

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	720 SW Washington St Portland, Multnomah County (97205)	historic name:	Morgan Building
assoc addresses:	127 Broadway; 515 SW Broadway	current/other names:	Rainbow Grille; Jolly Joan's Restaurant; Morgan Alley
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	213 / 1,2,7,8 / 6600
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 1E 34 SW/SW
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	8.0
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	1913	second date:	1938
		total inelig resources:	
primary orig use:	Business	NR Status:	Individually Listed
second orig use:		date indiv listed:	09/12/1996
primary style:	Beaux Arts	orig use comments:	
secondary style:	Commercial (Type)	prim style comments:	
primary siding:	Brick:Other/Undefined	sec style comments:	
secondary siding:	Terra Cotta: Other/Undefined	siding comments:	
plan type:	3-Part Vertical Block	architect:	Doyle, Patterson & Beach
		builder:	
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:		Type of Grouping	Date Listed
Portland Downtown Glazed Terra Cotta Buildings		Thematic Grouping	1980
Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 RLS		Survey & Inventory Project	2024
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	09/12/1996	Special Assessment	
ILS survey date:		Status	Term
RLS survey date:	05/25/2023	Closed	1st
Gen file date:	10/28/2015	End Yr	2011
		106 Project(s):	None
		Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
720 SW Washington is an eight-story Beaux Arts and 20th Century Commercial style building oriented east-west on the northern half of the block. The building's roof is flat with a parapet and large eaves with brackets. The building has a concrete foundation and is clad in brick and terracotta with a granite base. The windows appear to be original one-over-one wood single-hung. There are multiple building entrances, including through Morgan Alley on the east façade. Morgan Alley has a metal screen with gold lettering and lion faces.			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
The Morgan Building housed two LGBTQ+-friendly restaurants in its ground floor commercial space in the early- and mid-20th century. First, Theodore Kruse opened The Rainbow Grille in 1913. This was Kruse's second restaurant, following his previous restaurant's closure in connection to the 1912 network of Portland men engaging in same-sex sexual activities referred to as the "Vice Clique" scandal. The scandal led to legal and social persecution of several men and associated various businesses like Kruse's with "immorality." The Rainbow Grille failed to move beyond such association and gain financial stability, ceasing operation in 1915. In 1937, the 24-hour restaurant Jolly Joan's opened in the ground floor commercial space addressed at 515 SW Broadway, having outgrown its previous location. Although not an LGBTQ+ exclusive restaurant, Jolly Joan was a welcoming place for LGBTQ+ Portlanders until its closure in the early 1960s. Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, the Morgan Building is also potentially significant under Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history for its association with early LGBTQ+-serving restaurants.			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Title Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input type="checkbox"/> Census Records <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Permits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives <input type="checkbox"/> State Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs
Local Library:		University Library:	
Historical Society:	Oregon Queer History Collective	Other Respository:	Umbrella Project
Bibliography:			
ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR PORTLAND LGBTQ+ HISTORIC RESOURCES 2024: Cook, Tom, and George Painter. "1999 Portland Gay History Walking Tour." Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest. https://www.glapn.org/6045walkingtour.html . Painter, George. "The Louvre Restaurant." Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest. https://www.glapn.org/6080louvre.html . "Rainbow Grill is Open." The Morning Oregonian, October 3, 1913. "Rainbow Grill Outdoes Nature in its Decorative Beauties." The Morning Oregonian, October 5, 1913. "Rainbow Grill Closes." Oregonian, June 15, 1915. "Grill Owes \$79,000." Oregonian, June 17, 1915. Anderson, Heather. "A City Scandalized." Portland Mercury, January 10, 2018. https://www.portlandmercury.com/history/2018/01/10/19597137/a-city-scandalized . Horn, Don. "Jolly Joan's Restaurant." Bars, Restaurants, & Taverns. The Umbrella Project. https://www.umbrellaprojectoregon.com/jolly-joans .			