

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oregon</b>
COUNTY: <b>Multnomah</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>OCT 18 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Bishop's House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**219-223 SW Stark Street** **Representative Edith Green**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Portland** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Oregon Third Congressional District**

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41** COUNTY: **Multnomah** CODE: **051**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Estate of Jack E. Finkbeiner, c/o B & D Development Company**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**720 SW Washington Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Portland 97205** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Multnomah County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Portland** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings**

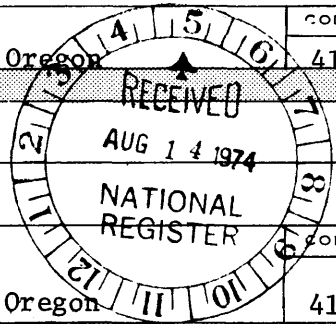
DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Parks and Recreation Section**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Oregon State Highway Division**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Oregon**

COUNTY: **Multnomah**

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bishop's House, originally office and meeting space, was built in 1879 in downtown Portland at 219-223 SW Stark Street. The Victorian Gothic design is attributed to P. Heurn of San Francisco, who designed the neighboring Catholic cathedral, no longer extant. It is 24 feet wide and three storeys high, appearing taller due to the high ceilings of each floor and the emphasized verticality of the pointed arch windows and pediment. The side walls are brick and the south facing front is brick, stucco, and cast iron. The dominant element of the facade is the large third-storey pedimented window with tracery in the flamboyant style, behind which was situated a large meeting room. This elegant space is approximately 24 feet square with an ornate 17-foot ceiling, and has large chimney pieces on the east and west walls. A musician's gallery formerly hung high on the east wall.

The building was restored in 1965, at which time the fire escape, a later addition, was removed from the facade. The store front was recessed and a pier, the second from the west, was added at ground level. Details match those of the original piers. The original cross and finials were replaced on the central window hood at the second storey level. The roof over the rear courtyard, which had been covered during the prohibition years, was removed, and holes in the decorative plaster filled. The building is painted a dull yellow with details subtly accented in several shades of yellow and a few strongly accented in blue-green. The Bishop's House is structurally sound and its continued use appears assured.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 18 1974

(Number all entries)

BISHOP'S HOUSE (CONTINUED)

2. Location

The Bishop's House is located in the SW 1/4 Sec. 34, T. 1N., R. 1E., of the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon, in the original plat of Portland, Block 17, eastern ends of lots 5 and 6.



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PORTLAND SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

7. Description (continued)

commercial use. The exterior remains intact and is unaltered. The building has unusual rounded brick detail in the window arches and finely crafted wrought iron work in the tie bars, the corner sign, and the elaborate front fire escape.

Across the street stands the Bickel Building constructed in 1892. This two story masonry Queen Anne structure at first housed the Portland City Council and general offices. Today the exterior remains intact, including the handsome dark red brick with white detail. The interior has been altered to house both a warehouse, store and restaurant.

The Chown Building located in the next block to the south was constructed in 1889. It stands well preserved between the three story Livery Building and a compatible twentieth century building. This two story masonry building is typically Italianate in composition. It is detailed in the Queen Anne style, has slender cast iron columns, and features flowing arches in the manner of the Richardsonian Romanesque. Although an unusual combination of styles, this building contributes handsomely to the nineteenth century flavor of the Skidmore District.

The large four story Haseltine Building built in 1893 is located across Second Street from the Chown Building. Constructed for a wholesale business, this pile is a good example of Richardsonian Romanesque and remains intact today except for a lost cornice.

The "Old Spaghetti Factory" is a modern name for the Livery Building which neighbors the Chown Building to the south. Built in 1886 the three story Italianate structure has been converted to restaurant use. Although well preserved, the building lost the Livery character in the 1969 interior alteration and exterior painting. This Livery was at one time the largest in Portland.

The Oregon Marine Building is located on the SE corner of the next block to the south. It was designed by Warren H. Williams who also designed Villard Hall on the University of Oregon campus, and the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Portland (now known as The Old Church). Both are listed on the National Register.

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PORTLAND SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

7. Description (continued)

This three story masonry structure is a good representation of the High Victorian Italianate style which was once common in Portland. It was constructed in 1886 and was designed for mixed commercial use. Today this building stands basically intact and remains in commercial use.

Across the street stands 224 First Avenue, a High Victorian Italianate structure constructed in 1889. The street elevation is two story; cast iron columns support an upper brick wall with finely plastered moulding. Although the street level is slightly altered, the building stands basically intact.

The Delschneider building is located around the corner to the east. This two story brick building was constructed in 1859, and had a third floor added about 1877. The detail of the third floor facade is similar to the second except that the bracketed window cornices are made of tin rather than wood and the brackets and mouldings are a slightly different shape. Today the Italianate facade appears as it did after the completion of the third story and adds greatly to the cross section of architectural style in the district.

The Hallock and McMillan Building which abuts the Delschneider on the east side, is the oldest extant brick structure in Portland. It was constructed in 1857. Although greatly altered and completely covered by remodeling, the basic structure remains and there are sufficient early drawings and photographs available to provide the basis for an accurate restoration.

Abutting the Hallock and McMillan Building to the north is 233 SW Front. Built as a drug store in 1883-4, the two story masonry structure incorporates cast iron, brick, plaster, wood, and glass to form a fine example of High Victorian Italianate. The building today is well maintained, complete and intact.

The Smith Blocks which dominate the next block to the north were constructed in 1872 as rental merchantile buildings. These two story brick structures still retain their original second story sash with four lights over four and most of the cast iron arcades that were common in Portland in the 1870s and 80s. Although some wooden cornices are removed and many street level facades are altered, the block stands to remind Portland of the Italianate Architecture that once pervaded the city.

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PORTLAND SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

7. Description (continued)

To the north of Skidmore Fountain stands the Packer Scott Building, built in 1890 and designed by the prominent Portland architects Whidden and Lewis (who later designed Portland's City Hall and other noteworthy buildings in the city). Constructed of brick and rusticated stone, this wholesale warehouse is best described as Richardsonian Romanesque. This building, the last one standing on the block, remains unaltered.

To the north, on the other side of the Burnside Bridge ramp stands the Blagen Block built in 1888. This building is used by Marcus Whiffen in American Architecture Since 1780 to exemplify the High Victorian Italianate style. Although altered on one side at the street level, Blagen Block is otherwise completely intact. The interior is now used as a shop and warehouse.

Also on this block stands two other major historic buildings. A High Victorian Italianate building now owned and operated as a warehouse by Import Plaza abuts Blagen Block to the east. Although once ornately detailed, the building now retains only a fraction of its former facade. The adjacent structure to the south of Blagen Block houses Frank's Tool and Supply. This building's detail could be described as Sullivan-esque although the vertical composition is broken by strong horizontal spandrels. The building is an interesting survivor; it is unaltered and is intact except for cornice and spandrel ornament.

The Merchant's Hotel is the largest High Victorian Italianate example remaining in the district. Located on the north half of the next block to the northwest, the three story hotel was constructed in 1885 and remains reasonably intact although the cornice is gone and the street level elevations are significantly altered. Across the street to the southwest stands the Florence McDonnell Building. This three story masonry building is another good example of High Victorian Italianate. It remains intact with only slight alterations in the street level elevations.

The buildings described above are the structures within the district considered to be primary landmarks by the City of Portland. There are, however, at least seven other 19th century buildings within the district which add to its architectural flavor. In most cases the facades of these buildings have been altered significantly, but many retain their original detail in the second story windows. Nearly all of these buildings are restorable to their original appear-

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PORTLAND SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

7. Description (continued)

ance. The known examples are indicated on the accompanying map.

The district also contains many early twentieth century commercial buildings. At least three of these structures are significant examples of the Commercial style. Nearly all of these later supportive structures are critically important in establishing the character of the district. It is vital to understand that the landmarks of the district were designed to fit an urban environment and are unable to stand alone as monuments and retain their architectural brilliance. The twentieth century buildings that are supportive of the district are indicated on the accompanying map.

Primary landmarks, potential nineteenth century landmarks, and supportive twentieth century structures comprise 53 percent of the district excluding streets. Approximately five percent of the district is occupied by buildings that are intrusions to the district because of the design concepts, the scale, and the materials employed.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

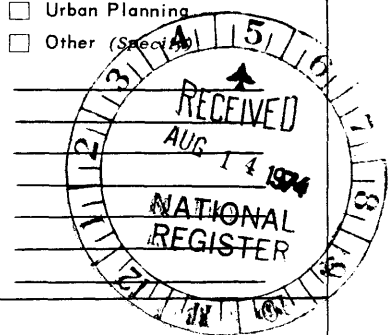
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1879**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The Bishop's House is the finest surviving example of a Victorian Gothic front in Oregon. The building has served various functions throughout the years. Restoration in 1965 revitalized its appearance and character for continued commercial adaptive use.

The Bishop's House was originally adjacent to the Catholic Cathedral, located on the corner of SW Third Avenue and Stark Street. The first Catholic Cathedral in Portland had been located at NW Sixth and Davis, but it was considered too remote from parishioners and the trail through the woods to reach it was often blocked by fallen trees. Consequently, it was decided in 1854 to move the frame structure to four lots at Third and Stark purchased by Archbishop Blanchet from Benjamin Stark. In 1878, the old frame building was razed and a new brick cathedral in the pointed Gothic style with a 200-foot spire and 151-foot frontage on Third Avenue was begun on the same site. In 1879, the Bishop's House was erected on Stark Street just east of the Cathedral. P. Heurn of San Francisco, designer of the Cathedral, was the probable architect of the Bishop's House.

For 30 years, until a new location for the Cathedral was chosen and the Bishop's House was sold, it served as the chancellery office. The iron front building also housed an insurance agent on the first floor and the Young Men's Institute and Catholic Library on the second floor. When the Catholic Sentinel newspaper established an office in the building, the Bishop's House was fully occupied. After the Catholic Church sold the building in the 1890s the ground floor was remodeled into a store front. The neighboring cathedral was razed in the 1890s.

A wide variety of tenants occupied the Bishop's House during the succeeding years. In the 1890s, a Chinese tong used the building for a headquarters. During the prohibition years, the building was used as a speakeasy; the peep holes are evident today. The building had deteriorated and stood half empty of tenants in 1965 when William Roberts purchased the building and began restoration of the interior and exterior. Today it houses the Roberts Investment Company and other businesses.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Grothaus, Moely, "Old Bishop's House Restored," Oregon Journal, July 26, 1965, Sec. II, p. 1.

Ross, M.D., "125 Years of Building," AIA Journal, Vol. 49, No. 6 (June 1968), p. 123.

Vaughan, Thomas, and McMath, George, A Century of Portland Architecture, (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967), pp. 39, 186.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0     '     "	0     '     "		45 ° 31 ' 13 "	122 ° 40 ' 21 "	
NE	0     '     "	0     '     "				
SE	0     '     "	0     '     "				
SW	0     '     "	0     '     "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.14

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Paul B. Hartwig, Park Historian, and D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Section      DATE: August 5, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Highway Division

CITY OR TOWN: Salem      STATE: Oregon 97310      CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name: *Quinn B. Falber*

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: August 7, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Arthur Steiner*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/18/74

ATTEST:  
*Ronald M. Huebner*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10/17/74

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PORTLAND SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

8. Significance (continued)

In 1870, Portland's population approached 10,000, which was over 10 percent of the state's population. During the 1850s and 1860s, the residential sections were developing in Portland with parks (including the Park Blocks, extending from north to south with rows of planted Elm trees) and substantial but not elaborate houses prevailing in the residential areas. The architectural styles of these early neighborhoods were similar to the modest rural styles prevailing in the Willamette Valley during the same period, and most homes included yards and gardens. By the 1870s, however, the affluent residents of Portland began to prefer the more sophisticated styles such as the Italian Villa and French Second Empire style for their homes. The 1870s were important for the commercial architecture of Portland as well.

Within this more sophisticated context, much of the present Skidmore Fountain area was developed. Many blocks of Italianate commercial structures were constructed. In the 1880s and 1890s the area was further developed with High Victorian Italianate and Richardsonian Romanesque structures.

Two landmarks within the district stand out as nationally important examples of tastes and styles of the times. The New Market Theater constructed in 1872 is an important example of Renaissance Revival Architecture. W. W. Piper, Oregon's first professional architect labeled the style a "combination of Corinthian and the modern," but actually it is an example of the North Italian Mode. An arcaded public market with marble stalls and asphaltum flooring comprised the street level. The elegant red plush theater with a 35 foot ceiling filled the second level and most of the third. A small restaurant also occupied the top story.

The Skidmore Fountain was executed by one of the more prominent American sculptors of that day, Olin J. Warner of New York. Contemporaries considered the fountain to be one of the finest in the country. The New York Tribune said that "it is unfortunate that a sculpture of this high quality could not be kept in New York, but the city of Portland is to be congratulated upon the possession of so admirable a work of art." Century magazine said of the fountain, "There is nothing so beautiful in statuary westward from Chicago." Enthusiasm was no less significant among Portland residents. Henry Weinhard, the local brewer; offered to purchase a 3/4 mile hose to pump free beer to the fountain on opening day. The offer was turned down, but this suggestion was

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PORTLAND SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

8. Significance (continued)

was an example of the civic enthusiasm about the fountain. Skidmore Fountain remains on its original site within the historic district. It is no less of a prominent landmark since its erection in 1888.

Portland's commercial development during the 1870s and 1880s coincided with the development and use of architectural cast-iron in America. At one time, Portland enjoyed block after block of rhythmic Italianate facades with cast-iron columns, arches, and decorations. Many of these elegant buildings have been lost, but Portland can still boast of one of the largest collections of cast-iron buildings in the country. Many of these buildings are concentrated within the Skidmore Fountain/Old Town District.

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9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Portland Historical Landmarks Commission, "Memorandum, Proposed Historic Districts: Skidmore/Old Town Historic District, Yamhill Historic District," February 24, 1975.

Ross, Marion D., "Architecture in Oregon 1845-1895," Oregon Historical Quarterly, March, 1956.

Snyder, Eugene E., Early Portland: Stump - Town Triumphant, Portland: 1970.

Snyder, Eugene E., Skidmore's Portland: His Fountain and Its Sculptor, Portland: 1973.

Vaughan, Thomas and McMath, George, A Century of Portland Architecture, Portland: 1967.

Vaughan, Thomas, ed., Space, Style and Structure, Portland: 1974.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 1969.