURCE TYPE: School
CONDITION: Excellent
MOVED (DATE):

Old Address: Couch School
RANK:

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: H-shape
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Flat w/parapet
WALL/FRAME: Concrete, reinforced w/brick face

NO. OF STORIES: 2
BASEMENT: Yes, raised

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Fixed-pane, lower sash opening
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Brick; glazed terra cotta

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Glazed terra cotta decorative elements on roof; terra-cotta cavetto cornice below parapet; Tudor arch above entrance and relief panels above; decorative panels inset into parapet; terra-cotta beltcourse.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): Windows replaced, date unknown; security gates, date unknown.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Mature deciduous trees (e.g. maples).

ASSOCIATED FEATURES: None

SETTING: The building is located on the north side of N.W. Glisan Street, a one-way arterial. The parcel is mid-block. The area is characterized as multi-family housing and office. The Couch Park is located next to the building to the east.

RECORDED BY: Donovan and Associates
Prohaska and Associates

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: P-174
DATE: August 1991

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OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: The Couch School, designed by F.A. Naramore in 1914, was built with elements of the Jacobethan Style. The building displays beautiful terra-cotta detailing around the windows and doors. Couch School is the only intact school in the study area.

Historical: The property is associated with the following Portland families and organizations: Issac and Gertrude White, Archbishop Alexander Christie and the Portland School District.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP HISTORY

- 1908-1914 Issac and Gertrude White deeded the property to George Thompson, Trustee in 1908. George Thompson deeded lots 1-12 to Archbishop Alexander Christie on September 4, 1914.
- 1914 Archbishop Alexander Christie deeded lots 1-12 to the Portland School District #1 on April 29, 1914.
- 1915 Couch School was constructed on tax lot 1 of Block 281.

OWNERS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Couch School/Metropolitan Learning Center: The property where Couch School was built is associated with several prominent families.

(1) The Henry Hewett house was built on the site of the present Couch School. When the Hewett family moved to the Green Hills area of Portland, the house was moved around the corner to a site in the middle of the block on NW Hoyt Street, leaving the property available for the Levi Whites to build their new home.

(2) The beautiful Victorian Levi White house originally stood on the site of the present Couch School. The home faced NW Twentieth Street between NW Glisan and NW Hoyt. It occupied the site of the Hewett house and may have been constructed on the same foundation. After the Whites left the house, it was converted into Dr. Robert C. Coffey's North Pacific Sanatorium. The home was later demolished.

(3) Cicero H. Lewis, Sr. came from New Jersey to Portland in 1850. Seven years later he married Captain Couch's second daughter, Clementine. In 1881 they built a lovely home and raised eleven children. After the children had grown, the home was razed for the development of a playground for Couch school.

Gertrude White was the daughter of Levi White and Henrietta Rosener White. Levi and Henrietta were married in San Francisco and were the parents of six children: Issac L. White was born in San Francisco in 1864 and raised in Portland. He was a prominent business man in Portland, who directed the I.L. White Insurance Agency in the Sherlock Building. Issac married Miss Selina S. Bloch and he was active in the Masons. Gertrude White was the daughter of Levi and Henrietta White.

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Archbishop Alexander Christie was highly respected by the Catholic population in the northwest. He served for eleven years at St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland. A native of Highgate, Vermont, he was raised in Minnesota. He entered religious training at St. John's University at Collegeville, Minnesota, conducted by the Benedictine Fathers. He later enrolled at the Grand Seminary at Montreal, Canada. He was ordained into the priesthood for the St. Paul diocese and served as pastor at several parishes in Minnesota, until 1899 when he was installed at St. Mary's procathedral of Portland on June 13th as the fourth Archbishop of Oregon City . He was active in all aspects of the Catholic church organizations.

ARCHITECT: F.A. Narramore

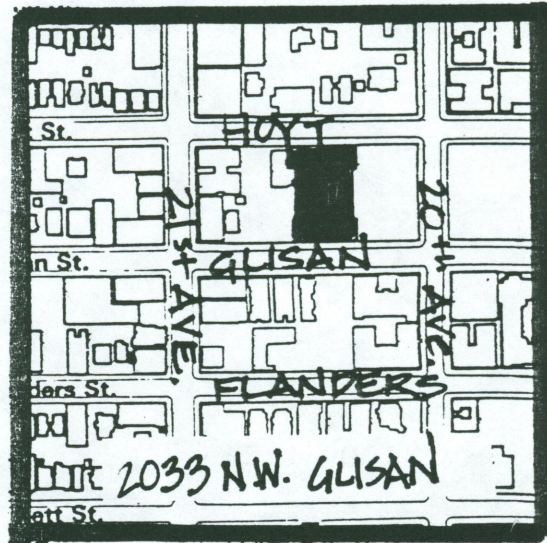
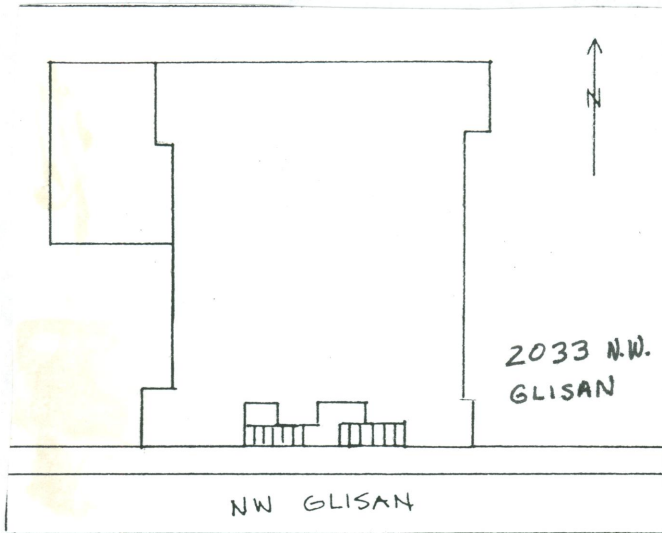
Sources: Ticor Title Company Records
Multnomah County Tax Assessor Records
City of Portland Building Bureau
Portland City Directories
Portland Block Books
Couch School: *Nineteenth Street* by Richard Marlitt
White: *Portland, Its History and Builders*, p.663
Christie: *Portland, Its History and Builders*, p.445

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NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 36 #33, #34

DATE: 5/7/91



RECORDED BY: Donovan and Associates
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SHPO INVENTORY NO.: