

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY FIELD FORM 1988-1989

HIST. NAME: Didzun, Charles, House

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1930

COMMON NAME:

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ADDRESS: 609 "A" Avenue

OWNER: Unknown

PRESENT USE: Residence

ARCH./BLDR.: Unknown

T/R/S: 2S IE 3DC

TAX LOT: 6100

STYLE: English

Cottage

RESOURCE TYPE:

Building

THEME: Architecture,  
Transportation

ADDITION: First

BLOCK: 43

LOT: 7,8

QUAD: Lake Oswego

LOT SIZE: .28

ZONE: R-7.5

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Asymmetrical

NO. OF STORIES: 1 1/2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete

BASEMENT: Yes

ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Multi-gable w/ close eaves and composition shingles

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood

STRUCTURAL FRAME: Stud

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Metal multi-light casement; multi-light  
double-hung sash

EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Wide, wood shingles

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Round headed entrance w/ combed brick  
surrounds; vertical plank door w/ iron knocker and grill over  
window; scalloped bargeboard; leaded fixed sash window w/ narrow  
multi-light sidelights; mock half-timber and shingled gable above  
leaded, stained glass window; lattice glass window

OTHER: Attached garage w/ wide wood shingled and multi-paneled  
and glazed overhead door; exterior brick chimney

CONDITION: Good

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Ramped entrance rear elevation  
added, (n.d.); shed roof attachment may be addition

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Ornamental plantings; massive  
coniferous tree on southwest corner of lot; wire perimeter fence;  
loosely framed arbor at right-of-way and boxwood hedge

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: Single bay garage located w. of house,  
near alley; greenhouse and out building, w/ lap siding, shallow  
eaves and overhead door north of house

SETTING: Located on the northwest corner of A Avenue and 6th,  
across street from large late 20th century commercial building;  
in area of modern commercial buildings and early 20th century  
residences, including Matthew Didzun House

NOTES:

RECORDER(S): Koler/Morrison, MacDonald DATE: 1989

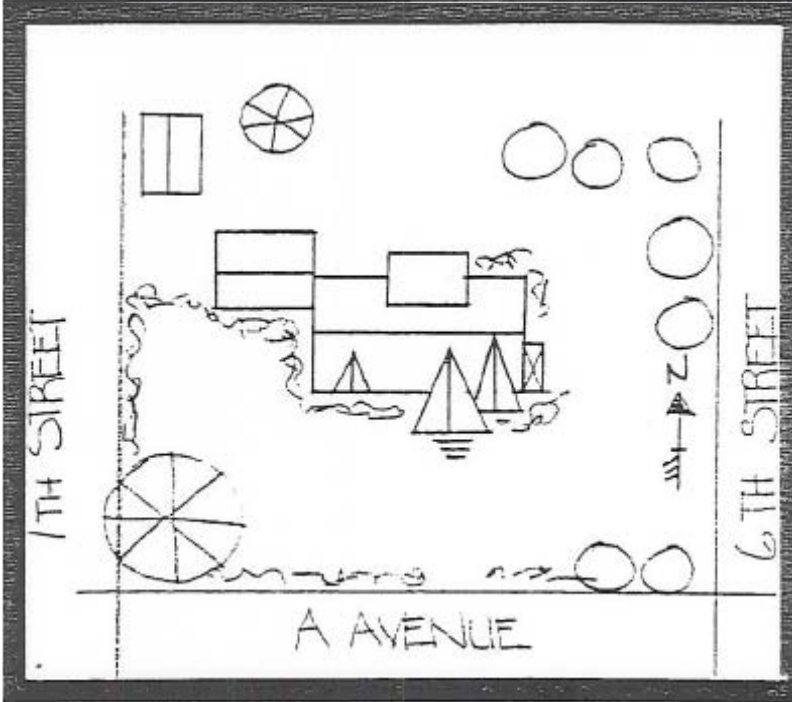
SHPO #: \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD #: \_\_\_\_\_

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 609 A AVENUE

TAX MAP / LOT 2S 1E 3DC/6100

SHPO# \_\_\_\_\_ ROLL/FRAME# \_\_\_\_\_



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: 609 A Avenue

Historic Name: Didzun, Charles, House

Although the exact date of construction is unknown, the Charlie Didzun House is believed to have been constructed circa 1930. The property had been in the Didzun family for several decades prior to the construction of the dwelling.

Charlie Didzun was the son of pioneer Matthew Didzun, a German immigrant who came to Oswego in 1885. The senior Didzun worked as a coremaker/toolmaker at the iron foundry, as well as carrying mail by horse and cart to Stafford, Canby and Wilsonville. Charlie "Peanuts" Didzun had the first gas pump and garage in town; he also sold Model T Fords. Didzun's business was located on State Street. He served as marshall in Lake Oswego in 1921-22.

The Didzun House is located in the First Addition neighborhood and is the best example of the English Cottage style in the neighborhood. Characteristic features include the multi-gable roof, massing, mock half-timbering and the metal, multi-light casement windows. The entrance with its round-headed opening with exaggerated surround, plank door and iron knocker with window grill are character defining elements as well. The subject house is located on the southern edge of the First Addition neighborhood, an area of relatively few English Cottage style houses. The house is highly visible from A Avenue, a main arterial through the downtown.

The house is significant for its association with Didzun who owned the first service station and automobile dealership and as a rare example of the English Cottage style in the First Addition neighborhood.

Bibliography: Didzun, Charlie, Recorded Interview for "In Their Own Words," Oral History project, Lake Oswego Library, 1974.

Oregon's Iron Dream, Mary Goodall, 1958.  
Ticor Title Company, Oregon City, OR.