

Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

1-003-00519

519 S.W. Third Avenue

Portland, Block 48, Lots 1, 2
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Dekum Building

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Offices

DATE BUILT: 1892

STYLE: Richardsonian Romanesque

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: McCaw, Martin and White

ORIGINAL OWNER: Dekum, Frank

OTHER OWNERS: Sweeney, Charles, Terry, Stan, Mahnon, John

TENANTS: Lipman, Wolfe and Company

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-66770-5730

DESIGNATION: Landmark, National Register

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Newberry red brick exterior with red unglazed terra cotta decoration and rock-faced Siskiyou sandstone base. Stone foundation walls. Round and segmental arches at base, round arches at seventh floor, remainder of windows flat headed. Foliate and volute motifs at pilaster and colonette capitals and at arch spandrel panels. Corbelled cornice. Name plate over south entrance.



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Interior cast-iron columns with foliate decoration at capitals. Wood beams and floor structure. Stair railing of cast-iron and wrought-iron strapwork. Paneled wainscoting, re-lights, transoms and paneled doors with lights in office floor corridors. Vermont marble at lower stair and grey marble in restrooms are only non-native materials.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

Ground floor piers smoothed. Lobby stair enclosed. Storefronts completely rebuilt.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Commerce, Development, in association with Frank Dekum

Commerce, Development, in association with Frank Dekum: Dekum (1829-1894) was born in Bavaria, Germany and came to America with his parents in 1837. A baker by trade, he arrived in Portland in 1852 and opened the city's first bakery. He became a successful realtor, banker, and insurance and railway executive. He was founder and president of the Portland Savings Bank. In time, he served as president of the Commercial National Bank, Portland and Vancouver Railway, Portland Exposition Company, Columbia Investment Company, Oregon Land and Investment Company and Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company. He was also a member of the Portland Water Committee and constructed many buildings in Portland. He fostered the introduction of German song birds to Oregon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

McMath, George A., National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1980.

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

Corning, Howard M., DICTIONARY OF OREGON HISTORY (Portland, 1956).

*Present owner as of May 1980: Norcrest China Company
MAILING ADDRESS: 55 West Burnside Street, Portland 97209*

Special Property Tax Assessment

Negative: 101-2, 3, 106-13

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