

Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

3-001-00030

30-34 N.W. First Avenue

Couch's, Block 9, Lots 6, 7
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 2929.5
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Blagen Block

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Office, Warehouse
OTHER FUNCTIONS: Retail

DATE BUILT: 1888

STYLE: High Victorian Italianate

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Williams, Warren H.

ORIGINAL OWNER: Blagen, Niels J., Sitton, Charles E.

TENANTS: W.C. Noon and Company

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-18020-0220

ZONING: C1ZS

DESIGNATION: National Register, Landmark

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Skidmore/Old Town

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Ground floor with 11'3" columns with 3' high arches. National symbols on upper floors. Cast iron pilasters front the structural bearing walls at sides and center of building. Acanthus leaf decorations with stars, stripes, arrows and laurel leaves and lion's head above capitals.



lot 99 1147

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SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:

Ground floor storefronts on First Avenue.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

Restored after fire of 1980. Cast-iron pilasters on Couch Street replaced by fibre glass pilasters.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Commerce, Industry in association with L.F. Osborn, Commerce, Industry in association with William C. Noon

Architecture: This is last remaining example of the rythmic rows of columns and arches that once united block fronts in Portland streets. Classified of primary significance to district.

Industry, Commerce in association with William C. Noon: Noon was born in Leicester, England and move to Andover, Massachusetts with his parents in 1846. Here he received a basic education and worked in woolen mills throughout New England. A depression in 1857 left him unemployed so he went to California where he engaged in mining and ranching until moving to Portland in 1862. He alternately mined and worked in the woolen mill in Salem until 1869 when he entered the J.W. Cook bag and tent manufacturing concern. In 1873, he bought the company and built it into the largest business of its kind in the Northwest. He also was an active supporter of the Chamber of Commerce and the Methodist University.

Industry, Commerce in association with L.F. Osborn: Osborn was born in St. Louis in 1848, raised on a farm, and educated in the public schools. He came to San Francisco in 1866 but returned East from 1868 to 1877. He worked as a carpenter and in a bag factory until becoming a partner in the business. He came to Portland and established a bag factory with W.C. Noon in 1883. By 1892, he had branched into the builders supply business. He was the first president of the Chamber of Commerce and pushed the building of the Chamber of Commerce building. He worked for the consolidation of Portland and served as the director of various banks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1895, 1926.

Portland Realty Atlas (Portland, Oregon), 1928.

Vaughan, Thomas and McMath, George, A CENTURY OF PORTLAND ARCHITECTURE, (Portland, 1967).

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

Blagen Block File, Portland Landmarks Commissions Collection.

Hines, Rev. H.K., AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE STATE OF OREGON (Chicago, 1893).

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City of Portland Buildings Bureau microform and card files.

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

OLD ADDRESS: 28-34 First Street N.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1980/535041/Talbot and Wong

1980/537120/Allen, McMath, Hawkins

1980/Cooper Construction Co.

1981/540527/Allen, McMath, Hawkins, Arch.

Present owner as of May 1980: Sam J. and Jessie A. Sposito, Marie P. Warfield

MAILING ADDRESS: 2932 S.W. Iowa Street, Portland 97201

Special Property Tax Assessment, Urban Conservation Fund Loan

Negative: 510-11A AND 124-17

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