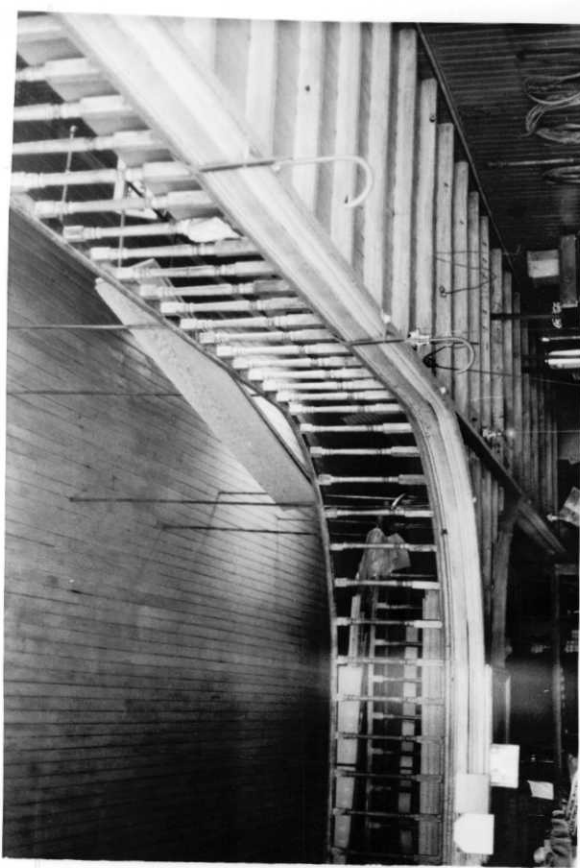


STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310



County Marion
Theme 6-D, 10-A
Name
(Common) Sims (Charles) Welding Shop
(Historic) Gehlen (C. & J.) General Merchandise Store
Address 189 North 2nd Ave.
Stayton, Oregon
Present Owner Charles Sims
(Address) 189 N. 2nd, Stayton, Ore.
Original Use General Store
Date of Construction 1876

92100

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Charles Sims' Welding Shop at 189 North 2nd Street is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Stayton, Oregon. Erected about 1876 this building is a one and one-half story, wood frame structure with a gable roof and a false front. The roof is presently covered with corrugated sheet metal. The exterior of the building is shiplap. The eaves are boxed and are decorated by a band of vertical, milled boards and brackets with pendants. The east (front) elevation has double entry doors and display windows. A shop is attached as a lean-to on the south elevation. The most striking feature of the building is the balcony display area suspended in the main section of the building. The structure is in excellent condition.

This building originally housed Hobson's General Store from 1876 to 1892. In 1892 it was purchased by Charles and John Gehlen and operated by them for many years as a general merchandise store. Successively in the 1920's it was the Baker and Ryan Chevrolet dealership and in 1929 it became Foster's auto wrecking building. The present owner has had the building since 1944 and has used it as a welding shop.

Charles Gehlen, longtime owner of this building, was born in Sioux County, Iowa, on March 28, 1879. He was one of twelve children born to Theodore and Abbie (Lish) Gehlen. His father had emigrated from Luxembourg to Iowa. In 1892 the Gehlen family moved to Stayton, Oregon, where Theodore Gehlen was a merchant. Charles Gehlen worked in his father's store until 1902 when he assumed management of it. Gehlen bought and sold agricultural commodities in addition to selling merchandise. He married Henrietta Gutterham in 1909.

(over)

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 30 June '76 Sources Consulted:

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office "Charles Gehlen." Gaston, Joseph. Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912. Chicago: S. J.

Please enclose map Township 9 ^N_S Range 1 ^E_W Section 10 Clarke Publishing Co., 1912, 957-58.

(over)

JUL 76

