

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME					
address:	2741 NW Vaughn St Portland, Multnomah County	historic name:	Montgomery Ward & Company Building		
assoc addresses:	2701	current/other names:	Montgomery Park		
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:			
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 1E 29		
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS					
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	9.0	total elig resources:	1
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant			total inelig resources:	
prim constr date:	1920	second date:	1936	NR Status:	Individually Listed
				date indiv listed:	06/06/1985
primary orig use:	Warehouse			orig use comments:	
second orig use:	COMMERCIAL: General			prim style comments:	
primary style:	Commercial (Type)			sec style comments:	
secondary style:				siding comments:	
primary siding:	Concrete: Other/Undefined			architect:	Mccaully, W H
secondary siding:				builder:	
plan type:					
comments/notes:					
Boundary Reduction approved on 7/9/2021 (NRIS# BC10006705)					
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS					
Survey/Grouping Included In:		Type of Grouping		Date Listed	Date Compiled
Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2025 RLS		Survey & Inventory Project			2025
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY					
NR date listed:	06/06/1985	Special Assessment		Federal Tax Program	
ILS survey date:		Status	Term	End Yr	106 Project(s):
RLS survey date:	05/22/2025	Closed	2nd	2032	None
date:		Closed	1st	2001	
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION					
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>					
2701 NW Vaughn Street is a prominent twelve-story reinforced concrete structure completed in 1920 with a north wing added in 1936. The Montgomery Ward & Company Building was originally used as a warehouse and regional headquarters. The building's grid of industrial steel-sash windows, projecting concrete piers, and flat roof reflect early 20th-century warehouse design. It was repurposed in 1987 as Montgomery Park and now functions as an office building. Recent interventions include a glass atrium addition at the west entrance and a landscaped plaza with contemporary lighting and outdoor seating.					
HISTORY					
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>					
Montgomery Ward and Company Building, also known as Montgomery Park, began serving as a venue for LGBTQ+ organizations in the mid-1980s. Early events included Right to Privacy / Right to Pride (RTP) Political Action Committee Victory Fund fundraisers, Lesbian Community Project pride events, and La Femme Magnifique International drag pageants. In the early 1990s, political campaigns "No on 9" and "No on 13" acquired free use of the full-height glass-walled atrium to host election night watch parties. These campaigns opposed the conservative organization Oregon Citizens Alliance's (OCA) repeated anti-LGBTQ+ political initiatives to amend the state constitution to discourage recognition of homosexuality. The 1992 and 1994 watch parties turned into victory parties as both measures ultimately failed. Already individually listed on the National Register under Criteria C and A in the area of Commerce, Montgomery Ward and Company Building is also potentially significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history for its association with LGBTQ+ community development, politics, and entertainment.					
RESEARCH INFORMATION					
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records		Local Histories	
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	✓ SHPO Files		Interviews	
Obituaries	✓ Newspapers	State Archives		✓ Historic Photographs	
City Directories	Building Permits	State Library			
Local Library:		University Library:		University of Oregon	
Historical Society: Oregon Historical Society		Other Respository:			
Bibliography:					
For further information on the events, people, and organizations mentioned in the LGBTQ+ historical narrative, see LGBTQ+ History in Portland, Oregon: A Historic Context Statement. "From the Pittock to the Atrium," Just Out, May 1, 1988, 14. Randy Blazak, "Oregon Citizen Alliance," Oregon Encyclopedia, Last Updated May 25, 2022, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_citizens_alliance/ . William Schultz, "The Rise and Fall of 'No Special Rights,'" Oregon History Quarterly 122 no. 1 (Spring 2021): 6-37. Kathy Tucker, "Montgomery Ward/Park Building," Oregon Encyclopedia, Last Updated June 16, 2022, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/montgomery_ward_park_bldg_/ .					