

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

0-630-00520

520 S.W. Morrison Street

Portland, Block 172

QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3029.5

Downtown Community Association

ORIGINAL NAME: United States Courthouse and Custom House

OTHER NAMES: Pioneer Courthouse, Pioneer Post Office

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Courthouse

OTHER FUNCTIONS: Post Office

DATE BUILT: 1875

STYLE: Italianate

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Mullett, A.B.

ORIGINAL OWNER: United States Government

OTHER OWNERS: City of Portland (?)

TENANTS: Internal Revenue Dept., Office of Surveyor General

ZONING: C1Z

DESIGNATION: Landmark, National Register, National Historic Landmark

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Glazed Terra Cotta (potential)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Exterior of sandstone from Bellingham, Washington. Rusticated pilasters at ground floor, Doric pilasters above. Doric entablature. Cornice with mutul. Pedimented pavilions. Plinth of rough-cut stone. Hip and gable roof.



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Octagonal wood cupola with arched windows and balustrade. Segmental-arched windows with pronounced keystones at ground floor; projecting cornice with consoles at second floor windows. Chimneys. Brick bearing walls. Two-story courtroom.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

West wings added, 1903. Interior paneling, marble and terrazzo floors, elevator added, 1903. Restoration, 1972. New metal roof, 1979.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Government, Law, Humanities, in association with Matthew P. Deady

Architecture, Government: The oldest federal courthouse in the far west and second oldest west of the Mississippi, the Pioneer Courthouse has been visited by Presidents Grant, Hayes, Harrison, Theodore Roosevelt and Taft. It was put up for sale in 1933 when the court moved to the new courthouse but there were no willing buyers. A decision of the Court of Appeals to locate in the Pioneer Courthouse rather than in the new federal building resulted in its 1972 restoration.

Law, Humanities, in association with Matthew P. Deady: Deady (1824-1893) was born in Maryland and attended Barnesville Ohio Academy and gained admission to the bar in 1847. After coming to Oregon in 1849, he practiced law in Lafayette, was elected to the legislature, was appointed associate judge of Territorial legislature, 1853-1859, and presided over the State Constitutional Convention, 1857. In 1859, he was appointed U.S. District Judge for Oregon and moved to Portland. He was a founder of Multnomah Public Library and wrote many articles on law and related subjects.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Walton, Elisabeth, National Register of Historic Places, nomination form, 1973.

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).

McArthur, Lewis L. *Notes, Virginia Ferriday, 1983.*

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1905/Edgar Lazarus

1972/Allen, McMath and Hawkins

Present owner as of May 1981: United States of America

MAILING ADDRESS: c/o General Services Administration, Auburn, Washington 98002

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 102-20A

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