

Historic  
Resource  
Inventory  
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON.



3-019-00732

732 N.W. Nineteenth Avenue

Couch's, Block 176, Lots 6, 7  
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 2928  
Northwest District Association

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Residence  
OTHER FUNCTIONS: Office

DATE BUILT: 1905

STYLE: Colonial Revival

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Whidden and Lewis

ORIGINAL OWNER: Koehler, Richard

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-18021-6150  
ZONING: C2

DESIGNATION: Landmark  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Nob Hill (Potential)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Attic story. Decorative roof cornice with scroll modillions. Bevel siding. Quoins. One-over-one, double-hung windows with cornice heads. One-bay entrance porch with Ionic and boxed columns, dentilled cornice and roof balustrade. Terrace with balustrade. Polygonal bay window. Oriel window. Brick chimney and foundations.

915

7880

3-019-00732

SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:  
Roof balustrade.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Transportation in association with  
Richard Koehler

Transportation in association with Richard Koehler: Koehler was born in Schletig, Germany and graduated from the Karlsruhe Polytechnic School in 1864. For ten years he was involved in the construction and operation of railroads in Germany. In 1874 the German bondholders of the Oregon and California Railroad sent him to Portland to help Henry Villard straighten out the affairs of the company. He served as vice-president of the Oregon and California Railroad until 1885 when it was absorbed by the Southern Pacific. Until his retirement in 1914, he served as Portland purchasing agent for the Southern Pacific and, later, the Union Pacific lines. He also invested in the fish and fertilizer business in Alaska.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

McMath, George, Portland Historical Landmarks Commission Inventory Form, 1970.

Carey, Charles Henry, HISTORY OF OREGON (Chicago and Portland, 1922).

MacColl, E. Kimbark, THE SHAPING OF A CITY: BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN PORTLAND, OREGON 1885 - 1915 (Portland, 1976).

Present Owners as of March 1982: Dorothy L. Kliks  
MAILING ADDRESS: 511 Oregon Pacific Building, Portland 97204

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 120-3

916

2889

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
COUNTY: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

HIST. NAME: Richard Koehler Residence  
COMMON NAME: Pacific North West HFG  
Insurance Co.  
ADDRESS: 732 Northwest Nineteenth Avenue  
CITY: Portland  
OWNER: Gionet, Leonard  
ADDRESS: 101 SW main, #1420, Portland, OR  
97204

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1906  
ORIGINAL USE: Domestic: single dwelling  
PRESENT USE: Commerce: professional  
ARCHITECT: Whidden and Lewis  
BUILDER:  
THEME: Culture: 20th Century Architecture  
STYLE: Colonial Revival

T/R/S: T1N R1E S33  
MAP NO.: 2928 TAX LOT: NA  
ADDITION: Couch's Addition  
BLOCK: 176 LOT: 6, 7  
ZONE: EXd QUAD.: Portland  
ASSESSOR NO.: R180216150

RESOURCE TYPE: Residence: single family  
CONDITION: Good  
MOVED (DATE):

Old Address: 172 19th Street, N.  
RANK: Portland Landmark; National Historic  
Register

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular  
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Brick  
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Flat w/ parapet  
WALL/FRAME: Wood frame  
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: 1/1 double-hung wood sash; some multi-pane casements  
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Lap siding, wood

NO. OF STORIES: 2  
BASEMENT: Yes

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Centered one-story entry portico with Ionic columns; panelled posts and pilasters; dentilated trim; turned balusters and panelled corner posts on portico balcony; boxed cornice below roof line with modillions and dentilated trim; one-story bay; two brick chimneys; symmetrical.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): Balustrade at roof line removed, date unknown.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Lawn area of manicured shrubs, low wrought-iron fence.

ASSOCIATED FEATURES: None

SETTING: The building is located on the east side of N.W. Nineteenth Avenue, a moderately busy two-lane arterial, adjacent to paved parking lot. The area is characterized as mixed commercial/residential.

RECORDED BY: Donovan and Associates  
Prohaska and Associates

SHPO INVENTORY NO.:  
DATE: August 1991

2889

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
COUNTY: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: The Koehler Residence, constructed in 1906, was designed in the popular Colonial Revival Style. The building displays salient characteristics of the style in its bilateral symmetry, quoins, massive chimneys, turned balcony balustrade and classically inspired porch posts. The style was introduced into Oregon by the firm of Whidden and Lewis ca. 1890. The Koehler Residence is a good example of its type.

Historical: The property is associated with the following Portland families: Bertha and Kurt Koehler, and Guido and Catherine Celsi.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP HISTORY

1904-1944 Richard and Bertha Koehler purchased the property from Lillie A. James in 1904. Koehler died in 1944.

Kurt H. Koehler deeded the property to Guido A. and Catherine A. Celsi February 26, 1944

OWNERS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Bertha Koehler (1857-1944) was born Bertha Spuhn, in Germany. She came to Portland in 1880. Her husband, Richard Koehler, died in 1932. Bertha died on January 5, 1944 at 86 years of age. She was survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ilse Schloesser and a son, Kurt H. Koehler. Koehler lived at the subject property.

Richard Koehler (d. 1932) was an engineer who began his career working with German railroads. He was a native of Germany who came to Portland to represent the Villard railroad interests. In 1874 the German investors in the Oregon and California Railroad sent him to Portland to work with Henry Villard. After the Oregon and California line was absorbed by the Southern Pacific, he served as purchasing agent in Portland for that company and later for the Union Pacific.

Around 1905, the firm of Whidden and Lewis designed his home at the southeast corner of Nineteenth and Johnson streets.

Kurt Koehler: No biographical information is currently available. He was the son of Bertha and Richard Koehler.

Guido and Catherine Celsi: No biographical information is currently available.

ARCHITECT

Whidden and Lewis: "William Whidden and Ion Lewis made up Portland's foremost architectural firm from 1890 to 1910, though the firm continued in business past Whidden's retirement in 1920 until Lewis' death in 1933. Both men were educated at M.I.T. and launched their careers on the East Coast--Whidden with the prestigious New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, and Lewis with Peabody and Stearns in Boston. Whidden also was trained in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux

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Arts. He was sent to Portland by his employers to oversee construction of Henry Villard's Portland Hotel in 1883. When the project was halted by the collapse of Villard's financial empire, Whidden returned to the East Coast. In 1888, the unfinished hotel project was rescued by a local syndicate, and Whidden was hired to finish the work. In 1889, Whidden was visited in Portland by his M.I.T. classmate, Ion Lewis, who was persuaded to stay on and enter into the partnership with Whidden which was established in 1890.

Whidden and Lewis were responsible for most of Portland's finest buildings of the turn-of-the-century period. It was they who introduced up-to-date architectural fashions to Portland. In addition to their residential work in the Colonial Revival Style, the firm introduced in their Portland City Hall (1892-1895) the Renaissance Revival Style exemplified by McKim, Mead and White's New York City Houses for Henry Villard (1882-1886) and the Boston Public Library (1888-1892)" (*National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*).

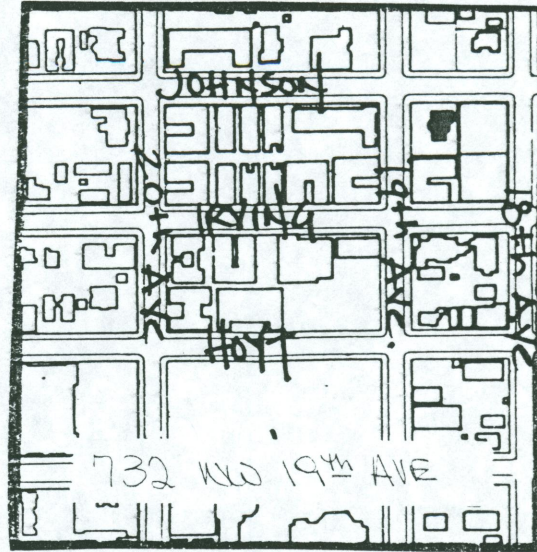
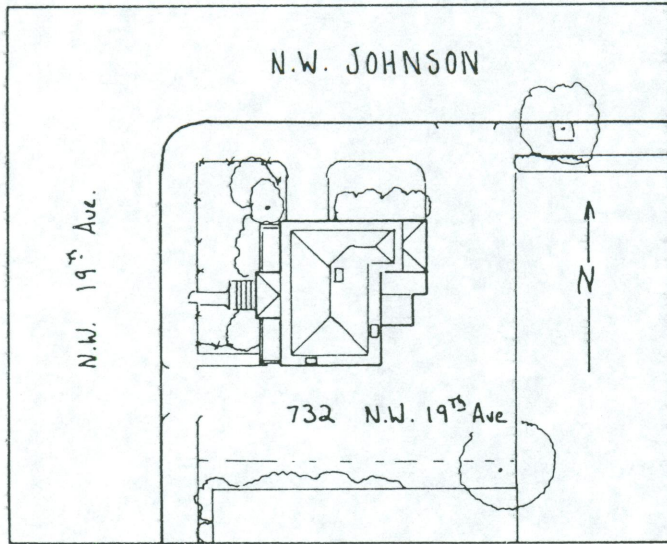
Sources: Ticor Title Company Records  
Multnomah County Tax Assessor Records  
City of Portland Building Bureau  
Portland city directories  
Portland Block Books  
Koehler: *Oregonian*, 23 November 1943, p.9  
Koehler: Carl Abbott

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NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 24 #17,20

DATE: 7/24/1991



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Prohaska and Associates

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: