

Historic  
Resource  
Inventory  
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

1-001-00728

728 S.W. First Avenue

Portland, Block 3, West 25' of Lot 3, South 1/2 of Lot 6  
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5  
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Harker Building

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Restaurant, Music Conservatory, Retail

DATE BUILT: 1878

STYLE: Italianate

ORIGINAL OWNER: Harker, Asa

OTHER OWNERS: Womens' United Presbyterian and Chinese Missions, Titus, Western  
Picture Frame Co.

TENANTS: Vail, Sanborn

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-66770-0410

ZONING: M3

DESIGNATION: Landmark

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Yamhill

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Two-story 1878 brick structure with third floor added in 1884. Full-height cast-iron corner pilasters. One-story tall intermediate pilasters. Flat-headed windows have rounded upper corners. Broken gable at parapet. Decoration includes cartouche, corner rosettes, and floral motifs. Original interior stairs, store, cabinets, skylight.



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*SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:*

*Wood cornice. Acroterian at gable peak.*

*SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:*

*Fire escape added.*

*AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Development*

*Architecture: Classified of primary significance to district. A party wall agreement from 1878 between Van Rensselaer and Joseph Bergman for the east wall. Openings allowed Sanborn Vail to operate from First and Front Street. Pattern for cast-iron pilasters same as for 1865 Pearne Building. Window area treatment with corner rosettes and pilasters similar to 1879 Love Building and 1884 Van Rensselaer Block.*

*Development: Part of a unified commercial block development with the Love and Van Rensselaer buildings south of it.*

*BIBLIOGRAPHY:*

*Hawkins III, William J., THE GRAND ERA OF CAST-IRON ARCHITECTURE IN PORTLAND (Portland, 1976).*

*Sanborn Insurance Map, 1885.*

*National Register of Historic Places, nomination form.*

*Vaughan, Thomas and Ferriday, Virginia Guest, editors, SPACE, STYLE AND STRUCTURE: BUILDING IN NORTH AMERICA (Portland, 1974).*

*OLD ADDRESS: 170 1/2 First Street*

*Present owner as of May 1981: Charles L. and Lillian Luckey  
MAILING ADDRESS: 11781 S.E. 162nd Avenue, Clackamas 97015*

*Special Property Tax Assessment*

*Negative: 512-11A*

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