

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 10 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Oregon Cracker Company Building (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Star Furniture Warehouse

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

616 NW Glisan St.

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Western International Properties

STREET & NUMBER

2456 NW Johnson

CITY, TOWN

Portland

___ VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97210

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1021 SW Fourth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Portland Historical Landmark

DATE

1979

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Portland Bureau of Planning

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four-story building located near the corner of NW Sixth and Glisan, was built at the turn of the century for the Oregon Cracker Company. About 1897, the Oregon Cracker Company moved into its new building at 111 Sixth Street N, the address under the old system. This building occupied the south portion of the present 100x100' parcel; the other half remained vacant except for an oil-fired boiler which still provides steam to the cast iron radiators. The Pacific Coast Biscuit Company purchased the building c. 1901 and expanded an identical section onto the vacant 50x100' lot to the north.

In 1919, the United States Rubber Company leased the now 100x100' building and, on October 20th, began renovations designed by MacNaughton, Raymond, and Lawrence Architects. The porch at the NE corner was enclosed and commercial storefronts were constructed of wood frames with bronze mullions. It is probable that the sprinkler system for fire protection was added at this time. Most of this work still remains intact today. In 1929, a freight elevator was added at the center of the building.

The exterior walls are constructed of a dark red brick with rusticated brick detailing reflecting the influence of H.H. Richardson, a pioneer of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture popular at this time. The fenestration of the north and east facade illustrates an orderly and skillful handling of proportion and scale. Storefronts line the streets except for the southernmost bay of the east facade, which is a loading dock, and the two easternmost bays of the north facade, which are mostly brick with two arched windows in the second bay. Behind each storefront are two cast iron columns supporting the walls above. A pair of tall Roman arched windows extend past the second and third floors, and a band of three small rectangular windows with jack arches on the fourth floor fill out each bay. All the upper floor windows are wood frame casement type. Each facade is composed of four bays separated by pilasters with a continuous dentiled brick cornice to cap it off. The floors are articulated on the exterior by corbels and decorated bands of dark red brick.

The west facade is blocked by another building, except for the south corner, which has one window opening from the second floor and another from the fourth. The north facade is partially abutted by a one-story building above which three windows open from the third floor. The major portion of the wall is occupied by a billboard for the Star Furniture Company.

The original building and the addition share a common brick bearing wall which divide the building in half. It appears that the addition was anticipated from the beginning, as this wall was constructed with a corbel at each floor to carry the future floor joists. Several openings were cut through the original north wall to connect the spaces and steel lintels installed to support the brick. The arched window openings in this wall were brick infilled with their outlines still visible. Crude stairways and the elevator abut the south face of the wall. Each half of the building has a row of 12" square timber columns centered approximately 16' apart. A wood bolster supports heavy timber beams and 3x16" joists at 16" on center running north and south. A 1x4" fir subfloor is topped by a 1x3" tongue and groove maple finish floor.

Of structural interest are the steel tie rods about every eight feet along the perimeter walls which tie the floor and walls to transfer shear loads through the floor diaphragm. This practice became common somewhat later; it was innovative at the time.

A rubble foundation wall remains in the southwest corner of the basement which supported a huge reel oven extending through the first and second floors. The oven was subsequently removed and the openings in the floor filled. In some places, the basement extends out under the sidewalk for loading purposes.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1897-1901 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oregon Cracker Company Building is one of Portland's well-preserved examples of Richardsonian Romanesque Revival architecture dating from the late 19th century. It occupies a corner on the periphery of the Old Town Historic District and is near the future transportation center. The exterior walls of this four-story building are constructed of a dark red brick with rusticated brick detailing. Corbels and bands of brick accentuate the skillfully proportioned fenestration and define the floor levels inside.

Around 1897, the Oregon Cracker Company moved into this new building at 111 Sixth Street North, the address under the street numbering system at that time. About 1901, the company was purchased by the Pacific Coast Biscuit Company headed by Herman Wittenberg, who expanded the structure with a matching building on the vacant lot to the north. By 1919, the Pacific Coast Biscuit Company was the third largest cracker manufacturer in the US, and was well known for its "Snowflake" crackers. The main plant was located at NW 12th and Davis, with the Sixth Street building producing macaroni and candy. Moritz Thomsen became the head of the Portland plant in 1912 and was the founder of Thomsen Chocolates, manufactured by the company.

In 1919 the United States Rubber Company acquired the now 100x100' building and, except for the elevator added in 1929, remodeled it with plans from the architectural firm of MacNaughton, Raymond & Lawrence to its present condition.

Presently, the Star Furniture Company occupies the building which has recently been acquired by Western International Properties. The new owner intends to renovate the building for office and retail space to accommodate the rapid growth of the Old Town area. Fletcher/Finch/Farr & Associates are the architects for the renovation and plan to retain the character of the old building with the addition of a mall and a four-story central skylit court and to provide daylight and focus to the offices and shops which will occupy the interior portions of the building. Although the original architect of the building is unknown, it is a fine example of Romanesque Revival architecture reflecting H.H. Richardson's influence prevalent at the time. The building contributes to the character of the Old Town area and is significant to the architectural heritage of Portland, Oregon.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Portland City Directories. Oregon Historical Society.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Oregon Historical Society 1879, 1889-1898, 1897-1901.

Portland Evening Telegram, Multnomah County Library, May 24, 1917, Nov. 29, 1917.

Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 61, 1960, pp. 64-67.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2296 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0
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5	2	5	3	5	0
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5	0	4	1	2	9	0
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B

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C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 5 and 8, Block 48; Couch's Addition to Portland.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mitch Gilbert, Architect

ORGANIZATION

Fletcher/Finch/Farr & Assoc.

DATE

March 9, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

920 SW 13th Avenue

TELEPHONE

503/222-1661

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David G. Talbot

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6/13/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Shull

DATE

8-10-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray Luce*

DATE

8/8/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER