

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1909

Significant Dates

1909

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Henry Sensel building, constructed in 1909, is locally significant under criterion C as a well-preserved and rare example of an early wood commercial building. A number of buildings of this type once lined the early streetcar routes bisecting the neighborhoods of southeast Portland. Today only a handful remain, almost all of which have had extensive alterations. The subject building is one of three of this type which remains intact as built. The date of construction is based on tax assessor records and confirmed by city directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. The builder and architect are unknown. The original owner, Henry Sensel, operated a grocery store and meat market in the first floor retail space for many years. Numerous other retailers, including a bakery and laundry, also occupied the ground floor. The upstairs was rented out as living space.

The greatest period of growth for the study area occurred between the years 1883 and 1910. Spurred by the completion of the transcontinental railroad to Portland, the opening of the bridges spanning the Willamette River, and the introduction of the streetcar, residential development accelerated and the open spaces of the east side were quickly subdivided. Real estate companies and streetcar line builders frequently worked hand in hand as developers.

The Sunnyside neighborhood, located just to the north of the subject building, was the first "streetcar-era" neighborhood on Portland's east side and its development included the establishment of the first neighborhood shopping district in the area. The development of the Hawthorne Boulevard commercial strip, of which the subject building is a part, came somewhat later. Most of the buildings here were constructed in the teens and twenties, and are more strongly associated with the automobile age.

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National Park Service

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The development of neighborhood shopping districts followed the same pattern as others throughout the city. The earliest buildings were generally small wooden structures, often with a gabled roof and false front with cornice. The facades usually consisted of one or more storefronts with recessed entrances. Shop entries were flanked by large plate glass display windows, with transoms and sidelights common features. Entry to the second story was usually through a centrally placed door between the storefronts. Of the three buildings of this type in the study area all are considered potentially eligible for the National Register. In addition to the Sensel Building, the Knight building at 3300 S.E. Belmont, is also included in this submission.

The high attrition of early wood buildings was due primarily to the rapid growth of the area during the early decades of the 20th century and the corresponding replacement of older buildings with more substantial and sometimes larger structures.

The Sensel building is quite similar to the Knight building in overall form as well as the use of second story window bays and minor decorative features--even though it was built almost 20 years later. The Sensel building is distinguished from the third building generally in the amount and type of decorative features.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

- . City of Portland Building Bureau microform and card files.
- . City of Portland Bureau of Planning, Portland Historic Resource Inventory, 1983.
- . Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, and card files, Portland, 1980.
- . Polk, R. L. and Co., Portland City Directories, 1910, 1915, 1920.
- . Sanborn Insurance Map, 1935.
- . Ticor Title Company records, Portland, Oregon.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Brookdale addition, Lot 1
W. 33' of Lot 2

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Taxlot lines

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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organization Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association date August 15, 1988

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city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97214

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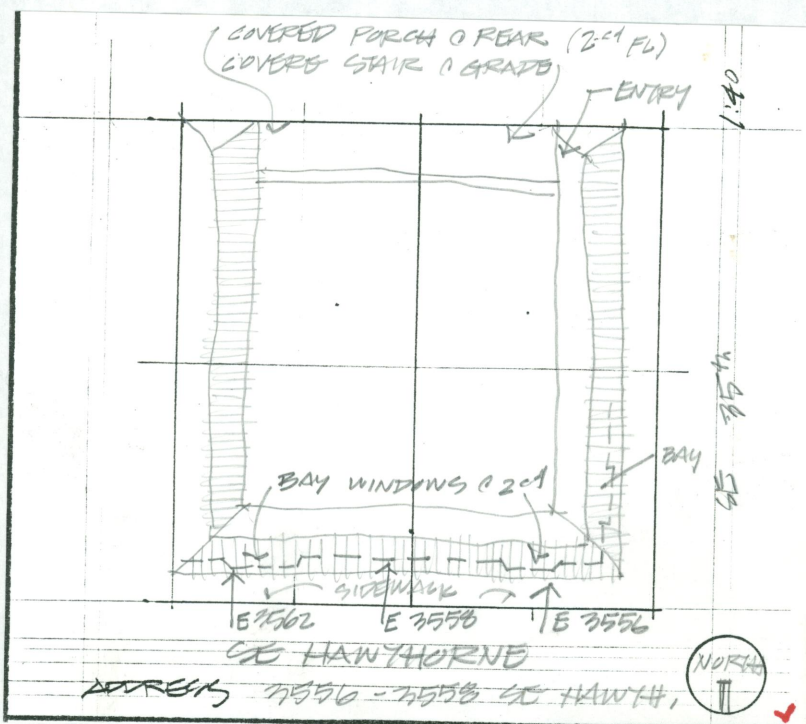
1988 OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
CENTRAL SOUTHEAST PORTLAND

ADDRESS: 3556-62 S.E. Hawthorne



ROLL & NEG. NO: S23-26

SLIDE: 170,171



SITE PLANS DRAWN BY: David Bales, Phil Eschtruth

FIELD SURVEY NO.: 420
STATE INVENTORY NO:

52410