United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	e						
historic	Harlow Block (pr	referred)					
and/or common	The Park Hotel, Muckle Building						
2. Loca							
street & number	720-738 NW Glisa	in St.				not for pul	blication
city, town	Portland	vic	cinity of	congressional d	istrict		3rd
state	Oregon co	ode 41	county	Multnomah		code	051
3. Clas	sification						
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Accessibl X yes: re	upied n progress e	Present Use agriculture X commerci education entertainn governme industrial military	al al nent	religio scienti	e residence us
4. Own	er of Prope	erty					
name	Barbara Backstra	nd					
street & number	2546 NE 17th Ave	nue					
city, town	Portland	vic	cinity of		state	Oregon	97212
5. Loca	tion of Leg	gal Des	criptic	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Mu	ltnomah Cour	nty Court	nouse		_	
street & number		21 SW 4th Av				"	
city, town		rtland			state	Oregon	97204
	esentation		sting	Surveys	State	or egon	37204
or nep.							
title	None		has this pro	perty been determi	ned ele	gible?y	yes <u>X</u> no
date		_		federal _	state	county	y local
depository for su	rvey records						
city, town					state		

7. Description Condition — excellent — good — ruins — unexposed Check one — voriginal site — moved date — moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harlow Block, more recently known as the Muckle Building, is located on Lots 6 and 7 of Block 49 of Couch's Addition to Portland in Sec. 34, Township 1 North, Range 1 East, of the Willamette Meridian. This situates it on a 60x100' piece of property on the southeast corner of NW Eighth and Glisan Streets with its front elevation facing north. The neighborhood, originally residential, now is mainly commercial, having many manufacturing, wholesale and retail businesses present. The structure has smaller brick buildings adjacent to it on either side and has, across the streets to the north and west, the monumental Federal Building and the Park Blocks, respectively.

The building is an Italianate, three-story, brick masonry structure with arcuated fenestration. It is basically rectangular in shape with small wings projecting south from both ends of the rear elevation to form a long, thin courtyard between it and the building behind. The structure is built on a superbly masoned stone foundation and has a full basement. The attic parapet projects past the flat roof to a height of nearly three feet and was originally surmounted by regularly-spaced stove chimneys with corbelled caps.

The entire first floor of the main elevation was changed from the original in the early 1940s. Its basic spatial arrangement is the same, with five regularly spaced storefronts broken only by the hotel entrance just left of center in the principal Simple, fluted, Doric-style, cast iron columns and pilastered, brick columns with cast iron pieces set into them were decorative as well as structurally essential components of the ground floor. When the elevation was remodeled, these features remained in place except the cast iron pieces in the pilasters, which were removed. storefront glass originally ran from nearly the floor to the ceiling. areas between the brick pilasters and cast iron columns and on both sides of the recessed doorways into the shops. Presently, the glass follows this same line except it runs outside the cast iron columns, leaving them inside each room. Wood panels have also been added, filling space above the glass. The original doors were very tall double doors with transoms above. These have been replaced by small, glass-panel, single doors. The only place where double doors still exist, though they are obviously replacements, is on the hotel entrance. Originally, this entrance was framed by a round-arched portal with keystone. During remodeling, it--along with all the other exposed brick on the ground floor--was covered with a layer of cement so that the arch is no longer visible. The overall feeling of the first floor, as it now looks, is of a plain, flat and squat storefront rather than a simply decorated facade with a feeling of great height whose elements easily lead the eye to the upper stories to which it was gracefully tied.

The ground story of the west elevation, fronting on Eighth Street, is essentially blind. There are two doorways on the far south end which opened into the rear of the westernmost shop space. The one on the left has been sealed off and holds two very small windows. It could have been used as either a public or service entrance, as it is very wide and reaches ceiling level. The other entrance leads into the rear courtyard. On the corner of the building is the only pilaster which still has its original cast iron capital, belt mold and base $\underline{\text{in}}$ $\underline{\text{situ}}$. These cast iron pieces are undoubtedly identical to the ones which were removed on the front elevation and could be used as patterns for replacements.

(continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Harlow Block

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

The ground floor of the rear elevation also has undergone some change. The rear entrances and windows of each shop space open into the courtyard. All the openings have segmental arch heads and cement lugsills. The first opening on the east end of the elevation was originally a window but has been enlarged into a doorway. The original doorway into that particular shop space has subsequently been blocked off and now holds a small, single-pane window. The change from window to doorway has also been made in the center of the elevation where, because of changes in the interior, a new route to the basement stairs was necessary. The doors themselves have all been replaced by a variety of door types ranging from plain doors to a moulded rail door with four vertical flush panels. It is evident that all the original doors had transoms above them but none of these has survived. The windows, with the exception of the one already mentioned, are four over four horizontal pane, double hung, wood sash windows. These probably replaced windows which matched those on the two floors above.

The remaining side of the structure, the east elevation, is abutted by a one-story, brick-faced building. What is visible above the adjacent structure is a plain brick wall which is the home of an advertising billboard.

The upper two floors of the building have not been altered except for the addition of a fire escape on the west side. The second and third story levels are defined by two wood belt cornices and a more elaborate crowning cornice with paneled frieze and brackets. Fenestration is regular, and the stilted segmental-arched openings are framed by a continuous double-strip brick hood mold and belt course. Openings directly above the hotel entrance are round-arched and have framements decorated with keystones. The north and west elevations are organize into 16 and seven bays, respectively, and openings are fitted with one over one double-hung, wood sash windows eight feet high. The sills are iron. Window openings in the rear elevation are nearly identical except that they have four lights over four. Exterior face brick was sandblasted by the previous owner. Brick pilasters extend the full height of the building at the corners and to frame the north entrance bay. These terminate at the cornice where they are surmounted by paired brackets with extra projection. Above the hotel entrance bay in the principal facade is a triangular crest of brick bearing a cement tablet inscribed: "HARLOW 82 BLOCK."

Internally, the building is laid out with shops exclusively on the first floor. The upper two floors are occupied by hotel rooms. The five shop spaces on the ground floor have 15' ceilings and are all roughly the same size spaced equally across the front walls. When the structure was erected, there was no wall between the two spaces on the west end and only a partial wall between the two spaces on the other end of the building. At the base of the stairs, just inside the hotel entrance, were auxiliary entrances into the flanking shop spaces. All the rooms are very plain, having only a small moulding strip around the perimeter of the rooms at the base of the walls for decoration. Some of the spaces have had small restrooms installed. The space immediately east of the hotel entrance was originally equipped with a kitchen, which has since been removed. The two spaces on the west end of the structure are presently occupied. They have been completely revamped including paneling, carpeting, new wiring and lowered ceilings.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Harlow Block

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DATE ENTERED.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The basement is broken into three parts corresponding to the shop spaces above. The first is under the two westernmost shop spaces and is accessible by stairs in the southwest corner. It is presently being used for storage and has been rewired for electricity. The middle area is under the hotel entrance and two flanking shop spaces. It is reached through a doorway from the rear courtyard which leads to a wide set of wooden stairs. Originally, doors to the stairway were located near the backs of the two flanking shop spaces. These were blocked off and the courtyard entrance was installed (see floor plans). In the west half of the space is a large coal-burning furnace which ran the radiators throughout the building until 1969. A workshop is located in the other half. The last part of the basement is under the east end space at the back of which is a small set of stairs through the floor. All three portions of the basement originally had service access through openings in the sidewalk outside. These have all been sealed off except for a coal chute into the furnace bay.

The hotel portion of the structure is reached from the street through the portal arch and a straight flight of stairs with another set of double doors on the mid-flight landing. The stairway is flanked by vertical fir strip wainscoting and has oak handrails held by wrought iron brackets. Until recently, a balustrade with simply turned balusters and oak handrail and large turned oak newel posts with octagonal bases encircled the stairwell opening on the second floor. The same style balusters, handrail and newel posts are still in place on the stairs to the third floor at the east end of the building. Originally, this had been a wainscoted, open-well, dog leg stair, but has since been enclosed by a semi-permanent wall.

Except around the stairwell on the second floor, where some of the rooms have been made smaller out of necessity, the floor plans of the two upper levels are virtually identical. A long wainscoted hallway runs the length of the building with rooms on either side. At the end of the main hall, on the west side of the building, short halls run to the right and left connecting to additional rooms. Small single rooms are located on the south half of the building while on the north, rooms are two deep. These rooms could be occupied either singly or doubly since the front, outside facing rooms are reachable by small spur hallways off the main hall and could be blocked off from the interior rooms with their connecting doorways. This was little inconvenience to whomever was residing in only an interior room as they had a high, two over two, doublehung, wood sash window facing into the hallway by which they could receive some light and ventilation. On the third floor, these interior rooms had the additional luxury of skylighting as did the main hallway. Although they are rather small, all the rooms have a feeling of airiness due to the large windows and high 12' ceilings. well endowed with wide moulded baseboards and architrave trim around the doors and windows. Into and between the rooms were moulded rail doors with four raised panels and transoms with two glass panels. These light-colored doors had their panels stained a dark brown and were topped off by nicely decorated brass knob and latch panels and black enameled doorknobs. A majority of the doors and hardware, though painted over, have survived in good condition. Nearly all of the metal rod transom operating mechanisms are still in place and in good working order.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Harlow Block

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Restrooms were installed in the hotel by 1904 and may have been an original feature of the hotel. These are located on both the second and third floors in the east half of the adjoining wing on the east end of the structure. Each also has a shower, which may have been a more recent addition. The west halves of the wing have been used as wash rooms.

Originally, all of the rooms in the building, including the shop spaces, were heated by wood stoves whose smoke was piped through flues in the exterior walls. Gas lights were probably the source of illumination since, at the time of the Harlow Block's construction, electric lights were somewhat of a rarity. By the early 1920s, the building had been modernized with the addition of the coal-burning heater in the basement for the "rococo" style American Radiator Company radiators which replaced all the wood stoves. Electrical wiring had also been installed.

Beginning in the early 1920s, the upper floors of the structure began undergoing some alterations. The small rooms opposite the main stairs on the second floor were used as the hotel office and interconnected by a series of doorways. Several of the rooms were equipped with closets, some built into the walls but most merely tacked on. Most of the spur hallways leading to the front rooms were locked off by temporary partitions. A semi-permanent wall was put up enclosing the stairway to the third floor and a fire door was installed at its base.

Although most of the work done is not very aesthetically pleasing, it is very important to note that in every case, except where new doorways are concerned, the alterations to the interior were carried out in such a way so as not to damage the existing features. Great pains were taken to avoid damage to moulding and in no place is the wainscoting marred. Even the enclosing wall around the stairway has been installed so that it could be removed without damaging the original work.

Most of the work needed to be done to bring the building back to its original condition is cosmetic. A few rooms do need some replastering work done but peeling paint and wallpaper along with the mess caused by pigeons that until recently inhabited the top two floor are the general cause of the shabby appearance of the interior. Most importantly, a Portland structural engineer has examined the building and pronounced it structurally sound.

The present owner plans to restore the first floor of the exterior to its original condition using the cast iron already in place and replacing the removed cast iron pieces with, possibly, fiberglass pieces cast from molds patterned after the remaining example on the southwest corner of the building. She also plans to utilize and restore the features of the interior insofar as possible in the remodeling of the top two floors into some usable office or living space. In so doing, the intentions of the owner are that the original integrity and character of the structure inside and out are revived and maintained.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art X commerce communications		ng landscape architectur law literature military	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1882	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harlow Block, built in 1882, is significant as the second oldest commercial building remaining in Northwest Portland and the first brick structure erected north of Burnside Street and west of 4th Street. The only structure which is older, situated several blocks to the east, is the Merchant Hotel, built two years earlier. Because the Harlow Block is the oldest remaining building dating from initial expansion of Portland's commercial district away from the waterfront, it is a vitally important link in the historical growth of the city. Moreover, it is a substantial and reasonably well-preserved example of Italianate architecture which, while in need of repair, could be fully utilized in a sensitive adaptive-use rehabilitation. The building is significant also for its association with Captain John Harlow (1829-1883), a native of Maine who built an interesting and successful entrepreneurial career in Portland over 32 years, beginning in 1851...a career which culminated in construction of the Harlow Block.

The building bears the name of Captain John Harlow, who was the original owner. Harlow was born in Bangor, Maine in 1820. He was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren, who settled at Plymouth Colony. His early years were spent working on ships owned by his brother, Thomas. In 1849, Captain Harlow had the misfortune of landing in San Francisco, where his crew immediately jumped ship and headed for the California gold fields. Stranded, he was forced to sell his ship and remain on the West Coast. Two years later, in 1851, he made his way to Portland on board the ship of Zachariah Norton, a well-known seafaring merchant from Maine.

In Portland, Harlow became the successful owner and operator of steamships and a box factory. In 1869, he became the master of the <u>Commodore Perry</u>, the first steamer constructed on the Willamette River strictly for towing purposes. Nine years later, he became co-owner of the vessel. Harlow was also the master of the <u>Shoo Fly</u> beginning in 1874, and became the owner of the <u>Minnehaha</u> that same year. In 1880, he became the master and managing owner of th <u>Rip Van Winkle</u>. Harlow set up the Portland Box Factory in 1874 after his first box factory was burned out the previous year in Portland's "great fire." In this endeavor he became partners with John Gates, an inventor, steamboat designer, and, later, Mayor of Portland.

Harlow was married three times. His first two wives died, leaving him quite a number of children to care for. He married for the third time while on a visit back to his native Bangor, Maine in 1866. He and his new wife, the former Celeste Barker, returned to Portland where, in 1869, they bought some land in Couch's Addition to the City. Soon thereafter, they built a house on the property where they resided until work was begun on the Harlow Block early in 1882.

Besides their house in Portland, John and Celeste Harlow built a country home at the mouth of the Sandy River, where they owned a large tract of land. It was here, in 1872, that Harlow laid out and named the town of Troutdale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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10. Ge	ographical Data	<u> </u>	VOULTION 110	
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C		D	J	
	ary description and justification 7, Block 49 of Couch's Ad		and, Multnomah	County, Oregon.
List all states	and counties for properties ov	erlapping state or	county boundarie	s
state	code	county		code
state	code	county		code
11. Fo	rm Prepared By			
name/title	Jonathan C. Horn			
organization			date March	n 31, 1980
street & number	0120 SW Orchid Court		telephone 503/2	245-8234
city or town	Portland		state Orego	on 97219
12. Sta	ate Historic Pres	servation	Officer (Certification
The evaluated s	ignificance of this property within th national state	e state is:		
665), I hereby no according to the	ed State Historic Preservation Office ominate this property for inclusion in criteria and procedures set forth by reservation Officer signature	n the National Regist	er and certify that it I	has been evaluated
Damit		XV-V-VVVV CX -00		August 4, 1980
For HCRS use I hereby co		n the National Regist	date er date	10/24/80
Attest: ().	no Bubia		date	10/21/80

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Harlow Block

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In 1880, John Harlow received shipment of 21 carp from California. These were the first carp to be brought to Oregon and were expected to be an important new food source. Harlow released the fish into his pond at Troutdale, where they spawned an estimated 7,000 fingerlings. Of these, 3,000 escaped through a break in the pond's dam into the Sandy River and are undoubtedly the progenitors of that species of fish throughout the Columbia River drainage system. The remainer were sold all over the state.

In July of 1882, the <u>Oregonian</u> reported that Captain John Harlow had begun construction of a new brick building on the site of his former residence in Portland. By the time it was completed, he had spent \$26,000 in erecting what turned out to be his last business endeavor. In deciding to put up the three-story hotel building with shop spaces on the ground floor, Harlow showed a great deal of foresight. Foremost in his mind was undoubtedly the much-discussed plan for constructing a trans-continental railroad terminal only three blocks away. He realized that when the train station was completed, there would be an influx of people and trade in the immediate area and a demand for a convenient lodging. He also saw that, though his building would be on the outskirts of town, Portland's commercial district would rapidly expand in the direction of his place of business.

Unfortunately, after opening the hotel and arranging for several of the spaces to be filled, early in 1883 Harlow became ill. In the belief that a trip might improve his health, he went on the Oregon Pioneer Association's excursion to St. Paul, Minnesota which left on October 2, 1883. His condition worsened in travel, and he was forced to return to his estate in Troutdale, where he died on November 23, 1883.

After Harlow's death, his widow retained ownership of the hotel, though Harlow's will was contested by the children of his previous marriages. Celeste Harlow did fairly well to keep the shop spaces occupied at first. In 1883, Michael Burelbach and John Gross opened a saloon in the two shop spaces closest to the corner which they named the "East Park Exchange." For the next 12 years, Gross had a hand in the operation of the saloon which was a combination bar and billiard parlor. A barber shop was located in the next space down, just to the right of the hotel entrance. On the other side of the entrance was the hotel office. In the remaining space, a restaurant occasionally made its oppearance. When not actually a restaurant, the area may have been used as a dining room for guests. For a few years, soon after the building was opened, Almon K. Ives, a doctor, kept an office in one of the spaces. When space became available in the early 1890s, a grocery store was opened.

The hotel, known as the "Grand Central," though not of the same caliber as the luxury hotels found elsewhere in Portland, was nicely furnished and enjoyed the period of prosperity which had been anticipated by John Harlow at the inception. By the mid-1890s, however, competition was becoming quite stiff. Several new hotels and business buildings had sprung up close by. Their newness made them more attractive to

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Harlow Block

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AUG * 8 1980

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

shop-keepers and tourists alike. Competition, along with the Panic of 1893, proceeded to throw the Harlow Block onto hard times. The hotel changed its name to the "Harlow" and began catering to working people as a lodging house renting out furnished rooms. Most of the shop space ramained vacant until after the turn of the century.

Late in 1902 Celeste Harlow sold out. The new owners were Peter Moor, formerly the proprietor of the Depot Hotel one block east on Glisan Street, and two brothers, Henry and Andrew Fuhrer. Hoping to capitalize on the influx of visitors to Portland for the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition and Oriental Fair projected for 1905, they spruced up the place and changed the name to the "Park Hotel." Contemporary advertisements used the subtitle: "Deutsches Gasthaus." Moor, the majority owner, acted as proprietor. In 1902, the saloon re-opened and was soon after named the "Park Saloon." The next year there was again a barber in residence. The end of the Lewis and Clark Exposition marked the end of the last flurry of activity at the Harlow Block for quite some time. The barber left in 1905 and the saloon hung on unti 1912.

In 1907, the Harlow Block sold again, this time to James Muckle. Muckle was born in 1836 to English immigrants in Toronto, Canada. He worked in logging camps in Ohio and Wisconsin before making his way to Camas, Washington, in 1870. In 1874, he moved to St. Helens, Oregon, where he and his brother, Charles, bought a mill from William S. Ladd of Portland. They then went about logging the banks of the Coweeman River in Cowlitz County, Washington, and several tracts of land around St. Helens. In 1900, they sold their lumbering operation and James moved to Portland. There he erected several rental houses and invested in real estate. In all, he owned 24 houses, two factory buildings and the Park Hotel.

Muckle seemed to be interested primarily in getting the hotel running profitably. To do so, he hired an experienced hotel man, Henry Villiger, in 1910. Villiger, a Swiss immigrant, operated the hotel for nearly ten years. He is best known as the owner/operator of the Battle Axe Inn at Government Camp on Mt. Hood, which he bought in 1929. The Battle Axe Inn was one of the first resort hotels to cater to visitors on the south side of the mountain. It served well in this capacity until it was destroyed by fire in 1950.

With the exception of the saloon, all the shop spaces were vacant by the middle of the first decade of the century. The main reason for this was probably that the building was not adequately outfitted for business. Soon after acquiring the hotel, Muckle began making some improvements. The most noticeable was the addition of a large coal-burning furnace in the basement to supply heat to the new radiators which replaced the original wood stoves in each room and shop space. The greatest deficiency in the building was that it was not equipped with electricity. It was not until after the First World War that the entire structure was wired.

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Harlow Block

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DATE ENTERED.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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By 1921, it appears that the building--thereafter known as the Muckle Building--was ready to accommodate businesses again. In that year, a soda fountain was installed in the easternmost space and a restaurant occupied the area next door where the hotel office had always been. The office was moved into several small rooms at the top of the stairs on the second floor. The proprietor was the first in a long series of Japanese men who, exept during World War II, ran the hotel until its closure in 1972. In 1923, a Japanese hand laundry moved into the building as did a plumbing operation. Four years The soda fountain and later, the corner space was filled by another restaurant. plumbing operations lasted only a few years. The soda fountain was replaced by a small manufacturing firm until 1931, while the other space remained vacant or possibily was occupied as additional seating for the series of restaurants on the corner. After being filled by several cafes, including the Post Office Quick Lunch, the old hotel office space was finally vacated in 1934. During this time, the hotel was again run as a lower-income lodging house for local people, most probably Japanese, rather than as accommodations for tourists.

After James Murkle died in 1926, at the age of 90, the building was placed in trust and managed by the US National Bank. The removal of the Japanese on the Pacific Coast to internment camps, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, struck the Park Hotel very hard. The operators of the laundry, the hotel proprietor and many of the hotel's residents were forced to leave. For several years, the entire building was empty. It was at this time that the bank decided it would be a good time to renovate the exterior of the first floor. In so doing, they removed most of the nonstructural cast iron and, most likely, scrapped it for the war effort. After World War II, Japanese returned to the hotel as proprietors and residents and the building was again filled with businesses. These included the Park Cleaners, in the space previously occupied by the Japanese laundry, who remained until the building was vacated for the last time in 1972. Another long-time tenant was Alcoholics Anonymous, who used space first for an office and later as a meeting center. Other associations, as well as many small businesses, kept offices there for varying periods of time. The last restaurant in the building, the Galley Cafe, closed in 1951.

In 1972, Dean Munkle, the grandson of James, took over the management of the building. He closed the hotel which, after World War II, had gradually become more and more run-down to the point of almost being a flophouse. He also had all the shop spaces emptied in contemplation of some renovation plans. The only work undertaken by him, however, was to remodel the two spaces on the corner as an office for his marketing company. The building has been sold twice since them.

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Harlow Block

CONTINUATION SHEET

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At the Oregon Historical Society:

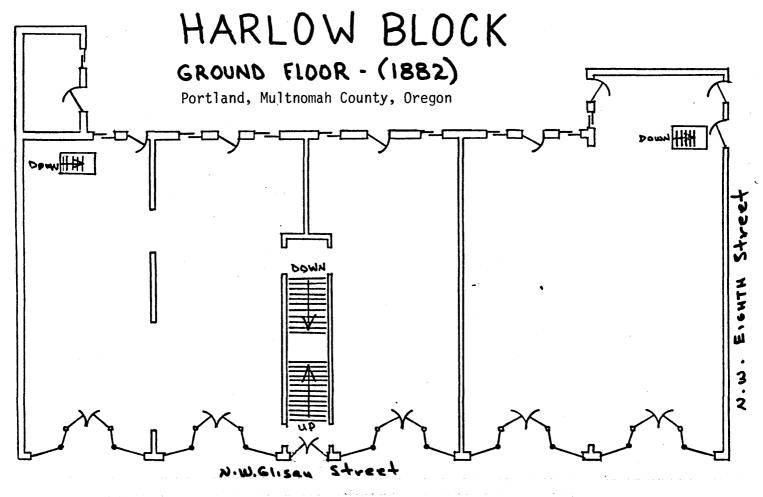
Portland City Directories 1873-1973.

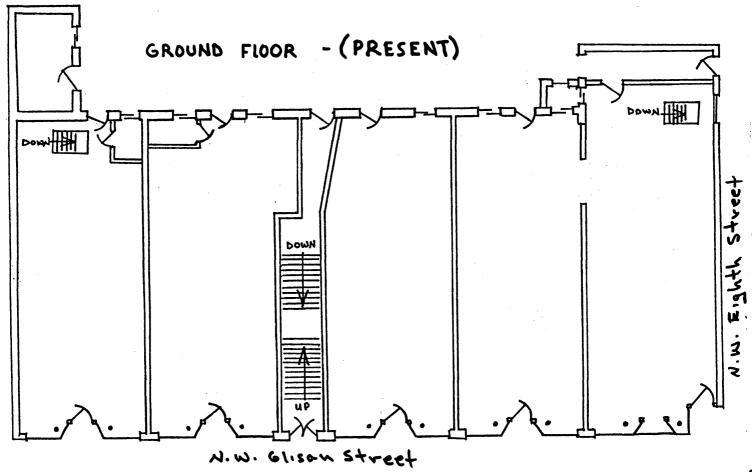
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1879, 1879 corrected to 1885, 1889 corrected to 1895,

1889 corrected to 1898, 1901 corrected to 1908, 1908

corrected to 1932.

Vertical file and scrapbooks.





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