

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **JUL 13 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Whitney and Gray Building and Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant

and/or common Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant

2. Location

street & number 401-409 SW 12th Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of Third 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name William P. McCormick

street & number 2021 SW Main

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of Oregon state Oregon 97205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 319 SW 4th Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<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			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Introduction

The Whitney and Gray Building of 1910 and its rear addition of 1919 occupy the southwest corner of Twelfth Avenue and Stark Street in downtown Portland. Today this building is commonly called "Jake's Building" after Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant, a designated Portland Historical Landmark. The building was designed by distinguished Pacific Northwest architect, William C. Knighton of the firm of Knighton & Root. The structure, besides its social significance as related to Jake's, represents a distinct class of Commercial style structures designed by architects in Portland shortly after the turn of the century.

Setting

The Whitney and Gray Building was constructed during Portland's construction boom years of 1910-1911. In 1910, Portland showed an increase "in the aggregate in building operations" of 83% over the previous year. This increase ranked Portland second only to Detroit nationally. During this period, many three- and four-story commercial structures were constructed in this area of Portland. Generally, the street level space was used commercially and the upper floors for hotel purposes. Over the years, while some of these structures in the area have given way to the construction of I-405 or surface parking, there is still a substantial concentration of these buildings still in use. At the time of construction, the Jake's Building was described as "one of the most substantial and attractive of this class... built on or near Washington Street." Jake's continues as the focal point of this area of Portland, which is still a hotel district.

Structure and Exterior Description

The Whitney and Gray Building containing Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant is a four-story unreinforced masonry structure with highly stylized ornament of galvanized iron.

Constructed on a 50'x100' lot, the building has major entrances located at the southeast corner of the structure for the hotel and the northeast corner for the restaurant. Secondary exits and entrances are located on the north facade. In 1919, a 20'x100' building located on the lot adjacent to the west, known as the Butterfield, was constructed. The Butterfield addition matched and continued the facade of the Whitney and Gray Building, including a joined metal cornice and brick parapet wall. The Butterfield structure remained in various commercial uses until purchased by the current owner, who has incorporated its use with that of the restaurant and residential space. Some office space has also been incorporated.

Storefronts

Except for the main entrances to the structure, the storefronts are composed of a continuous series of plate glass windows and openings which allow a considerable amount of light into the building. This treatment of the streetfront level also gives a very light base to the much heavier classically ornamented upper levels.

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Never constructed as shown in the original plans, later alterations to the 1910 storefronts include:

1. The replacement of molding from the plate glass windows as windows were changed over the years.
2. The application of a stuccoed storefront on the north facade, which is presently being restored to its original configuration.
3. The boarding up of windows on the east facade to accommodate interior changes.
4. The boarding over of various light transoms and wood base panels presumed to be intact.

The southeast or hotel entrance is comprised of a pair of glass paneled wood doors with sidelights and transoms. Presently, this entrance is in poor condition. The galvanized iron canopy covering this opening has been removed.

The northeast or ground floor entrance to Jake's features a diagonal entry with green hexagonal ceramic floor tiles, original to the structure and evident at all entrances and certain public spaces. The bar of the restaurant is entered at this point through the original glass paneled wood doors flanked by sidelights with a stained-glass transom.

Alterations to this portion of the structure include the removal of architectural pendant ornamentation to accommodate a modern awning at the corner of the building. The corner column has also been covered in wood.

Jake's Sign

The most prominent feature at the storefront level of the north facade is Jake's neon sign, which protrudes in a canopy over the dining room entrance and which was erected on December 20, 1927, by the Ramsay Sign Company. It is the oldest remaining sign of its type in Portland and is representative of the age of neon which began in the late 1920s. The sign varies in width (N-S) from 16.5' where it attaches to the building to 7'8" at the north end. The sign is 1' deep. The distance from the back to front of the basic sign is 9'6". The words "Jake's Famous Crawfish" appear on the east and west sides of the sign. "Jake's" letters are 7-1/2" high in green neon, with the other letters in red. At the north end of the sign is a curlicue protruding 5'4" up from the base of the sign terminating in a circular piece 2'4" in diameter. This piece is surrounded by white neon. The underside of the sign contains dark red and white neon strips. It appears from the records of Oregon Sign Company that there was originally a neon sign over the bar entrance with the words "Jakes for Steaks" with the words "Seafood, Steaks, Famous Coast to Coast" wrapping around the building.

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East Facade

The ground floor of the Whitney/Gray is separated from the upper floors by a simple galvanized belt cornice. Like several other structures within the vicinity, the building is clad in a cream-colored brick from the Pacific Face Brick Company, in very good condition with little alteration.

The east facade of the upper floors is divided into three bays in an A-B-A pattern, each divided by brick columns which extend just above the lower sash of the fourth story window. Each column is topped with galvanized ornamental cap.

The north and south bays (or A bays) are comprised of six pairs of six-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows with brick sills. The second and third story window pairs are divided by a brick column topped with a galvanized ornamental cap, a distinctive ornamentation found on most of Knighton's work in the City of Portland. The fourth story windows are divided by a decorative diamond shape of bricks, which the original plans show as having had inserts of green decorative tiles.

The centray bay (or B bay) consists of three six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows with brick sills one on each floor. These windows are smaller than the windows of the other bays. The north facade is divided into four bays in an A-B-A-C pattern from east to west. These bays incorporate the same detail as the east bay, but are comprised somewhat differently.

The first and third (or A bays) of the north facade consist of six pairs of six-over, double-hung windows, separated by three six-over-six, double-hung windows like the B bay of the east facade.

The second or B bay is comprised of nine sets of double-hung, wood sash windows. The C bay, or Butterfield addition, consists of six pairs of six-over, double-hung sash windows. Bays 2 and 4 have exterior iron fire escapes.

The entire building is capped with a simple galvanized cornice supported by ornate galvanized iron brackets.

Constructed at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000, the original elevations, which are attached, show the building to be more ornately decorated than actually constructed. The modifications probably stem from financial considerations, since the ownership changed during the development process. This is indicated by an article in the Oregon Journal on April 24, 1910, announcing that Phil Gervurtz commissioned J.W. Whitney to develop a hotel on the present site. It is unclear when, but Mr. Gervurtz evidently sold his interest in the structure to C.A. Gray at some early point. The structure eventually was named the Whitney/Gray Building. Messrs. Whitney and Gray are listed as "Capitalists" in the city directory, a common term for property developers at the time. Messrs. Whitney and Gray in turn sold the building in 1913 to the Burnside Company, F.H. Ransom, President. A detailed chronology of ownership is attached to this report.

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Hotel Interior

The most prominent feature of the hotel portion of the structure is the hotel lobby, which continues the ornate detailing of the exterior of the building. Though reduced in size in an earlier remodeling, the remaining lobby will be restored.

As a part of the total rehabilitation package, the upper floors will provide twenty new housing units. Prior to the current ownership, the upper floors were operated by a series of non-owner managers, and the entire area had become badly deteriorated. Code violations abounded. The current owners closed down the hotel for health and sanitary reasons. Responding to a policy of the City of Portland to encourage new housing units in that district, the owners, with the assistance of the Portland Development Commission through the HCD Block Grant Program, are rehabilitating the upper floors for moderate income housing. To meet the requirements of the City, the upper floors were totally demolished, and new heating, electrical, plumbing, and elevator systems are being provided.

Rehabilitation Plans

In addition to the housing package being provided on the building interior, exterior renovation work will include:

1. Painting the exterior.
2. Replacement of missing period ornamentation.
3. Restoration of paneling below retail storefront windows.
4. Restoration of Jake's sign.
5. Repair of the original entrance floor tiles.
6. Removal of nonconforming paint from the brick and repainting the crack above the hotel entrance.
7. Restoration of upper story and storefront windows.
8. Removal of old angles, bars, bolts, oil vents, alarms, and remnants of old signs.

Restaurant Layout and Usage

The restaurant currently consists of five rooms which are described below.

Front Bar (41'x37')

The present front bar was used as a bar and restaurant area up until Prohibition, when

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it was used only as a soda fountain and restaurant. The area currently contains bar and seating areas with a kitchen and salad preparation area behind. Originally, the kitchen was in the basement and a dumbwaiter brought food up from that level. The area where the salad bar currently exists formerly housed the pantry and oyster bar. The area where the kitchen currently exists formerly contained a private dining area. The dumbwaiter operated manually on a long pulley, the tray hooking at the top. This arrangement occasionally caused problems when the tray was heavily laden with orders, falling with a heavy crash. The dumbwaiter was electrified in 1949. Walls were originally papered but were painted over many times. No original wallpaper remains. The original flooring was cork.

Dining Room No. 1 (16'x42')

This room is connected to the front bar by a wood-trimmed archway and consists of booth-style seating.

Dining Room No. 2 (16'x44')

This room is connected to dining room No. 1 by two wood archways.

Dining Room No. 3 (20.5'x47')

This room now contains booths and tables. From the end of Prohibition (1933) to the mid-1950s, this room was operated as a key club or a bottle club in which patrons could bring a bottle or keep bottles in storage for personal use. Bartenders would pour drinks for a certain fee per glass. Many Portland businesses kept a full locker of liquor for serving clients and friends. After the passage of the Distilled Liquor Control Act (1953), the area was used as a beer bar until it was converted to a dining area in 1971. The old back bar had a neon-lit ceiling with two large cerise loops of neon curlicuing towards the front of the bar. The bar and wall behind may also have been lit with neon. Furnishings were the typical metal and formica of the time. The bar was formica-surfaced.

Dining Room No. 4 and Back Bar

This room currently contains an additional dining area and back bar which were not part of the original restaurant. However, the room has been decorated by the current owners in a manner consistent with the style and furnishings of the rest of the establishment.

Historic Elements of the Restaurant

Furnishings

Within this section is described those restaurant furnishings which are historically significant. The term "original" is used to denote elements which date from the time of Jake Frieman. In some cases, items date from an earlier period and these are so designated. The elements will be described individually or as they relate to a particular dining area.

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1. Stained Glass Transom -- Contains restaurant address "401" -- original.
2. Front Bar Doors -- Original doors renovated by current owners, copper appointments added.
3. Front Bar -- 37' long, 3'10" high, 2' deep mahogany bar built by the Brunswick Company, maker of bowling alleys, for Mueller and Meier, possibly pre-1900; a return piece (1'10") was added at the east end, and a small piece was added at the west end salad preparation area. The bar was covered with formica at one time, but renovated by the current owners.
4. Tile Trough, Front Bar -- Dating from Mueller and Meier, and matching the tiled recessed entrance to the restaurant; at one time had water flowing and was used for spitting and other indecencies.
5. Wood Tables and Bentwood Chairs, Front Bar -- Original.
6. Two Oak Buffets, Front Bar -- These buffets were shipped around the Horn from Europe in the 1880s and were part of the Mueller and Meier establishment; stripped and restored by current owners; the buffets are 4'6" wide, 6'10" high, 2'4" deep.
7. Oak Ice Chest, Front Bar -- Built by Joseph Kaffesieder, 1930s; restored by current owners; the chest is 7'8" wide, 6'4" hgh, 2'7" deep.
8. Chandeliers and Wall Sconces, Front Bar and Other Dining Rooms -- Acquired by the senior Holman in auction from the historic Knapp House; these date to the 1880s. They were renovated for modern use by the Holmans.
9. Clock, Front Bar -- Wood-framed, wall-mounted, hand-wind clock; original.
10. "Jake's" Safe, Front Bar -- Original.
11. Framed Wood Arch -- Between front bar and dining room No.1; original; stained glass added.
12. Booths (some with coat trees), Dining Rooms Nos. 1 and 2 -- Original; booths were acquired from the Oyster Loaf Restaurant which was located across the street from the Benson Hotel at the turn of the century; the restaurant was operated by the George Rhode family.
13. Bentwood Coat Trees -- From the Oyster Loaf (see above); some racks were cut and fitted to the tops of the booths.
14. Sign Board, Dining Room No.1 -- Part of original partition; originally used to separate or combine two four-person booths.
15. Wall-Mounted Clock, Dining Room No.1 -- Original.

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16. Wooden Telephone Booth, Dining Room No.1 -- Original.
17. Wrought Iron Lamps Above Entrance of Dining Room No.1 -- Original.
18. Oak Buffet, Dining Room No.3 -- Original.
19. Brass Railings and Curtains -- Added in 1953 to recapture earlier decor of Jake's, the Quelle, and the Louvre Restaurants.
20. Cash Register, Dining Area No.3 -- Original; National Cash Register on oak base with four oak drawers.

Art Work

Jake's Restaurant contains a number of historically significant murals and works of art which will be described in this section.

Murals. There are six mural panels at the heads of the walls in dining room No.1. The three longest panels are each 36" high and 170" in width. Another panel is 36" high and 124" in width. The two smallest panels are each 36" high and 57" in width. They are painted in tempera on plaster and are unsigned and undated. The themes of the murals are:

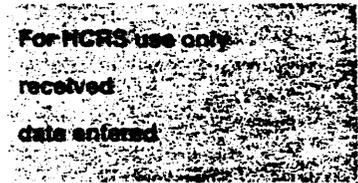
1. Three Sisters overlooking Aspen Lake.
2. Mountain landscape with house.
3. Lighthouse bounded harbor with steamer on the horizon.
4. Indian encampment in the high mountains.
5. Three Sisters and Diamond Lake seen from a mountain slope.
6. River with mansion.

Murals of this type were often painted by local commercial artists from their own sketches of Oregon views. The murals are primitive in manner with little spatial depth, contain uniform sharpness in contour, have separate focuses on individual detail, and regular distribution of formal units across the picture. According to Sally Hopkins, MFA and local stencil artist, this style of primitive art is characterized by flat, realistic scenes which often combine fantasy and imagination with real scenery.

The mural form of art and its predecessor stencil art was a tradition which began in the west in the 1880s and continued through the late 1920s and early 1930s. The form was popular in private homes, theatres, and churches. Unfortunately, not many examples remain in Portland. Many vintage buildings are gone, and many murals or stencils have been painted over through the years. One well known example is the stencil work which has been renovated in Victoria's Nephew Cafe on SW Second Avenue and Stark Street.

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Stencil and mural art, while not purely "fine art", is a reflection of everyman's art. It was commissioned by everyday people and reflects the personal taste of the time -- the art people generally chose to live with. Generally, the mural art of Jake's time was conservative and representational. An extension of this art form is found in modern day supergraphics and exterior building art, such as the mountain goats on the 1020 Taylor Building or the butterfly on the Stereo Warehouse Building in Old Town.

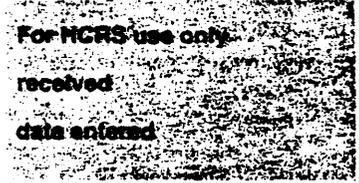
According to Max Kaffesieder, the murals were painted by Ben Minsberg, a painter and artist friend of Jake and Joe Kaffesieder. The paintings reveal not only the scenery of Oregon, but the mountains of their native lands, Germany and Austria. Thus, the somewhat mixed metaphors of castles next to douglas fir trees.

Paintings. In addition to the murals, the restaurant contains over twenty paintings, some of which were originally in the restaurant and some acquired by the Kaffesieders, Holmans, or current owners. Some of these works hung in the old Louvre Restaurant. Examples are cited on the following page.

1. The Louvre Nude (Venus at the Bath, unsigned and undated, c. 1880) -- Currently hanging in the front bar, this painting was owned by Theodore Kruse who founded the old Louvre restaurant in the Belvedere Hotel at SW Fourth and Alder. It was the first restaurant in Portland to have an internationally known musician perform. Most Gay 90's bars had nudes, but the Louvre nude was the most famous in Portland. The Louvre closed in 1913. Kruse took over the Rainbow Restaurant in the Morgan Building until Prohibition ended the ten-course dinners. The painting was lost until sought out and purchased by Walter Holman and rehung at Jake's. Rumors through the years have associated "Irene" as Jake's former mistress, but these rumors are unfounded in spite of the "bullet hole" in the painting.
2. Portland Hotel -- Painted by FCR Grothjean about 1883-1888, shows the partly constructed Portland Hotel after construction was halted during a depression. Finally, a group of investors raised \$1 million to complete the hotel which opened in 1890. The painting hung in the hotel lobby for many years prior to the hotel's demolition in 1952.
3. Rooster Rock -- Painted by Eliza Barchus, 1898. Barchus was a primitive painter honored by the Oregon legislature in 1971 as a pioneer Oregonian who vividly portrayed the wonders of the state. Barchus also ran a souvenir stand near Crown Point where she sold such replica views. Eleanor Roosevelt collected Brachus' work.
4. Willamette Falls at Oregon City -- Painted by H.L. Lopp, 1935. A South Dakota and Montana artist.
5. Mt. Hood -- Painted by James Everett Stuart, unsigned and undated, but inscribed by Stuart on the back. The painting at one time hung in the Los Angeles County Museum. It is a powerful painting by a well known

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artist who established a Portland studio in 1881. He ran a successful gallery in San Francisco, became a millionaire, and had paintings hanging in the White House.

6. St. John's Bridge -- Painted by H.L. Lopp, 1935.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910–1919

Builder/Architect Knighton and Root, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Whitney and Gray Building of 1910 and the Butterfield addition of 1919 which adjoins it on the west, make up a four-story, brick structure located on the southwest corner of Twelfth Avenue and Stark Street on the edge of the central business district of Portland, Oregon. Designed by the architectural firm of Knighton and Root, the structure meets National Register criterion "c" as a distinctive example of the three-and-four-story Commercial style hotels designed by architects during Portland's construction boom of 1910–1911. At the time, local newspapers described the structure as "one of the most substantial and attractive... of this class... built on or near Washington Street." Other architects who also designed this class of structure during the period included E. B. MacNaughton and John Bennes. Knighton and Root's hotel building is distinguished by bold, stylized, galvanized iron cornice brackets and pendant pilaster ornaments which are characteristic of Beaux Arts decoration of the early years of the 20th century.

The property is locally significant under criterion "a" because of its ground floor tenant, Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant, a designated Portland Historical Landmark, which, including its predecessor establishments, has occupied the property since 1911, when the building was placed in service. The City of Portland's landmarks preservation ordinance provides for the designation of building interiors as separate entities. Jake's and its predecessor establishments date back to 1892, thus making Jake's Portland's second oldest continuously operating restaurant. Huber's Restaurant, located in the Railway Exchange Building, is the oldest continually operating restaurant in Portland and is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Jake's is a recognized hub of social activity in Portland, and is the only one remaining of two crawfish houses which operated in Portland at the turn of the century.

The Whitney and Gray Building and Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant represent particular trends in the cultural development of Portland. The building has remained consistent in its style and use throughout its history. With the completion of current housing renovation on the upper floors, the structure will continue to stabilize the neighborhood by providing daytime and nighttime activity in the area. Jake's Restaurant, while adapted to modern needs, retains its significant historic features and ambiance. It is an establishment which truly exhibits the flavor of turn-of-the-century restaurants in Portland.

Chronology

Since the opening of the building, the lower level has housed Portland's landmark restaurant, Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant.

The current Jake's Restaurant and its predecessor establishments date back to 1892, establishing it as Portland's second oldest continuously operating restaurant. The original restaurant was called Mueller and Meier, a saloon established in 1892 at 18th and Washington Streets. This restaurant was one of two crawfish houses in Portland at the turn of the century. Mueller and Meier moved to the Whitney-Gray Building in 1911, where it operated as a saloon until 1913, when it became Mueller and Meier Cafe. In 1916, the restaurant began a soft drink service, a focus that continued throughout

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	2	4	8	3	0	5	0	4	0	8	4	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 The Whitney and Gray Building, containing Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant, occupies Lot 1 of Block N $\frac{1}{2}$ I of the Portland Addition to the City of Portland in Multnomah County, Oregon. The Butterfield addition to the Whitney and Gray Building is included in the nominated area and occupies the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries East 20 ft. of Lots 7 & 8, Block N $\frac{1}{2}$ I, Portland Addition.

state	N/A	code	county	N/A
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

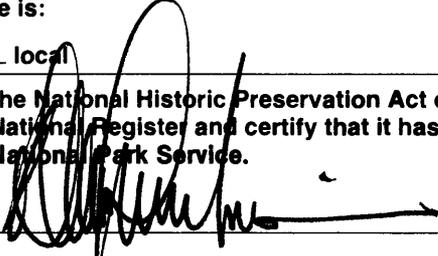
name/title	(1) Marcy Jacobs, Vice President (2) John M. Tess, President	date	February, 1983
organization	(1) Landsing Property Corp. (2) Heritage Investment Corp.	telephone	(1) (503) 227-2654 (2) (503) 228-0272
street & number	(1) 133 SW 2nd Avenue (2) 1220 SW Morrison, Suite 1303	state	Oregon (1) 97204 (2) 97205
city or town	Portland		

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.

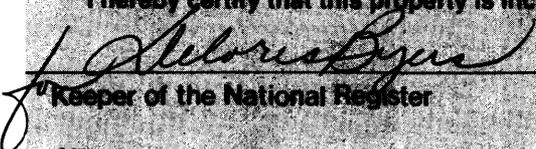
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 30, 1983

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

 **Keeper of the National Register** Entered in the National Register date 8/11/83

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Prohibition, which began in 1919.

In 1920, Mueller and Meier sold their interests to Jacob J. Frieman and J. Rometsch. Jake Freiman, the original "Jake", had been a waiter at the Quelle Restaurant, a crawfish house established by Fritz Sichtem and Baron Schlenk in 1893. Freiman, a popular waiter and local character, brought with him the crawfish expertise, a large customer following, and popularity which established the reputation that has continued to the current day. In 1921, or 1922, Rometsch left or was bought out by Clem Hackman, and the latter association continued until 1933 when Jake died. The operation was then sold to Joseph Kaffesieder.

Joe Kaffesieder, an outgoing personality himself, maintained the traditions and character of the restaurant and, in fact, also was known to many patrons as "Jake". The restaurant was later operated by Max Kaffesieder, Joe's son.

Walter E. Holman, Sr., acquired the restaurant in 1946 and operated it until 1958, when he sold the establishment to his son Walter, Jr., who operated in until 1960. It was then sold to three investors, Orton Hall, a dentist, Glen Westfall, a contractor, and a third party. In 1961, Howard Wilson, a former manager under Walter Holman, acquired the facility. The current owner, William McCormick, acquired the restaurant in 1971.

Tradition and Cultural Significance

Jake's is one of about ten remaining restaurants with a particular tradition which evolved in this country at the turn of the century. Others in this category included the Buena Vista in San Francisco; the Locke-Obers, Union Oyster House, and Durgan Park restaurants in Boston; and P.J. Clark's in New York. Representing a certain operating and design philosophy, these restaurants have remained the same in character for over eighty years. Key elements are the utilitarian style marketing, the focus on food, particularly sea food, and the no-nonsense but traditional atmosphere. Initially, many of the waiters were European, particularly Germans and Italians, who were schooled in the fine dining rooms of Europe and America. Those were the days of slow eating and baroque dining rooms, a tradition which many say was ruined by Prohibition. Waiting tables was a profession, apprenticed by bus boys who advanced to waiting only after years of training. Jake's was known as the "last stand for the European-trained waiter," exemplified in later days by Julius Eneide, a former Italian restaurant owner and waiter at Jake's in the late 1950s.

Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant represents an important piece in the cultural fabric of Portland. Jake Freiman and "Jake II" (Joe Kaffesieder) were father confessors to many "drummers" or salesmen who crisscrossed the country from Chicago to the East and West Coasts with their suitcases full of samples. Prior to the days of television, when dining out was a more major form of entertainment, Jake's remained open on Friday and Saturday nights until 4:00 a.m. It was the most popular spot in town for gatherings after dances at the Rose Room of the Multnomah Hotel. Big band stars such as Phil Harris would come down to Jake's after a performance. Patronage often exceeded 1,000 customers per night. The restaurant also served as a gathering place for newspapermen.

Jake's advertised nationwide and transported crawfish all over the country in iced five-

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gallon tins which were transported by rail. The restaurant also served crawfish to seamen from the many ships docking in Portland, and often prepared the seafood especially according to the native customs of foreign sailors. One of the restaurant's best customers was August Busch of the brewery family who not only had crawfish shipped to him, but held large parties at Jake's when he visited Portland in his private rail car. Jake's also inaugurated the first eastern seafood service, importing lobster, blue point oysters, and cherrystone clams from the East Coast.

Famous patrons of the restaurant are numerous. Eugene Paulette, the character actor who owned a ranch in Eastern Oregon, was a frequent guest, consuming huge quantities of crawfish. Others included Sophie Tucker, who visited the restaurant frequently from 1910 through 1945, George Raft, Jack Benny, Bing Crosby, Lauritz Melchior, Casey Stengel, Buster Keaton, Lefty O'Doul, and many more celebrities who appreciated the fine food and atmosphere of Jake's.

Jacob Louis Freiman (Jake)

Jacob Louis Freiman (Jake) first served crawfish at the Hotel Oregon in 1881. In 1920, he joined John M. Rometsch at the Twelfth and Stark location to form Jake's Famous Crawfish Restaurant and Soft Drinks. Sometime in 1921-22 the partnership was changed or was sold out by Rometsch, leaving Jake L. Freiman with a new partner, Clem F. Hackman. The new restaurant or company was called Freiman and Hackman. This arrangement lasted until 1927 when Jake Freiman and Clem Hackman formed Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc., with C. F. Hackman as president and J. L. Freiman as secretary-treasurer. Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc., continued with Freiman and Hackman as proprietors until 1933. Jake died on October 7, 1933. Hackman sold the business to Joseph M. Kaffesieder.

Joseph M. Kaffesieder

Joseph M. Kaffesieder was the owner of Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc., at its current location from 1933 until his retirement in 1946. Born in Austria on June 30, 1880, Kaffesieder purchased the restaurant from Clem F. Hackman, the former partner of Jake L. Freiman. Kaffesieder's son, Max M. Kaffesieder, joined him as a partner at the restaurant sometime in 1943-44. Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc., was then sold by Kaffesieder and his son to Walter E. Holman, Sr., in 1946. Joseph Kaffesieder then retired. He died at the age of 89 on January 19, 1970, having lived in Portland for 60 years.

William C. Knighton

A distinguished architect of the Pacific Northwest, William C. Knighton resided in Oregon for much of his career. He was born December 25, 1867, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and was the son of Charles J. and Mary Knighton. Knighton came to Oregon in 1893 and practiced in Salem, the capital city, until 1895, at which time he departed for Alabama. He married Eleanor Waters of Salem in 1898, and returned to Oregon in 1902, making his home in Portland. Thereafter, he designed the Seward Hotel and Tilford Building in Portland, and the administrative building at the University of Oregon. In 1912, Governor Oswald West

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appointed him to the office of State Architect, a position which he held until 1917. During that time, he was responsible for the plans for the Eastern Oregon State Hospital in Pendleton, the State Boys Training School in Woodburn, and the Supreme Court Building in Salem (1913), the latter being perhaps Knighton's major work. His first commission in Oregon is reported to have been the Old Soldiers Home in Roseburg.

Other notable works attributed to Knighton are: Grant High School in Portland, the State Office Building in Salem (1930), the Pythian Home in Vancouver, Washington, the senior high school (North High) in Salem, the nurses home at the County Hospital in Portland, the Masonic Home near Forest Grove, and several Portland homes. Knighton was associated with Edward T. Root at the time he was commissioned to design the building for J.R. Whitney and C.A. Gray. In 1922, he entered into a partnership with Leslie D. Howell which lasted for 16 years.

Mr. Knighton was also interested in civic, social, and fraternal affairs. He belonged to the Masonic order (a 33rd Degree Mason) and the Knights of Pythias of Portland. He served as first chairman of the Oregon State Architectural Board upon adoption of the architects registration law in 1919. He served as president of the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He died in Portland in March 1938. He was survived by his widow and had no children.

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Obituary J. M. Kaffesieder, Oregon Journal, January 20, 1970, page 6, col. 5.

Obituary Jake L. Freiman, Oregonian, October 9, 1933, page 8.

"W. C. Knighton, 73 Leading Architect Called by Death," Oregonian Journal,
March 15, 1938, page 5, col. 2.

"Gewurtz to Build Two New Hotels," Oregon Journal, April 24, 1910, Sec. 2, page 7,
col. 5.

Oregon Journal, November 27, 1910, Sec. 2, page 8, col. 1.

Oregon Journal, July 24, 1910, Sec. 2, page 6, col. 1.

"Holiday Creates Large Slump in Building Permits," Oregon Journal, July 10, 1910,
Sec. 2, page 7, col. 1.

"Building's Foundation Will Cost \$20,000," Oregon Journal, July 3, 1910, Sec. 2,
page 7, col. 7.

Ellen Baldinger, art appraisal for Mr. Bill McCormick, November 22, 1975.

Mary Ann Nichols, art appraisal for Mr. Bill McCormick, December 1, 1980.

Letter from H. A. Morgan, Manager, Eckles Ironcraft Company, to Howard Wilson,
September 24, 1952.

Theatre Program, Helig Theatre, undated, containing advertisement for the Quelle
Restaurant.

Menu, the Louvre Cafe.

Menu, Progress Italian Restaurant, A. J. Eneidi, Proprietor.

OWNERSHIP RECORD

<u>Year</u>	<u>Restaurant Lessee</u>	<u>Hotel Name and Lessee</u>
1911	Mueller & Meier Saloon	The Kingwood Hotel
1912	Mueller & Meier Saloon Jacob Mueller and C. R. Meier	Van Gorder Hotel Mrs. R. A. and Clyde Van Gorder
1913	Mueller & Meier Saloon	Van Gorder Hotel Mrs. R. A. and Clyde Van Gorder
1914	Mueller & Meier Cafe	Van Gorder Hotel Mrs. R. A. and Clyde Van Gorder
1915	Mueller & Meier Cafe	Van Gorder Hotel Mrs. R. A. and Clyde Van Gorder
1916	Mueller & Meier Soft Drinks	Hotel Vernon C. E. Mitchell
1917	Mueller, Jacob Restaurant	Hotel Vernon Mrs. Alice Mounal
1918	Jacob Mueller Soda Drinks	Hotel Vernon Mrs. Alice Mounal
1919	Directory Missing	
1920	Jake's Famous Crawfish J. L. Freiman and J. Rometsch	Hotel Vernon Mrs. Alice Mounal
1921 - 1922	Freiman & Hackman Restaurant	Vernon Hotel Hector Mounal
1923	Freiman & Hackman Restaurant	Iroquois Hotel A. Casper
1924	Freiman & Hackman Restaurant	Iroquois Hotel Bernice B. Woods
1925 - 1926	Freiman & Hackman Restaurant	Iroquois Hotel Bernice B. Woods
1927 - 1929	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. C. F. Hackman, President J. L. Freiman, Secretary-Treasurer	Iroquois Hotel Bernice B. Woods
1930 - 1931	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. C. F. Hackman, President J. L. Freiman, Secretary-Treasurer	Belmont Hotel Esther M. Hosford
1932	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. C. F. Hackman, President J. L. Freiman, Secretary-Treasurer	Hotel York Bernice B. Wajeck

OWNERSHIP RECORD (Continued)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Restaurant Lessee</u>	<u>Hotel Name and Lessee</u>
1933	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. Joseph M. Kaffesieder, President	Hotel York Bernice B. Woods
1933	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. Joseph M. Kaffesieder, President	Hotel York Bernice B. Woods
1934 - 1935	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. Joseph M. Kaffesieder	Hotel York Bernice B. Aull
1936 - 1941	Jake's Famous Crawfish, Inc. Joseph M. Kaffesieder	York Hotel John E. Aull
1942	Not Printed Joseph M. Kaffesieder	
1943 - 1944	Jake's Famous Crawfish Joseph M. and Max M. Kaffesieder	York Hotel John E. Aull
1944 - 1948	War -- Not Printed	
1946*	Bought by Walter E. Holman, Sr. Managed by Howard Wilson from 1946 to 1954	
1949	Jake's Famous Crawfish W. E. Holman	Duke Hotel Mrs. Jeanne Handley
1950	Jake's Famous Crawfish W. E. Holman	Not listed
1951	Directory Missing	
1952	Jake's Famous Crawfish W. E. and Mrs. J. P. Holman	Not listed
1953 - 1960	Jake's Famous Crawfish W. E. and Mrs. J. P. Holman	Hotel Duke Mrs. May Fluno
1958*	Bought by Walter Holman, Jr.	
1960*	Bought by Orton Hall, Glen Westfall, and a third party	
1961	Jake's Famous Crawfish Peter Egnat, Manager	Hotel Duke Mrs. Birdie Schafer
1961*	Bought by Howard Wilson	
1962	Jake's Famous Crawfish Howard Wilson, Manager	Hotel Duke Walter W. and Mrs. Dorothy Richard
1963	Jake's Famous Crawfish Howard Wilson, Manager	Hotel Duke Steve Morland

OWNERSHIP RECORD (Continued)

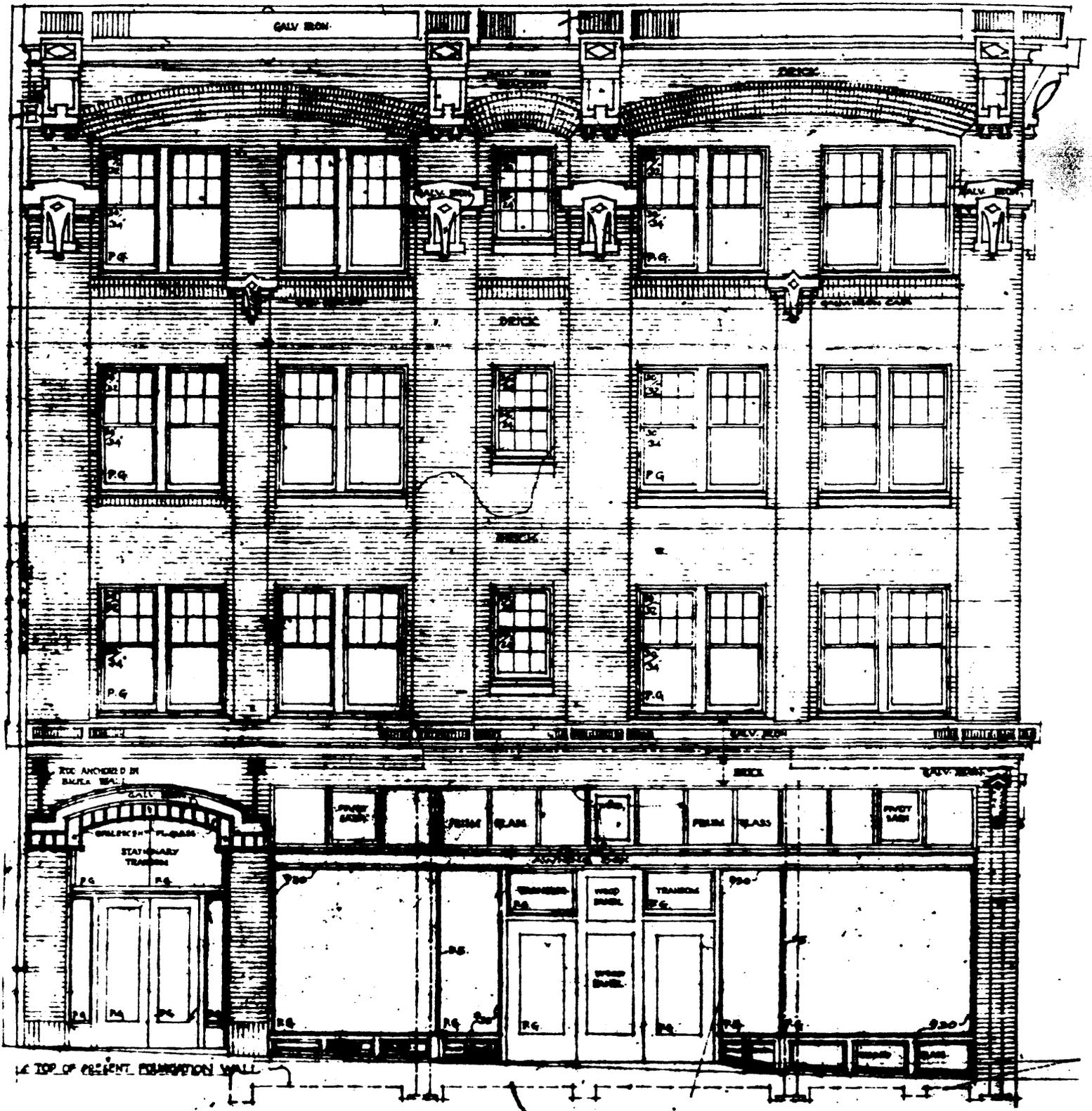
<u>Year</u>	<u>Restaurant Lessee</u>	<u>Hotel Name and Lessee</u>
1964 - 1965	Jake's Famous Crawfish Howard Wilson, Manager	Hotel Duke Paul King
1966	Directory Missing	
1967 - 1969	Jake's Famous Crawfish Howard Wilson, Manager	Hotel Duke Paul King
1968	Sold by Howard Wilson	
1970	Jake's Famous Crawfish John Frevitts, Manager	No hotel listed
1971	Jake's Famous Crawfish Thomas E. Williamson, Manager	No hotel listed
1971*	Restaurant acquired by John Leonudakis, Bill McCormick, and Dave Peterson	
1972 - 1974	Jake's Famous Crawfish John Leonudakis, Bill McCormick, Dave Peterson	No hotel listed
1975 - 1982	Jake's Famous Crawfish Bill McCormick	No hotel listed

Data taken from the following sources:

1. R. L. Polk City Directories.
2. 1949 entry from Crane Portland Directory.
3. Starred (*) entries taken from interviews with William McCormick, Walter Holman, Jr., Max Kaffesieder, and Howard Wilson.

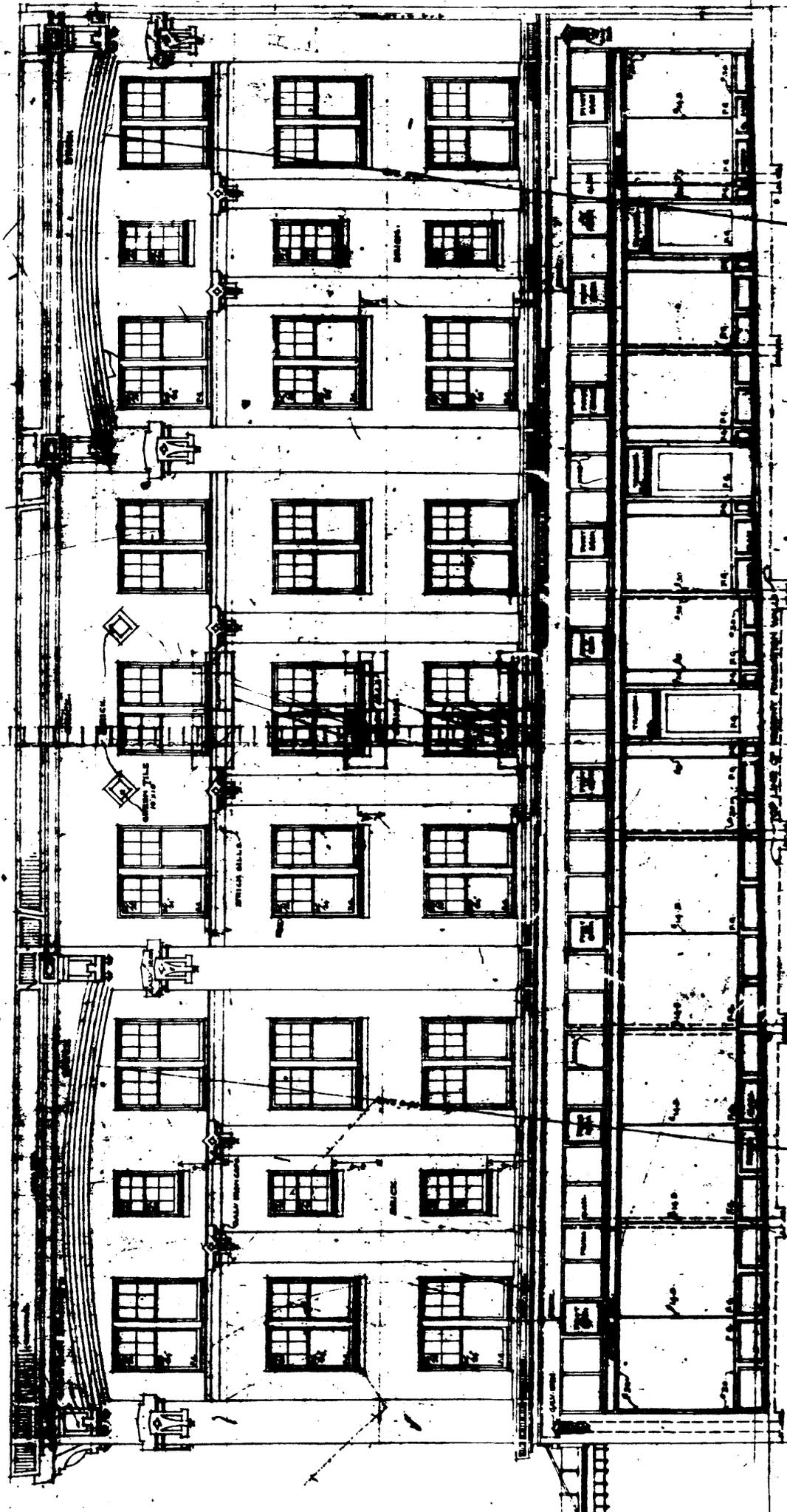
OWNERSHIP OF WHITNEY/GRAY BUILDING

Original Owner	Whitney & Gray
December 13, 1913	From Whitney and Gray to Burnside Company, F. H. Ransom, President.
March 11, 1946	From Ransom to his estate (U.S. National, trustee).
May 18, 1967	From U.S. National as trustee to Leonard Zell.
July 11, 1968	From Leonard Zell to Wyvern Inv.



• 12th STREET ELEVATION •
 SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'-0"

• BUILDING FOR MESSRS. J. R. WHITNEY AND C. A. GRAY •
 • SOUTH WEST CORNER OF 12th AND MARK STREETS •
 • PORTLAND OREGON •

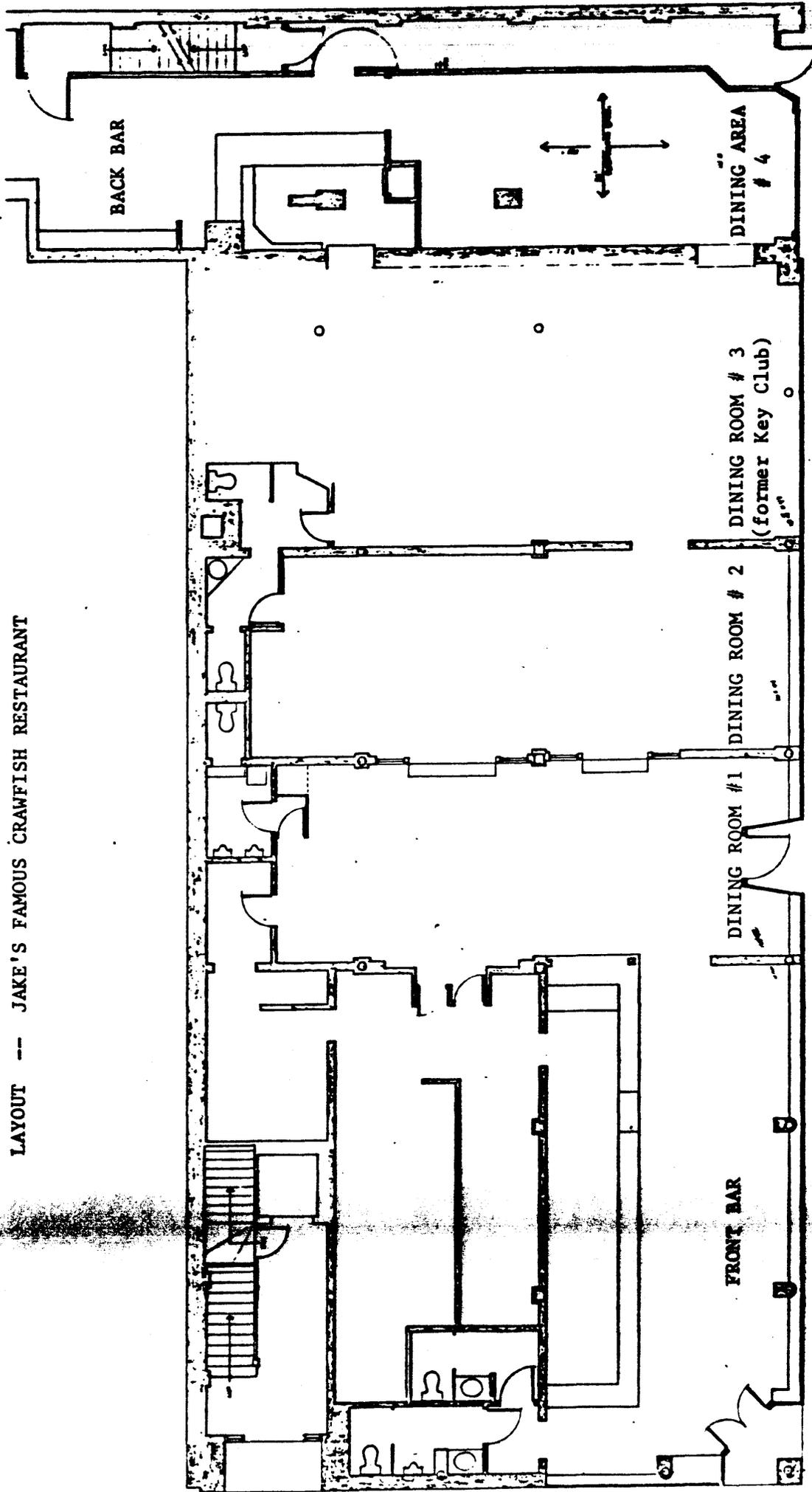


KNIGHTON AND ROOT
ARCHITECTS
410 COMMERCIAL CLUB BUILDING

STARK ST. ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

BYING FOR MESSRS. WHEAT AND COMPANY
JOHN W. WHEAT, OWNER OF ST. AND JOHN BUILDING
PORTLAND - OREGON

LAYOUT -- JAKE'S FAMOUS CRAWFISH RESTAURANT



FIRST FLOOR PLAN