

DATA SHEET

PHO 697362

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **FEB 14 1979**

DATE ENTERED **MAR 28 1979**

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Piggott (Charles) House

AND/OR COMMON "Piggott's Castle"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2591 S.W. Buckingham Terrace *Ter.*

CITY, TOWN Portland VICINITY OF First

STATE Oregon CODE 41 COUNTY Multnomah CODE 051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jack Lichtgarn ✓

STREET & NUMBER 2591 S.W. Buckingham Terrace

CITY, TOWN Portland VICINITY OF Oregon STATE 97201

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 1021 S.W. 4th Street

CITY, TOWN Portland STATE Oregon 97204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Portland Historical Landmark

DATE 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Portland Bureau of Planning
424 S.W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN Portland STATE Oregon 97204

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Piggott's Castle" is located in the hills southwest of Portland overlooking the city on what originally was the Finice Carruthers Donation Land Claim. It was built on Lots 1 and 2 of Block 6, Seventh Street Terraces Addition to Portland, in Sec. 4, T. 1 S., R. 1 E., W.M.

The small Romanesque Revival castellated house is a two-story brick masonry structure, irregular in plan, with partial basement and occupies a sloping site. The front (north) elevation abuts the lot line at the edge of the street. All the brick for the building came from Charles Piggott's local brickyard. It is laid in stretcher bond with flat, radiating voussoirs above all trabeated door and window openings. Fancy cut and molded brickwork accentuates all the stringcourses, corners, bays and projections of the building and decorates panels of a frieze crowned by the crenellated parapet. A three-story round corner bay (originally capped with a turret) projects from the NE corner of the building. The turret, or superstructure of this bay has been removed and is in storage nearby. Third story openings are arcuated, the arcading being accented by a continuous corbelled belt course at the springing of the arches.

The grade level entrance to the castle is a two panel moulded rail door on the north face. The panels have been inlaid with wood of various colors in floral designs. The four corners of the upper panel are decorated with small bronze rosettes. Cement steps lead from the street around a concrete retaining wall to the main floor entrance on the west face. The moulded rail door has four panels and above it is a transom light. This door is sheltered by a hood with classically-styled entablature supported by solid decorated corbels. On this face also is a central two-story polygonal bay with crenellated parapet. A semi-circular bay on the north face is open at the third story as a small loggia, or porch. The columns of this arcade have carved capitals.

Since 1967, a single story room has been added to the rear (south) face, and the battlemented railing which once surmounted the main story entrance canopy has disappeared. The building is presently painted white and has been so treated for a number of years. Initially, however, it was unpainted, and the texture and color of the brickwork were thus revealed.

While the exterior of "Piggott's Castle" has remained much the same as it was originally, the interior has undergone significant changes. The scale of the architectural folly dictated rooms which were so small that they were scarcely adaptable to modern-day living. As a result, spaces were enlarged after Piggott's brief occupancy by the removal of some walls. Remodeling has been undertaken by successive occupants, and the building has been vandalized several times during periodic vacancies. A fire caused damage to the interior in 1969. Comprehensive restoration is being contemplated by the current owner.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Henry Piggott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Piggott's Castle" is Portland's premier architectural folly. It was designed and occupied briefly by an unconventional man--Charles Henry Piggott. Piggott designed the structure himself after an architect had abandoned the project, declaring Piggott crazy. Piggott was inspired to build this structure after reading Samuel Griswold Goodrich's book entitled, A Pictorial History of the World, in which he saw a picture of a castle on one of Rome's Seven Hills. Having acquired a small fortune through various business ventures, Piggott chose the sloping site of the Seventh Street Terraces Addition on which to build his dream house.

The completed project was a diminutive, three-level castellated brick masonry structure in the Romanesque Revival Style. It had eleven foot ceilings, nine foot windows, circular stairways, and a tower room which Piggott called his sanctum sanctorum. Piggott used the latter as a study, and no women were granted admission. Referring to his creation, Piggott wrote: "In my castle there are curves in plenty; nooks, alcoves, turrets, towers and some angles but not the deadly monotony of straight surfaces or corners to be found in most houses." (Scrap Book 259, p. 83, Oregon Historical Society, Portland.)

Charles Henry Piggott came to Portland in 1877 after he sold his San Francisco-based produce business. In Portland, Piggott became involved in numerous business ventures. Some of his occupations included being a lawyer, bricklayer, produce salesman, fuel company operator, railroad worker and, in 1891, the owner of a consolidated brick company. It was through his brickyard located on Sandy Boulevard in Northeast Portland that he acquired a fortune worth almost \$100,000. Using brick from his own brickyard, he built the house which he dubbed "Gleall Castle," using an anagram drawn from the first two letters of his children's names--Gladys, Earl and Lloyd.

A book written and sold by Piggott in 1908, Pearls at Random Strung, gives added insight into what he was like and how he thought. In the book, he candidly describes numerous diseases, their effects and his cures, as well as his views on social change. These are presented with an unusual sense of humor and are as farsighted as they are bizarre.

After living in his creation for approximately one year, Piggott became a victim of the Panic of 1893 and was forced to sell. From the time of the sale in 1893, the building was periodically vacant. In 1934, several thousand dollars were spent repairing the damage inflicted by vandals during the previous twenty years. It was in 1934

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

that a citizen's group, Everyman's Castle Incorporated, opened the structure as an apartment building. By 1958, the structure had undergone several internal changes. On the main floor, two small rooms had been transformed into a modern L-shaped kitchen, and a section of wall had been removed to open up the living room. In general, the ceilings were lowered, except in the front living room and in the library, which had been changed into a bathroom. In addition, a family room was created from two smaller rooms. By this time, vandals had taken some of the fine wood paneling, flooring, and the curved rosewood stair railing. In 1969, a fire gutted the structure, forcing firemen to open up some of the walls, ceilings, and floors. Fortunately, most of the furnishings were saved, and the building sustained no major structural damage. Two years later, a renovation program began which was expected to cost \$100,000. This program was initiated by the building's current owner, who has under consideration a plan to turn the structure into a museum.

"Piggott's Castle" has long been the subject of haunted house stories. One owner was convinced it was haunted when every so often he would hear eerie voices. In fact, speaking tubes to the outside of the house were picking up voices from the street below. Even to this day, however, stories persist.

Despite vandalism, fire and renovation, "Piggott's Castle" still maintains its integrity as a remarkable building. Its idiosyncratic design--inspired by a picture book and the wish of the builder to eschew the mundane ----makes it a unique Portland Landmark in the true sense of the word.

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ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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- Piggott, Charles Henry. Pearls at Random Strung. Portland: 1908.
- McMath, George, and Thomas Vaughan. A Century of Portland Architecture. Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967, Pages 88-89.
- Oregonian. 26 June 1969. "Electrical Cord Blamed for Piggott Castle Fire."
- Oregonian. 11 July 1971. "Historical Group Convinced Piggott Castle Not Really Haunted."
- Oregon Journal. 28 September 1958. "In Portland There Is a Castle."
- Oregon Journal. 15 January 1964. "Lloyd Center Publicist Lives in Castle."
- Oregon Journal. 3 August 1971. "Landmark Group Airs Piggott's Castle Paint."
- Scrap Book 132, p. 188, Oregon Historical Society Library.
- Scrap Book 259, p. 83, Oregon Historical Society Library.
- Piggott, Charles Henry, and Portland, Historic Houses (Piggott's Castle), Vertical File, Oregon Historical Society Library.



Piggott, Charles, House
"Piggott's Castle"

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Oregon

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1 of 2

North and west elevations

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Jon Horn photo, 1978
Lewis and Clark College
Box 1172
Portland, OR 97219



(Piggott, Charles, House)
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2 of 2

East and north elevations

FEB 14 1979

Jon Horn photo, 1978
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