

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 14, 2011  
**TO:** Christina Bond, preparer  
**FROM:** Ian Johnson, Historian, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
**RE:** National Register nomination for the Roehr, Osco C., House

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Thank you for submitting the Roehr, Osco C., House nomination for listing in the National Register. Below are a list of required revisions to address and some suggestions to consider before the nomination is forwarded to the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP) for its February 2012 meeting in Portland, OR. An invitation to the meeting and an agenda will be mailed to you 60 days before the meeting. As written, the nomination includes good information, but the document needs to make a much stronger case for listing. The comments below offer specific suggestions. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (503) 986-0678 or [ian.johnson@state.or.us](mailto:ian.johnson@state.or.us).

**General**

*Required Revisions*

- Please address the following format and style issues: include Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, etc within the body of the document under the appropriate headings and include the correct header. Be sure to fill out all required sections completely, including Period of Significance justification and Narrative Statement of Significance, currently omitted from the document. Please use footnotes instead of endnotes and number them with counting numbers instead of roman numerals. Please take time to thoroughly address any typos, spelling, punctuation errors, and awkward sentences in the document, and combine single sentences into larger paragraphs to improve the document's readability.

**Section 7, Description**

*Required Revisions*

- Section 7, form, include a subcategory for the building style.
- In the Section 7 Summary, please briefly address the location, setting, outbuildings and building exterior and interior in a single paragraph. Be sure to describe the overall plan of the building, both exterior and interior. This passage should give the reader a good overall sense of the resource, and should be organized in the same order as the following narrative description.
- When describing the exterior, begin with a more general description of the volume (the overall shape and placement of additions, projections, etc.) and general characteristics before discussing the building's details. For instance, the building may be described as rectilinear with irregular fenestration.
- For the interior description, begin the discussion with a summary that notes the total square footage and the number, type, and arrangement of rooms in the building. This section should note the treatments used throughout the building. When describing individual rooms, note unique architectural features, such as the type of brick and bond used on a chimney. Avoid simply describing the arrangement of rooms within the building and instead attempt to describe the character of the space.

- If retaining the passage describing the Arts-and-Crafts Style, see comments in Section 8 below, move it to an appropriate location in Section 8.
- Remove the passage describing planned changes to the building.
- In examining the building photos it is evident several features were not fully described or were omitted, including the skylights on the rear elevation and the prominent chimney. Please review the nomination and include additional detail where necessary.

#### *Requested Revisions*

- Consider referencing the appropriate photos and plans in Section 7.
- Consider collapsing some of the subcategories into broader discussions to improve the flow of the text. For instance, the outbuildings could be described in the setting.

### **Section 8, Significance**

#### *Required Revisions*

- It is clear in the text that Osco C. Roehr was a successful attorney and politician with diverse interests; however, in order to make the case for listing the nomination must conclusively demonstrate that Roehr had direct involvement in events that impacted the community in a meaningful way. Currently, no details are given about how Roehr was able to accomplish the successes attributed to him or what the lasting impacts of these achievements were. To strengthen the nomination, consider focusing on Roehr's work as Mayor and his interest in parks development and other civic projects. The nomination already includes good information about his activities during this time. Please keep in mind that simply because Roehr was Mayor at the time an event occurred does not mean that he was directly involved with it. Similarly, membership or in or leadership of an organization does not make an individual significant. The person must achieve some success of lasting impact to be considered important. See National Register Bulletin 32.
- Connect Roehr's important activities to the building. For instance, note if he conducted business at his home and which spaces he may have used for these activities. Be sure to comment on the integrity of the room(s) he used. Also, state in the section summary that this is the building best associated with Roehr.
- As written, the text does not establish Frank Roehr as a master architect or that the subject property is a notable example of the English Cottage style. Consider removing Criterion C, or provide additional background information on the Roehr's work and how it is notable compared to that of his contemporaries. Be sure to describe the character-defining features of his aesthetic and how these elements are incorporated into the design of the Roehr House. See National Register Bulletin 15 for additional information.

#### *Requested Revisions*

- Consider reducing the discussion of events that predate the construction of the building that do not directly relate to the development of the area.
- Consider removing the section listing the chain of title, or move this information to an appendix.

### **Section 9, Bibliography**

#### *Requested Revisions*

- Remove the topical categories and list the resources alphabetically. Provide a single citation for serial publications, such as newspapers. Note specific articles in the footnotes.

## **Photographs**

### *Required Revisions*

- Please submit digital images that meet the minimum specification for digital photography, including 300dpi resolution and .tiff format.

## **Attachments**

### *Required Revisions*

- Please mark the property boundary on the site map.
- Include a tax lot map. The boundary of the property should be marked with a thick black line.

### *Requested Revisions*

- Please rotate the floor plans horizontally on the page and enlarge them.
- Consider noting the location of the additions on the floor plans.

**All required revisions must be thoroughly addressed in order for the nomination to move forward to the next regular meeting of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP). The preparer may or may not choose to address suggested revisions; however, a copy of this document will be made available to the SACHP. Please submit revised nominations electronically, in a Word document, to [ian.johnson@state.or.us](mailto:ian.johnson@state.or.us), or mail it in on a CD. Maps, drawings, or photographs must be submitted by mail in hard copy. The SHPO may make additional changes before submitting the draft to the SACHP. If questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

**REVISIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 2, 2011**

**NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION EVALUATION SHEET**  
**Certified Local Governments / Historic Landmark Commissions**

The following property is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and will be reviewed by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP) at its meeting on 2/9/2012.

PROPERTY NAME: **ROEHR, OSCO C., HOUSE**  
ADDRESS: **128 NORTH SHORE CR**  
**LAKE OSWEGO, CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

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          **INTEGRITY:** Major alterations or additions? New materials? Altered setting? Moved? etc.  
OK Concerns

          **DESCRIPTION:** Is the property adequately described? Have contributing and non-contributing features been clearly identified?  
OK Concerns

          **SIGNIFICANCE and CONTEXT:** Has the appropriate criterion been used? Has it been justified? Is the context sufficient in breadth and depth to support the claims of significance?  
OK Concerns

          **FACTS AND SOURCES:** Are the appropriate and best sources used? Are key dates and facts accurate?  
OK Concerns

          **SUPPORTING MATERIALS:** Adequate photos, maps, drawings, etc.?  
OK Concerns

     The Commission recommends that the property or properties appear to meet the National Register criteria and should be listed in the National Register.

     The Commission recommends that the property or properties do not appear to meet the National Register criteria and should not be listed in the National Register.

Return to: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
ATTN: National Register Coordinator  
725 Summer Street, N.E., Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commission Chairman (or Designee)      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Local Historic Preservation Commission

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Roehr, Osco C., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 128 North Shore Circle  not for publication

city or town Lake Oswego  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Clackamas code 005 zip code 97034

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date \_\_\_\_\_

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
3	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: BRICK  
WOOD: Weatherboard  
roof: WOOD: Shake  
other: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Osco C. Roehr house was built in 1931 in the English Cottage/Arts and Crafts style in the Lakewood Neighborhood Plat in the City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, Oregon. The sloping waterfront property features many basalt boulders and douglas fir trees, and is located on Half Moon Bay, between Lakewood Bay and Oswego Lake. Designed by Osco C. Roehr's younger brother, Portland architect Frank Roehr, the one and a half story, rectilinear house features a wood shake roof, brick and wood lap siding, two shed roof dormers, two brick chimneys, its original windows, and many other original interior features such as dark wood trim and moldings. The house has excellent integrity, reflecting its original design, setting, and materials. The period of significance for the nominated resource extends from its initial construction date of 1931 until 1955, when the home was sold to its second owners.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### **Introduction**

The Osco C. Roehr house was built in 1931 in the English Cottage/Arts and Crafts style. Designed by Osco's younger brother, Portland architect Frank Roehr, the house is rectilinear in volume with irregular fenestration. Additionally, the house features a wood shake roof, brick and wood lap siding, two shed roof dormers, two brick chimneys, its original windows, and many other original interior features such as wood trims and moldings. The house has excellent integrity, reflecting its original design, setting, and materials. The period of significance for the nominated resource extends from its initial construction date of 1931 until 1955, when the home was sold to its second owners.

#### **Location and Setting**

The Osco C. Roehr house is located at 128 North Shore Circle in the Lakewood Neighborhood Plat in the City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, Oregon. Constructed in 1931, this Oswego Lake waterfront property is located on Half Moon Bay, between Lakewood Bay and Oswego Lake.

The house is sited on an irregularly shaped lot. The driveway is located in the northwest corner where the lot is extremely narrow. The lot gradually widens to the southeast portion of the lot. The south and eastern borders are rounded, following the natural contour of the shoreline alongside a small cove to the east and then wrapping around to the south to create a gentle curve along the edge of Oswego Lake. The southwest corner of the lot turns at a sharp angle, from which point the property boundary forms a straight line connecting the southwest corner to the northwest corner.

Naturally rocky in landscape, the lot features large basalt boulders, particularly along the southeast end of the property. The southern façade of the house faces the lake, and a lakeside stone patio, retaining wall, and a very small lawn grace the south side of the property. At the southeast end of the patio there is an original stone fireplace. The lot features mature douglas fir trees throughout, while rhododendrons and other evergreen shrubs wrap around the lakeside corner of the property. A small concentration of douglas firs can be found in the southeastern portion of the lot. The front of the property (north) has a rolling landscape with original stone walls which follow the contours of the land, and is heavily planted with shrubs, perennial plants, and a red maple tree.

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## Oswego Lake

Oswego Lake is a tax lot in and of itself, and includes a narrow band of shoreline around the entire lake. This lakeside band includes a basalt retaining wall at the lake edge and a gravel path around the property, blending in with the overall landscape design. The boathouse and greenhouse associated with the nominated property are actually located on Oswego Lake property, but are for the exclusive use of the owners of the Osco C. Roehr house. According to the current manager of the Lake Oswego Corporation (the entity which holds the deed to Oswego Lake) this is very common and most of the lake's boathouses are technically on Lake Oswego Corporation land.

## Associated Resources

In addition to the house there are two outbuildings associated with the nominated property. The outbuildings include a rectilinear boathouse and a small rectilinear greenhouse. The greenhouse is connected to the southwest wall of the boathouse, which faces the lake at a southwest angle. Both the boathouse and the greenhouse were constructed c. 1940, after the initial construction date of 1931, but were designed and constructed at the direction of Osco C. Roehr during the stated period of significance.

## Parking Lot and Field

To the north of the property across North Shore Circle lies an open parking lot and field. This lot is equally shared among five properties on North Shore Circle for the purposes of guest parking and a play field. A tall Douglas fir tree is located in the southeast corner of the field, and in the southwest corner there are two Douglas fir trees and one oak tree.

## Materials and Design

Designed in the English Cottage style, the house features a high pitched side-gable roof clad in wood shake. The siding is primarily painted running bond brick, although wide wood lap and vertical groove wood paneling are also present. The wide wood lap siding is present on the east, west, and south facades and the vertical groove panel is located on the first floor of the east façade. The house features brick window sills on the north façade, with mostly six-and eight-pane wood casement windows. A few mixed multi-pane wood windows are also present, as are vinyl windows in the 1990 addition and in the west end of the c. 1940 addition on the second floor.

A single-story 1990 addition extends off the west elevation of the house. The materials and design features match those of the 1931 house, featuring the same roof pitch, painted brick cladding in a running bond pattern and wood shake roof. However, the addition features slightly deeper mortar joints and vinyl slider windows. On the north façade of the addition there is a contemporary multi-panel wood door with a stained glass window pane at the center. Additionally, a c. 1940 addition extends off the west end of the house. The brick cladding on this addition also features deeper mortar joints and a running bond, like in the 1990 addition to the east.

## English Cottage and Arts and Crafts Style in Portland, Oregon

The English Cottage style was popular in residential design in the Portland area during the second and third decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modeled after the smaller, romantic country dwellings of the English countryside, this style was for those "seeking a less-than-ostentatious lifestyle" with more modern amenities.<sup>i</sup> The quaint, cottage feeling and the lakeside setting of the Osco C. Roehr house, plus the home's molded wood trims, oak floors, and paneled doors are particularly "English Cottage" in design.

<sup>i</sup> Hawkins, William John, and William F. Willingham. *Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon: 1850-1950*. (Portland, Or: Timber Press, 1999), 351.

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The Arts and Crafts style in Portland was closely related to the English Cottage style, and was popular for residential architecture in many variants from about 1850 to 1950. Particularly represented in the Roehr house, Arts and Crafts style homes feature steeply pitched roofs, simple forms, long banks of casement windows, vertical board entry doors in recessed entries, simple wood trims, wood floors, and plastered walls.

<sup>2</sup>

The English Cottage and Arts and Crafts styles were particularly popular in the Lakewood neighborhood of Lake Oswego, where the Roehr house is located, and much of this neighborhood's residential architecture followed the stylistic idiom set forth by the 1925 English Cottage/Arts and Crafts styled Lake Oswego Country Club clubhouse.

## Exterior Description

### *North Façade*

The front entrance is located on the north façade of the house. The brick and stone entry stoop is recessed under the pitch of the gable roof and features vertical groove panels on the walls. A new stone path wraps around from the entry to the driveway. The wide, original front door is medieval in style with vertical wood planks, a small four-pane leaded glass window, and its original hardware. The entry vestibule is flanked by two 6-pane wood windows with brick sills. The north façade features a shed roof dormer with wood shingle cladding and three wood casement windows. The middle window is a smaller four-pane window, while the two outside windows are larger with 6-panes.

Two additions to the house are visible on the north façade. A small, one-story addition at the east end which was completed in 1990, and an addition at the west end which was completed c. 1940. The 1990 addition contains a small office, and the c. 1940 addition contains a family room. At this end, a garage was added to the house sometime after the initial 1931 construction date. Subsequently, the garage was converted to interior space to create a family room c. 1940. This addition was completed at the direction of the original owner, Osco C. Roehr. Both of the additions are visible due to their deeper mortar joints in the brick cladding; however they were done with in-kind materials and design and show the progression of the house during the period of significance without confusing its history.

### *East Façade*

The east façade is primarily comprised of the single-story 1990 addition. The addition is clad in wood lap siding and features two multi-pane vinyl windows. The east façade portion of the original house structure features vertical board and wood lap siding on the first floor, and wood lap siding on the second. The vertical board siding is similar to that found in the entry vestibule on the north façade.

The east façade of the original house structure also features one multi-pane wood window on the first floor and two multi-pane wood windows on the second floor. Additionally, multi-pane wood French doors open out from the first floor onto a small flagstone landing. This leads onto the original flagstone stairway path which immediately wraps around the back of the house (south) down to the lakeside lawn and patio.

### *South Façade*

The south façade faces Oswego Lake and is comprised of three stories. The basement is at grade on this side of the house, comprising the lower level. The entire south façade is clad in wood lap siding, except for the basement level in which the poured concrete foundation is left exposed and painted white to match the rest of the house. At the basement level there is one six-pane, paneled wood door opening out onto the flagstone path leading to the patio. To the west of the door there is a multi-pane wood window.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 444-446.

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On the first (main) floor, a porch and a patio were converted to interior space by the original owners c. 1940. The porch and patio were originally located at the east and west ends of the south façade. The porch at the east end was converted into an interior dining room, and features an oriel window on the exterior with three single-pane wood windows. The middle window is fixed, while the two flanking windows are casement windows. Above the dining room is a deck enclosed by a white wood balustrade. Access to this deck is from the second floor hall through a multi-pane wood door.

The patio at the west end was converted into the kitchen and features a vinyl sliding garden window. This change was made by the original owner c. 1940 when the garage was converted into a family room. Just outside of the kitchen, to the south, there is a small deck.

Protruding from the roof on the south façade is a shed dormer with two six-pane wood windows. Two small skylights are attached to the south slope of the roof, as well as a large brick chimney featuring a running bond pattern. This chimney extends beyond the west edge of the original house structure on the south façade. Across the south façade on the first (main) floor, there are eight windows. From west to east, there are two single-pane casement wood windows, four smaller eight-pane fixed wood windows, and two single-pane casement wood windows. On the second floor, from west to east, there are three multi-pane vinyl windows, one six-pane casement wood window, and one six-pane casement wood window looking out over the second floor deck. Also present is a multi-pane wood door opening out onto the deck.

### *West Façade*

The west façade is very close to the western edge of the property, ranging from about eight to twelve feet from the property line. This façade features wood lap siding, a modern door with a leaded glass window leading from the family room and kitchen out to the very narrow side yard, an eight-pane wood window on the second floor, and a massive brick chimney. This chimney, which features a running bond pattern, was added c. 1940 when the garage was converted into an interior family room.

### **Interior Description**

The interior of the Osco C. Roehr house is comprised of 3,054 square feet on two floors. The main (first) floor is made up of seven key rooms, plus the foyer, two bathrooms and a utility closet. The second floor is comprised of three bedrooms, a storage room, a linen closet, and a bathroom. Above the second floor there is an attic with access from the master bedroom, and under the southwest portion of the house there is a small basement.

In keeping with the exterior of the house, the interior also has excellent integrity of materials, design, and character. The interior features its original built-in furniture, fireplaces, intended views, lath and plaster walls, and its unique, character-defining exposed boulders that are integrated into the basement walls. The home's original wood trim, baseboards and moldings, doors, pocket doors, and built-in cabinetry are still present and in excellent condition.

As previously mentioned, several additions and slight changes have occurred over the course of the home's history; however none of them detract from the original design, style, and character. The small 1990 one-story addition at the east end of the house is used as an office, and in the same year the master bedroom at the west end of the second floor was extended about twelve feet to the west. The original kitchen was moved to the southwest corner of the house when a backyard patio was enclosed, and at the same time, c. 1940, the garage was converted into a family room, connecting with the new kitchen as one large room. A large brick fireplace was also added in the family room at this time. The c. 1940 changes were made by the original owner, Osco C. Roehr, with his architect and brother, Frank Roehr.

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### *First Story*

The first floor encompasses 1, 878 square feet and is made up of an office, a music room, a sitting room, a living room, a dining room, a family room, and a kitchen. Additionally, there are two bathrooms, a foyer, and a utility room. The front entry on the north façade features a beautiful, wide, wood plank front door with a small four-pane leaded glass window. The door also features its original hardware. The original oak wood floors run throughout the first floor portion of the original house structure, while the family room, which is located in the west end of the house, is floored with carpeting. Tile flooring lies in the kitchen, and newer carpeting is present in the 1990 addition.

Upon entering, an original wood staircase commands the space to the left (east) of the entry hall, while the eye is also drawn straight ahead (south) towards the views of the lake. The staircase features carved balusters, handrails, and a large, floor-to-ceiling carved newel post. The entry hall itself features a small, built in floor-to-ceiling cabinet and a large, solid oak paneled pocket door leading beyond the entry hall into the music, sitting, and living rooms. To the right of the entry hall there is the original first floor bathroom, which includes the original tiling, sink, and ceiling paint. A new toilet is all that has changed from the original state of this bathroom.

To the east of the stairway there is a utility room and a bathroom. The kitchen was originally located in this area, but was moved under direction of the original owner, O.C. Roehr, to the southwest corner of the house c. 1940. Extending off the east end of the house is a small, one-story 1990 addition. Currently, an office is located here. A modern door leads from the office outside to the north of the house.

During the period of significance when the garage was converted into a family room and an exterior patio to the south of the garage was filled in by the original owners, the kitchen was moved to this in-filled patio space adjoining the new family room. At the west end of the family room there is a large brick fireplace with an additional wood burning stove. The brick is laid from floor to ceiling and encompasses nearly the entire western wall of the family room.

The music, sitting, and living rooms lie at the south end of the house and are graced with beautiful views out to Oswego Lake. The sitting room (at the east end of the house) occupies a former exterior porch. This conversion to interior space occurred at an unknown time during the period of significance while O.C. resided at the house, according to the current owner. At the east end of the sitting room there are multi-pane, wood French doors leading outside to a small stone and brick patio area.

To the west of the sitting and music rooms lies the living room in the southwest corner of the house. In the west end of this room there is the original brick fireplace, encased with wood paneling that matches the trim and moldings. To the right (north) of the fireplace there is a built-in bookshelf, and to the left (south) there is a set of single-pane wood French doors leading outside to the deck.

### *Second Story*

The second floor is comprised of two small bedrooms, a bathroom, a linen closet, and a master bedroom suite in a total of 1,182 square feet. This floor is for private use, and the bedrooms are all oriented to the south towards the views of the lake. All of the second floor rooms retain their original doors, including the linen closet.

Access to the second floor is via the previously described wood staircase in the northeast portion of the house. Upon reaching the second floor, to the east is one of two original bedrooms. This bedroom features its original built-in closet and windows looking out to the south and east. To the south, the second story deck can be seen through the two south-facing windows in this room. Off the northeast corner of this bedroom there is access to a vaulted storage area which encompasses the area underneath the roof pitch of the 1990 first floor addition. A short hall is located just to the west of the first bedroom. Here there is a built-in linen closet on the west side of

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the hall, and to the south there is access to the second story deck through a multi-pane wood door. Running along the east-west axis of the house is the main second floor hall. Access to the first and second original bedrooms, the bathroom, and the master suite is off this hall. The second original bedroom is located on the south side of the house. It features its original built-in closet and windows looking out to the south and to the east. The bathroom is located on the north side of the hall. It was recently remodeled by the current owners, but still retains its original wood windows facing north.

At the west end of the second floor is the master suite. This includes a walk-in closet, a bathroom, and a small staircase in the southwest corner of the room leading up to a storage space in the attic. The master suite is in the same location of the original master bedroom; however it was expanded by about twelve feet to the west in 1990. It was at this same time that the staircase was added for access to the storage space in the attic.

### *Basement*

The basement is located underneath the southwestern portion of the house and is accessed via concrete steps from the utility room on the first floor (which is located just to the east of the staircase). Underneath the rest of the house is crawl space. The basement has an open floor plan with large wood closets, and features large, visible basalt boulders projecting into the space. These boulders were incorporated into the basement walls and are indicators of the rocky landscape of this lot, proving the difficulty for building upon. Another unique feature present in the basement is the house's original steam heating system. This system still functions as it did when the house was built, and the current owners intend to continue to use it to heat the house. On the south side of the basement there is a six-pane wood door that leads out onto the back patio.

### **Associated Resources**

In addition to the house, there are two outbuildings. The outbuildings include a boathouse and a greenhouse, both of which were built during the period of significance by the original owner. The boathouse and the greenhouse are technically located on Oswego Lake property, but are for the exclusive use of the owners of the Roehr property.

#### *Boathouse, c. 1940*

The boathouse is located to the northeast of the Roehr house property. The structure is built on poured concrete piers, and the upper portion consists of a two-car garage. The boathouse features a flat roof which is covered with tar paper, and the structure itself is clad in particle board.

#### *Greenhouse, c. 1940*

The greenhouse is attached to the southwest wall of the boathouse. It has a side gable roof made of sheets of glass in a wood frame. The glass extends down and comprises the upper half of the greenhouse walls. The lower half of the walls is constructed of painted white concrete blocks. When constructed by Osco C. Roehr, the greenhouse was plumbed for heat from the home's original steam heating system, as well as the greenhouse is wired for electricity.

### **Conclusion**

The nominated resource retains excellent integrity, and clearly depicts its significance as Osco C. Roehr's house during the period of his role as mayor of Lake Oswego and civic participant, Frank Roehr's residential design, and the typical early residential architecture in the Lakewood neighborhood of Lake Oswego.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance**

1931 – 1955

**Significant Dates**

1931, Date of Construction

1935,

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Osco C. Roehr

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Frank G. Roehr, Architect

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance begins in 1931 and ends in 1955. This period encompasses the time the building was occupied by Osco C. Roehr, former Mayor of Lake Oswego, who made significant contributions to his local community and the larger Portland Metropolitan area during his lifetime.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)** N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The one and a half story English Cottage/Arts and Crafts style house built in 1931 for Osco C. Roehr is located in the Lakewood Neighborhood of Lake Oswego in Clackamas County, Oregon. Osco C. Roehr (1892 – 1981) was a former mayor of Lake Oswego, and his civic, legal, and environmental contributions, both locally in Lake Oswego and in the larger Portland metropolitan area, leave a legacy worth honoring. Particularly, Osco C. Roehr is significant for his contributions to parks development and funding during his time as mayor, stimulating further parks planning and development in the future. This house is significant, therefore, under Criterion B for its direct association with the life of Osco C. Roehr, and more specifically his time as mayor. The nominated property possesses high integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. The period of significance for this nomination spans from 1931, when the house was built, until 1955, when the house was sold to its second owners. The stated period of significance directly relates to the nominated subject's close association with Osco C. Roehr's time as a civic participant and mayor of Lake Oswego.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The one and a half story, rectilinear English Cottage/Arts and Crafts style house built in 1931 for Osco C. Roehr is located in the Lakewood Neighborhood of Lake Oswego in Clackamas County, Oregon. Osco C. Roehr (1892 – 1981) was a former mayor of Lake Oswego, and his civic, legal, and environmental contributions, both locally in Lake Oswego and in the larger Portland metropolitan area, leave a legacy worth honoring. In particular, Roehr's contributions to the planning and development of parks in Lake Oswego qualify him as locally significant. This house, being the only physical resource specifically connected to Roehr's life while serving the Lake Oswego community as mayor and civic participant, is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with the life of Osco C. Roehr. The nominated property possesses excellent integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. The period of significance for this nomination spans from 1931, when the house was built, until 1955, when the house was sold to its second owners. The stated period of significance directly relates to the nominated subject's close association with Osco C. Roehr's time as an active civic participant and mayor of Lake Oswego.

The Osco C. Roehr house, like many of the choicest residences of Lake Oswego during the development boom in the 1920s and '30s, is sited on a generous, sloping lot on the Oswego Lake lakefront. The Roehr house site in particular features many large basalt boulders, proving at once both difficult to design around and character-defining. Several of these boulders were incorporated into the basement level construction of the house and are visible in the basement. The picturesque lot features its original stone walls, creating terraces in both the front and back yards, and the back yard (on the lakefront) features a small lawn, a stone patio, and a stone fireplace. Dotted throughout the lot are large, native douglas fir trees, as well as large planted rhododendrons, a variety of other trees, and evergreen shrubs. Adjoining the property, but on Lake Oswego Corporation owned land, there is a boathouse with a garage above it and a small greenhouse—both for the exclusive use of the Osco C. Roehr house owners.

A small amount of alterations have been made to the original structure, however most of them occurred during the period of significance and by the direction of the original owner and architect. The others do not significantly alter the resource's integrity and most are reversible, thus the O.C. Roehr house is still able to clearly convey its historical English Cottage/Arts and Crafts style that was both the house that Frank designed per O.C.'s taste, and the premier style idiom in Lake Oswego during the time of its construction.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**Native Americans and Early Settlement – Oswego’s Beginnings**

At the site of the present day city of Lake Oswego, a claim for 637 acres was filed by Albert Alonzo Durham in 1847. Durham was a native of Oswego, New York and in turn named his land claim “Oswego.” A small lake was located on the land claim, and in 1849 Durham built the first dam on the lake. The local Indians called the lake “Waluga” – their word for “swan” – because the lake was home to many wild swans. Prior to white settlement in the area, the lake had been used by the Indians as part of their route from the Willamette River to the Tualatin River. The Flat Head Clan of the Clackamas Indians inhabited the north shore of the lake. They built their council fires here on the higher land above the lake, which was later to be called Council Bluffs by the white settlers.<sup>3</sup>

**Oswego’s Iron Industry**

In 1867, the Oregon Iron Company constructed their iron works near the Willamette River. Here, the first iron west of the Rocky Mountains was smelted, and the foundry provided iron for the cast iron fronts of buildings in Portland and other cities on the West Coast. The Oregon Iron Company built a wooden dam on the lake which raised its level. This was later replaced with a concrete dam. The company faced tumultuous ups and downs throughout its course of business, expanded and changed its name to the Oregon Iron and Steel Company, and ultimately ceased operations in 1917. Today, the most intact resource that remains of the original plant is the 1894 furnace and chimney. Both are preserved and contained within Lake Oswego’s George Rogers Park.<sup>4</sup>

**Ladd Estate Company – Real Estate Development in Oswego**

Following the collapse of the iron industry, many people left Oswego and the town became secluded and deserted. In 1912, Oswego began to transition into a residential community. The Ladd Estate Company (begun by the successful Portland area real estate developer, William S. Ladd) then set out to develop some of the 24,000 acres of land held by the Oregon Iron and Steel Company (of which Ladd served as president at its close). The construction and operation of the new Red Electric train, running between Portland and Oswego, also aided in Oswego’s residential development. Included in the Ladd Estate Company’s plans for Oswego were plans for the Oswego Country Club, built in 1924 in the English Cottage/Arts and Crafts style.<sup>5</sup>

The residential development came to be known as the “Lake Oswego Country Club District”, and was advertised as “Lovely beyond words; the Lake Oswego Country Club District is a dream come true.” As part of the country club, an 18-hole golf course, clubhouse, tennis courts, a riding academy, and a polo field were built. Home-sites were planned around the lake and throughout the surrounding countryside. To further entice prospective residents, the Ladd Estate Company built a swimming park, named Lake Grove Swim Park, and used the advertising slogan “Live Where You Play.”<sup>6</sup>

After the success of the Country Club District, the Ladd Estate Company flooded the swampy duck pond to the east of the lake and dug a channel connecting it to the lake in an effort to create and develop even more residential waterfront lots. Additionally, flooding the swamp conveniently hid places where laborers had

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<sup>3</sup> The Oregon Encyclopedia, “Lake Oswego”, [http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/lake\\_oswego/](http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/lake_oswego/) (accessed September 7, 2011).

<sup>4</sup> The Oregon Encyclopedia, “Oregon Iron & Steel Company”, [http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/oregon\\_iron\\_\\_\\_steel\\_company/](http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/oregon_iron___steel_company/) (accessed September 7, 2011).

<sup>5</sup> The Oregon Encyclopedia, “Ladd Estate Company”, [http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/ladd\\_estate\\_company/](http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/ladd_estate_company/) (accessed September 7, 2011).

<sup>6</sup> The Oregon Encyclopedia, “Lake Oswego”, [http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/lake\\_oswego/](http://oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/lake_oswego/) (accessed September 7, 2011).

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previously gouged out clay to make pipe cores. This project was completed in 1928. The swamp was then renamed Lakewood Bay.<sup>7</sup>

### Lakewood Bay Development – A Regulated Lake

The residential development that followed on Lakewood Bay came to be identified as the Lakewood Neighborhood (of which the Roehr house is a part), and to help guide the architectural style that the Ladd Estate Company desired, the 1925 English Cottage/Arts and Crafts styled Lake Oswego Country Club clubhouse served as a model. On the clubhouse's style, Ann Fulton writes: "With its emphasis on craftsmanship, use of natural materials that were economical and harmonious with their surroundings, and the integration of the building with its setting, the Arts and Crafts style clubhouse embodied the developers' architectural ideals."<sup>8</sup> The residential architecture that followed in the Lakewood Neighborhood from the 1920s and '30s adhered to the stylistic ideals set forth by the clubhouse.

### Lake Oswego Corporation

In 1942, the Lake Oswego Corporation was formed in order to take control and governing power of all aspects of the lake. The corporation was to assume expenses for maintaining the lake, including plantings, policing, insurance, and taxes. A narrow rim of land surrounding the entire lake, and the lake itself, had been owned by the Oregon Iron and Steel Company previously. The transfer of the deed to the Lake Oswego Corporation made official the corporation's plan for control, and the corporation was subsequently formed. In order to meet the expenses of the corporation, all lakefront land owners were required to purchase stock in the corporation at seven dollars annually for sixty feet of lakefront, and one dollar extra per every additional ten feet of lakefront on their properties. The corporation was run by a president and directors, of which O.C. Roehr was one, and he later served as the corporation's president.<sup>9</sup> The boathouse and the greenhouse associated with the O.C. Roehr house are technically located on Lake Oswego Corporation land directly to the northeast of the Roehr property. Jeff Ward, the current Lake Oswego Corporation Lake Manager, stated that most of the boathouses on the lake are technically on Corporation land, so this is a very common occurrence.

### Osco C. Roehr, Education and Early Business Affairs

Osco C. Roehr (henceforth referred to as "O.C.") was born in 1892 in Tacoma, Washington, to parents Benjamin Frank ("Frank") and Winnifred Roehr. Two years later in 1894, the Roehr family moved to Portland. Here, O.C. and his siblings, brother Frank G. and sister Gertrude, grew up attending Portland public schools. Serving in the U.S. Army during World War I, O.C. later attended Northwestern College of Law. He graduated in 1922 and was admitted to the Oregon Bar in the same year. One year prior in 1921, O.C. had been installed as the bailiff for the Oregon branch of the national law fraternity, Delta Theta Phi.

O.C. began his legal practice in Portland in 1922, and most notably defended Japanese Americans at the beginning of World War II against confiscation of property and investment. He spoke of the "petty injustice[s]" done to the Japanese, and urged others not to condemn this group of people for the tragedy at Pearl Harbor.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, O.C. handled cases arguing on behalf of the Portland Chamber of Commerce for direct air service from Portland to Hawaii and Alaska.<sup>11</sup>

Aside from his legal practice, O.C. also involved himself in local business affairs. In 1931, plans were underway for the construction of a new wood products plant, Beaver Wood Products, in southeast Portland.

<sup>7</sup> Foster, Laura O. *Images of America: Lake Oswego*. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 97.

<sup>8</sup> Fulton, Ann. *Iron, Wood & Water: An Illustrated History of Lake Oswego* (San Antonio, TX: Historical Publishing Network, 2002), 84.

<sup>9</sup> *The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1942. Lake Group Seeks Power, March 22

<sup>10</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1942. Alien Ban on Japanese Maintained, January 30.

<sup>11</sup> *The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1981. Obituary of Osco C. Roehr, January 18.

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This plant produced industrial lumber for shipment to eastern manufactures, and O.C. was named the company's secretary.<sup>12</sup>

Further demonstrating his interest in local business affairs, O.C. was appointed in 1936 to the newly created Portland Chamber of Commerce committee on the free zone proposal for Terminal No. 4 at St Johns. The proposed free zone would allow foreign cargo to be processed and placed without payment of duties, thereby increasing foreign cargo through Portland, all the while increasing handling charges and stimulating more local employment at Portland's docks.<sup>13</sup> In 1938, O.C. was named the chairman of the Recreational Resources Committee for the Chamber, and the following year, in 1939, was elected one of thirteen members of the Board of Directors for the Portland Chamber of Commerce.<sup>14</sup>

## Family

In 1928, O.C. married Nina Roberts of Portland. They subsequently had two sons, John Nicol in 1933, who suffered from polio, and Frank in 1936. Prior to their first son's birth, O.C. and Nina had lived in northeast Portland. They sold that home in 1931<sup>15</sup> to move to their newly constructed home in the Lakewood Neighborhood of Lake Oswego in 1932. By 1948, O.C. had married his second wife, Elizabeth P. Endres, also of Lake Oswego.<sup>16</sup> While no record has been found suggesting a divorce between O.C. and his first wife Nina, by 1943, O.C. was listed in the Clackamas County Directory without having a wife.

## Lakewood Home

O.C.'s love for the Oswego Lake area began as a teenager in the 1910s when he and his friends would take the Red Electric train from Portland to Lake Oswego, disembarking in town and then walking along the east shore of the lake. O.C. and his friends had a couple of favorite camping spots on the lake, which he recalled as being "then wild and uninhabited." After World War I, O.C. recounts, he and his friends all had cars, and during the summer months would spend their time at a rented house on the low ground south of Oswego Creek in what is now George Rogers Park. Here, the "gang" would swim in the Willamette River, picnic, play ball, and throw horseshoes just south of the Oregon Iron and Steel Company chimney. As O.C. recounts, "my liking of George Rogers park goes back a long ways."

In the late 1920s, one of O.C.'s friends bought a home on North Shore Road in Lake Oswego, and soon after O.C. and his wife Nina bought the lot to the west and devised plans to build their own home. The lot was steeply sloped and full of boulders and large fir trees, but nonetheless a house was designed by O.C.'s brother, Frank, who had recently obtained his degree in architecture from the University of Oregon. Following his graduation in 1927, Frank went on to work in the office of prominent Portland architect A.E. Doyle, and later became a partner in the Portland architectural firm Whitehouse, Church, Newberry, and Roehr.

On the process of building the home, O.C. remembers how the original mortgage to finance the home, which was provided from an old banker client of his, was retracted by the banker's heirs following his death. For three months, the house stood with the rafters up while waiting for a new mortgage. O.C. recounts in 1971: "I tried the whole of Portland and was told everywhere that no one would loan money on property so far out in the wilds. That is what the money geniuses thought of Oswego in 1931."<sup>17</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *The Oregonian*, Morning edition. 1931. New Lumber Plant to Open Here, January 20; and *The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1931. New Plant Under Way, February 15.

<sup>13</sup> *The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1936. Committee Appointed on Free Zone Proposal, March 1.

<sup>14</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1939. Ross McIntyre Elected to Presidency by Chamber of Commerce Directorate, April 8.

<sup>15</sup> *The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1931. Residential Deals Reported, March 8.

<sup>16</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1948. Portland Marriage Licenses, November 25.

<sup>17</sup> Osco C. Roehr to Mary Goodall, letter, March 23, 1971.

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### Mayor of Lake Oswego: 1939-1945

O.C.'s civic involvement with the city of Lake Oswego began in the mid 1930's when the then mayor, William F. Ewing, started consulting with O.C. on legal matters for the city. This led to O.C.'s volunteering as the city attorney, attending council meetings for several years of unpaid work. He recounts that he learned a lot and made some good friends while acting as the city attorney. Following the unexpected death of Mayor Ewing in 1939, O.C. was voted his successor by the city council. O.C. was promised a salary of ten dollars per month, yet by March of 1939 the city council informed O.C. that unfortunately they could not pay him as promised.<sup>18</sup>

Despite the lack of financial compensation, O.C. continued to serve as Lake Oswego's mayor. He was re-elected three times, serving through 1945 when he unexpectedly resigned due to the increasing demands of his law practice. In his resignation letter dated September 4, 1945, he wrote "I am so busy that I cannot continue to give the City of Oswego the time that the office requires and deserves."<sup>19</sup>

For his time as mayor, O.C. is most significant for the contributions he made to the promotion of park development and funding, providing residents a place to play where they live, as the Ladd Estate Company's "live where you play" slogan promoted. An admittedly "park minded" mayor, O.C. traced his involvement in parks-related activities back to his time as director of the Recreational and Natural Resources Committee for the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Once appointed mayor, O.C. found himself "mayor of the beautiful home area of Oswego without one park except for the small swimming park. The Ladd Estate [Company] at that time advertised 'Live where you play and play where you live' and soon there would be no place for the kids to play 'where they lived'." In response, O.C. appointed a committee of three people from the city council, including himself, and together with three members of the School Board they set out seeking an appropriate site on which to develop a park.<sup>20</sup>

After evenings spent viewing vacant lots in the city, the committee settled on a tract of land on the Willamette River for the new park. The committee wanted to include the lot to the east of the remaining Oregon Iron and Steel Company chimney, and although it had been under contract to sell, the owner at the time, Paul Murphy, backed out so that the lot could be included in the park plan. O.C. was instrumental in arranging for the purchase of this land in 1945, which later became George Rogers Park.<sup>21</sup> In order to help cover the cost of the park land and development, the city's voters voted to increase their taxes by \$10,000 for one year. Realizing the need for further funding to not only buy and develop new, but also maintain city parks, a two million annual levy was voted in for the creation and operation of city parks. O.C.'s efforts to establish George Rogers Park and parks funding set in motion the trend of future parks development in Lake Oswego. Presently, the City of Lake Oswego owns thirty-five parks properties, comprising 517.4 acres of public park lands.<sup>22</sup>

During O.C.'s time as mayor, his council installed a "trunk sewer system", and in anticipation of future needs, bought a waterfront property on the Willamette River for a future waste disposal site. Fittingly, this site is now a city park in honor of O.C., named Roehr Park. O.C.'s city council was also responsible for drilling a well for the city's water supply, and additionally for the purchase of the city's first modern fire truck. As O.C. remembers, the town was "very proud of it and by popular vote it was painted white." This was followed by a city parade with the new fire truck in the lead and O.C. riding alongside the fire chief.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> *The Oswego Review*. 1945. Mayor Roehr and Recorder Duis Resign, September 8.

<sup>20</sup> Osco C. Roehr to Mary Goodall, letter, March 23, 1971.

<sup>21</sup> Kellogg, Claire. "Roehr Park." Lake Oswego Public Library, June 2003.

<sup>22</sup> City of Lake Oswego, *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*, July 2002.

<sup>23</sup> Osco C. Roehr to Mary Goodall, letter, March 23, 1971.

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## Lake Oswego Zoning

Additionally of particular importance, O.C. was a staunch supporter of city zoning and while mayor, he tried to encourage citizens to work on a planning commission for the purposes of zoning. In his resignation letter from 1945, O.C. suggested that the city's charter should be amended to provide for a city manager and assessment districts. While these goals were not met during his mayoral terms, O.C. prepared a new charter for the city's first zoning ordinance. This was particularly in response to Lake Grove residents (an Oswego neighborhood) who were concerned with the encroachment of commercial development in their residential neighborhood following the expiration of existing property restrictions, as reported in a 1947 article in *The Oregonian* entitled "Lake District Seeks Zoning."<sup>24</sup>

## Lake Oswego Corporation

As previously described, the Lake Oswego Corporation was formed in 1942 to take control of all governing aspects of Oswego Lake. The lake itself, as well as the rim of land surrounding the entire lake, is included in the deed held by the corporation. O.C. was elected one of the directors for the corporation in its inaugural year, and by 1946 he is recognized as the corporation's president, as evidenced by a 1946 article in *The Oregonian* describing a Christmas illumination contest for homes fronting on Oswego Lake.<sup>25</sup>

## Oregon Roadside Council

Aside from local Lake Oswego civic matters, O.C. was also involved in initiatives of statewide importance. Most notable was his involvement in the Oregon Roadside Council and its development of the Jessie M. Honeyman State Park in conjunction with the Civilian Conservation Corps and Oregon's first Superintendent of State Parks, Samuel Boardman.

The Oregon Roadside Council (ORC) is "an organization dedicated to the preservation of Natural Scenic Beauty along Oregon's highways and beautification where such is needed." The ORC was founded in 1932 with Jessie M. Honeyman as president, and with the goal "to maintain a central organization for individual and group effort toward the preservation and conservation of Oregon's great asset, her scenic beauty." Objectively, ORC's aim was and is to affect legislation that will permanently protect the natural scenery along Oregon's highways, as well as to cooperate with other agencies with similar objectives.<sup>26</sup> By 1940, O.C. is recognized as ORC's "acting chairman of the legislation committee", and in 1941, O.C. was elected ORC's "counsel", providing the organization with legal counsel. Also in 1941 was the dedication of the Jessie M. Honeyman State Park on the Oregon coast, in which O.C. participated. The new park was named for ORC's first president.<sup>27</sup>

## Environmental Advocacy

O.C. was also involved in other environmental advocacy activities aside from his participation in the ORC. An article in *The Oregonian* dated from 1941 described the issue of mallard ducks on Lake Oswego—some residents liked the ducks and thought they added to the lake ambience, while others found them obnoxious and annoyingly un "lawn-broke." O.C. is described in this article as being a proponent of the ducks, having spent much of his leisure time cruising the lake and taking pictures of the ducks. According to this article, one of O.C.'s duck portraits was even published in a national magazine.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>24</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1947. Lake District Seeks Zoning, March 4.

<sup>25</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1946. Judges Select Contest Victor, December 24.

<sup>26</sup> Northwest Digital Archives, "Oregon Roadside Council Records 1960-2002", <http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv97476#historicalID> (accessed September 13, 2011).

<sup>27</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1940. Plans Talked on Road Beauty, January 10; and *The Oregonian*. 1941. Road Council Plans Drive, February 24.

<sup>28</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1941. Those Mallards of Lake Oswego, November 7.

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In 1946, O.C. was involved in a poison oak eradication campaign in Clackamas County led by members and officials of Clackamas County garden clubs. O.C. presented the petition to seek financial aid in ridding the county roads of poison oak. This campaign was also backed by the Oswego Chamber of Commerce, Lake Oswego Hunt Club, Marlyhurst College, and the Professional Women's Club.<sup>29</sup>

### **O.C.'s Legacy**

As an attorney, a businessman, a mayor, and an active participant in civic and environmental matters, O.C. and his accomplishments have made lasting contributions to Lake Oswego and the larger Portland area. O.C. was a director for the Portland Chamber of Commerce for twenty years, and was made the Chambers' first honorary lifetime member. He was a member of the Oregon state bar for fifty-five years, and is remembered for his work defending against the internment and property confiscation of Japanese-Americans at the beginning of World War II. O.C. retired from his legal practice in 1954, and was later listed in Capital's Who's Who for Oregon. O.C.'s involvement in the Oregon Roadside Council helped lead to the development and dedication of the Jessie M. Honeyman State Park on the Oregon Coast, and his legal expertise aided advocacy causes on such environmental issues as eradicating poison oak from Clackamas County roads.

For his time as the Mayor of Lake Oswego, O.C. is significant for his successful efforts in developing George Rogers Park and for writing the local ordinance providing funding for city parks. Fittingly, O.C. is remembered and honored by having a park named for him – O.C. Roehr Marina Park – which is located on a 5-acre tract of land on the Willamette River that was formally occupied by a sewer plant and cement factory. O.C. had always envisioned this land to make a lovely park, and in 1971 he was present as the park was dedicated in his name. Twenty-one years later, in 1992, the park was formally dedicated in his honor with a festival of music, water-skiing displays, canoe, kayak, and dragonboat races, and other family activities.<sup>30</sup> Unfortunately, O.C. was not present at this dedication because in 1981, at the age of eighty-eight, he passed away while living on the Oregon coast in the small town of Neskowin.

### **Chain of Title**

Since its construction in 1931, the O.C. Roehr home has had four owners. O.C. bought the "un-buildable" lot from Paul Murphy for \$1500 in 1931. The property was then sold to Newton Paul Lesh and Adrienne P. Lesh on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1955. Thirty-two years later, the home was sold again to George D. and Charlene Green in 1987. The property changed hands two more times in the next two years, to Gwen I Berg in 1988, then again to Jody Meadowcraft and Terry Moore in 1989. The current owners, Mahmood and Gaylyn Sher-Jan, purchased the property on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

The Sher-Jans intend to return the kitchen to its original location, moving it from the southwest to the northeast corner of the house. The kitchen will also utilize the space currently occupied by the office in the 1990 addition. New wood windows will replace the vinyl windows in the 1990 addition to compliment the home's original windows, and the family room will be re-carpeted. The space left by the kitchen in its current location will become additional family room space.

### **Comparable Resources**

The O.C. Roehr house is the only extant resource which directly relates to O.C.'s time as the mayor of Lake Oswego. While the O.C. Roehr Marina Park in Lake Oswego commemorates O.C.'s civic legacy – directly relating to his advocacy in support of parks development, maintenance, and funding – this resource was not developed during O.C.'s time as mayor or resident of Lake Oswego. George Rogers Park is associated with O.C. and his great efforts in securing land and funding for its development while acting as Lake Oswego's mayor; however it was named in honor of another prominent Lake Oswego resident. The City Hall where O.C.

<sup>29</sup> *The Oregonian*. 1946. Poison Oak Fight Slated, June 6.

<sup>30</sup> Kellogg, Claire. "Roehr Park." Lake Oswego Public Library, June 2003.

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Roehr served mayor was destroyed in a fire. There are no resources associated with O.C. and his involvement in the Portland Chamber of Commerce, and while O.C. was involved in the development of Honeyman State Park with the Oregon Roadside Council, this resource is more closely connected with Jessie M. Honeyman.

The O.C. Roehr house is also significant in that it is one of only two Frank Roehr designs that are recognized for their architectural and historical merits by the state, as evidenced by listing in the Oregon Historic Site Record. The other resource listed is the Margaret Scott Elementary School in Portland, OR, built in 1960. As previously mentioned, there are many prominent buildings in the Portland area (and on the Capitol Mall in Salem) that are still standing and recognized with inclusion in local, statewide, and national historic site registries. However, these resources are most often directly associated with Morris Whitehouse himself.

### **Conclusion**

The O. C. Roehr house is locally significant and nominated to the National Register for its association with the former Lake Oswego mayor, Osco C. Roehr. It is the only extant resource directly related to the time during which Roehr served as mayor. Roehr made substantial contributions while serving as mayor to the city of Lake Oswego by, most notably, facilitating the development and funding of a parks system, setting the trend for future parks development in the community. With its excellent integrity, the Osco C. Roehr house expresses and represents the Lake Oswego lakefront setting and residential character that O.C. loved so much, both as a young man prior to his living on the lake, and later during his time as a proud Lake Oswego resident. This house is the most closely tied to O.C. during the most civically involved years of his life.

Roehr, Osco C., House  
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Roehr, Osco C., House

Name of Property

Clackamas, OR

County and State

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*The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1931. Residential Deals Reported, March 8.

*The Oregonian*, Sunday edition. 1927. Shipping Club Will Dine, November 13.

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Roehr, Osco C., House  
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR  
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**Section 9 Continued**

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: N/A

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>525588</u> Easting	<u>5029066</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is bound within lot 323 of Lakewood Plat 2, tax lot 2S 1E 10BA 08200. The lot is irregularly shaped with basically three edges. The south edge and the southern part of the east edge are adjacent to Oswego Lake, which is comprised of tax lot 2S 1E 10 300. The northeast edge of the property is bound by the same Oswego Lake lot, but includes a larger amount of land. North Shore Circle borders approximately 25 feet of the property at the north. The property line spans approximately 142 feet from the driveway to the lake edge along the east edge of the property. Depending on the water level of Oswego Lake, there is a small strip of land between the property and the water's edge, which is part of the Oswego Lake lot (tax lot 300).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include the entirety of the tax lot associated with the historically significant person Osco C. Roehr during his residency between 1931 and 1955.

Roehr, Osco C., House  
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR  
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### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Christina Bond  
organization N/A date October 20, 2011  
street & number 735 SW St Clair Avenue telephone (541) 968-3368  
city or town Portland state OR zip code 97205  
e-mail cjb584@gmail.com

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

### Photographs:

---

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Osco C. Roehr House

**City or Vicinity:** Lake Oswego

**County:** Clackamas **State:** Oregon

**Photographer:** Patience Churchward: 2552 N. Argyle Street, Portland, OR 97217

**Date Photographed:** June 17, 2011

### Description of Photograph(s) and number:

**Photo 1 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0001)  
North façade, camera facing south

**Photo 2 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0002)  
East façade, camera facing northwest

**Photo 3 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0003)  
East façade, camera facing west, second floor

**Photo 4 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0004)  
South façade lakeside view, camera facing northeast

Roehr, Osco C., House  
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR  
County and State

**Photos Continued**

- Photo 5 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0005)  
South façade, camera facing northeast
- Photo 6 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0006)  
West façade, first floor, camera facing east
- Photo 7 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0007)  
Boathouse, camera facing north
- Photo 8 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0008)  
Front door detail, camera facing west
- Photo 9 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0009)  
Built-in cabinet detail, camera facing west
- Photo 10 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0010)  
Music and Sitting room, camera facing south
- Photo 11 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0011)  
Living room, camera facing southwest
- Photo 12 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0012)  
Family room, camera facing west
- Photo 13 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0013)  
Kitchen, camera facing south
- Photo 14 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0014)  
Master bedroom, camera facing southwest
- Photo 15 of 15:** (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0015)  
Basement, steam heating system detail, camera facing west

---

**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name Mahmood and Gaylyn Sher-Jan

street & number 128 North Shore Circle telephone (504) 806-4048

city or town Lake Oswego state OR zip code 97034

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Roehr, Osco C., House
Name of Property
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 23

## Documents

- Figure 1:** General Location Map
- Figure 2:** Tax Lot Map
- Figure 3:** Site Plan
- Figure 4:** Floor Plans, 3 pages

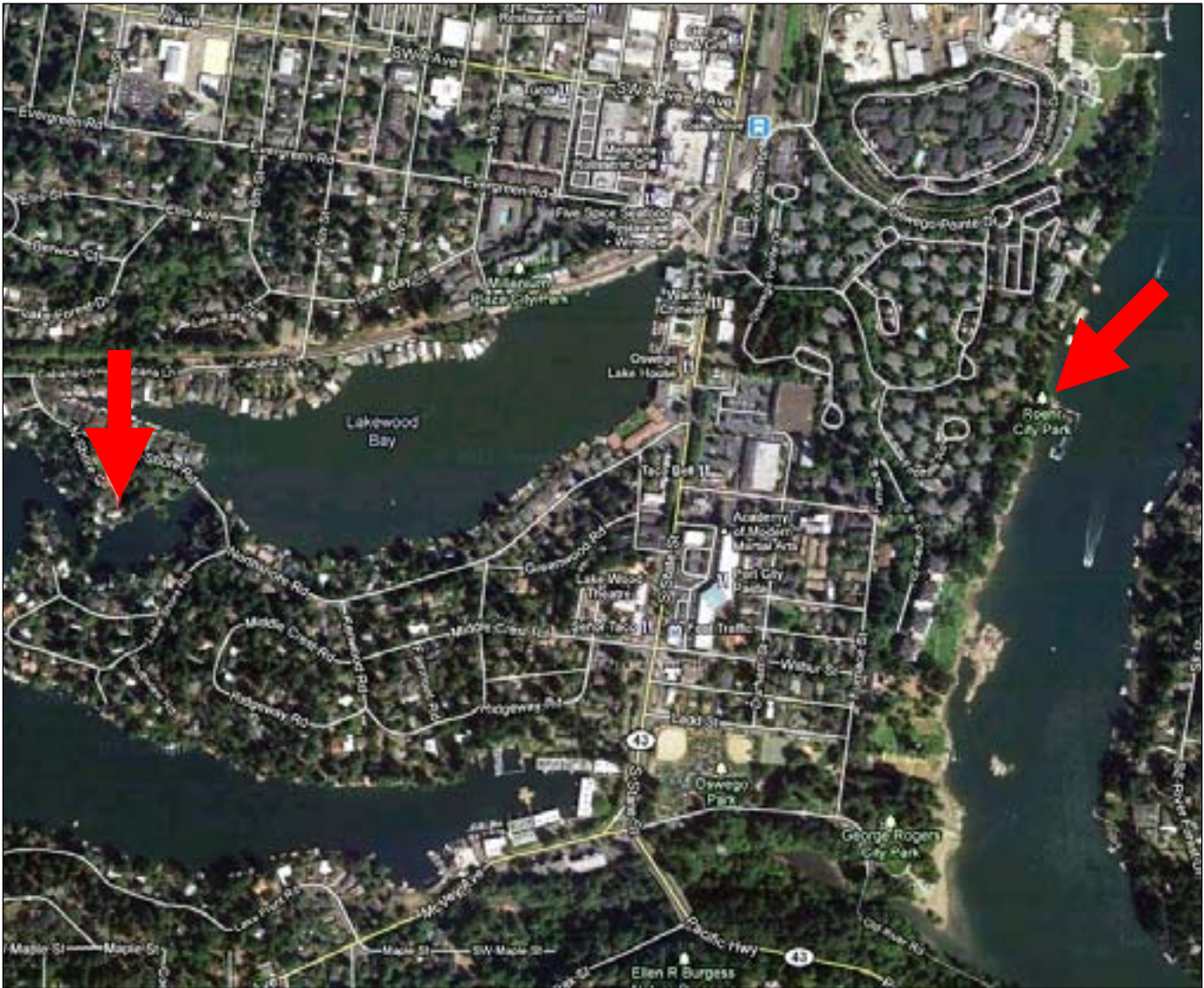
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Roehr, Osco C., House
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N/A
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Section number Documents Page 24

**Figure 1:** General Location Map  
Location of property and Roehr City Park marked with arrows



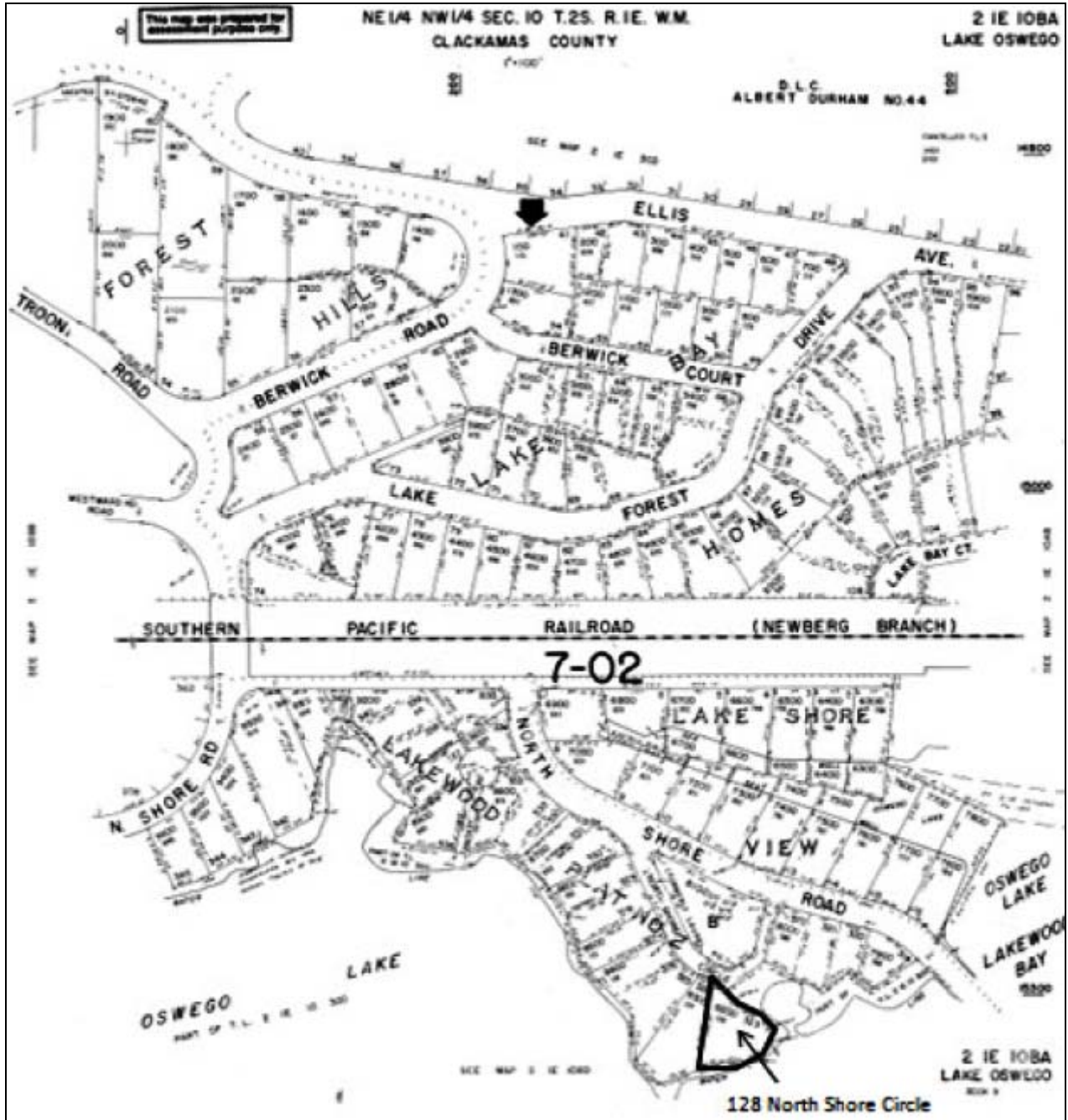
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 2: Tax Lot Map



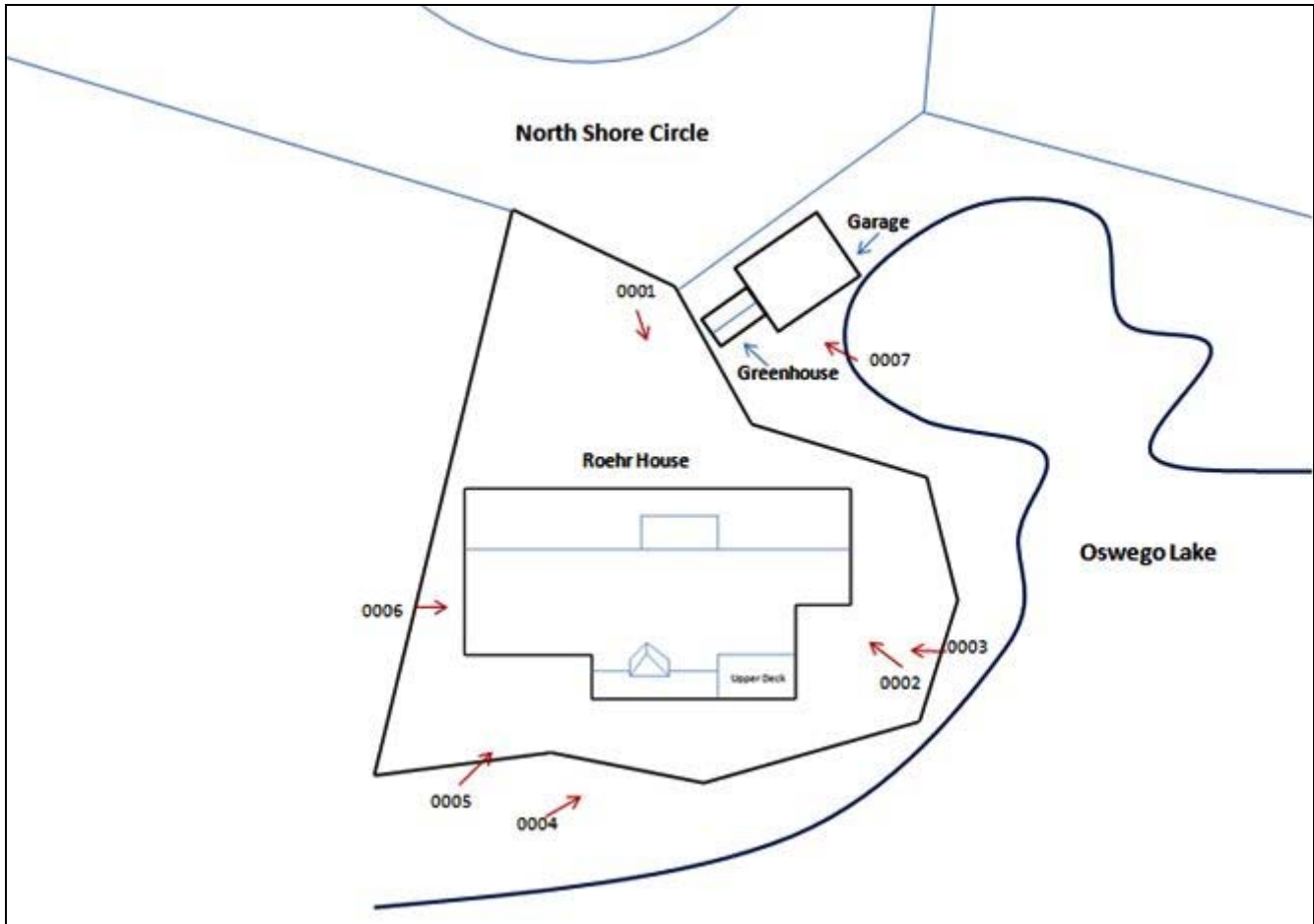
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 3:** Site Plan



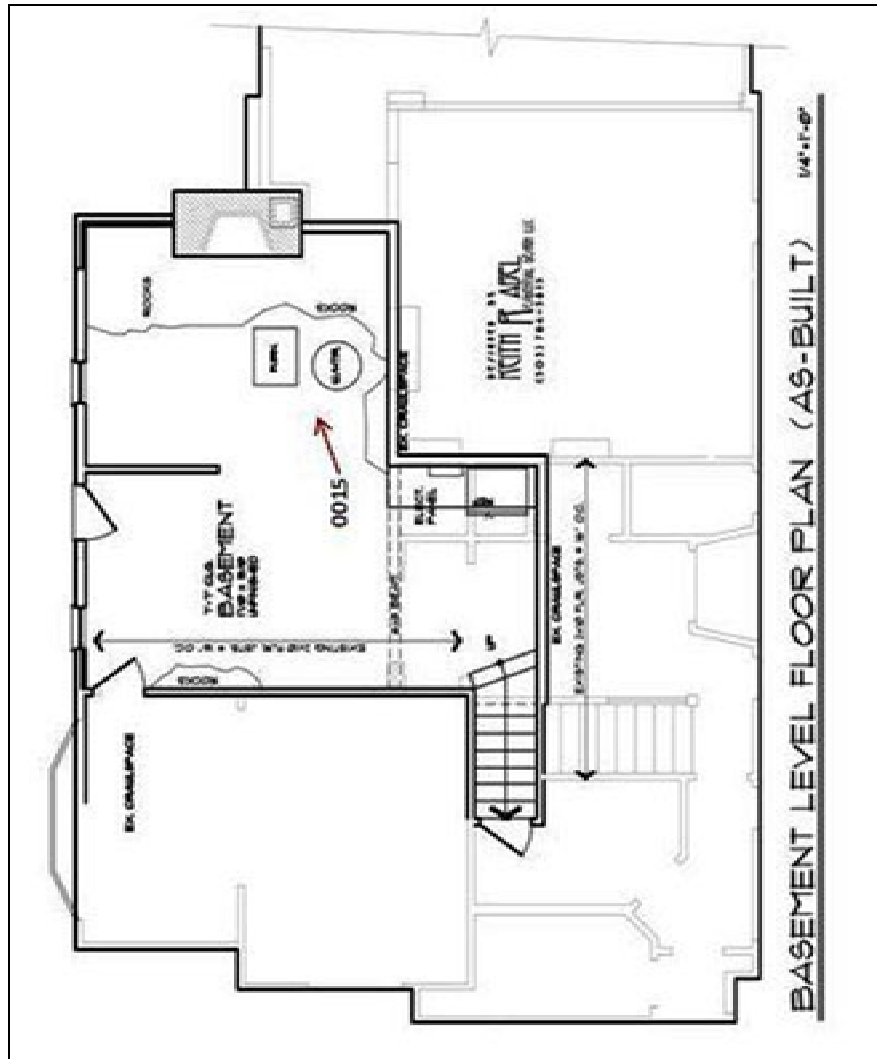
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Roehr, Osco C., House
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 4** Floor Plans, annotated and not to scale, page 1 of 3





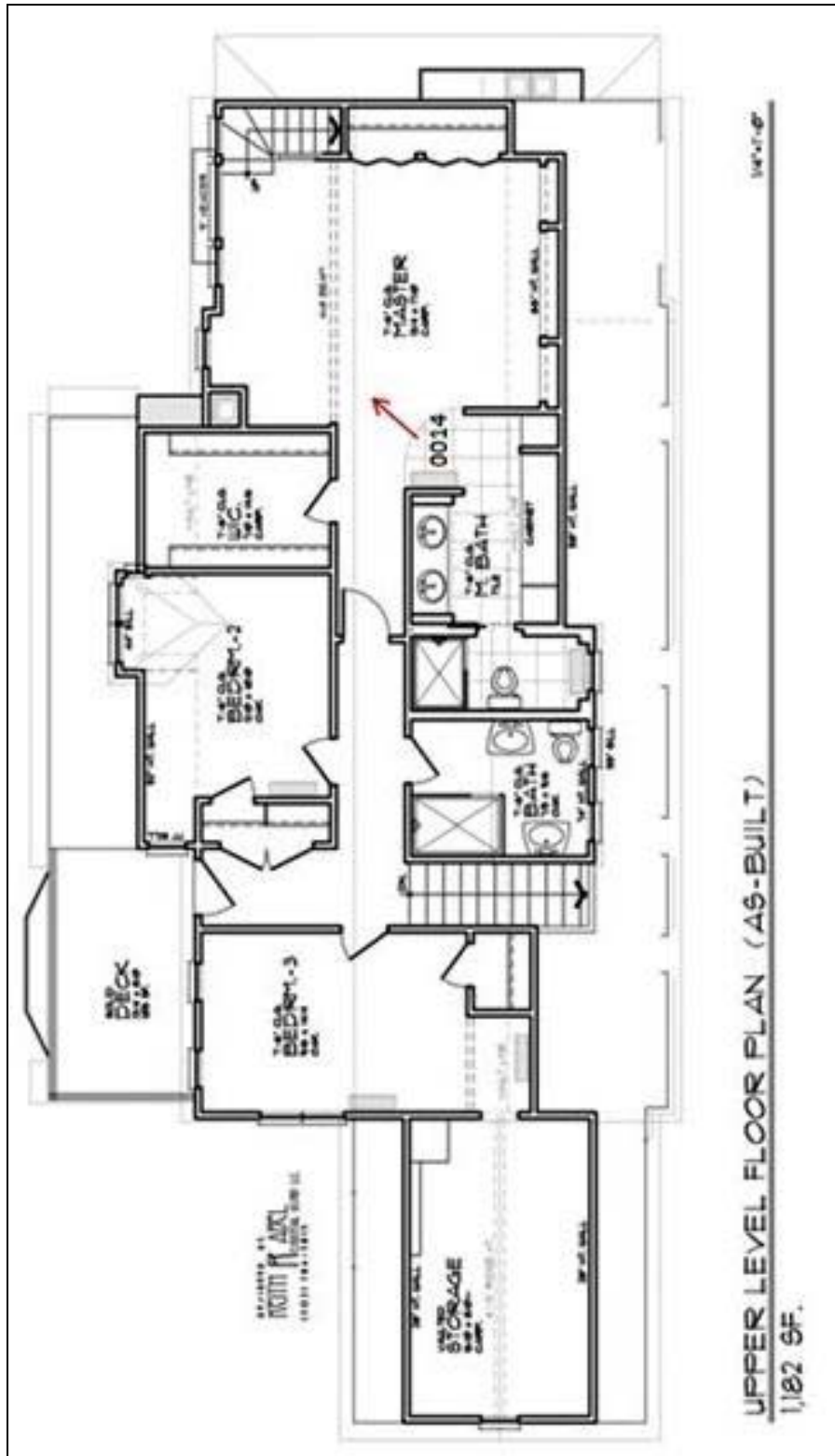
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Roehr, Osco C., House
Name of Property
Clackamas Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 4** Floor Plans, annotated and not to scale, page 3 of 3



**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 1 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0001)  
North façade, camera facing south



Photo 2 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0002)  
East façade, camera facing northwest

**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 3 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0003)  
East façade, camera facing west, second floor



Photo 4 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0004)  
South façade lakeside view, camera facing northeast

**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 5 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0005)  
South façade, camera facing northeast



Photo 6 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0006)  
West façade, first floor, camera facing east

**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 7 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0007)  
Boathouse, camera facing north



Photo 8 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0008)  
Front door detail, camera facing west

**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 9 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0009)  
Built-in cabinet detail, camera facing west



Photo 10 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0010)  
Music and Sitting room, camera facing south

**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 11 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0011)  
Living room, camera facing southwest



Photo 12 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0012)  
Family room, camera facing west

**Roehr, Osco C., House**  
Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., OR  
National Register Photos



Photo 13 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0013)  
Kitchen, camera facing south



Photo 14 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0014)  
Master bedroom, camera facing southwest



Photo 15 of 15: (OR\_ClackamasCounty\_OscoC.RoehrHouse\_0015)  
Basement, steam heating system detail, camera facing west