

**Historic
Resource
Inventory**
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



1-009-01219

1219 S.W. Ninth Avenue

Portland, Block 223

QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5

Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Portland Art Museum

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Museum

DATE BUILT: 1932

STYLE: Early Modern

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: A.E. Doyle and Associates, Belluschi, Pietro

ORIGINAL OWNER: Portland Art Association

ZONING: RXZ

DESIGNATION: Landmark, National Register

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Ayer wing of orange-red brick with travertine crowning band, base course, and door and window frames. Triple entrance. Ribbon windows. Monitors. Built on foundations of the old Ladd School.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

Hirsch (south) Wing, 1938, including skylit sculpture court and small enclosed court open to sky (later roofed over). Madison Street Wing, ca. 1973.

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1-009-01219

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Visual Arts, Industry, Humanities, in association with Winslow B. Ayer, Humanities, in association with Margery Hoffman Smith

Architecture: First use of monitor lighting in a museum in the U.S.

Industry, Humanities, in association with Winslow B. Ayer: Ayer was born in Bangor, Maine in 1860 and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He came to Portland in 1883 and organized the Portland Cordage Co. and later the Eastern and Western Lumber Companies. He was president of the Library Association and director of the Portland Art Association. He led the drive to create the Portland Public Library and donated \$300,000 to the library building fund and left \$900,000 to the Portland Art Museum in his will. He also supported the adoption of the 1913 city charter which created the commission form of government.

Humanities, in association with Margery Hoffman Smith: Smith was born in Portland in 1888 and educated in schools in both Portland, Oregon and Boston. After graduating from Bryn Mawr in 1911, she studied design with Arthur B. Dow in New York City and painting at the Museum Art School in Portland. During the Depression she became assistant administrator for the Federal Arts Project and was responsible for the interior design of Timberline Lodge. She oversaw all elements of producing the furnishings crafted for the lodge.

Smith later moved to San Francisco where her husband, Ferdinand C. Smith, became a resident partner of Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith. However, she continued to support the arts in Portland where she made major gifts to the Art Museum and the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, founded by her mother, Julia Hoffman, in 1906. She donated her oriental art collection to the Portland Art Museum. She died in 1981.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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

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

Griffin, Rachael, "Margery Hoffman Smith: The Woman Behind Timberline Lodge," NORTHWEST MAGAZINE, May 3, 1981.

Hartwig, Paul, National Register of Historic Places, nomination form, 1974.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1938/A.E. Doyle and Associate, Pietro Belluschi

Present owner as of May 1981: Portland Art Association

MAILING ADDRESS: 1219 S.W. Park Avenue, Portland 97201

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 101-14

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