Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address:	5631 SE Belmont St Portland, Multnomah County	**historic name:**	Cook, Jacob H. & Etna M., House
		current/other names:	Cook, Jacob Hill, House
assoc addresses:		**block/lot/tax lot:**	
location descr:		**twnshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:**	1S 2E 6

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type:	Building	**height (stories):**	2.5	**total elig resources:**	1	**total inelig resources:**	0
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant			**NR Status:**	Individually Listed		
prim constr date:	1892	**second date:**	1909	**date indiv listed:**	02/05/2021		

primary orig use:	Single Dwelling	**orig use comments:**	
second orig use:	Single Dwelling		
primary style:	Late 19th/20th Period Revivals: Other	**prim style comments:**	
secondary style:	Neo-Classical	**sec style comments:**	
primary siding:	Horizontal Board	**siding comments:**	
secondary siding:	Wood:Other/Undefined		
plan type:		**architect:**	
		builder:	Taylor James

comments/notes:

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

Not associated with any surveys or groupings.

SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed:	02/05/2021	Special Assessment			**106 Project(s):** None
ILS survey date:		**Status**	**Term**	**End Yr**	**Federal Tax Project(s):** None
RLS survey date:		Active	1st	2029	

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

The Jacob H. and Etna M. Cook House is a 2½-story single-family home located at 5631 SE Belmont Street in Portland's Mount Tabor Neighborhood. Formerly an important streetcar route, SE Belmont is a neighborhood collector street and features primarily single-family homes and smaller-scale multifamily and commercial buildings near the nominated property. The house is situated on an oversized lot (13,550 sf) and has a total of 3,950 sf of building area. A historic basalt rock wall runs the length of the property at the sidewalk and the house sits on a basalt-faced foundation with two large stone chimneys. The house features a gable-end roof with a large gabled dormer on the front elevation and a cross gable on the back. The body of the building is clad in lap siding at the ground-floor level and shakes at the second-floor level and shingles in the gables. Its primary window type is a one-over-one double-hung wood window. Constructed in 1892 and extensively remodeled to its current appearance in 1909, the house is characteristic of the Neoclassical style with the most notable feature being the primary façade's colossal portico with Tuscan columns that creates a full-width front porch, full-width second-floor balcony, and a smaller balcony at the third level. Inside, the rooms include a large entry hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, billiard room, and seven bedrooms. Interior features include six fireplaces, three of which have rare Rookwood Faience tile; extensive decorative woodwork and trim including mahogany boxed beams and trim in the dining room and quarter-sawn oak in the entry hall, stair, living room; oak hardwood floors with mahogany inlay; columns; pocket doors; and some original plumbing fixtures including rare J. L. Mott Ironworks bathtubs. The house is very well preserved and retains a high level of integrity. The most notable changes to the property include a reduction in the lot size, loss of the original carriage house and back portion of the driveway, the remodeling of the kitchen, and the sensitive addition of new bathrooms within original closets.

HISTORY

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

The Jacob H. and Etna M. Cook House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for architecture as an excellent example of an 1892 Victorian-era home remodeled to a Neoclassical style house in 1909. The house was constructed within an enclave of exurban mansions built in the late 1800s. Situated along an important early streetcar line, the house is only a few blocks from the popular amenities of the Mount Tabor butte. These factors made the residence a prime opportunity for a high-style transformation in the prosperous years following the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition. Nationally, Neoclassical and its sister style Colonial Revival came about in the late 1800s and rose to prominence in the early 20th century in response to the design excess of the Victorian styles as well as growing American nationalism. Orderly facades and the use of classical elements stood in stark contrast to Queen Anne and Stick styles that featured complex rooflines and elaborate applied ornamentation. The defining characteristic of Neoclassical domestic design is a substantial full-height entry portico. When used on a large house, the architectural affect is commanding and is an obvious indicator of socioeconomic position. Although no photos or drawings survive of the Cook House's original 1892 construction, the remodel was written about in local newspapers and enough clues remain to indicate that it was a house of prominence and of Victorian styling like many of its early neighbors. Only 17 years after it was constructed, the new owners—lumberman Jacob Cook and his wife Etna Cook—invested $12,000 into a remodel that transformed the exterior and updated the interior to reflect a floorplan and Arts and Crafts-inspired décor that was both fashionable and conducive to their frequent entertaining. The house exhibits many custom details, notably the extensive interior use of quarter-sawn oak and mahogany and rare Rookwood Faience tile fireplaces. While Victorian-era elements remain in the less public areas of the house, the design for the main spaces is highly resolved and indicative of being designed by an architect even though research did not reveal the firm's name. While home remodeling is not a recent concept, the growth of magazine publications disseminating ideas about home fashion made it more mainstream in the 20th century. In Oregon, remodels are not well documented in historic resource inventories. With an exceptional level of historic integrity, the Cook House contributes to the understanding of local remodeling trends, providing a well-preserved example of the lengths to which wealthier individuals would aspire to in order to have their homes reflect their on-trend style and social prominence.

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:**	Property owner

Bibliography:

City of Portland. Historic Resources Inventory Sheet for “5631 SE Belmont St,” 1983. City of Portland Bureau of Planning. “Historic Context: Hawthorne Boulevard from SE 20th to SE 55th Avenues.” February 2003. City of Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board. “Sorrento Hotel: Report on Designation.” 2008. http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Neighborhoods/HistoricPreservation/Landmarks/RelatedDocuments/sorrento-hotel-designation.pdf, accessed May 1, 2020. Elshir, Catherine W. Southern Built: American Architecture and Regional Practice. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006. Goldstein, Carolyn. Do It Yourself: Home Improvements in 20th Century America. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998. Gottfried, Herbert K. and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors, 1870-1960. New York, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009. Hawkins, William J. and William F. Willingham. Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon 1850-1950. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1999. McAlester, Virginia Savage. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019. McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. Great American Houses and Their Architectural Styles. New York: Abbeville Press, 1994. National Register nomination for the Daniel C. and Katie A. McDonald House, no. SG100003456. National Register nomination for the James M. and Paul R. Kelty House, no. 82003756. National Register nomination for the Lewis C. and Emma Thompson, no. RS100000770. National Register nomination for the Philip Beuhner House, no. 8000359. National Register Nomination for Mount Tabor Park, No. 03001446. Nelson, Grant. “From Forest to Families,” Time Image: Reflections of Portland, no. 1, vol. 1, October 1978, 20. Oregonian. “Maria A. Warner and husband to Jacob H. Cook.” May 22, 1904, 8. Oregonian. “Monday Musical Club is Entertained at an “At Home” Affair.” February 22, 1914, 5. Polk’s Portland City Directories for 1892 and 1893. Portland Daily Abstract. “J. M. Cook.” December 30, 1909: 5. Portland Daily Abstract. “New Residences on the East Side.” July 28, 1909: 5. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Portland, Oregon, 1909, 1924. The New York Preservation Archive Project, “City Beautiful Movement,” http://www.nypap.org/preservation-history/city-beautiful-movement/, accessed May 1, 2020. Summera, Lori, “The Chapters of Mount Tabor,” March 19, 2008, http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/geo422/Chapters_Mount_Tabor.pdf, accessed May 1, 2020. Valenzuela Preservation Studio, “Historic Context Statement for the Neo-Classical Architectural Style in Louisiana,” May 2012, https://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/The_Neoclassical_Style.pdf, accessed 5/1/2020. Wikipedia. “George Anson Pease.”, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Anson_Pease, accessed 6/11/20. Wikipedia. “Rookwood Pottery Company.” https://tinyurl.com/y8utwnlh, accessed May 1, 2020.