

# Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME							
<b>address:</b>	1201-1217 SW Stark St Portland, Multnomah County (97205)		<b>historic name:</b>	Hotel Alma			
<b>assoc addresses:</b>			<b>current/other names:</b>	Majestic Hotel; Hotel Tait; Hotel Georgian; Hotel Louie; Crystal Hotel			
<b>location descr:</b>			<b>block/lot/tax lot:</b>	107 / 400			
			<b>twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:</b>	1N 1E 33 SE/SE			
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS							
<b>resource type:</b>	Building	<b>height (stories):</b>	4.0	<b>total elig resources:</b>	1	<b>total inelig resources:</b>	
<b>elig evaluation:</b>	eligible/significant			<b>NR Status:</b>	Individually Listed		
<b>prim constr date:</b>	1911	<b>second date:</b>		<b>date indiv listed:</b>	09/09/2009		
<b>primary orig use:</b>	Hotel			<b>orig use comments:</b>			
<b>second orig use:</b>	COMMERCIAL: General			<b>prim style comments:</b>			
<b>primary style:</b>	Chicago School			<b>sec style comments:</b>			
<b>secondary style:</b>				<b>siding comments:</b>			
<b>primary siding:</b>	Brick:Other/Undefined			<b>architect:</b>	Hanselman, H		
<b>secondary siding:</b>	Cast Stone			<b>builder:</b>			
<b>plan type:</b>							
<b>comments/notes:</b>	Additional Documentation approved by NPS on 5/20/2024						
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS							
<b>Survey/Grouping Included In:</b>		<b>Type of Grouping</b>		<b>Date Listed</b>		<b>Date Compiled</b>	
Historic Resources in Downtown Portland, Oregon, MPD		MPS		08/11/2004		2004	
Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 RLS		Survey & Inventory Project				2024	
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY							
<b>NR date listed:</b>	09/09/2009	Special Assessment		Federal Tax Program		<b>106 Project(s):</b> None	
<b>ILS survey date:</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>End Yr</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Compl</b>
<b>RLS survey date:</b>	05/18/2023	Closed	1st	2025	Complete	07/01/2008	2011
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION							
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>							
303 SW 12th Avenue is a four-story 20th Century Commercial Style hotel building designed by Hans Henselman. The top of the building has a cornice with decorative medallions around the roof line. The trapezoidal building has a full basement, a concrete foundation, and is finished mostly with buff-colored brick, with stucco-finish projecting bays on the exterior. There are regular storefront bays on all three street-fronting elevations, many of them restored, with individual metal canopies over the sidewalks. The entry door facing east on SW 12th Avenue has wood storefronts with transom windows above and a wood door. The elevations feature decorative brickwork, and wood double-hung windows are mostly original. Projecting neon signs are present on south and north elevations.							
HISTORY							
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>							
The Hotel Alma, currently McMenamins' Crystal Hotel, housed multiple LGBTQ+ businesses between 1969 to at least 1987. Starting with the nightclub the Pied Piper, this location developed as a multi-use anchor for the surrounding gay district south of W Burnside Street and along SW Harvey Milk Street (formerly SW Stark Street). By 1971, the Majestic Hotel and Club Baths operated a men's bathhouse and hotel in the building with other LGBTQ+ businesses in the ground-floor commercial space. These additional businesses included Kachina Lounge, The Bushes, Stark Street Station, and Flossie's. In 1987, Dick Lawson assumed ownership of the building and re-opened the bathhouse under Club Portland; the ground-floor commercial space became a men's strip club, Silverado. Hotel Alma is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Commerce, and LGBTQ+ history.							
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				
<b>Local Library:</b>				<b>University Library:</b>			
<b>Historical Society:</b>	Oregon Queer History Collective			<b>Other Respository:</b>	Umbrella Project		
Bibliography:							
Borgen, Daniel. "Crystal Visions." Just Out, February 4, 2011, 21. Cook, Tom, and George Painter. "1999 Portland Gay History Walking Tour." Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest. <a href="https://www.glapn.org/6045walkingtour.html">https://www.glapn.org/6045walkingtour.html</a> . Horn, Don. "Club Baths & The Majestic Hotel." Bathhouses. The Umbrella Project. <a href="https://www.umbrellaprojectoregon.com/club-baths-majestic-hotel">https://www.umbrellaprojectoregon.com/club-baths-majestic-hotel</a> . Kohl, David Grant. . A Curious and Peculiar People: A History of the Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, Oregon and the Sexual Minority Communities of the Pacific Northwest. Portland, OR: Spirit Press, 2006. Spencer, Aaron. "A Different Kind of Silver Anniversary." Just Out, February 4, 2011, 20,21. Minor, Kristen. "Hotel Alma." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service, May 20, 2024.							