

PH 0663298

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 15 1978
DATE ENTERED MAR 14 1978

**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

\*\*

Bank of California Building (Old)

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

330 SW Sixth Avenue

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Oregon

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051 ✓

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bankside Investors

STREET & NUMBER

330 SW Sixth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97204

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1021 SW Fourth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

Oregon

STATE

97204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Portland Historical Landmark

DATE

May 6, 1970

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Portland Historical Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN

Portland

Oregon

STATE

97204

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bank of California is a three-story structure designed by the firm of A.E. Doyle, Architect, and built in 1924. It is located on a 50x100' site at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Stark Street in the downtown commercial area of Portland.

The building is one of the distinctive structures in the downtown area due to its simple, yet elegant facade designed in the style of Italian Renaissance palazzos.

Since the Bank of California's move to a new building in 1970, the structure has been occupied by The Security Bank of Oregon and, subsequently, the Oregon Bank. In 1977, ownership passed to Bankside Investors for occupancy by Durham and Bates, Inc., an insurance firm of pioneer beginnings in the Portland area. Since its construction, the exterior of the building has remained substantially unaltered, the only significant change being the addition of a drive-up banking window and canopy at the north end of the building. This was made possible by the razing of the six-story Guaranty Building which occupied the property immediately to the north until the mid- or late 1950s. At this time, the newly exposed north wall was plastered in a rusticated stonework pattern simulating the west and south building elevations.

The imposing west facade of the bank building has five large arched windows which extend from the ground floor to a height of 28 feet above the sidewalk in recognition of the two-story banking lobby inside. Centered above these arches are smaller rectangular windows which serve the second floor office space almost 35 feet above the ground floor. Window frames are of painted steel. Above the second floor windows is a marble frieze and bracketed cornice which supports the Cordova Terracotta tile hipped roof typical of the Pallazzo style. The imposing rusticated "stonework" of the exterior walls and cornice are, in reality, cast terra-cotta executed with excellent craftsmanship. Only the marble base course and frieze are genuine.

The entrance to the building is through a handsome bronze portico set in the middle arched window opening at the west facade, and boasts a pair of bronze gates which can be slid in front of the double entrance doors. The original bronze-framed doors were removed a number of years ago and replaced by automatic tempered glass doors.

Recent modifications to the building, made just prior to occupancy by the present tenant, include the removal of the added drive-up window and canopy at the north wall, and the filling in of a door which was cut through to the parking lot.

A new entrance was installed in the northern-most window of the west wall to provide access to a new lobby serving the upper floor tenant spaces. Presently, the Tri-Metropolitan Transit District has contracted for the widening and brick-paving of the sidewalk on Sixth Avenue. The brick texture and color, together with soon-to-be-installed trees and street furniture should further enhance the handsome building.

The structural framework of the building comprises steel H-column beams and girders encased in concrete. Exterior party walls are reinforced concrete, and the two street walls have brick infill backup for the exterior terra-cotta and marble facing. Floor and roof slabs are reinforced concrete. Curiously, the basement floor slab is more than two feet thick and the original basement bank vaults--of which there are three--had concrete walls 18" and 28" thick. The basement level, in addition to housing the vaults, provided space for a mechanical equipment room, service facilities, storage, toilet and locker rooms, a recreation room, numerous coupon booths, a safe deposit lobby, and a small trust department. With the exception of the vaults and mechanical rooms, much of the basement has been remodeled through the years. The alterations completed recently included relocating toilet facilities, converting service spaces to an employee lunch room, and remodeling the vaults for use as office space. This required the removal of entire concrete wall sections in

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order to open the vaults to adjoining spaces.

The building's main floor, originally the banking lobby, tellers' cages, and office platform, was designed as a grand two-story room with a handsome ornate coffered beam ceiling. The east wall has blind arches which echo the window forms of the west wall and, as with other Renaissance forms, are carried out in fine detail. As on the exterior, the interior finishes demonstrate the skill which had developed in the fabrication of imitation materials at the time of construction. Interior surfaces are almost entirely cast materials--an integrally colored plaster, formed to look like travertine marble. Only the Escollette marble vestibule, marble floor of the banking lobby, and the tellers' counters, which have been removed, are of genuine materials. The floor incorporates three kinds of marble--Hungarian Red, Taverné Le Pink Tennessee, and Jaune Nile. At some subsequent time, the colored "travertine" plaster was painted a rather yellowish color. During the recent remodeling, it was repainted to a beige tint more akin to the original color.

In adapting the former banking room for use as office space, the original 16' wide mezzanine along the north wall was extended south against the east wall to the south wall. An additional free-standing stair was added to connect the new mezzanine to the main floor. Architects for the renovation--Fletcher, Finch, Far and Associates--designed all partitions, railings, and other added forms in a contemporary style in order to strongly contrast with the original building forms. This was further carried out by the selection of contrasting colors for the new design elements, with no attempt being made to copy the renaissance colors and forms of the original design.

As previously mentioned, a new entrance was installed to provide access to the elevator lobby serving the upper floor tenant spaces. This lobby was formed by partitioning off a portion of the space under the mezzanine at the north end of the banking room.

The second and third floors, previously used as administrative offices and work spaces for the bank, will soon be available as rental offices. The second floor boasts a 13' high ceiling--higher than is offered by most modern tenant spaces being built today. Aside from this, the space is not unusual. It is planned to update this floor with the installation of air conditioning units above a new acoustical ceiling, carpeting, lighting and partitioning to suit tenant requirements.

The third floor, having a usable area somewhat smaller than the second floor, is housed beneath the hipped, tile roof. This provides a low plate height along the west and south walls and sloped ceilings which extend up to the east-facing windows and clerestory, giving a unique garrett-like appearance to the space. This floor was originally used as a lounge, library, and recreation space for the bank's employees.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1924      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      A.E. Doyle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bank of California Building is one of the most elegant buildings in the Metropolitan area of Portland, and one of the last Portland examples built in the Beaux Arts academic tradition. Designed in 1924, it is a fine rendition of Italian Renaissance Palace style which dominated the taste of the 1920s. It contrasts markedly with the US National Bank directly across Sixth Avenue, which was also one of A.E. Doyle's designs. The first half of the US Bank, done in the Classical Temple (Roman Corinthian) Style, was completed in 1917, and six years later expanded west to Broadway with a matching portion.

The Bank of California was established in Portland in 1882 as a branch of The London and San Francisco Bank, and was founded primarily to serve the Northwest grain industry. In 1905 it was taken over by the Bank of California which opened in San Francisco 41 years earlier, and the Portland branch received its National Charter in 1912, declaring "\$17,000,000 in capital, surplus, & undivided profits." This action distinguished the Bank of California as the only one in the United States to operate banks in states other than the one in which it is incorporated, a circumstance made possible by a special act of Congress in 1910.

The London and San Francisco Bank opened in 1881 in the Ainsworth Block at Oak and SW Third Avenue, under the direction of William Macintosh. In March of 1884, it was moved to its own building at 48 SW First Avenue. Nearly ten years later, it moved again to the Chamber of Commerce Building at Third and Stark, when Portland boasted a population of 40,000 people and 25 banks.

Architect Doyle was born in 1877 in Santa Cruz, California, and moved to Portland in the late 1870s where he received his early education in the public schools. He worked twelve years in the Portland architectural firm of Whidden & Lewis, who dominated the Portland architectural scene during the years 1890-1910. He then took special design courses at Columbia University while working in the office of Henry Bacon in New York. On his return, he opened a practice under his own name, and briefly associated with K.E. Patterson, a partnership dissolved in 1914.

Doyle designed many of the significant buildings in Portland, including the already mentioned US National Bank, Morgan Building, Public Service Building, Meier and Frank, Terminal Sales Building, and others, almost all of which are still standing.

The Pacific Building, designed by Doyle two years after the Bank of California Building, was also done in Renaissance Palatial Style, and has a "Pallazzo" cornice which is identical to that of the bank. However, a ten-story Pacific Building, being a larger structure, has a more repetitive facade.

The Public Service Building, completed after his death in 1928, was Doyle's last major commission and was also done in the Italian Renaissance Style.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Vaughan, Thomas and McMath, George. A Century of Portland Architecture (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967) p. 149.
- Vaughan, Thomas, Ed. Space, Style and Structure, Building in Northwest America (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974).
- Oregon Journal, May 30, 1924, p. 13

(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50x100 feet

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	0	5	2	5	3	1	0	5	0	4	0	7	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

W 50 feet, Lot 5 and W. 50 feet, Lot 6, Block 82, Portland Addition.

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

H. Curtis Finch

ORGANIZATION

Fletcher/Finch/Farr & Associates

DATE

December 5, 1977

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. Falbot*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 9, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Shirley Johnson*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3.14.78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 3.16.78

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Both of these office structures which contain elements of the Bank of California Building are handsome buildings, but quite different from the smaller bank building which offers the viewer an opportunity to perceive and enjoy its design concept and fine proportions.

A.E. Doyle was a singularly strong force in the shaping of Portland's downtown area in the early 1900s. His firm and the earlier Whidden & Lewis firm are generally recognized as the "grandfathers" of Portland architecture who had great influence on later generations of architects.

The Bank of California Building is truly a unique structure in the Portland cityscape, and is significant to the architectural evolution of the community.

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Oregon Journal, July 5, 1939, p. 6.

Oregon Historical Society, Library file.