

Historic  
Resource  
Inventory  
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON.

1-006-01209

1209 S.W. Sixth Avenue

Portland, Block 184, Lots 1, 2  
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5  
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: *Ambassador Apartments*

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: *Apartment House*

DATE BUILT: 1922

STYLE: *Jacobethan*

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: *Linde, Carl L.*

ORIGINAL OWNER: *McBride, Don B., Wassal, Richard*  
OTHER OWNERS: *Bradner Building Company, Albert, Louis*  
TENANTS: *Baker, Fred C., Fritsch, Fred, Blaesing, Herman J., Chapman, C.C.,  
Higgins, John, U'Ren, William S., Green, Edith, Marx, Dan, Berg, Forrest*

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: *R-66771-8820*  
ZONING: *C1Z*

DESIGNATION: *Landmark, National Register*

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

*Reinforced concrete H-plan structure faced with red brick and trimmed with Boise sandstone. Crenelated parapet and roof balustrade. Quoining and belt courses. Bay windows. Bracketed balconettes. Symmetrically placed*



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frontispieces with pediments, finials, pilasters and segmental arches. Lions holding coats of arms with fleur-de-lis atop brick and stone columns at entrance to courtyard. Wood frame casement windows. Exterior lighting fixtures. Beveled glass.

*SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:*

Fountain and street lamps, late 1950's. Wrought-iron grille at entrance, after 1957.

*SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:*

Canvas and aluminum canopy added, 1957. Some aluminum frame windows substituted for original, after 1957. Brick steps and walk replaced with concrete, 1960's.

*AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:* Architecture, Social, Communications, Government, in association with C.C. Chapman, Law, Government, in association with William S. U'Ren, Industry, in association with Clarence Bishop

*Communications, Government, in association with C.C. Chapman:* Chapman was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 1876 and received a public school education. He worked as a newsboy, in offices as a clerk, as a reporter on various midwestern and western newspapers before coming to Portland in 1904. In 1913-15 he edited the Oregon Almanac for the State Board of Immigration and in 1915 started the "Oregon Voter," a political journal of opinion. He was known for his support of the gasoline tax to build good roads and served in the state legislature in 1939. Hedied in 1956.

*Law, Government, in association with William S. U'Ren:* U'Ren was born in Lancaster, Wisconsin in 1859. He received his formal education in the public schools and Denver Business College. After studying law with a private firm, he was admitted to the bar and practiced in Colorado before coming to Oregon City in 1890. During the 1890's he became interested in political reform and became known as the father of the "Oregon System" - the progressive political devices including the initiative, referendum, and recall which supposedly give the people ultimate control of government.

*U'ren organized the Direct Legislation League in 1892 to promote the idea of increasing popular participation in law - attempting to defeat the special interests and political bosses who seemed to dominate the existing political structure. He struck an alliance with the machine politician, Jonathan Bourne, Jr. and together they successfully pushed through constitutional amendments establishing the Oregon System in 1902. His later political efforts on behalf of the single tax and to win election to office were unsuccessful. He moved to Portland in 1914 and practiced law until his death in 1949.*

*Industry, in association with Clarence Bishop:* Bishop was born in Brownsville, Oregon in 1878 and received a public school education before graduating from the University of Oregon in 1900. He also attended the Philadelphia Textile Institute in 1901. He spent the next seven years working for various woolen mills around the country. With his father and brothers, he

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bought the Pendleton Woolen Mills in 1904, and gradually built it into a nationally famous firm, specializing in high quality woolen blankets and garments. Expansion led to the establishment of several plants in the Portland area. Main offices were moved to Portland in 1922. Bishop served on the board of trustees of Willamette University and as a director of the Oregon Historical Society.

*BIBLIOGRAPHY:*

*Finch, Sheila, National Register of Historic Places, nomination form, 1978.*

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

*Gaston, Joseph, PORTLAND, OREGON: ITS HISTORY AND BUILDERS (Chicago, 1911).*

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

*Lomax, Alfred, LATERWOOLEN MILLS IN OREGON (Portland, 1974).*

*MacColl, E. Kimbark, THE GROWTH OF A CITY: POWER AND POLITICS IN PORTLAND, OREGON 1915 -1950 (Portland, 1979).*

*Present owner as of 1978: Ambassador Associates*

*MAILING ADDRESS: 625 S.W. Washington Street, Portland 97205*

*Special Property Tax Assessment*

*Negative: 101-17*

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