

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	631 SE Taylor St Portland, Multnomah County	historic name:	The Pallay Apartments
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	The Cody Apartments; Mount Vernon Apartments; The Rose Apartments
location descr:		block/lot/tax lot:	
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	building	height (stories):	3.0
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	1910	NR Status:	Individually Listed
	second date:	date indiv listed:	02/09/2021
primary orig use:	Multiple Dwelling	orig use comments:	
second orig use:	Multiple Dwelling	prim style comments:	
primary style:	Late 20th Century: Other	sec style comments:	
secondary style:	Classical Revival: other	siding comments:	
primary siding:		architect:	Alexander C. Ewart
secondary siding:		builder:	Powers & Sons
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Portland Oregon's Eastside Historic and Architectural Resources, 1850-1938 MPD	MPs	01/27/1989	1988
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	02/09/2021	Federal Tax Program	
ILS survey date:		Status	Start
RLS survey date:		Complete	08/21/2019
		Compl	2020
106 Project(s):	None	Special Assess Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>Built in 1910, the Pallay Apartments is located in Portland's Central Eastside Industrial District at the corner of the SE 7th Avenue and SE Taylor Street. The surrounding area features primarily commercial and industrial buildings, although the building is bounded to the north and west by two other apartment buildings that are similar in size and age. The 26,644 square-foot, three-story building sits on a 100x100-foot quarter-block parcel. It has a concrete foundation and a stucco and masonry exterior with architectural details including brick arches and dentils, scoring in the stucco to mimic stone block, and a cornice and decorative parapet at the roof. The primary elevation is arranged symmetrically with the main entrance in the center of the façade. The original one-over-one double-hung wood window sashes have been replaced with beige-colored one-over-one vinyl windows, although the original wood window frames were retained. The building's interior is organized around a U-shaped double-loaded corridor. The residential units feature their original window casings, baseboard trim, and picture rail trim. Some apartments have their original kitchen cabinets and Murphy Bed alcoves. The building's character-defining features include the beige brick walls; stucco used at the ground story; centrally-placed main entry; punched window openings with masonry arches; bellybands and brick dentils; cornice and parapet details; U-shaped floorplan with a large light court; double-loaded corridor; open main stairwell associated with an entry lobby; wood newel posts and balusters; wood trim including picture rail and window casings; and original kitchen cabinetry. The building has integrity to reflect its historic significance as an early, single-use apartment building. Modifications include the window replacements, a new ADA-accessible entrance on the east façade, and some reconfiguring of the apartments. However, these modifications have not detrimentally affected the building's integrity. Compared with period photos, the building retains its historic character and continues to reflect its typology as an early 20th Century apartment building.</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 Pallay Apartments is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for architecture as an example of an early apartment house located within the boundary of the Portland Oregon's Eastside Historic and Architectural Resources, 1850-1938 Multiple Property Document (MPD). It meets the general and property type specific registration requirements of the MPD. Morris Pallay—a successful immigrant tailor turned apartment developer—commissioned the nominated property in 1909 and it was the first large-scale, masonry, 100% residential apartment block to be constructed in the MPD study area. Designed by Charles Ewart and completed in 1910, the Pallay Apartments was built to cater to individuals employed in this rapidly-developing, commercial-industrial part of the city. The building was noteworthy at the time for the exclusion of ground-floor commercial space. Initially, most single-use apartment houses were in the well-to-do neighborhoods of Northwest Portland. Development of Portland's eastside lagged behind the west, but expanding transportation networks and infrastructure improvements allowed for rapid development of real estate in the early 1900s to meet the demands of a growing population. The city's working and middle classes increasingly moved to the neighborhoods within the MPD study area due to the east side's affordable housing, employment opportunities, and streetcar accessibility to downtown. At first, most large, high-quality buildings on the east side were two-part commercial block buildings that featured flats above retail storefront spaces. As the first single-use apartment building in the MPD study area, the Pallay Apartments reflects the marked economic growth and population expansion during the early 20th century that resulted in a more urban character to the architecture of Portland's eastside. Eventually, as apartments became a more publicly acceptable form of housing and consistent demand resulted in favorable investment returns for developers, high-quality masonry buildings like the nominated property were constructed on most major eastside streets.</p>			
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:		University Library:	
Historical Society:		Other Respository:	Digital newspaper archives

Bibliography:

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