

# Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
<b>address:</b>	3321 NW Thurman St  Portland, Multnomah County	<b>historic name:</b>	Le Guin, Ursula K., House Hutchin House; Ursula K. Le Guin House; Le Guin, Ursula K. and Charles, House; Ursula K. and Charles Le Guin House
<b>assoc addresses:</b>		<b>current/other names:</b>	
<b>location descr:</b>		<b>block/lot/tax lot:</b>	
		<b>twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:</b>	1N 1E 29
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
<b>resource type:</b>	Building	<b>height (stories):</b>	2.5
<b>elig evaluation:</b>	eligible/significant	<b>total elig resources:</b>	1
<b>prim constr date:</b>	1899	<b>second date:</b>	1986
		<b>total inelig resources:</b>	
		<b>NR Status:</b>	Individually Listed
		<b>date indiv listed:</b>	06/17/2026
<b>primary orig use:</b>	Single Dwelling	<b>orig use comments:</b>	
<b>second orig use:</b>		<b>prim style comments:</b>	
<b>primary style:</b>	Queen Anne	<b>sec style comments:</b>	
<b>secondary style:</b>		<b>siding comments:</b>	
<b>primary siding:</b>	Shingle	<b>architect:</b>	
<b>secondary siding:</b>	Wood:Other/Undefined	<b>builder:</b>	
<b>plan type:</b>			
<b>comments/notes:</b>			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Not associated with any surveys or groupings.			
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
<b>NR date listed:</b>	06/17/2026	<b>106 Project(s):</b>	None
<b>ILS survey date:</b>		<b>Special Assess Project(s):</b>	None
<b>RLS survey date:</b>		<b>Federal Tax Project(s):</b>	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>The Ursula K. Le Guin House at 3321 NW Thurman St. in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, occupies an approximately 0.07-acre parcel set amongst the largely residential neighborhood of Willamette Heights in the Northwest District. The ca. 1908 Queen Anne/Shingle Style house is one of several similarly styled houses within the neighborhood.<sup>1</sup> The building is two-and-a-half stories tall with a daylight basement, brick foundation, a small addition (1984) to the west and an one-story attached garage (constructed sometime between 1908 and 1960, likely during the height of automobile popularization in the 1920s) to the east.<sup>2</sup> A small brick chimney rises from the attic story on a gabled portion of the roof facing north. The building's style is characterized by its prominent use of wood shingles, its complex, side-gabled roof, and deep overhanging eaves. The façade faces south towards NW Thurman St. At the rear of the house, a prominent deck extends across the north elevation and wraps around to the east and west. The interior consists of a first floor, a second floor, and partially finished basement and attic. Materials in the primary spaces of the house are generally hardwood floors, painted plaster walls, and a mix of painted and unpainted wood trim. Doors are largely original wood paneled units. Character defining features associated with Le Guin's work include the built-in desks and windows overlooking the mountains within her writing studio, as well as built-in bookshelves across multiple spaces. The vast majority of materials date to ca. 1908 or were updated by Ursula K. Le Guin and Charles Le Guin during their ownership, which began in 1960. Following the 1960–1974 period of significance, the house experienced modest alterations also completed by the Le Guins, including the addition of a laundry room and basement apartment between 1984 and 1986, as well as the installation of interior French doors between the entry and living room. The building remains in its original location and setting and continues to reflect its appearance from the period of Ursula K. Le Guin's residence and work. It therefore retains the integrity necessary to convey its significant association with her life and literary career.</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>The property at 3321 NW Thurman Street in Portland, Oregon, is nationally significant under Criterion B in the areas of LITERATURE and SOCIAL HISTORY: WOMEN'S HISTORY for its association with Ursula K. Le Guin (1929–2018), one of the most influential female literary figures of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, particularly in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. Over a career spanning six decades, Le Guin published more than twenty novels, volumes of poetry, critical essays, and children's books, earning five Nebula Awards, five Hugo Awards, and the National Book Award, among other honors. Her work challenged genre boundaries, addressed complex questions of gender, freedom, power, and identity, and left an enduring mark on American literary history. From 1960 until her death in 2018, the house at 3321 NW Thurman Street served as Le Guin's primary residence and creative workspace. The house retains physical spaces that are closely associated with her life and career. Within the second-floor writing studio and various secondary workspaces scattered throughout the house, she produced works that transformed speculative fiction into a vehicle for exploring social, political, and philosophical themes, infusing the genre with feminist perspectives during a pivotal period in American literary history. Her groundbreaking novels—The Left Hand of Darkness (1969), The Dispossessed (1974), and the Earthsea series (1968–2001)—as well as numerous poems and essays, shaped the course of modernism and New Wave science fiction and fantasy, inspiring her audiences and generations of writers alike. These works embody the evolution of the genre as it intersected with feminism, humanism, and literary modernism, catalyzing and defining the New Wave science fiction. The most important years of Le Guin's productive life occurred while living and working at this house on Thurman Street, making it the location most directly representative of her creative achievements. The Ursula K. Le Guin House embodies both the broader historical patterns of American literary development in the postwar era and the personal history of a revolutionary figure whose contributions permanently altered the landscape of science fiction and fantasy. The period of significance is 1960, when the Le Guins purchased the house, to 1974, when The Dispossessed was published, marking one of her most important contributions to the genre of science fiction, and encompassing the years during which the Ursula K. Le Guin house attained the associations that convey its significance under Criterion B. The house is the best representative resource associated with Ursula K. Le Guin throughout her productive career.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Title Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input type="checkbox"/> Census Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives <input type="checkbox"/> State Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs

Local Library:

University Library:

Historical Society:

Other Respository:

**Bibliography:**

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