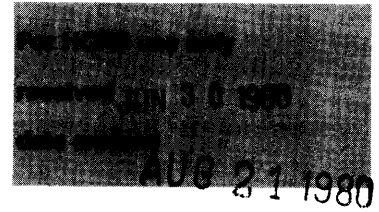


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



**1. Name**

historic Gilbert Building (preferred)

and/or common Taylor Hotel

**2. Location**

street & number 319 S.W. Taylor Street not for publication

city, town Portland vicinity of 3rd congressional district

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: HOTEL

**4. Owner of Property**

name Amato Brothers Enterprises

street & number 2517 S.E. 14th St.

city, town Portland vicinity of state Oregon 97201

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 S.W. 4th Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Portland Historical Landmark status pending resolution  
title of Downtown Development Plan has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Portland Bureau of Planning, 424 S.W. Main Street

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Gilbert Building was originally designed as an office building but was converted to a hotel when the office market dropped in about 1916. The Romanesque Revival building was built in 1893, under the direction of architects Whidden and Lewis, it is assumed. Due to the superb detailing of the exterior, the building is in very good and original condition from the second floor up including the roof. The first floor exterior has not been changed except for the storefront. The main hotel entrance has been covered with stucco, and the original is believed to be intact underneath. The unaltered South entrance provides an indication of the original first floor treatment.

The building is located on the northwest corner of 3rd and Taylor in downtown Portland, Oregon on lot 4, block 51 of Portland Addition county of Multnomah. The site is 100 feet along Taylor and 50 feet along S.W. Third. The building occupies the entire lot in a transitional neighborhood. A large mixed-use four block development is planned which would destroy this building\*. It is within a half block of the Georgia Pacific Corporation Headquarters Building to the west and a number of large new office buildings are within the immediate neighborhood. The basement extends out to the curb line along 3rd and Taylor Streets. The ground floor plan occupies the entire site but floors two, three and four are set back 10 feet along the north property line except the eastern 31 feet to allow for light and ventilation to the upper floors. The stair tower also extends into that ten foot space. An attic is created by large beamed trusses that span north to south at 14 foot centers, except at the east and west ends, which are hipped. The foundation walls are constructed of large stone masonry and brick piers. The exterior wall construction is load bearing light yellow brick. The floor structure is wood joists on wood beams carried on cast iron columns. The floor finish is clear fir planking. The roof is supported on the aforementioned trusses with wood rafters and planking and is either turned metal or copper.

The well-proportioned and balanced south and east elevations are composed of arched recessed openings which originally began at street level. The vertical emphasis continues uninterrupted through the fourth floor and is terminated at the window heads. The basic functional differences between outer and interior walls are emphasized by the treatment of the archivolt leading to the interior wall plane. The use of beveled brick allows the spectator to visualize the depth from any angle. Further evidence of the excellent brick detailing appears in the spandrel panels. A billeted rectangle of headers surrounds a smaller rectangle of headers placed at 45° angles. The windows set into these recessed openings are one-over-one sliding sash in simple wooden frames which rest on sloping terra cotta sills.

The 'lightness' which the recessed openings lend to each elevation is balanced and contained by the heavy, brick-quoined corners and by the projecting, corbeled parapet. The thickness and strength of three feet thick wall is not compromised by the deeply inset single sash windows at each corner of the elevations. The parapet is composed of a corbel table of brick arches over terra cotta supports which rest on a terra cotta ledge. The arches are of different heights and frame a recessed

-----  
\*Plans for the Cadillac-Fairview Project which threatened the Gilbert Building were cancelled recently.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 30 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 21 1980

Gilbert Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

brick blind arcade. A sloping, shallow raking cornice is elaborately modeled in terra cotta. This is topped with a scroll-accented terra cotta coping which is topped by terra cotta acroteria.

An elaborate terra cotta emblem stating the building name - Gilbert - and the year of erection - 1893 - graces the east facade just below the parapet and between the two large arches. There have been no additions, alternations or changes to the exterior except the ground floor storefront since its construction.

The interior lobby appears to be original with the exception of some oak wood trim which has been painted. The elevator has been removed but the iron grille work is intact, as is the encaustic tile floor and marble wainscoting. Of particular interest is the skylighted curving stairway that leads through the entire height of the building. It projects in apsidal form from the northwest corner of the building and is reminiscent of a similar treatment in Burnham and Roots' Rookery Building interior court stairway (1885-88).

Although lack of adequate original documentation makes an accurate assessment of the interior configuration nearly impossible, the significance of the Gilbert Building is undiminished. If the building survives, plans call for the restoration of the original first floor exterior and interior configurations.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1893 **Builder/Architect** Whidden and Lewis (tentatively attributed)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gilbert Building is significant on two counts: one, it presents an excellent example of the combination of decorative and functional brick into a cohesive entity; and two, in its use of architectural vocabulary, it mirrored the development of the contemporary Chicago School of Architecture. Originally designed in 1893 as an office building, the Romanesque Revival-style structure was converted into a hotel in 1916 by Ralph and Issac Jacobs, pioneer brothers who founded and operated the Oregon City Manufacturing Co., and the Oregon City Woolen Mills. It still serves that purpose today.

The era of the well-crafted and detailed brick bearing wall building was short in Portland. Preceded by buildings with cast iron facades and followed by the terra cotta-era steel-frame buildings, few examples remain of the type represented so well by the Gilbert Building. Once the steel frame became prominent brick bearing walls were no longer needed and the massive brick feeling disappeared. It is thought that the building was designed by architects Whidden and Lewis, who were responsible for the design of the Renaissance-Revival Portland City Hall in 1894. Marion Dean Ross, architectural historian and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Art History at the University of Oregon, examined the detailing, comparing it to the Concord Building (1891) by Whidden and Lewis and stated that "it seems very likely that they were responsible for this structure." However, Portland restoration architect George McMath disputes the attribution, stating that the building did not appear in the definitive building list for the firm.

Ralph and Issac Jacobs were Polish immigrants who settled in Oregon City around 1850. Issac arrived first and was operating a general store when Ralph traveled from Poland to San Francisco in 1850. After sailing north to join his brother, Ralph became part owner of the Oregon City Woolen Mills in 1864, serving as vice president and president of the company before moving to Portland in 1873. He operated a clothing business for twenty years and became a director of the Commercial National Bank. The family signified wealth and influence in the early growth years in Portland. The family surname Jacobs was changed to its Yiddish or German Hebrew translation, Gilbert, by Isaac Jacob's sons along with all the family holdings.

The sophistication and progressive quality of the Gilbert Buildings' design reflects the self-confidence of this family. Professor Ross comments:

The building is architecturally very interesting. It seems almost ten years ahead of its date. In general it may be related to development of the Chicago School of architecture but it is by no means derivative. In fact, it is one of the more original designs to be built in Portland in the 1890's. I well remember when I first saw the building some thirty

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Men of Oregon, 920 M 521  
 Gaston, Joseph, Hotels, 0979,51,G25,V-1. p.238  
 Gaston, Joseph, The Centennial History of Oregon  
 Scrapbooks on Isaac Jacobs, Sb 308 pp. 35, 37, 41-43  
 OHS Biographical Card File, Vertical File  
 Oregon Historical Quarterly, V. 32, pp.250-253, 259, 260.

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one (50x100 feet)

Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon-Washington

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	0	5	2	5	3	7	0	5	0	4	0	2	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 4, Block 51, Portland Addition, City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.  
 The property is located in NW 1/4 Sec. 3, T.1 S., R. 1 E., Willamette Meridian.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David W. Dunahugh

organization Hanson Dunahugh Vaivoda Architects AIA (HDA) date 11-13-79

street & number 113 S.W. Front Avenue telephone 503.224-0110

city or town Portland state Oregon 97204

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

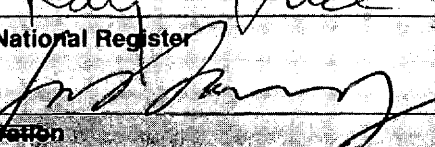
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date June 16, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	
<u>W. Ray Juce</u>	date <u>8/21/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: 	date <u>8/18/80</u>
Chief Registration	

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 30 1980

DATE ENTERED AUG 21 1980

Gilbert Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

years ago that I could hardly believe that it was dated in the 1890s. I thought a date after 1900 more likely. This structure is certainly an advanced work for its period.

The current owners, the Amato Brothers Enterprises, have owned the building along with their father before them for fifty-five years. It is with their support that the building will soon be restored to its original character including the ground floor storefront.