

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



0-663-00406

406 S.W. Oak Street

Portland, Block 65, Lots 1, 2
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Henry Building

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Office, Retail
OTHER FUNCTIONS: Restaurant

DATE BUILT: 1909

STYLE: Streetcar Era Commercial, Twentieth Century Classical

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Berndt, Francis

ORIGINAL OWNER: Henry, C.K.

OTHER OWNERS: Oregon Investment Company, Nagel, Jane, Heldford, Ruth
TENANTS: Standard Brick and Tile Company, Bauer and Greene, McCurtain, A.H.,
Pierce Tomlinson Electric Company, Union Safe Deposit and Trust Company,
Wakefield, Fries and Company, Lawyer's Title and Trust Company, Henry Building
Barber Shop, UnitedStates Post Office

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-66770-7550, R-66770-7551
ZONING: C1Z

DESIGNATION: National Register

325

196

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Exterior walls faced with glazed "Tiffany" brick, all white except for blue diamond designs in the spandrels. Four large white glazed terra cotta cartouche just below sheet metal cornice. Upper windows double-hung with wood sash. All wood framing.

SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:

Glazed terra cotta entrance incorporating decorative motifs similar to the remaining cartouche below the roof cornice. Recessed corner entrance with free-standing cast-iron column encased in copper.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

Streamline-moderne glazed terra cotta entrance.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

Architecture: Glazed terra cotta was used as an exterior sheathing material and for individual decorative elements in buildings in Portland from about 1900 to 1930. Terra cotta blocks (which are similar in size and configuration to concrete blocks but have decorative glazed faces) were made by pressing fine clay into plaster molds. The clay blocks were then glazed, dried, and fired.

Because terra cotta was fireproof, lightweight and, compared to carved stone, inexpensive to produce, it was the favored material for the large commercial structures built during Portland's era of rapid growth. However, cast stone ornament (concrete), developed in the late 1920s, was even less expensive, and gradually gained popularity over terra cotta. Later, with the introduction of mass-produced aluminum and glass-wall systems, the use of decorative masonry ceased altogether.

Although most glazed terra cotta buildings in Portland are found in and around the downtown retail core, there are numerous schools and apartment buildings with glazed terra cotta decoration scattered throughout the metropolitan area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Berndt, Francis, *Henry Building working drawings, 1908, City of Portland Buildings Bureau Microfiche Collection.*

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

"The Henry Building," promotional pamphlet.

Henry Building, exterior photographs, OHS Collection.

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

Naigel, Mr., unrecorded interview by Claudia Ainsworth, 1979.

326

186

0-663-00406

Page, Charles Hall and Associates, Inc., *SPLENDID SURVIVORS* (San Francisco, 1979).

PORTLAND ARCHITECTURAL CLUB YEARBOOK, (1909).

ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT #: 13789

Present owners, as of May 1980: Wraight's Incorporated
MAILING ADDRESS: 309 S.W. Fourth Avenue, Portland 97204

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 122-21

327

186