Historic Resource Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

0-010-00813

813 S.W. Alder Street

Portland, Park Blocks, Block 2, Lot 3
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Woodlark Building

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Retail
OTHER FUNCTIONS: Office, Restaurant

DATE BUILT: 1912

STYLE: Twentieth Century Classical

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Doyle, Patterson and Beach

ORIGINAL OWNER: Woodard, William F., Clark, Louis G., Woodard, Clark and Company

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-66774-3220
ZONING: C1Z
Rank III
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Glazed Terra Cotta (potential)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:
Smooth-faced, buff-colored brick. Glazed terra cotta segmental arches above top windows. Glazed terra cotta cornice above second floor. Sheet metal roof cornice.

SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:
Shop fronts with cast iron grilles below windows and prism glass above transom bars. Copper marquise extending full length of both facades. Mosaic tile floor at entrance. First floor interior with mezzanine, grand stair, cast iron railings, marble stair treads, white tile floor, mahogony cabinets, and large globe lamps hung on chains.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:
Glazed terra cotta at main entrance dates from 1924.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Commerce

Architecture: Glazed terra cotta was used as an exterior sheathing material and for individual decorative elements in buildings in Portland from about 1900 to 1930. Terra cotta blocks (which are similar in size and configuration to concrete blocks but have decorative glazed faces) were made by pressing fine clay into plaster molds. The clay blocks were then glazed, dried, and fired.

Because terra cotta was fireproof, lightweight and, compared to carved stone, inexpensive to produce, it was the favored material for the large commercial structures built during Portland's era of rapid growth. However, cast stone ornament (concrete), developed in the late 1920s, was even less expensive, and gradually gained popularity over terra cotta. Later, with the introduction of mass-produced aluminum and glass-wall systems, the use of decorative masonry ceased altogether.

Although most glazed terra cotta buildings in Portland are found in and around the downtown retail core, there are numerous schools and apartment buildings with glazed terra cotta decoration scattered throughout the metropolitan area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City of Portland Buildings Bureau microform and card files.

Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, automated data files, and card files (Portland, 1980).

Doyle, Patterson and Beach, Woodlark Building working drawings, 1911, City of Portland Buildings Bureau Microfiche Collection.

OREGON JOURNAL, May 6, 1969, p. 6J.

OREGONIAN, Jan. 1, 1912, sec. 3, p. 2; Jan. 1, 1913, sec. 3, p. 3; Jan. 1, 1914; July 30, 1978, p. G8.

Woodlark Building, interior and exterior photographs, OHS Collection.

ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT #: 38351

0-010-00813

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1924/Schacht and Bergen

Present owners, as of May 1980: Bruce J. Korter, Terry W. Wilson, and John A. Hisatomi
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o Woodlark Associates, 720 S.W. Washington Street, Portland 97205

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 122-9

Score - Design/Construction: 7
Score - Historical:
Score - Rarity:
Score - Environment: 6
Score - Integrity: 6
Score - Intrinsic: 7
Score - Contextual: 12
Score - Total: 36.5