Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address:	2205 NW Johnson St Portland, Multnomah County	**historic name:**	Cohn-Sichel House
		current/other names:	Cohn, S Morton, House
assoc addresses:		**block/lot/tax lot:**	
location descr:		**twnshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:**	1N 1E 33

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type:	Building	**height (stories):**	2.0	**total elig resources:**	1	**total inelig resources:**	0
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant			**NR Status:**	Listed Individually & in Hist Distr		
prim constr date:	1907	**second date:**		**date indiv listed:**	02/28/2008		

primary orig use:	Multiple Dwelling	**orig use comments:**	
second orig use:	Single Dwelling		
primary style:	Craftsman	**prim style comments:**	
secondary style:	Late 19th/20th Amer. Mvmts: Other	**sec style comments:**	
primary siding:	Horizontal Board	**siding comments:**	
secondary siding:	Wood:Other/Undefined		
plan type:		**architect:**	Schacht, Emil, Architect
		builder:	

comments/notes:

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Alphabet Historic District	Listed Historic District	11/16/2000	

SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed:	02/28/2008	Special Assessment				**106 Project(s):**	None
ILS survey date:		**Status**	**Term**	**End Yr**		**Federal Tax Project(s):**	None
RLS survey date:		Closed	1st	2023			

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)

SUMMARY Constructed in 1907 and designed by local Portland architect Emil Schacht, the Cohn-Sichel House is located at 2205 NW Johnson on northwest corner of NW Johnson St and NW 22nd Avenue in the Nob Hill neighborhood of Northwest Portland within the boundaries of the National Register-listed Alphabet Historic District. The two-and-one-half story Arts and Crafts-style building is listed as a contributing resource within the district. The property is set among a diverse collection of historic homes and surrounded by mature ornamental plantings of trees, shrubs, and ground covers. Rectilinear in plan, the single-family home is set on a raised concrete foundation, and isclad in lapped horizontal siding with mostly regularly wood-sash one-over-one wood-frame windows and a composition shingle roof. SETTING The Cohn-Sichel House is located on a prominent raised site looking south across NW Johnson Street. The home is surrounded on the south and east sides by an imposing 3 ½ foot tall concrete retaining wall that raises the building approximately ten feet above street level. The wall extends to the neighboring house located immediately west at 2217 NW Johnson Street. A diverse assortment of ornamental trees, plants, and shrubbery surround the building. Among its neighbors, the building appears to be one of the largest in the area. EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION Rectilinear in plan, the home is set upon a concrete block foundation. The concrete foundation is scored to resemble dressed ashlar clocks. The structure is wood frame construction with lapped wood siding. The hip roof has wide overhanging eaves with modillions and hip dormers roughly centered on each roof plane. The primary window type is one-over-one double-hung sash with wood frames and trim. Window and door placement is regular. Many of the windows are of decorative leaded glass. The south elevation is the home's primary façade. A concrete stair leads from the sidewalk to a concrete landing before a series of four wood stepped stairs with a center railing begins. The main feature of this elevation are three porches. The first-floor boasts a full-width front porch supported by large Tuscan posts with classical capitals enclosed by a simple railing. This porch extends beyond the east wall and wraps around this side, ending at an exterior chimney. An open full-width deck with matching rails sits on the porch roof on the second floor. A small porch with a matching railing covered by an open front gable with decorative bracing supported by matching Tuscan columns opens from the centered roof dormer. Each story has a single-centered door with a window set equidistantly to either side. The east elevation faces NW 22nd Street. There is a large roughly-center bay window on the first level of this elevation and an external red brick chimney laid in common bond to the south side. A hipped-roof wall dormer with paired double-hung windows is centered above the bay window. A interior chmney extends from the roof. Although window placement is regular on this façade, size varies considerably. Several windows are fixed pains. The north elevation is the rear of the house, and consists of a semi-enclosed rectilinear porch set to the northeast corner of the first story. An enclosed porch sits above the first-level porch, and an open deck is placed at the roof level. Exterior stairs lead to the deck from the west side of the porch along the north side of the building. A concrete-block garage with double-hung wood-sash windows lies immediately north of the house and is attached to the main structure by the deck placed on the roof. A pergola made of dimensional lumber and supported by wood posts covers the garage deck. The West elevation of the building is irregularly fenestrated and features a hipped-roof porch enclosed with double-hung windows on the northwest corner of the building. A door opens to the south. A roughly centered dormer extends from the roof plane. The views of the north and west elevations are largely obscured due to the close proximity of nearby buildings. INTERIOR DESCRIPTION Like the exterior, the interior of the Cohn-Sichel House retains a high degree of integrity and features numerous well-crafted details. Original wood and tile work remain throughout and the house. All floors are oak hardwood and feature decorative designs. The main entrance opens to the vestibule with a massive, half-turn staircase to the left. At the first landing is a large decorative leaded glass window. To the right is the living or sitting room, complete with original fireplace. A hallway leads straight from the door to the remodeled kitchen. Behind the sitting room is a dining room, which contains well-ornamented fixtures and large leaded windows. An original sliding door is located between the dining and living room areas. Between the door and the dining room, under the staircase, is a small set of stairs leading to a water closet and a door to the basement. Beyond the dining room is the reading room, a quaint space with a brick fireplace as its focus. Foyer and Stairwell The floor in the foyer is of light-colored wood. Dark wood wainscoting spans around the lower half of the walls. The 9 ½ foot ceiling is punctuated by six parallel dark wooden beams which contrast with the Arts and Crafts five-lamp chandelier. The west wall has a long, leaded-glass window, the pattern of which is echoed in other windows throughout the house. The foyer narrows to an open hallway leading to the dining room, the kitchen and a small stairwell to a half-bath with original tile and coved ceiling, and an unfinished basement that showcases the reverse side of the concrete foundation and three washbasins original to the house. The focal point of the foyer is the large wooden staircase with paneled rails. Three steps lead to a first landing, after which four more ascend to a second landing bather in light from the largest and most extraordinary rendering of the leaded glass themed windows. Inlaid frosted glass with diamond shapes and dark, rich leading form geometric shapes against the western sky. The windows are the width of the landing, and this width lends considerable light. The staircase rails repeat the theme from the exterior pilasters at every joint. Front Parlor Directly to the right of the foyer is the formal front parlor, featuring a brick fireplace on the east wall that is consistent with stylistic characteristics found in other Schacht-designed homes, such as Irvington's Nicolai-Olsen house. The fireplace is framed by cream-colored brick shaped tiles with a navy border. The mantel is dark varnished wood with scroll-like brackets. On either side of the fireplace is a leaded/frosted glass window and built-in wood bookcases. This framing of important elements with decorative windows is a stylistic signature that is repeated throughout the first floor. The south wall has a large one-over-one double-hung window facing the front porch. The west wall features a giant wood-framed sliding door to the dining room. The floor is a pale wood with a dark wood inlaid frame near the edges, which converge into a pleasing pattern in the corners, repeating the diamond shape from the leaded glass windows. Dining Room

Craftsman-style crossed beams made of dark wood add austere elegance to the ceiling of the dining room. The east wall contains by the bay window so prominent on the 22nd Street exterior. The wainscoting around the entire room is topped by one- to three-foot sills like a window. The entryway to the den is flanked by two more leaded/frosted glass windows with diamond-shaped inlay. There is a small nook on the west side of the room for a sideboard or favorite art piece. The floor is identical to the parlor floors, with cream-colored wood inlaid with dark wood framing converging to a corner diamond pattern. The French Doors to the parlor are bordered with rich varnished wood. Den The den is a small room with dark wainscoting and built-in cabinetry encasing another brick fireplace identical to the one in the parlor. Again the fireplace is framed by the leaded glass windows on either side above the cabinetry. Above the fireplace is a dark wood mantel with Arts and Crafts lamp fixtures on either end. The north wall embraces a door to the dining area and more frosted and leaded glass. The floor in front of the fireplace is a rich, rust-colored brick with a black inlaid border. Second Floor Three bedrooms and two baths comprise the second floor. A long hall leads from the stairway to all rooms. The master bedroom, with access to the porch above the primary entrance, contains a pair of columns. Many of the rooms contain their original fixtures, and all woodwork is original. The floorboards are medium-colored wood with a familiar darker wood inlay on both sides. The master bedroom is a double room divided down the center by two Tuscan columns, a theme repeated from the exterior. A walk-in closet is hidden in the back corner. Large south-facing windows overlook the balcony. The balcony door has 12 over 12 windows. Next to this room is a full bath with original mosaic tile and a built-in medicine chest. This bathroom features a corner sink and a claw foot bathtub. The smaller bathroom down the hall sports smaller mosaic tile and thin slatted wainscoting. The farthest bedroom from the stairs is the lightest room in the house. A dark wooden kickboard bordering the room is interrupted by an original vent. Very large, double-hung one-over-one windows give the room its cheeriness. The floorboards in this room match the dining room pattern exactly. The smallest bedroom, and the last room before the sun porch, has a small brick fireplace that has the same tile as the den fireplace. Double-hung windows face the sun porch. There is a small built-in sitting nook facing the east streetscape. ALTERATIONS The Cohn-Sichel House appears much the same as it did during the historic period. The current owners of the property have been painstaking in their effort to preserve the essential qualities of the property. A remodel of the kitchen occurred in 1994, and updates have been added to the upstairs bathrooms. The most significant alteration is the conversion of the property to a duplex, which occurred in 1994. This involved affixing an exterior staircase to the back of the house, which leads to a converted apartment above the second floor. The staircase, however, does not adversely affect the integrity of the house and could be removed without damage to the house. In addition, to accommodate the attic apartment, the height of the original roof dormer on the main façade was extended, and two columns were added to the exterior. The apartment itself is located within the original attic of the house. A bathroom and small kitchen were added during the remodel. Additionally several skylights were installed on the east and west roof planes to maximize light. Recently, the garage located on the northeast corner of the house and the basement have been remodeled. The detached two-car 41 foot garage is tandem in length with a single door. Finished in 2007, the garage matches the historic and architectural style, materials and details of the existing house. Details of the garage include the double-hung wood window garage door, balustrade and comer posts on the roof, and stucco exterior match the details of the house, reinforcing the garages connection to the existing structure. The scale and placement of the garage allows the house to remain the dominant structure on the property. The unfinished basement was converted in 2007 into an open living area with small kitchen and island counter. A bathroom was added while the laundry area was retained with two of the original wash tubs. Details matching the architectural style of the house include marble counters in the kitchen area. Craftsman wood work in the living area and tile work in the bathroom match the original tile in the original bathroom.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Cohn-Sichel House is eligible for the National Register under Criteria B and C. The property is significant under Criterion B for its associations with Jewish community leaders Moses Sichel (1859-1909) and Gussie Sichel (1862-1952). The property is also eligible for listing under Criterion C as one of the first local examples of early Craftsman Style design by master architect Emil Schacht. DEVELOPMENT OF PORTLAND AND NOB HILL Local legend states that when a California transplant opened the “Nob Hill” grocery store in Portland’s most affluent neighborhood he unwittingly named one of the city’s most vibrant communities. San Francisco’s Nabob or Hob Hill was named for the Nabobs of India’s Mogul Rule. By the 1880’s, residential settlement was spurred by new streetcar lines. In Portland, the term Nob Hill referred to the growing number of “merchant princes” collected around the vicinity of the of 19th Street. The area had long been home to Portland’s political and merchant elite. In 1905, the Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair was held in and around nearby Guild’s Lake. The neighborhood’s proximity to the fair and Portland’s central business spurred unprecedented growth. In the first decade of the Twentieth Century, Portland’s population more than doubled. One region of Portland that reflects this period of tremendous growth and prosperity in Portland’s history is the Historic Alphabet District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district is roughly bounded by NW Lovejoy at the north end, NW 17th at the east, W Burnside Street on the south and NW 24th Avenue to the est. The majority of buildings are residential, with a few commercial or industrial. Resources in the area date to 1880. This district is unique in Portland due to its high concentration of early twentieth century structures designed by Portland’s premier architects. Another significant fact is that the Alphabet District was the secondary center of Portland’s Jewish and Scandinavian populations in the early twentieth century. The Lewis and Clark Exposition, held on the banks of Guild’s Lake, made the alphabet District the gateway to the fair. The modern Alphabet District is characterized by well-maintained, multi-family dwellings, tree-lined streets and up-scale business. MOSES AND GUSSIE SICHEL Moses G. Sichel was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1859. He came to the United States in 1877, when he was eighteen years old. After first arriving in San Francisco, Moses quickly migrated north to Portland where he obtained his first mercantile experience as a clerk in the store of his well-known uncle, Solomon Hirsch. Hirsch was a partner in L. Fleischner & Company, a wholesale house that held the distinction of being the largest Jewish enterprise in the Northwest. Prominent in civic affairs, Solomon Hirsch was President of the Beth Israel Congregation, and was active in numerous social and philanthropic endeavors; his attentiveness to his Jewish heritage and philanthropic nature were extremely influential on his nephew Moses. Considered patriarchs in early Portland Jewish history, men like Solomon Hirsch and Moses Sichel are credited with instilling values of civic generosity and responsibility to succeeding generations of successful Portland Jews. The Sichel family served multiple roles in the Jewish community. Through the Beth Israel congregation and many benevolent societies, a network was set up to protect the Jewish marginalized populations of sick, elderly or unemployed. From 1881 to 1898, Moses Sichel conducted a successful mercantile business in the eastern town of Prineville, seat of Crook County, Oregon. From 1884 to 1891 the family split their time between Portland and Prineville. It was a common practice among German Jews to begin their mercantile businesses in small, rural supply towns before attempting a successful transition to the regional metropolis. After becoming sufficiently versed in the rudiments of the trade, Moses opened his Portland store at 5th and Washington Streets in the year 1900. Business boomed, necessitating a move to larger quarters at 331 Washington Street. The Sichel name was widely known in Portland for their men’s furnishings store, M. and H.H. Sichel and Company. Moses’ uncle Sigmund Sichel was another key figure in Portland Jewry. He was Portland’s representative of the Industrial Removal Office (IRO), an organization set up in New York in 1900 to aid in the dispersal of Jewish refugees throughout the United States. Over seventy thousand Jews were sent to fifteen hundred communities between 1901 and 1917. Moses Sichel and other concerned citizens assisted in the resettlement in Portland of 858 Jews, contributing substantially to the local population. Nearly all Jews arriving in Oregon from Eastern Europe settled in Portland at the southern edge of the central city. There were few Jews living in Portland before the influx of immigrants, but within twenty years, the Jewish population of the area had mushroomed to over six thousand people. Gussie Sichel was an ardent and influential member of the National Council of Jewish activity and offered the immigrants English classes, sewing classes, lectures and discussion groups. As new immigrants arrived, they were cared for by the very benevolent societies that Moses and Gussie belonged to and coordinated. Those in need received medical care, jobs, and support. Moses’ wife, Gussie Sichel, was born Gussie Selling in Portland July 22nd, 1862. She lived in the city her entire life, with the exception of the period 1884 to 1891, when she relocated with her husband to Prineville, Oregon. Gussie came from a well-known family. Her parents were Phillip and Caroline Selling, the former pioneering merchant. Incidentally, Phillip’s marriage to Caroline Selling was the first Jewish marriage in San Francisco. Gussie was born the year the Sellings arrived in Portland. Before relocating to Portland, they sold goods to gold miners from a tent in Sonora, California. Gussie’s brother was Ben Selling, Portland’s famous merchant and philanthropist. Ben Selling was treasurer of the First Hebrew Benevolent Society, a charitable organization whose purpose was to help new immigrants get started in business. He also founded the Working Men’s Club, which served over 450,000 meals to unemployed men for five cents apiece. He was President of the Senate in 1911 and Speaker of the House in 1915. The Selling family did much to fight anti-Semitism in Oregon, including leading a successful bid to defeat Judge Waldo, a candidate for the Oregon Supreme Court. Judge Waldo had said that he “never knew a Jew to come into court with a straight case.” Gussie was extremely active in Portland’s Jewish community, and at the age of 16 taught in the Beth Israel Sunday School. She was a vigorous participant in the Portland Chapter of National Council of Jewish Women, founded in 1896 – only three years after the national organization’s founding in Chicago. The Council founded a Sewing School for girls in South Portland, which in 1905 became the Neighborhood House, providing services and resources to develop, foster, and support economic independence and self-reliance in people of all ages. The Neighborhood House was the “center of a myriad of activities, clubs, classes, health services and athletic events, as well as a Hebrew School touched the life of every Jewish immigrant in South Portland.” By the 1920’s (Gussie was still a member), services had expanded to include fitness and recreation, casework and counseling services, free schools, kindergarten, English classes, and a Well Baby Clinic. Its A.E. Doyle-designed transitory immigrant settlement house was dedicated in Portland at 3030 SW Second Avenue, and was listed on the National Register in 1979. The Neighborhood House still exists today, and continues to serve Portlanders of all backgrounds. HERBERT H. SICHEL The Sichel’s son, the prominent clothier Herbert H. Sichel, moved into the house at 2205 NW Johnson when it was built. Born September 1, 1888, he was educated at the Portland Academy and Amherst College. Herbert began his career as a stock boy in his father’s business in 1909, and continued on as the owner M. and H.H. Sichel men’s furnishings store after his father’s death. He was active in numerous civic and club affairs, and was Director of the National Association of Clothiers. During the First World War he served as a second lieutenant, and became a vice-commander of the Legionnaires. He was also active with the Selective Service Board, Portland Chamber of Commerce, Al Kader Shrine, Scottish Rite Order, and the American Legion. In 1921, he married Elise Feldman. Continuing the family tradition as progressive Jewish leaders and philanthropists, Herbert Sichel was a long-time treasurer for the American Council for Judaism. He later bought the house next door at 2217 NW Johnson Street to be near his widowed mother, Gussie. EMIL SCHACHT In Architects of Oregon, author Richard Ellison Ritz comments that in over 40 years of practice that German architect Emil Schacht designed a number of residential and commercial buildings, which together showed a mastery of many architectural

styles including classical Beaux Arts, Craftsman Bungalw, and many grand houses in the Colonial Revival Style. Schacht also introduced the English Arts and Crafts and Craftsman styles to Portland through his many early designs for developers in the Willamette Heights neighborhood and throughout Portland between, years before the style was widely adopted by others. Emil Furchtegott was born in Sommerland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany in 1854. The Schachts were considered a prominent, well-educated family. They resided in a homestead built by their ancestors before the 17th century. At the time of Emil's birth, the duchies of Schleswig-Holstein were united under Danish rule. The region became a Prussian province after 1866, but by the conclusion of the First World War was again within Germany's borders. While living in Europe, Emil attended the Polytechnic School of Copenhagen, and was graduated from Hanover's Polytechnic School. In 1874, at age twenty, Emil left his homeland and arrived in New York City, where he worked for six years as a draftsman. In 1880, Schacht returned to Germany, uncertain about his future. Remaining in Germany three years, he married Auguste Trier. When Schacht family property in Hamburg was confiscated through eminent domain by Germany's oppressive government, Schacht felt betrayed by his motherland. It was then that he made the courageous decision to relocate permanently to the United States. Schacht applied for citizenship in Omaha, Nebraska, and arrived in Portland in 1883. His wife and children remained in Germany, but crossed the Atlantic the following year. On the way west, they befriended a young Austrian immigrant, Louisa Schaeffer, whom they found abandoned in Omaha. The Schachts brought them with her to be their housekeeper. She was called "Tante Louisa" by the children and became a part of the family, helping to raise the Schacht daughters. In 1885 Schacht opened an office in the first National Bank Building. One year later, he closed the office and worked from home until 1890. In 1890, he opened a larger office in the Portland Savings Bank Building. Little is known of Schacht's work before 1900, though the North Pacific Brewery in Astoria (1896) has been documented. From 1905 to 1909, the time in which the Sichel House was built, Schacht's office was located in the Commercial Block, at SW Oak Street and 5th Avenue in Portland. The Lewis and Clark Fair created a ten-year boom in building throughout Portland, and during this time Schacht was particularly prosperous. Schacht agreed to several speculative houses in the Willamette Heights neighborhood, then being promoted by Lewis Russell and Percy Blyth. These were among the earliest Craftsman Style houses in Portland. At the time, the style was still considered a radical departure from more conventional building styles. A somewhat unrecognized pioneer in the movement, Emil Schacht was among the first Arts and Crafts-influenced architects practicing west of the Rocky Mountains. Plans for the Sichel House were based on ideas and ideals set forth in Gustav Stickley's exciting new magazine, the Craftsman. Originally built as a speculative venture financed by S. Morton Cohn (himself, a fascinating if somewhat forgotten figure in the development of early Portland entertainment) the Sichel House reflected a purely American form, with little extraneous detailing and restrained ornamentation. As for Cohn, in 1903, was engaged in the enterprise of "slot machines" and established one of Portland's first Nickelodeon parlors. By 1905, Polk's Oregon and Washington Gazetteer lists him a proprietor of the Star and Arcade theatres in Portland. Throughout his life he turned his sight to real estate and property investment with varying degrees of success. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT Emil Schacht seized the opportunity to design new homes during the boom created by the wildly popular Lewis and Clark Exposition. Influenced by Stickley's Craftsman style drawings, he began the process of revolutionizing the landscape of Portland's Northwest side. With the design of six speculative houses in Willamette Heights, he led the city's architectural renaissance. The neighborhood was then being developed by Lewis Russell and Percy Blyth, agents of the Scottish American Investment company eager to attract attention to their housing development overlooking the Fair. The earliest designs date to 1904. The date is significant because it represents a pioneering introduction of Craftsman and Arts and Crafts residential architecture in a location where millions of visitors to the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905 were likely to see and be influenced by these radical new designs. Schacht proceeded to build several more homes in what was then considered a radical, bold and experimental new style. The Nicolai-Cake-Olson House (1905-06) at 1903 NE Hancock Street and the Cohn-Sichel House at 2205 NW Johnson (1907) are early examples, and highlight the full range of Schacht's creativity and talent. The Cohn-Sichel House is a veritable gem of fine craftsmanship and detail. Designed within a year of the Exposition, and built soon after, the home sports an asymmetrical, unornamented exterior that is typical of American Craftsman style homes. Incidentally, Schachts's busiest period was from 1905 – 1913; the Cohn-Sichel House marks the beginning of this important period, punctuated so dramatically by the Craftsman style. Few Craftsman-style houses in Portland predate the Cohn-Sichel House, and those that do show elements of more flamboyant Victorian-influenced ornamentation. Following the Exposition, the Craftsman style became hugely popular and can be seen throughout the Willamette Heights, Nob Hill and Irvington neighborhoods; however, the Sichel house is one of the very earliest examples of this new style and thus was important to the development of design and architecture in Portland. SCHACHT HOUSES IN NORTHWEST PORTLAND Aside from the Cohn-Sichel House, the most important of Emil Schacht's Northwest neighborhood designs were that of his speculative endeavors of Percy Blyth in Willamette Heights. While none of these homes compare with the Cohn-Sichel House in design, they represent the beginnings of Schacht's experimentation with the Craftsman ethic. THE COHN-SICHEL CHAIN OF TITLE S. Morton Cohn purchased Lots 2 and 3, Block 2 of King's 2nd Addition in 1906. That year, Cohn contracted with up-and-coming architect Emil Schacht to design a speculative investment hoe to be built at the prominent, elevated corner of NW Johnson and 22nd Street. One year earlier, the Lewis and Clark Exposition had been held in the vicinity, redefining the neighborhood and adding value to the land. The house was completed in 1907. S. Morton Cohn was a mover and shaker in early Portland. He traveled for business, under the employment of the Transcontinental Machine Company. For the better part of 1906, he made his residence in Chicago, Illinois. When he returned to Portland the following year it was as president of the Imperial Amusement Company. Cohn was a pioneer of Oregon's embryonic moving picture business. His imperial Amusement Company operated the hippodrome, Orpheum and Casino Theatres. Incidentally, Mr. Cohn also dabbled in real estate. S. Morton Cohn is identified as the home's first occupant in the Portland City Directory of 1907-08. By 1910 it was clearly under the care and ownership of Moses and Gussie Sichel, where it was to remain for the next forty years. In 1910, S. Morton Cohn relocated to the Portland's Nortonia Hotel. Moses Sichel lived an active life while occupying the house. His ten-year tenure in the residence was among the most productive periods of his illustrious mercantile and philanthropic career. It was in the house, in 1919, that he died. Gussie was to remain the sole resident until her own passing in 1951. Numerous social functions and society activities were held within its walls. The couple's only son, Herbert, purchased the A.S. Ellis House next door (2217 NW Johnson Street). After his father's death, he extended the concrete retaining wall to encompass both properties. Upon Gussie's death, Herbert sold the house and moved with his wife to a new address. The next seven or eight years were a transitional time for the house. The size of the house made it difficult to sell, so a period of vacancy and renters ensued. In the early 1960's, the house was purchased by Josephine Sinnot. She and her sister Ann did little to change the house, and it remained intact through the difficult years of the 1970s and 1980s, when many other large-scale homes in the neighborhood were either demolished or altered beyond recognition. The Sinnot sisters lived in the house until the early 1990s. In 1992, the house was purchased by its present owners Dan Volkmer and Frank Dixon. CONCLUSION The Cohn-Sichel House is eligible for the National Register for its associations with Jewish community leaders Moses Sichel (1859-1891) and Gussie Sichel (1862-1952) and under Criterion C as one of the first local examples of early Craftsman Style design by master architect Emil Schacht. The Sichel family greatly influenced the Jewish community through their business dealings and charitable work. Celebrating this success, the family purchased a well-constructed architect-designed home that was, for its time, a bold architectural statement by one of the region's most notable architects. In Architect of Oregon, author Richard Ellison Ritz remarks that Schacht's body of work ion the Craftsman style "constitute[s] a singular architectural statement by one architect that defines the character of an entire Portland Neighborhood."

RESEARCH INFORMATION

✔ Title Records	Census Records	✔ Property Tax Records	Local Histories
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	SHPO Files	Interviews
Obituaries	✔ Newspapers	State Archives	Historic Photographs
✔ City Directories	✔ Building Permits	State Library	

Local Library: **University Library:**

Historical Society: **Other Respository:**

Bibliography:

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