

CURR. HIST. STATUS:

RANKING: Primary
NEIGHBORHOOD: DNTN
TYPE: Building

OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
CITY OF EUGENE

FINAN. STATUS:

HISTORIC NAME: AX BILLY DEPT. STORE DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1910
COMMON NAME: DOWNTOWN ATHLETIC CLUB ORIGINAL USE: Retail Store
ADDRESS: 0973 WILLAMETTE ST PRESENT USE: Athletic/Hall Gym
EARLY AD: 0 DATE:
OWNER: Downtown Athletic Club Ltd ARCH./BLDR.: W. T. Campbell
ADDR: 999 Willamette St. ARCH./STYLE: Commercial
 Eugene, OR 97401 000
T/R/S# 17 3 31 NE 1/4 SE 1/4 INTEGRITY: Minor Modifications
MAP NO.: 17033114 TAXLOT: 5700 THEME: 5 000
ADD: BLK: LOT:
ZONING: Central Business Dist. PROP. GROUP: WILLA /TH/016
PLAN SHAPE: rect. #STORIES: 2.0 BASEMENT (Y/N/?): Y
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: conc. & brk.
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: flat
WALL CONSTRUCTION: frame STRUCTURAL FRAME:
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: 1=fixed comm. plate gls., 2=fixed flanked by 1/1 d.h.
EXT. SURFACING MATERIALS: cream white terra cotta brk.
DECORATIVE FEATURES: c.s. wind; classical entablature; stringer course
OTHER: corbeled brk; , vert. ornamental terra cotta tile pnels;
CONDITION: Excellent MOVED: N DATE MOVED:

EXT. ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS(DATED): 1st flr. ext. altered but recently restored,
int. altered for offices & recently for athletic club, 3rd story addit.
NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: mall amenities (1960's)

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: Other addr.: 979 Willamette and 963 Willamette
KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES:

GEOG. LOC. & IMMED. SETTING: N.E. corner of 10th and Willamette, busy comm.
flat, S end mall.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: This 2 story Commercial style building is listed on
the National Register and has been designated a City Landmark (see related
files). It is located on a corner, in a commercial area in the center of
downtown on the pedestrian mall. The building is in excellent condition and
has had minor modifications. The building hs a rectangular plan with a
concrete and brick foundation and wood framed walls. The roof is flat,
while the primary window type is fixed commercial plate and fixed flanked by
one over one double hung. The exterior surface is cream white terra cotta
brick. Additional decorative features include: an ornamental metal ceiling,
chamfered wooden posts and a staircase and handrail on the interior.

SOURCES: Related National Register and City Landmark files.

ROLL NO.: 19 RECORDED BY: C. Taylor
NEGATIVE NO.: 002 RESEARCHED BY:
SLIDE ROLL#: 000 DATE RECORDED: 07/15/1990
SLIDE NO.: 000000 FIELD INVENTORY NO.: 00000
STATE INVENTORY NO.: 2423

SHPD 2383

OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
CITY OF EUGENE

HISTORIC NAME: AX BILLY DEPT. STORE T/R/S# 17 3 31 NE 1/4 SE 1/4
ADDRESS: 0973 WILLAMETTE ST TAXLOT: 5700

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ax Billy Department Store
973-997 Willamette Street

The Ax Billy Department Store is a small-town representation of the Commercial style of architecture popularized in Chicago. Designed by a local architect, William T. Campbell, and built in 1909-1910, the building's details although simple, display the main feature of the Commercial style: the use of fenestration as the primary mode of ornamentation. The store's broad horizontal display windows, band of mezzanine windows, and the Chicago-style windows on the second floor, are typical Commercial style elements that help reinforce the building's skeletal appearance. The building has undergone minor modifications and is in excellent condition. The storefront bays and street facades have remained nearly intact. In addition, the building is notable for its use of cream terra cotta brick on the exterior surface, and is the only surviving Commercial style building in Eugene that utilizes this material.

The Schaefer brothers, Frances, George, Charles, and Albert, came to Eugene from Clermont, Iowa in 1908. In November 1908, they purchased the Ax Billy Store, a small general merchandise store on East 9th Avenue, between Willamette and Oak Streets. By June 1910, their business had expanded and they moved into this large, new building at 10th and Willamette Streets. The brothers continued to operate the Ax Billy Department Store at this site until 1926 when they sold their business to J.C. Brill, a major department store chain.

During the time that they owned the Ax Billy Department Store, the Schaefer brothers expanded their property holdings to include 3 additional properties at the intersection of 10th and Willamette. These buildings include the still remaining McDonald Theatre on the southwest corner of the intersection and the Schaefer Building to the southeast. Together these buildings are significant for their relationship to these prosperous local businessmen and stand as the best-preserved group of early 20th century buildings remaining in Eugene's downtown area.

(Sources: National Historic Register Nomination and City Landmark files)

OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
CITY OF EUGENE

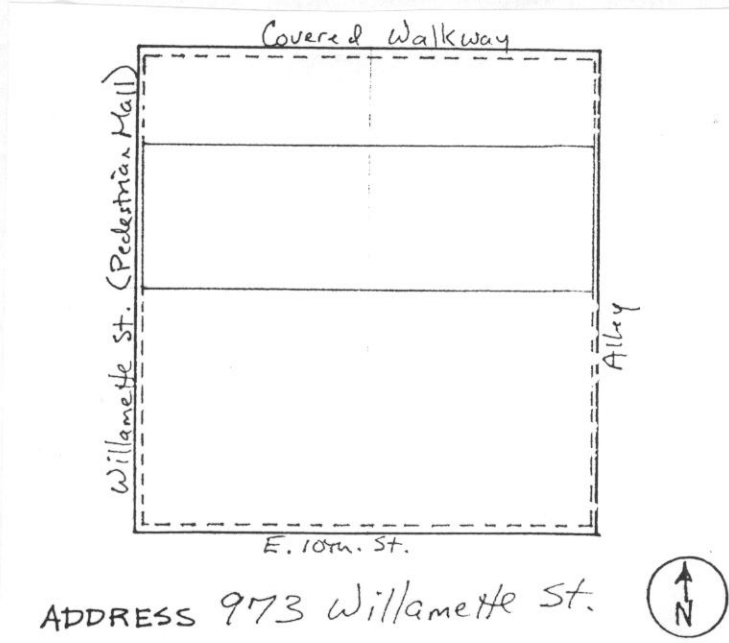
HISTORIC NAME: AX BILLY DEPT. STORE
ADDRESS: 0973 WILLAMETTE

T/R/S# 17 3 31 NE 1/4 SE 1/4
ST TAXLOT: 5700



ROLL NO: 19
NEGATIVE NO.: 002

SLIDE ROLL NO: 018
SLIDE NO. 000023



SITE PLAN DRAWN BY:
GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES:

FIELD SURVEY NO: 00000
STATE INVENTORY NO: 0

DOWNTOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY AND INVENTORY EVALUATION CRITERIA, 1991

ADDRESS: 973 Willamette St. INVENTORY NUMBER: _____
 MAP/TAX LOT #: 17033/14/5700 TOTAL SCORE: _____ FINAL RANKING: (P) S C NC

Please rank properties using a numerical ranking of 0-5. 0 = Does not meet criteria; 1 = Low merit under this criteria; 2 = Some merit under this criteria; 3 = Average merit under this criteria; 4 = Strong merit under this criteria; 5 = Very Strong merit under this criteria.

CRITERIA	RANKING
1. Association with historic or famous events.	_____
2. Antiquity.	_____
3. Unique architectural merit because: (There are only a total of 5 points allowed for all parts of #3.)	_____
a. Representative character of a period or style of architecture or method of construction;	_____
b. Extraordinary or unusual design, detail, use of materials or craftsmanship;	_____
c. Identification as the work of an architect, designer, or master builder whose individual work has influenced development in the nation, state, or community.	_____
4. Relationship to the broad cultural history of the nation, state or community.	_____
5. Identification with a person or persons who have significantly contributed to the history of the nation, state, or community.	_____
6. Identification as a unique object representing an aesthetic or educational feature of the community.	_____

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY: _____

LANDMARK STATUS: National Register and City landmark

Evaluator Jen Jones Date 8/7/91