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HELEN H. WALL  
1728 S. W. Prospect Drive  
Portland, Oregon 97201

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STATE PARKS DIVISION

December 13, 1988

Susie Haylock  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Parks and Recreation Division  
525 Trade St. S. E.  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Mz. Haylock

This is to officially notify your office that my National Register House, "The Honeyman House" at 1728 S. W. Prospect Dr. Portland is open by appointment to the public during the next 15 years or as long as I am the owner.

I would also like to take this opportunity to correct recent history as noted on papers filed with your office or locally in Portland.

OWNERS: In 1961 when I was married to James G. Robbins, Jr., I bought the house from Nan Wood Honeyman through her brother, the attorney, Erskine Wood. There have been no other owners to date except the Honeymans and myself. Mrs. Honeyman moved right after the sale, but her son, David continued to live here until we moved in in 1962. In 1980 I resumed using my maiden name of Wall.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: From 1961 until the present there was only one architect who worked on the house, Richard A. Marlitt. He did three major renovations; in 1961 he designed a wall to ceiling bookcase on the south wall of the living room; also in the living room, Mr. Marlitt replaced a small high window with a French window by the fireplace; he corrected the overdone living room mantle by removing unnecessary decorative features; lowered the mantle itself to make an area for pictures above and lowered the pilasters' capitols on either side of the mantel; also in 1961 the original kitchen and "servant's dining room" (a quote from the Lewis plans) were completely remodeled and paneled in "sandy" an exotic wood from Columbia, S. A.. the "servant's dining room" became a utility room. in 1967 a library paneled in "virola", another Columbian wood, was added; the Honeyman's had planned to build a library (the living room fireplace had a double flu for this purpose) but the room had never been added; the Columbian woods had been given to Mrs. Wall by her father, Howard M. Wall, a pioneer in importing South American woods to Oregon; the library encompassed part of the garden and a small covered entry porch from the original house; Mr. Marlitt designed a bedroom and bath above the library; Mr. Honeyman's open sleeping porch became a bathroom and two bedroom closets in this new addition. In 1961 Mrs. Wall was the contractor; in 1967 the contractor was Ben Lemire.

LANDSCAPEST : In 1967 Wallace K. Huntington designed the front steps and the garden walks.

The present owner was actively involved in the start of the Portland Opera, and many singers and directors were guests; the most famous of which was Joan Sutherland and her husband. In 1961 "The Honeyman House" switched political parties as well as owners, and the present owner's activity in Republican politics has brought many interesting national and local personalities to the house, such as Lloyd Nolan, who along with Jimmy Stewart was stumping for Ronald Reagan. Governor Tom McCall was another guest, who gave a charming speech in the front hall from the stairs.

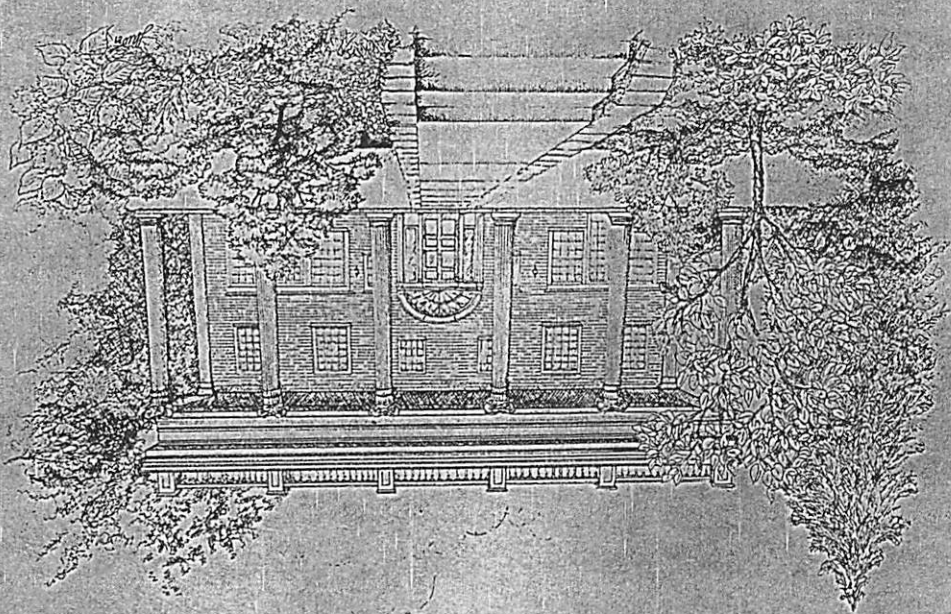
Nan Wood Honeyman's brother Erskine Wood, attending a black tie dinner party heard from his hostess that a small boy upstairs in bed was very interested in American Indians. His hostess found Mr. Wood upstairs sitting on the boy's bed regaling him with the stories of how as a small boy he was sent to live in the summers with Chief Joseph and his tribe.

Thank you, for your help and advice and very best wishes for the Christmas Season.

Yours very truly,

*Helen H. Wall*

Helen H. Wall



# 1728 S.W. Prospect Drive

The David T. Honeyman & Nan Wood Honeyman house, now owned by Pati Palmer and John Watson and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is situated on .38 acres in Portland Heights. Designed in Colonial Revival style building commenced in 1907 and the house was ready for occupancy in 1908. Finish work may have been completed later. Oriented to the east/northeast it overlooks greater Portland. A Giant Sequoia is located at the SE corner of the property. In the 1880's the city of Portland planted redwood and/or sequoia trees to serve as corner markers for the city limits. This tree, believed to be one of the corner-markers, was incorporated into the landscape scheme when the area was platted. The grounds contain many ornamental plants common to the urban landscape of the Pacific NW. A large Kwanzan flowering cherry is sited on the SW corner, a large English holly near the SE corner of the house. Various azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangias, dogwoods, boxwood, and camellias are present.

The house's design was one of the outstanding works of architect David Chambers Lewis (1871-1918), who was brother-in-law to David Honeyman. Educated at Princeton, trained in architecture at Columbia--he designed a number of noteworthy buildings in Portland including Trinity Episcopal Church (1906), Board of Trade Bldg. (1908), and the Railway Exchange Bldg (1910).

## Exterior Architectural Details

- Full-length two-story portico supported by six colossal columns of the Composite order set on 3 ft. sq. plinths.
- Two stories in height with a finished daylight attic and full basement with servant's quarters.
- Rectangular in mass with a truncated hip roof.
- A single-story hip roof garage was built in 1924 to replace an existing carriage house.
- The entablature contains architrave, frieze, and

cornice and is crowned with an attic balustrade over the portico.

- The main entrance, centered in the principle facade, features sidelights and an elliptical Adamesque tracery in the form of a fan or sunburst. Tripartite, multipaned window groupings with central French doors flank the front entrance and give access to the living and dining rooms.
- The wood frame building sets on a poured concrete foundation, and is supported by 6" x 8" posts set in 22" x 10" footings. The posts carry 6" x 8" girders, and 2" x 12" joists on 16" centers.
- There are four substantial brick chimneys with corbelled caps--one serves the kitchen, the other three vent the six fireplaces.

Mule-drawn wagons hauled the bricks for the four massive chimneys, the lumber, the fixtures for the seven original bathrooms, and the cement for the poured concrete basement up the steep hill, over unpaved roads to the building site. In the early years, the family generally walked up the hill from Nan's father's residence near the Vista Bridge (then called the Ford Street Bridge), and avoided driving on the steep road altogether.

### Interior Details - Main Floor

#### **Central Entry Hall**

- Fireplace with elaborately molded surround
- Grand staircase with a balustrade of fine turned posts 3 to a tread, a paneled newel post and carved polished mahogany handrail.
- High base moldings and jog-sawn friese board.
- Bathroom under the stairs
- Sliding paneled doors lead to living and dining rooms

#### **Dining Room**

- Six foot paneled wainscot with mahogany finish
- Plaster coved cornice on ceiling
- Fireplace flanked by leaded glass windows
- French doors to veranda

### **Butler's Pantry**

- Four banks of glass-fronted cupboards
- Built-in drawers
- Sink and wainscot

### **Kitchen**

- Remodeled in 1961 and again in 1989

### **Library (1967 Addition)**

- Beamed ceiling of rare South American virola wood
- Large brick fireplace
- Window bay in south wall

## **Interior Details - Second Floor**

### **Bedrooms and Baths**

- Five large bedrooms
- Originally the SW bedroom opened onto a small piazza or balcony--but now opens into the 1967 bedroom addition.
- The master bedroom on the SE corner was used by Eleanor Roosevelt during her visits to the house.
- The Eleanor Roosevelt room and NE master bedroom share a dressing room across the front of the house and both have fireplaces and adjoining baths.
- The NW bedroom (daughter Melissa's) shares a bath with the NE master bedroom.

## **Attic - Third Floor**

- Originally contained three bedrooms, two baths, a playroom, trunk room and cedar lined closet.
- Extensively remodeled in 1989 to house the corporate offices of Palmer/Pletsch Associates, Pati's book publishing and sewing consultant business, etc.

## **Basement**

- Contained a room called "The Jap's Room" in original specifications. These were quarters of a permanent Japanese servant whose main duty was to stoke the coal burning furnace.

- Laundry room with built-in ironing table, a wine cellar, preserve cellar, a fruit cellar, and a coal bin.
- During prohibition, a still was operated in the basement.
- A sauna was installed in the 1970's

### Changes and Alterations

- 1924 alteration of the stairway to the attic and installation of new fixtures to second floor baths.
- 1924 two car garage replaces carriage house
- 1961 updating of kitchen
- 1967 two-story addition of compatible style added at west rear. Contains a library on first floor, bedroom on second, and game room in basement. The additions replaced the original brick piazza and balcony.
- 1989 extensive remodeling of third floor into office and work space and remodeling on kitchen

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### The Honeyman

Nan Wood Honeyman was the daughter of Charles Erskin Scott Wood, celebrated soldier, lawyer, explorer, poet and artist. Her mother, Nannty Moale Smith, raised in the genteel society of the nation's capital was known as the "belle of Washington, the life of private theatricals, fancy dress balls and those charity fairs in which girls preside over booths and the net proceeds, if there were any, went to the poor." (Erskin Wood, The Life of Erskin Scott Wood. 1978, p. 19)

Nan was the oldest of the five children, born July 15, 1881 at West Point, where her father C. E. S. Wood was adjutant to the military academy. He was a graduate of West Point and friend of Jim Bridger, Gen. Custer, Kit Carson and Nez Perce Chief Joseph.

Nan learned progressive politics from her father, a Columbia educated lawyer, who was an authority on maritime law on the Pacific Coast, was "champion

of striker, labor leaders, progressives and others interested in the redistribution of wealth and power." The Oregonian 2/7/37.) He defended John Reed and Margaret Sanger when she was arrested for lecturing in Portland about birth control.

Nan was educated at St. Helen's Hall in Portland and went to Finch School in New York to study music. There she met Eleanor Roosevelt and they became good friends. They made their social debut together and were members of the wedding party of Franklin Roosevelt's half niece. Eleanor was Nan's guest at the house on Prospect Drive in Portland on several occasions.

David Honeyman, Jr. remembers that when Eleanor arrived she would turn the dining room into her office, and set up her typewriter on the dining room table so she could write her regular newspaper column.

Nan married David Honeyman (1880-1946) on February 12, 1907. This was about one month after David had purchased the property for the house. David's family owned the largest hardware store in Portland, The Honeyman Hardware Co., and David was V.P. and Treas. He was director of Portland Gas and Coke Co., and an officer of the Electric Products Corp. The couple raised three children.

Nan was active in the community in the 1920s--on the board of Doernbecher Children's Hospital, VP of the Doernbecher Children's Guild, VP of the Waverly Baby Home, and Dir. of the Red Cross.

Nan Wood Honeyman was a progressive leader and a reformer. In the 1920's she served as president of the League of Women Voters, state and national committeewoman for the Democratic party, and in 1928 she was elected president of the Oregon Division of the Woman's National Organization for Prohibition Reform. The group sought an end to prohibition in opposition to their vocal and powerful rival, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

In 1933 Nan was elected president of the Constitutional Convention which ratified the 21st Amend. to the U.S. Constitution, repealing prohibition (the 18th Amend.)

She was elected to the lower house of the Oregon Legislature from the 13th Dist. in 1934. "It was her observance of the failure of prohibition and public sentiment against presidential candidate Al Smith because of his religion that impelled her to try the political field herself." (Oregonian 12/11/70).

In 1936 she was elected to the U.S. Congress as a Representative from Oregon's 3rd Dist., the first woman to represent Oregon in Congress. She was a strong supporter of the New Deal, as well as a personal friend to the President and Eleanor Roosevelt. Nan took her daughter Judith with her to Washington. Her husband David stayed home and took care of the family business. She served on the Rivers and Harbors Committee, the Irrigation and Reclamation Committee and the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Nan lost the election in 1838 and again in 1940 despite the backing of labor. In 1941 she was sworn in to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate. She resigned four months later to take a position in the U.S. Office of Price Administration. In Dec. 1941 Pres. Roosevelt nominated her for District 29 Customs Collector at Portland, a post she held from 1942-53. Following her husband's death in 1946, she continued to occupy the house until 1959.

Nan Wood Honeyman died Dec. 11, 1970 in Woodacre, CA, where she had resided for several years. She was 89.