

Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

3-006-00800

800 N.W. Sixth Avenue

Couch's, Blocks 194, K, X
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 2929
Burnside

ORIGINAL NAME: Grand Central Station, Grand Union Depot
OTHER NAMES: Union Station

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Railroad Station
OTHER FUNCTIONS: Offices, Restaurant

DATE BUILT: 1890

STYLE: Queen Anne

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Van Brunt and Howe

ORIGINAL OWNER: Oregon and Transcontinental Company
TENANTS: Wilf's

ZONING: CLZ, CLZS

DESIGNATION: Landmark, National Register

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Hip roofs. Metal roof tiles painted red. Molded and pressed bricks for quoining, window trim and string courses; intervening exterior wall surfaces of rough-textured stucco. Terra cotta panels with winged-wheel motif above second story windows. Carved stone. Two tall chimneys. Campanille-like



1225 1255

124

clock tower. Cast-iron columns with flat-iron scrollwork supporting porch roofs. Apsidal-ended waiting room.

SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:

Wood paneling and ceiling beams, flat-iron scroll work from waiting room.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

Major alteration to interior including marble floors and walls, bronze beamed-and-coffered ceiling in waiting room, 1930.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Transportation, Development, Transportation, Development, in association with Henry Villard

Transportation: Portland's Union Station is the only major railroad station built in Oregon and one of the major extant stations on the West Coast.

Development: Constructed on land obtained by filling in a small lake.

Transportation, Development, in association with Henry Villard: Villard was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1835 and immigrated to America in 1853. After a period of legal study he became a newspaper writer and served as a war correspondent for several foreign and domestic newspapers during the Civil War. In 1866 he married Fanny Garrison, daughter of William Lloyd Garrison, the abolitionist.

When he returned to Germany in the early 1870's he established ties with German investors who held bonds in the Oregon and California Railroad. When these bonds defaulted on their interest in the Panic of 1873, Villard was sent to Oregon to study the situation. By 1876, he took over management of the line and bought the Oregon Steam Navigation Co., merging both companies into the newly formed Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. In 1881, he gained control of the Northern Pacific R.R. and by 1883 had completed construction of the first transcontinental rail line to Oregon. During the Panic of 1884, Villard lost control of the Northern Pacific but regained it in 1887. In 1881 and 1883, he made substantial gifts to the University of Oregon. He died in 1920.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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).

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

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1930/Pietro Belluschi

Present owner as of 1974: Portland Terminal Railroad Company

MAILING ADDRESS: 1300 N.W. Ninth, Portland 97209

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 102-12A, 102-13A

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