

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	135 SE 16th Ave Portland, Multnomah County (97214)	historic name:	Polhemus, James S, House
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	Polhemus House
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	318 / LOT 5 / 1N1E35DC 5900
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 1E 35
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	1.5
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	c.1900	second date:	
		total inelig resources:	0
		NR Status:	Individually Listed
		date indiv listed:	03/08/1989
primary orig use:	Single Dwelling	orig use comments:	
second orig use:		prim style comments:	
primary style:	Queen Anne	sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	Drop siding and decorative shingles
primary siding:	Horizontal Board	architect:	
secondary siding:	Shingle	builder:	
plan type:	Crosswing		
comments/notes:			
Further research by us has indicated that the Polhemus family never lived here. This has been confirmed by the 1900-1901, 1915, and 1918 Portland city directories and the 1900 and 1910 censuses. The nomination says the family resided here from 1900-1921. At the very least this is not true from 1910-1921. We unfortunately do not have immediate access to city directories between 1901 and 1915 to do further research. -Tim Askin, Tibby O'Brien, & Nancy Oberschmidt (12/29/10); Additional Documentation approved 05/25/11 (ck)			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Buckman Neighborhood RLS 2010	Survey & Inventory Project		2010
North Buckman Historic District	Potential Historic District	07/10/2013	2013
Portland Oregon's Eastside Historic and Architectural Resources, 1850-1938 MPD	MPS	01/27/1989	1988
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	03/08/1989	Special Assessment	106 Project(s): None
ILS survey date:	12/23/2010	Status	Federal Tax Project(s): None
RLS survey date:	05/01/2010	Closed	
		Term	
		1st	
		End Yr	
		2022	
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
Retains wrap-around porch and many of the original trim work. Most windows appear to be original wood frame sashes. This house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
Upon looking through the OR HSD DB, the Buckman team noticed two different houses built the same year and listed as the residence of J. S. Polhemus. Upon checking city directories for the period, we confirmed that J. S. Polhemus never lived in either property. The 1900 census confirms this data, listing Irving Rohr, a "job printer" as the head of the household. The house consisted of four of his younger siblings and their widowed mother. The 1900 census also confirms that they were renting the home. Deed research unveiled that James S. Polhemus acquired the land on which the house in question sits as well as some adjacent land to the west. The land was acquired at a Sheriff's auction in 1894 from Esther Wills. There appear to have been two houses on the property at the northwest corner of the intersection of the intersection of SE 16th Avenue and SE Ash Street. A house to the west (1521 SE Ash) was sold to the Wright family in 1921 and remains extant. Earlier researchers misinterpreted this transaction between Polhemus and Wright as a sale of the land at the very corner, but it was specifically only the splitting off of the land on which the house to the west sat. Mr. Polhemus demolished an existing house on site after his purchase and had the extant house built by 1900. Mr. Polhemus maintained ownership of 135 SE 16th Avenue after 1921, but appears to have sold it by 1928, according to a City of Portland plumbing permit that lists Edwin Widmer as the owner of the property in 1928. By reference to another plumbing permit, Mr. Widmer maintained ownership of the house through at least 1937. I was unable to locate evidence in the census or city directories of Mr. Widmer ever living in the house. 135 SE 16th Ave Tenants Per the 1898 city directory, the Rohr family did not yet reside at this address. 1900 Census · Irving N. Rohr, head of household, printer, born 1876 in Oregon. · Ralph G. Rohr, brother, printer, born 1879 in Oregon. · Chester M Rohr, brother, student, born 1883 in Oregon · Anna L Rohr, sister, student, born 1865 in Oregon · Lillian M. Rohr, sister, student, born 1872 in Oregon · Amelia M. Rohr, widow, unemployed, born 1841 in Indiana to German immigrant parents. · The deceased spouse of Mrs. Rohr was born in France. 1910 Census · Mary A. Rohr (widow of the same age, parentage, and number of children as 1900's Amelia). · Irving Rohr, single, newspaper printer · Annie Rohr, single, unemployed 1918: Irving Rohr gives an address some distance to the northeast on a draft registration card. 1920 Census: Entire Rohr family (widowed mother, Irving, Annie, and Chester) have moved elsewhere. -Tim Askin, MS Preservation Consultant Architectural Historian			
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:	Multnomah County	University Library:	
Historical Society:		Other Respository:	
Bibliography:			