

# Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
<b>address:</b>	1125 NW 21st Ave Portland, Multnomah County (97209)	<b>historic name:</b>	Devers, Arthur H., House
<b>assoc addresses:</b>		<b>current/other names:</b>	Devers, Arthur H. and Nellie, House; Arthur Devers House; Arthur and Nellie Devers House
<b>location descr:</b>		<b>block/lot/tax lot:</b>	300 / 2 / 1N1E33BA 3800
		<b>townshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:</b>	1N 1E 33
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
<b>resource type:</b>	Building	<b>height (stories):</b>	2.5
<b>elig evaluation:</b>	eligible/significant	<b>total elig resources:</b>	1
<b>prim constr date:</b>	1891	<b>NR Status:</b>	Individually Listed
	<b>second date:</b>	<b>date indiv listed:</b>	02/20/2026
<b>primary orig use:</b>	Single Dwelling	<b>orig use comments:</b>	
<b>second orig use:</b>		<b>prim style comments:</b>	
<b>primary style:</b>	Queen Anne	<b>sec style comments:</b>	
<b>secondary style:</b>		<b>siding comments:</b>	
<b>primary siding:</b>	Horizontal Board	<b>architect:</b>	unknown
<b>secondary siding:</b>	Wood:Other/Undefined	<b>builder:</b>	
<b>plan type:</b>			
<b>comments/notes:</b>			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Not associated with any surveys or groupings.			
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
<b>NR date listed:</b>	02/20/2026	<b>106 Project(s):</b>	None
<b>ILS survey date:</b>		<b>Special Assess Project(s):</b>	None
<b>RLS survey date:</b>		<b>Federal Tax Project(s):</b>	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>The Arthur H. Devers House is located at 1125 NW 21st Avenue, a block north of the northern boundary of the National Register-listed Alphabet Historic District in the northwest quadrant of Portland, Oregon. It is a 2.5-story wood-framed building of 2,288 square feet, with parged brick and concrete foundation and horizontal wood "drop" siding. The house, now a duplex, is in the Queen Anne style and was completed in 1891. The architect and/or builder are unknown. There is one contemporary noncontributing structure on the property, a small shed in the southwest corner of the lot. Exterior character-defining features include the house's staggered front gables, one with fishscale shingle siding and a bullseye window and the other with rectangular shingles and a rectangular window. Both gables flare outward at the bottom, forming a shallow overhang over the second story. Additional features include the double-hung wood windows, most of which appear original and have ogees and wavy glass, and three faceted bays: one at the ground level on the primary (east) façade, and two full-height bays on the north and south façades. There are also three stained-glass windows, all original, including one transom window over the entry doors and two others in the north and east bays. These three windows cannot be definitively attributed but bear the hallmarks of the famous Portland art glass studio, Povey Brothers. Finally, the original horizontal wood "drop" siding, along with the shingle siding at gable ends, is a characteristic of the house's original design, style, and materials. At the interior, character-defining features include the fireplace with its decorative surround, and the dark wood stair with turned balusters and decorative newel posts. All of these features were constructed for the Devers family, who lived in the house from 1891 to 1908, the period of time in which Arthur Devers became an important civic leader and businessman in Portland</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>The Devers House has local significance under Criterion B in the areas of Commerce and Social History for its association with late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Portland business and civic leader Arthur H. Devers. Arthur Devers was a well-known, well-regarded, and important businessman in Portland as one of the owners of Closset &amp; Devers, one of the top coffee and tea importers in the Pacific Northwest during this period. His name lives on in the Devers Eye Clinic, which was founded in Northwest Portland, just a few blocks from the Devers House, by a \$1M gift from Devers in his will. The house, which Devers lived in for 17 years with his first wife and young daughter, was built for the family in 1891, when Devers was about 33 years old. The family lived in the house until 1908, the end of the period of significance. By this date Devers had become an influential leader in Portland. He had played an important role in planning and executing the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905; advocated and found funding for the creation of the Dalles-Celilo canal, begun in 1905; and helped put together a "City Beautiful" committee that would become the Civic Improvement League, which would go on to hire Edward Bennett to create the progressive-era Bennett Plan for Portland. The Arthur H. Devers House is the only extant resource that is associated with Devers during the most productive time of his career and civic leadership in Portland, and it uniquely represents the time period during which Devers became an important figure in Portland's commercial and social development.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Title Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs
<b>Local Library:</b>		<b>University Library:</b>	
<b>Historical Society:</b>		<b>Other Respository:</b>	
<b>Bibliography:</b>			

Abbott, Carl. *Portland: Planning, Politics and Growth in a Twentieth-Century City*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1983. Cioffi, George A., *The Devers Manual: Ophthalmology for the Health Care Professional*. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1997. City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Portland Parks and Recreation. *City of Portland Civic Planning, Development, & Public Works, 1851-1965: A Historic Context*. Portland, Oregon, 2009. Accessed online at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/299256>. Comerford, Jane, *A History of Northwest Portland, From the River to the Hills*. Portland, OR: Dragonfly Press, 2011. Dana, Marshall N., "The Celilo Canal—Its Origin—Its Building and Meaning," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (June 1915), pp. 109-124. Donovan & Associates/ Prohaska survey form ("Devers House"), Oregon SHPO Inventory of Historic Properties, Multnomah County, August 1992 Harrison, Michael, and Cielo Lutino, Liza Mickle, Peter Mye, Bill Cunningham, and Stephanie Gauthier. *Alphabet Historic District*. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. National Park Service, 2000. Hawkins, William J. III and William F. Willingham, *Classic Houses of Portland, Oregon, 1850-1950*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1999. Lewis, David, "Willamette Valley Treaties," Oregon Encyclopedia entry, [https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/willamette\\_valley\\_treaties/](https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/willamette_valley_treaties/) Pendergrast, Mark, *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How it Transformed Our World*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1999. R. L. Polk Co., *Portland (and Seattle) City Directories*, various dates 1881-1983. Ryerson, Mike; Norm Gholston; and Tracy J. Prince, *Portland's Slabtown*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2013. Spencer, Arthur. "New Life for 100-year-old Devers House," *NW Examiner*, January 1988. Tess, John M. and Richard Ritz, *Digman-Zidell House*, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. National Park Service, 1993. Ukers, William H. *All About Coffee*. New York: Tea and Coffee Trade Journal Co., 1922. (Available in its entirety online at <https://ukersallaboutcoffee.wordpress.com/all-about-coffee/>) Volkmann, Daniel G., "Sixty Five Years of A. Schilling & Company," Schilling Family website, accessed at <https://www.allementsdesign.com/schilling/company/spices/65years.html> Webfooters Post Card Club, "Portland's Coffee Connection," Webfooter Extra, February 2015, 4. Accessed on February 26, 2025 at [http://www.thewebfooters.com/html/newsletter\\_archives.html](http://www.thewebfooters.com/html/newsletter_archives.html) Zehntbauer, John A., "History of Jantzen," compiled by Tor Lundgren from the stories originally published in the Jantzen company paper, *Jantzen Yarns*, between 1928 and 1956. April 2009. Accessed online at <http://www.metolius.net/family/page3/files/Jantzen-History.pdf> Newspapers: *Oregon City Courier*, 1898 *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), various dates *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1925 *Seattle Star*, 1918 *The Oregon Journal* (Portland, OR), various dates *The Oregon Statesman* (Salem, OR), 1944 *The Centennial* (Portland, OR), 190