

Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

0-111-00625

625 S.W. Broadway

Portland, Block 212, Lot 3
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5
Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: *Liebes Building*
OTHER NAMES: *Ungar Building, Nordstrom's, Broadway, The*

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: *Retail*

DATE BUILT: 1916

STYLE: *Twentieth Century Classical*

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: *Bennes, John Virginus*

ORIGINAL OWNER: *Huth, Anton*
OTHER OWNERS: *Ungar, Nicholas*
TENANTS: *Liebes, H. and Company*

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-66772-2800
ZONING: C1Z

Rank III

HISTORIC DISTRICT: *Glazed Terra Cotta (potential)*

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Three-bay facade in off-white glazed terra cotta. Chicago windows. Glazed terra cotta cornice with six large consoles, block modillions, and antefixae. Wrought iron fire escape.



SPECIAL F/M - ORIGINAL REMOVED:

Glazed terra cotta facing and windows on lower three floors. Large copper and glass entrance marquise.

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:

Liebes Building, exterior photograph, OHS Collection.

Northwestern Electric Company, map of Portland Business District, 1917, OHS Collection.

Oregon Brass Works job list, Oregon Brass Works Collection.

OREGON JOURNAL, May 14, 1977, p.2.

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

Portland City Directory (Portland, Oregon).

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1908.

Ungar Building, exterior photographs, OHS Collection.

THE EVENING TELEGRAM, Dec. 5, 1916, p. 6.

Bennes, John V., Building for Mr. Anton Huth, working drawings, 1916, City of Portland Buildings Bureau Microfiche Collection.

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ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT #: 62046, 62290

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1934/McClelland and Jones

Present owners, as of May 1980: First National Bank of Oregon Trust

MAILING ADDRESS: c/o Pacific National Bank of Oregon Trust Department, P.O.
Box 1997, Tacoma, Washington 98401

No Preservation Funding

Score - Design/Construction: 10

Score - Historical:

Score - Rarity:

Score - Environment: 3

Score - Integrity: 2

Score - Intrinsic: 10

Score - Contextual: 4

Score - Total: 39

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