

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	407-409 SW 11th Ave Portland, Multnomah County (97205)	historic name:	Nortonia Hotel
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	Mark Spencer Apartments; Mark Spencer Hotel; Bowers Hotel; Equi-Speckart Residence
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	255 / 1-2 / 2000
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 1E 34 SE/SE
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	6.0
elig evaluation:	eligible/contributing	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	1908	NR Status:	
	second date:	date indiv listed:	
primary orig use:	Hotel	orig use comments:	
second orig use:	Multiple Dwelling	prim style comments:	
primary style:	Tudor Revival	sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	
primary siding:	Brick:Other/Undefined	architect:	Jacobberger, Josef
secondary siding:		builder:	
plan type:	Hotel Court		
comments/notes:			
Restaurant added 1947; Remodel 1966			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 RLS	Survey & Inventory Project		2024
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	N/A	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:	05/18/2023	Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
409 SW 11th Ave is a six-story Tudor Revival style hotel building oriented east on a corner lot. The building features a basement and concrete foundation. It has a flat roof with an adorned parapet wall. It is clad in buff brick, features marble surrounding the primary entry, and has three cast belt courses. The building's entrance faces east at the center of the façade under a large non-historic metal canopy. Original projecting flag poles frame the entrance. The windows are replacement aluminum composed of a large fixed window panes with small sliders on the bottom. Fire escape stairs are present on the main façade and the façade facing SW Harvey Milk Stret.			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
The Nortonia Hotel, now known as the Mark Spencer, was the home of Dr. Marie Equi (1872–1952) and her partner Harriet Speckart (1883–1927) between 1908 and 1912. Dr. Equi was a prominent Portland activist and doctor who had several public same-sex relationships in the early 20th century. This residential hotel was potentially known among other queer Portlanders during the first two decades of the 20th century; for example, Bruce Stone, an individual arrested in connection with a network of individuals engaging in same-sex activities referred to as the "Vice Clique" scandal, also resided at the hotel during this time. The Nortonia Hotel is locally significant under National Register Criteria A in the area of LGBTQ+ history for its association with queer residential patterns in the early 20th century, and potentially significant under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Marie Equi.			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Title Records	<input type="checkbox"/> Census Records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Histories
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps	<input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources	<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files	<input type="checkbox"/> Interviews
<input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> State Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/> State Library	
Local Library:	City of Portland Archives and Records Center	University Library:	
Historical Society:	Oregon Queer History Collective	Other Respository:	
Bibliography:			
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 . Helquist, Michael. Marie Equi: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions. 1st edition. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2015. PDXHistory. "Mark Spencer/Nortonia Hotel." Portland Hotels. Last Updated October 28, 2016. http://www.pdxhistory.com/html/nortonia.html . "Radical Politics, Radical Love: Marie Equi's Life in Early Twentieth Century Portland." Northwest Gay and Lesbian Historians 1, no. 3 (Summer/Fall 1996).			