HISTORIC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS** 1 NAME

Ambassador Apartments AND/OR COMMON LOCATION 1209 S.W. Sixth Ayenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Portland VICINITY OF COUNTY Multnomah STATE CODE 051 Oregon **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** DISTRICT ___PUBLIC X-OCCUPIED ___AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM -XBUILDING(S) **X**PRIVATE _UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL ___PARK ___STRUCTURE __ВОТН _WORK IN PROGRESS __EDUCATIONAL X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE __ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS __OBJECT _IN PROCESS ¥YES: RESTRICTED __GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC _BEING CONSIDERED ___YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION ___MILITARY __NO OTHER **OWNER OF PROPERTY** Ambassador Associates STREET & NUMBER 625 S. W. Washington CITY TOWN STATE **Oregon 97204** Portland VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. **REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.** Multnomah County Courthouse **STREET & NUMBER** CITY, TOWN STATE Oregon 97204 Portland **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TITLE Portland Historic Landmark Designation in process DATE ___FEDERAL ___STATE __COUNTY XLOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Portland Bureau of Planning CITY, TOWN 424 S.W. Main Street STATE Oregon 97204 Portland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	X_UNALTERED		SITE
GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a nine story structure H-shaped in plan with approximately 6,000 square feet per floor. The site is in the center of the city with the principal eastern facade on Sixth Avenue, a main street. It is nestled between the museum area on a linear park strip two blocks to the west and high-rise business and government buildings to the east. Near neighbors include the Portland Art Museum^{*}, Oregon Historical Society, First Congregational Church^{*}, City Hall^{*}, and the University Club. The latter, next door to the Ambassador, was built in 1913 in the developed Jacobethan style.

Three units are found in each vertical of the H, the lobby and vertical circulation are located in the cross bar. The concrete and hollow clay tile construction has a veneer of Columbian brick, made in Portland, and Boise sandstone for all of the exterior decorative details.¹ The 3/4 excayated, partially raised basement is of concrete with an exterior veneer coat pointed to resemble the sandstone.

The building is <u>Period</u>[']Architecture in style, although the projecting tiers of bay windows and crenglated parapet on the eastern recess are evocative of the Jacobethan Revival. Many decorative details are more nearly Renaissance Revival in style. On the eastern recess of the H the bay projections rise from ground level to the roof; on the north and south faces they begin at the third floor belt course and continue to the roof. The decorative detailing and brick are confined to the east and north street facades, continuing on the south side only to include the single southern bay projection at the eastern end. The balance of the south side and the west side are of painted concrete. It is not known if these surfaces were originally painted, but had been painted prior to 1957 with aluminum reflective paint.²

The decorative details on the east and north sides include a prominent belt course at the third floor; string courses in the eastern recess at the second and third floors; quioning on all the bay projections and eastern facade windows. Among the Renaissance Revival details are: a roof balustrade on the east facade; decorated escutcheons flanking the east facade windows on the ninth floor; and token balconies with brackets and newels on the eighth floor.

On the third floor a three bay unit consisting of a central broken pediment with finials supported by columns is flanked by pilasters. The whole is supported on brackets connected with segmental arches. Appearing at the street face of the eastern recess are lions sejant erect holding escutcheons with fleur-de-lis atop composite columns. Paired square brick columns appear behind the stone columns. A projecting one stoy covered exterior entranceway appears in the eastern recess. The facade is divided into thirds with columns supporting segmental arches. None of the decorative details were

* Denotes buildings presently listed in the National Register

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originally painted, but prior to 1957 all of the sandstone up to the belt course had been painted a light beige to match the exposed stone. This painting has been continued.

Originally there were two freestanding street lamps at the curb line flanking the entrance.³ These were removed in the late 1950s at the request of the City of Portland. The steps and walkway in the eastern recess were originally brick, the steps semi-circular in plan. The brick has been replaced by a concrete slab; the curved steps replaced by straight concrete steps. This was done in the early 1960s because tenants were slipping on the wet brick. A small fountain originally stood in the center of the entrance walkway. This was removed by the owners in the late 1950s as a result of vandalism.²

The original exterior lighting fixtures, designed by Fred C. Baker, a noted lighting designer, in the entrance recess are extant. Although the original glass entrance doors with sidelights remain, the wrought iron grille attached to the interior side was removed after 1957 by the owners. The existing canvas and aluminum canopy was installed in 1957.²

The original plans show large wrought iron gates hinged at the square brick entrance columns. No source consulted remembers their being <u>in situ</u>, but fastenings appropriate for such gates remain in the columns.

Although most of the original sash is extant, some units on the upper and lower floors have had aluminum frame windows installed after 1957. The original sash is wood frame casement. On the south side it is steel frame wire glass with small rectangular fans. On the other three sides the original is: 3 fixed fan panes over 9 casement panes; 2 fixed over 6 casement; or 3 fixed over 6 casement.

The original plans indicate a roof garden, but it was never developed because it did not conform to code requirements.¹ The current owners plan, at some later date, to install a roof garden suited to the building. An exit door has been installed recently on the western recess of the H. This door is hidden from the street and is to be used by tenants for access to the parking lot to the west. No other exterior changes are anticipated.

Among the interior amenities was a circulating brine system piped from a compressor in the basement to cooling boxes in each unit. This system was the first installed in the city and eliminated the

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necessity for carrying ice. The existing freight elevator is probably original; the passenger elevator was replaced in the late 1950s.² The brass tenant mailboxes are not original to this structure, but are the originals from the Fifth Avenue Branch of the Bank of New York and were given to the owners when the Bank was remodeled around 1960.²

All of the interior lobbies are spatially intact, retaining all of the original sash and radiators. The interior surfaces have been changed over the years. Approximately two thirds of the individual units have been modernized at some time, replacing the original bathroom, kitchen and lighting fixtures with newer equipment. It is anticipated that individual tenants will renovate the remaining interiors. Nearly one fourth of the units have been enlarged by taking rooms from adjoining units. There are no plans for these units to be reduced to their original size.



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899		EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>×_1900-</u>		INDUSTRY	X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1922	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECI .	nde-Architect ssall-Contractor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ambassador is significant in being the oldest confinuously fashionable apartment residence in Portland's central business district. It is an important anchor of good design on a main downtown throughfare in an area of transition between business on one side and high-rise residential on the other. Although not as elaborate as those in other parts of the country, it has always been one of Portland's most ornate apartment structures.

The building was designed by Carl L. Linde (1864-1945), a German native who settled in Milwaukie) Wisconsin in 1870.⁴ Before graduating from Milwaukie's German-English Academy in 18875 he apprenticed to an architect. In 1883 he went to New York to enlist in the Navy.⁶ After serving a year at the Newport, Rhode Island, naval training station his parents purchased his release.⁶ It is unclear whether he stayed in New York for a short time then, or returned to New York after graduating from the Academy. Mr. Fred C. Baker, a close personal friend of Mr. Linde's, asserts that Linde worked as a draftsman for McKim, Mead & White in his youth.⁷ No confirmation has yet been found in the McKim, Mead & White files.

At some time Mr. Linde returned to the midwest and worked as a staff architect for Ryerson Steel in Chicago. He worked on several high-rise buildings in the Chicago area during the "time of the union troubles" at Ryerson. Sometime before coming to Oregon in 1906, Mr. Linde worked as a brewery architect in Milwaukie, Wisconsin.⁸ No specific chronology for this period in Mr. Linde's life is currently available.

After coming to Oregon in 1906, Mr. Linde worked in Edgar Lazarus' office where he designed and supervised construction of the Electric Building for which he received national attention.⁴ Linde later worked for Whidden & Lewis, D.C. Lewis, A.E. Doyle and Whitehouse & Fouilhoux before applying for his license in 1921.⁵ From 1921 until 1940 he maintained his own architectural practice in Portland. From 1941 until his death in 1945 he was "associated" with the army engineers at Vancouver Barracks, Washington.⁴

Mr. Linde is remembered primarily for his residences and apartment houses in Portland, although he did a bank and brewery in Vancouver, Washington, and the Cameron Hotel and Puget Sound Savings & Loan in Seattle.¹ Among his residences were the Banfield home on the Oregon coast,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

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STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
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11 FORM PR	EPARED BY Sheila Finch <i>I</i>	AIA			
ORGANIZATION	Sheila Finch-A	Architect	<u></u>	DATE September 7,	. 1978
STREET & NUMBER		······		TELEPHONE (503) 227-07	786
CITY OR TOWN	Portland			STATE Oregon 97204	
12 STATE H	ISTORIC PRESE				N
NAT		SNIFICANCE OF 1 STATE		HIN THE STATE IS:	
hereby nominate t criteria and proced	State Historic Preservation his property for inclusion i ures set forth by the Nation RESERVATION OFFICER SIGNA	in the National Renal Renal Park Service.			
TITLE	State Historio	c Preserva	tion Officer	DATE Janu	uary 17, 19 79
(IFY THAT THIS PROPERT	ung	$\sum \sqrt{a}$	GISTER DATE 2	2.6.79
ATTEST: W. R	THE OF ANCHEOLOGY AN	IU HISTURIC PRI	EDENTATION (DATE 2/2	3/79

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the Jack Barde house (Portland Historic Landmark), and the McBride, Poole and Wakeman residences in the Portland area.1,7 Prior to designing the Ambassador, Linde designed five wood-frame brick-veneer apartment houses for Richard Wassall, developer and contractor. All of the apartments that Mr. Linde designed he named with royal or diplomatic names, i.e. Royal Arms, Imperial Arms, Tudor Arms. The five for Mr. Wassall were the "Arms". After 1922 Mr. Linde designed the Soverign, the Envoy and the Embassy.

The Ambassador Apartments were designed for partners Richard Wassall and Donald B. McBride. Mr. McBride was the owner of D. B. McBride Woolen Co., suppliers of fine woolens and tailors trimmings. A socially prominent man, he was listed in the Portland Blue Book. 10 McBride and Wassall sold the building to Bradner Building Company in Subsequently a number of building investment companies owned 1931. it until it was purchased in 1946 by Louis Albert. Mr. Albert was president of Albert's Products Co., a local beverage manufacturer.11 Mr. Herbert Malarkey purchased the building from Mr. Albert in 1958.¹² It is while he owned it that most of the exterior changes occurred. A prominent lumberman, he was the owner of Malarkey Roofing Co. in Portland. His estate sold it in 1977 to Ambassador Associates. One of the partners in Ambassador Associates is William W. Rosenfeld, Jr., whose uncle, Walter J. Rosenfeld, was a tenant of the apartments from 1948 to 1951.¹¹

The Ambassador Apartments have always been the residence of prominent business and professional people in Portland. Among the tenants have been:

1. Fred Fritsch^{13,7}(1924-31)¹⁴* a prominent architect associated with the firm of Sutton & Whitney. He was the designer and project architect for the Fruit and Flower Nursery and Masonic Temple in Portland, both designated Portland Historic Landmarks.

2. Louis Gerlinger, Sr.¹⁴(1929-40) owner of several lumber companies and a prominent benefactor.

3. <u>C.C. Chapman¹⁵(1925-56)</u> owner-publisher-editor of <u>The Oregon Voter</u>, an influential business and political paper. He served one term as Multnomah County Representative in the State Legislature and was the father of the gasoline sales tax in Oregon.

*Dates given are for length of residence in Ambassador Apartments

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4. <u>William S. U'Ren¹⁶ (1927-49) candidate</u> for governor on the Republican ticket in 1913, and state legislator beginning in 1896. He is the author of the nationally known Initiative Petition and Referendum law in Oregon.

5. <u>Jack Lynch¹⁷ (1930-73)</u> appointed to fill a vacancy after 1935, he served as Multhomah County's Senator until 1951. At one time executive secretary for the Oregon State Pharmacy Association, he was later in the insurance business.

6. Louis Ireland¹⁴ (1930-32) founder and owner of Ireland's, a popular restaurant chain.

7. <u>Fred C. Baker</u>⁷(1931-32) a craftsman and designer of lighting fixtures. His work appears in most of the important buildings, churches and residences in Portland. He has been a partner in several lighting firms and currently owns Fred C. Baker Lighting Co.

8. Dan Marx¹⁸(1937-40) founder and owner of a fine local jewelry store that bears his name.

9. Evelyn Gibson¹⁹(1937-40) founder and owner of "Evelyn Gibson Gowns", a high fashion women's store.

10. Forrest Berg²⁰(1938-74) president and owner of Charles F. Berg's, a fashionable store for young ladies and women founded by his father in 1907.

11. John C. Higgins²¹ (1939-65) a prominent attorney and partner in Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City. Among his law partners were John Foster Dulles and Ambassador Arthur Dean. After retiring to Oregon in 1938, he became active in mining and forest products. Known as "Mr. Republican" in Oregon, he was a member of the National Finance Committee for the party and Chairman of Thomas Dewey's Oregon campaign.

12. Herman J. Blaesing, Sr.²²(1949-59) of Blaesing Granite Co., founded by him in 1896. Originally engaged in memorials, the company later supplied stone for many large buildings, including the Oregonian Building and the Equitable Building, listed in the National Register.

13. Robert S. Farrell, Sr.²³(1950-51) President Chinook Investment Co. and partner in Everding & Farrell, feed and commission merchants. Mr. Farrell also had extensive fishing and logging interests. He served as State Representative from Multnomah County from 1907 to 1910 and as Senator from 1913 to 1924. Mr. Farrell's daughter, Mrs. Lyle

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Kingery, moved into the building in 1977.

- 14. Lewis A. McArthur²⁴ (1950-51) Vice President of Pacific Power & Light Co., he is locally better known for his definitive work OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, first published in 1928.
- 15. <u>Stanley C. Wiley</u>²⁵(1952-56) nationally known in real-estate associations, he is the founder and owner of Oregon's largest residential real-estate concern, Stan Wiley, Inc.
- 16. Edith Green²⁶ (1962-69,1971-77) Representative from the 3rd Oregon District to United States C ongress from 1954 to 1974. She is nationally known for the legislation she sponsored in the field of education. After her retirement from Congress, she maintained her office on the ground floor of the building.

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9 1 **BTBLTOGRAPHY** CONTINUATION SHEET **ITEM NUMBER** PAGE Partial set of original plans. Telephone interview 17 August 1978 with 1 Thayne Logan, architect, who worked in Linde's office from 1920 until 1925. Telephone interview with Mrs. Herbert Malarkey 23 August 1978. 2 Photographs 1923,1932. Negatives at the Oregon Historical Society, 3 1230 S W Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205. THE OREGON JOURNAL, 13 July 1945. Obituary of Carl L. Linde. P4, c 2. 4 Telephone interview with Eleanor Gundrum 24 July 1978. She relayed all 5 of the relevant information from Mr. Linde's application for his State architectural license. THE OREGONIAN, 16 June 1935. Magazine section, p 9. A series of interviews 6 with prominent local business and professional men. Interview with Mr. Fred C. Baker 6 July and 17 August 1978. 7 Telephone interview 18 August 1978 with Bertram Heims, architect. Mr. 8 Heims worked in Mr. Linde's office. POLK'S PORTLAND CITY DIRECTORY. Portland, Polk & Co., 1921. p793,1324. 9 BLUE BOOK AND SOCIAL REGISTER OF PORTLAND, 1925. Portland, Blue Book Co., 1925 10 p 85. POLK'S PORTLAND CITY DIRECTORY. Portland, Polk & Co. Relevant years. 11 County records, Multnomah County Court House, Portland, Oregon. 12 Withey, Henry & Elsie Rathburn; BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN 13 ARCHITECTS (DECEASED). Los Angeles, New Age Pub. Co., 1956. Dates of residence are taken from the Portland City Directory. They have 14 been verified with the tenants or their descendants if possible. Unless other sources are noted, occupations have been verified with the Portland City Directory for the relevant years.

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17 Interview with Mrs Jack Lynch, 4 July 1978.

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			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
18	Telephone interview with Mr. R Block, Mr	• Marx' nepl	hew, 30 Jun	ne 1978.	
19	Telephone interview with Ms. Gibson, 30	June 1978.			
20	Telephone interview with Mr. Berg, 10 Ju	ne 1978.	•		
21	THE OREGON JOURNAL, 19 March 1965. Obitu	ary. Sec 4,	p 1, c 1 &	¥ 3.	
22	Telephone interview with Mr. Blaesing's	daughter, M	rs La Roche	e, 8 July 197	8.
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25	Telephone interview with his executive s	ecretary 30	June 1978	•	

26 Telephone interview with Mrs. Green 31 August 1978.