United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 9 1985 date entered JUN 6 1985

For NPS use only

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

1. Name

historic	Portland Pol	ice Block			
and/or common	Same				
2. Loca				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
street & number	209 SW Oak S	treet		_X_ not for publication	
city, town	Portland	N/A vicinity of			
state	n in Oregon and re	ode 41 county	Multnomah	code 051	
3. Clas	sification				
Category district X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership _X_ public private both Public Acquisition _N/Ain process _N/Abeing considered	Status occupied _X unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment X government industrial military	 museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: 	
4. Own	er of Prop	erty			
name	City of Port	land			
street & number	1021 SW Fift	n Avenue			
city, town	Portland	<u>N/A</u> vicinity of	state	Oregon 97204	
5. Loca	ation of Leg	gal Description	on		
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Multnomah County C	ourthouse		
street & number		319 Southwest Fourth			
city, town		Portland	state	Oregon 97204	
6. Rep	resentation	n in Existing	Surveys		
	storic Resource Ir ty of Portland	nventory has this pro	perty been determined el	igible? yesX_ no	
date 198	31-83		federal sta	te county _X_ local	
depository for su	rvey records	Bureau of Planning	, City of Portland		
city, town		Portland	state	Oregon 97204	

7. Description

Condition	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	N/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Portland Police Block, a series of three connected buildings constructed between 1912 and 1955, is located adjacent to the south edge of the Skidmore/Old Town National Historic Landmark District. All three were vacated in 1984 after the completion of the Justice Center. It marked the first time in 125 years that there had not been a Police Bureau presence on some portion of the block. The 1912 building retains a high degree of exterior integrity, although its interior has been altered substantially. The 1944 and 1955 additions are essentially unaltered.

Occupying the block bordered by SW 2nd and SW 3rd Avenues, and SW Pine and SW Oak Streets, the buildings are sited on Lots 1 through 8 of Block 30, Portland Addition, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Buildings similar in scale to the five-story 1912 structure are found to the north, west and south, while parking lots appear to the southeast. A single story car wash facility is located directly east.

The 1912 facility was designed by the Portland architectural firm of Emil Schacht and Son. Constructed with monies approved by a 1911 bond issue, the building eventually cost \$308,000 to construct. Approximately 95 by 100 feet in dimension, the steel frame and reinforced concrete structure is faced with brick and limestone on the 2nd Avenue and Oak Street elevations.

The front facade (south) is little changed from the original. Two original garage or sally port openings located at the west side of the base have been infilled with close approximations of the original windows. The date of this alteration is unknown. Otherwise, the base is faced with limestone with rusticated coursing which extends the full width of the south and east elevations. The monumental entrance, centered on the south elevation, is classically detailed. The words"Police Headquarters" are incised in the stone lintel above the entrance.

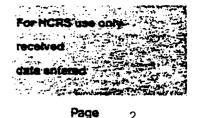
The "shaft" appears to be two stories, but is in fact three. The arched openings are placed to correspond to those in the base, and have a similar mullion/muntin configuration. They are composed of centered multi-paned, double-hung sash with fixed side panels. A large fan light appears on top and is framed with a brick arch with stone keystone. These and other features only extend two bays on the east elevation and give the appearance that the easternmost portion is a separate building.

On the third floor, a band of simple rectangular multi-paned, double-hung windows with stone lintels is found. These are closely spaced and uninterrupted by other ornament, and contribute to the overall horizontality of the design. The shaft features are framed by brick quoins, by another plain frieze, and by a slightly projecting subcornice in stone.

On the fifth floor, window openings correspond to those immediately below, although they are more vertical. A six-pane casement is centered between fixed panes at the top and bottom of the frame. A plain brick spandrel panel separates the stone sill from the lower cornice. Each window is framed by engaged brick pilasters with simple stone capitals. These pilasters are doubled at the corner on the south elevation. A limestone entablature, composed of alternating bas-relief panels and grills, is located below the bracketed sheet metal cornice.

Continuation sheet PORTLAND POLICE BLOCK

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On the east elevation, the apparent separateness of the two portions of the facade is emphasized by the use of brick quoining after the second bay, and the termination of the upper cornice. However, the extension of the granite base and upper level subcornice to the north, physically links the two sections. Above the first floor, the majority of the windows in the northeastern section are four-over-four, doublehung sash, and appear in the shaft and the capital. A more modest dentiled cornice appears at the frieze level of the southernmost portion, further emphasizing a supposed difference in design. Original wrought iron fire escape balconies appear also on the east elevation. The railings are composed of delicate circle, oval and scroll motifs and the balconies are supported by substantial wrougth iron brackets with scroll motifs.

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HISTORIC INTERIOR

Originally, the basement housed the automobile repair shop, boiler and engine room, ventilating plant and a target range which provided 10 shooting booths. A large vault was also installed in the basement for the storage of police records and valuable articles.

The ground floor was designed to house "the most important departments" which included the offices of the chief of police, chief of detectives, office clerks, police captains and a special room for the desk sergeant and telephone operating booths. A property vault and the mustering or assembly room large enough to accommodate 300 men, with adjoining locker room, were also located on this floor.

Two large courtrooms were located on the second floor, with smaller rooms for witnesses, juries, attorneys, reporters and prisoners on trial. Prisoners' rooms were equipped with a private elevator connecting directly with the jail quarters on the fifth floor, in addition to the regular elevator.

Located on the third floor was the Bertillion room*, photograph gallery, two offices for private detectives, assembly room for detectives, quarters for the Police Athletic Club, gymnasium, shower baths, boxing and wrestling room, reading room, library and quarters for the police band. The emergency hospital was located on the fourth floor.

The jail proper was on the fifth floor which included individual cells. The cells were described as "vermin-proof and equipped with individual ventilating systems." The remainder of this floor was devoted to the housing of female prisoners and "incorrigible" juveniles. This building currently retains very little of its original interior finishes. A fine wrought iron and marble staircase, plus some classical ceiling and wall details are extant. The majority of the spaces have dropped ceilings and altered wall and floor finishes.

^{*} Prior to the advent of fingerprinting, it was believed that suspected criminals could be identified by conducting a series of intricate head and body measurements, and it was in the Bertillion room that this activity took place.

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1944 ADDITION

In 1943, with growing need for facilities, Mayor Earl Riley suggested the erection of an addition on the west elevation to the headquarters building until a bond issue could be passed to construct a new jail facility across the street from City Hall. However, the \$750,000 bond issue for the project never materialized. The two-story, west wing addition was a reinforced concrete structure measuring 95 by 136 feet. The first floor housed additional office space, plus a dining room and kitchen for 300 persons. A dormitory for trustees and juvenile facilities were housed on the second floor. At the same time the architects, Jones and Marsh, undertook the remodeling of the original building, thus commencing a history of remodeling that obliterated most of the interior spatial character of the building and resulting in the current "labyrinth" of corridors and other partitions.

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Exterior walls on the Jones and Marsh addition are unfaced concrete. With the exception of the slightly projecting entry on Oak Street, and a narrow glass block stirp close to the 1912 building, the elevations are undecorated. Horizontally emphasized by bands of metal-framed casement windows, the exterior offers little visual interest. The structural stability of the building is good. The steel sash are in poor condition.

1955 ADDITION

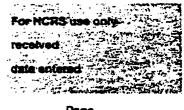
Even as the Jones and Marsh addition was being completed, plans were being laid to secure funding for yet another addition to the Police Block. However, it wasn't until 1953 that serious measures were undertaken to begin the process of erecting another addition to the existing buildings. Initially, an ambitious \$2,838,000, eight-story structure was proposed by Mayor Fred Peterson. Massive in scale, the new headquarters building, oriented to the north, would have dominated the block. The local firm of Jacobberger and Stanton were selected as the architects.

Evidently, the bond issue and tax levy were unsuccessful, as the Mayor announced in August, 1954, that construction of the last addition to the Police Block. Costing \$850,000, it presented a modified version of Jacobberger and Stanton's original design for the base of the proposed eight-story tower. Mayor Peterson never had abandoned hope that the additional stories could be added, because the structural support system was constructed to allow for the additional stories in the future. It is perhaps the absence of these later stories that contribute to the plain and simple character of the 1955 elevations which appear to have been planned to have a brick veneer.

In order to build the addition, the northern 36 feet of the Jones and Marsh building were demolished.

Consisting of steel framing members and reinforced concrete floor slabs, the 1955 addition is similar to the 1944 building in its structural system. Its exterior design and materials are also similar, basically presenting unadorned, unfaced concrete walls, and steel casemented windows.

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The two floors of the interior above the parking garage basement are divided into numerous partitioned spaces which served the variety of Police Bureau administrative functions. This building is in excellent structural condition. Similar to the 1944 addition, the steel framed windows are deteriorated.

The original building and the two additions are currently vacant. The entire parcel is being considered for rehabilitation. The Schacht-designed building received a Rank II in the Portland Historic Resource Inventory. The late buildings are nonhistoric additions to the 1912 structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of SignificanceC	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	Iandscape architecture	e religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
15001599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	X_ architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlement		theater
X 1900–	communications	industry	X politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1912, 1944, 1955 Builder/Architect

Emil Schacht (1912 portion) Jordan & Marsh (1944 portion)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Jacobberger & Stanton (1955 portion)

The Portland Police Block is a complex of three interconnected, functionally-related buildings occupying an entire city block in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Of the three, only one is historic. It was designed by noted Portland architect Emil Schacht and was constructed in 1912. The other structures were constructed in 1944 and 1955. The Portland Police Block is primarily eligible under Criterion "a" for its associations with the development of the Police Bureau in the City of Portland. The 1912 structure was the third to be located on the southeast corner of the block. The first, erected in 1859, was replaced in 1872. City growth required enlarged quarters and spawned the massive American Renaissance-style design by Schacht. This building, in turn, received additions in 1944 and 1955, finally covering the entire block. Thus, the existing site and buildings represent physically the development of the Police Bureau from pre-World War I to 1984, and the southeast portion continues those associations back to the city's earliest period of development.

Secondarily, the Police Block is eligible under Criterion "c", particularly for the skillful manipulation of scale and mass by Emil Schacht, who was at the height of his career in 1912. Although altered on the interior, the building's exterior still conveys the imposing presence that earlier represented the stature of the Portland Police Bureau at the turn of the century. The additions do not meet Criterion "c" individually or collectively. In short, the 1944 and 1955 additions are non-contributing. HISTORIC NARRATIVE

Origins of the establishment of law enforcement in Portland date to 1841 and the first efforts of Willamette Valley settlers who by Constitutional Committee established laws and elected officers to enforce those laws. In addition to the Constitutional Committee, Dr. Elijah White, an early missionary, established the "White Code," which in part stated:

- 1. Whoever shall take a life shall be hung [sic]
- 2. Whoever willfully shall burn a building shall be hung
- 3. Whoever shall steal an article of more than a beaver pelt shall receive fifty lashes and pay back twofold.

The official act which created a law enforcement system in the City of Portland came with the incorporation of the City in 1851. As part of the Act of Incorporation, a City Council was created and given the authority to appoint a City Marshal. The first marshal appointed was Hiram Wilber. One of Marshal Winber's first tasks was to address the lack of a jail and courthouse in Portland. Up to this time prisoners were transported to Hillsboro on horseback, often in the constraints of a device called the "Oregon Boot," which was an 18-lb. brass device locked about the ankle and foot of the prisoner in transport. Portland's first jail was constructed in a one room cabin located in the vicinity of Front and Stark Street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

	e name Portlar	ty less than one id, OR - Wash.		Quadrangle scale 1:24000
A 1,0 Zone	5 2 5 6 1 5 Easting	51041061915 Northing	B Zone Easting	Northing
C			₽└⊥┘└╵╵╌ ╒└⊥┘└╵╵╌	
Avenues,	, and SW Pine	and SW Oak Streets.	The buildings are	ordered by SW 2nd and SW 3rd sited on Lots 1 through 8 tnomah County, Oregon.
List all st	ates and countion	es for properties overlap	ping state or county bo	oundaries
state	N/A	code	county	code
state	NZA	code	county	code
name/title organizatio street & nu		Investment Corporat econd Avenue #200	telephone	December 5, 1984 (503) 228-0272
city or town			state	Oregon 97209
The evaluat As the desit 665), I here according to State Histo	ted significance of national ignated State Histo by nominate this p to the criteria and p pric Preservation Of	this property within the sta state X pric Preservation Officer for roperty for inclusion in the procedures set forth by the fficer signature	te is: local the National Historic Prese National Registration and certi National Paris Hittics.	ervation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- ity that it has been evaluated
		Historic Preservatio	n Officer	date February 26, 1985
	s use only eby certify that this Velocusy of the National Re	Byen Nat:	National Register ared in the Lonal Register	date 6-6-75-
Attest:				date
Chief of	f Registration			

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Continuation sheet PORTLAND POLICE BLOCK Item number 8

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Lengthy debate over the location of a new jail ensued, with sites being proposed at various locations in the downtown area. After considerable discussion regarding the matter, the Ways and Means Committee of the City Council decided on October 18, 1911 to recommend that the Mayor be authorized to purchase an adjoining lot measuring 25 x 96 feet just north of the Second and Oak facility on which to build an entirely new and larger structure. As part of the bargain in purchasing the property, the city agreed to pay "Lucky Jack" Peterson, who controlled the property, his asking price of \$35,000, provided Peterson agreed to purchase at par \$40,000 worth of bonds to build the new station.

It is interesting to note that if Peterson had not agreed to the deal, the city was prepared to start condemnation proceedings on the property. The city's determination to secure the site seemed predicated on the amount of money made available by the bond issue, the size of the lot thought to be needed for a new building and the fact that the city already owned its original Second and Oak tract.

The plan for a new police headquarters and jail had not come any too soon; the Oregonian of December 4, 1911 reported the deplorable conditions at the jail:

SUB-HEADLINE: "MEN PACKED LIKE CATTLE"

Violence may break out in the City jail if some method is not found promptly to remedy the conditions which have existed during the past few weeks. The congestion has reached a point where the ordinary sanitary precautions are no longer possible. . .

Saturday at midnight there were 117 men in the quarters which are normally intended not to exceed 50. . .

The air was foul and fetid and was rendered more so by the fumes from the night meal. . .

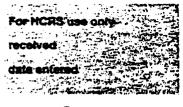
As conditions at the jail became worse, the Oregonian of December 8, 1911 reported:

SUB-HEADLINE: "DIRTY JAIL CAUSE OF GOLDEN RULE EDICT TO POLICE"

Adoption of the "golden rule" policy in dealing with errant citizens, as made famous by Chief Kohler in Cleveland was announced by Chief of Police Slover last night on the spur of the moment, after he had taken a glance into the steaming and noisy quarters of the prisoners. . .

"Dont' bring them in unless you have to, and turn them out as quick as you can," were the instructions that went to Captain Badley, to be forwarded to the other commanders. . .

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Regarding the conditions at the jail, the article quoted various inmates:

"Do you call that coffee?" demanded one prisoner, thrusting a battered cup full of black fluid thorugh the bars. . .

"This is all I get, twice a day." said another, holding forth three slices of bread. "The liver they serve in the morning is green and a hog wouldn't eat it."

"They call this pork and beans, but the pork is nix." said another. . .

On a positive note, the city made an announcement in January, 1912, that additional patrolmen, sergeants and detective sergeants were to be added to the police force during the up and coming year. The jail conditions themselves did not seem to get any better, and the interim problem of where to house the prisoners while the new jail was being constructed did not appear to offer any relief. As the <u>Oregonian</u> of February 11, 1912 reported:

Huddled in quarters still more cramped and unsanitary than the present city jail, which for a quarter of a century has been the butt of grand jury denunciations, the police department will pass the next six months, perhaps the next year, in an old building at Fifth and Everett Streets. Everyone connected with the department is viewing the approaching disaster with dread.

Later articles, written with equal objectivity, savored the disassembling of the old cells, to be transferred to Fifth and Everett, and reported on the Police Band's rendering of "Auld Lang Syne" as it departed Second and Oak.

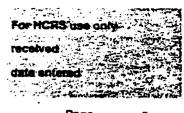
As the transfer to temporary quarters took place and the demolition of the old jail was hurried along, the Mayor of Chinatown, Chung Chung, was given notice that he must immediately vacate the adjoining premises, transferred by "Lucky Jack" Peterson to the city. Chung Chung or his "Celestial predecessors" had occupied the "little cubbyhole under the shadow of the jail for a long time."

On March 15, 192, plans drawn by Emil Schacht & Son were approved for Portland's new police headquarters, city jail and municipal court. The <u>Sunday Oregonian</u> of March 17, 1912 reported in a lengthy article, with drawing, the announcement of the new building. The caption headline above the drawing read "BUILDING WHICH WILL BE ONE OF FINEST PUBLIC STRUCTURES."

While headlines read, "JAIL PLANS READY," "PROPOSED POLICE STATION TO BE FINE STRUCTURE," "COST WILL BE \$156,000." "BUILDING TO BE FIVE STORIES/IN HEIGHT AND WILL BE FIREPROOF/AMPLE PROVISIONS MADE FOR DEPARTMENT."

The Portland Police returned to their new guarters at Second and Oak on December 12, 1913.

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The new Police Headquarters facility was completed at a cost of \$308,000 and it was announced that it would "meet the needs of Portland for a central police station for many years to come."

Thirty-one years later, in 1944, Mayor Earl Riley proposed a tax measure which would expand the police building. The reasons given for the plans to expand the jail stemmed from "the over-crowded conditions at the city jail and a succession of deaths in the drunk tanks there."

Again as in 1911, the situation at the jail had reached a state of emergency due to over-crowding and inadequate facilities. The <u>Oregonian</u> would again report: "The city jail is about to hang out the SRO sign because of an unprecendented weekend rush of business."

To remedy the city's antiquated jail facilities a temporary two-story structure was proposed in early 1944 with a permanent structure to be built in 1948 after the passage of a one million dollar levy charter amendment for a new city jail. However, by the end of 1944 the temporary two-story structure became a permanent two-story addition to the west side of the existing structure.

The addition was designed by the architectural firm of Jones and Marsh and was "a building. . . 93 feet 6 inches by 136 feet, of steel reinforced concrete and. . . a permanent addition to the present headquarters."

The building was financed out of city budget savings and housed a laundry and storage in the basement, offices and kitchen on the first floor, and jail facilities on the second floor. Although now a permanent structure, plans were already in the making for additional expansion to the north half of the block at some later date.

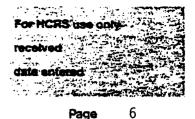
In 1953 overcrowded conditions again led Mayor Fred L. Peterson to ask the City Council to raise approximately \$2,000,000 for rehabilitation and enlargement of the city's police headquarters. The initial plan unveiled in late 1953 called for an eight-story addition on the north half of the block to be designed by the architectural firm of Jacobberger and Stanton. The grand eight-story plan was trimmed to a modified two-story addition, with the capacity to add five stories by August 1954. The additional stories were only to be added if a bond measure for an additional \$2,000,000 was passed by the voters. The two-story addition was to be financed with \$850,000, on hand since 1947, to the city for police station improvements.

During the ensuing years between 1955 and 1982, funding for the additional five stories to the north half of the Police Block, which then would have received an exterior brick veneer as well, never materialized. To accommodate Police headquarter's needs, the interiors of the block continued to be modified until the construction of the Justice Center, where upon the Police Departmetn bade farewell to their longtime home at Second and Oak.

Emil Schacht was born in Denmark in 1854. After studying in Polytechnic Schools in

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Copenhagen, Denmark and Hanover, Germany, he immigrated to New York City where he

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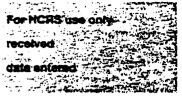
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worked as a draftsman for six years. Returning to Denmark for one year, he married, then moved to Omaha, Nebraska for a year, arriving in Portland in 1884.

He established a practice which lasted for 42 years. One of his seven children, Martin, assisted him in his practice for a number of years and the two worked together as the firm of Emil Schacht & Son. During this time he designed warehouses, garages, apartment buildings, hotels, offices and public buildings, as well as private homes. Schacht was also responsible for structures in Roseburg, the state of Washington and Alaska. One of his public buildings, which is on the National Register, is the Fire Station at SE 33rd and Francis, now Portland's Community Music Center. Seventeen examples of his work in Portland were identified in the city-wide inventory, completed in 1983.

Emil Schacht died in 1926 at the age of 72 while inspecting a building under construction at 12th and Morrison. His obituary in the <u>Oregonian</u> noted, "Among the best known buildings in the city which Mr. Schacht designed is Police Headquarters at 2nd and Oak."

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Page

1

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O'Hara, Ralph, Editor. Portland Police, Past & Present. Portland Police Historical Society, Portland, Oregon, 1982.

Carey, C. H. <u>History of Oregon</u>; Vol. III, Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Chicago-Portland, 1922.

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Portland Daily Oregon Journal:

4 March 1926 17 November 1953 25 August 1954

Portland Daily Oregonian:

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Portland Daily Oregonian:

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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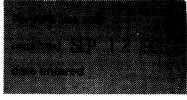
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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PORTLAND POLICE BLOCK	Control numbers 85001	105

PORTLAND POLICE BLOCK 209 SW Oak Street Portland Multnomah County Oregon

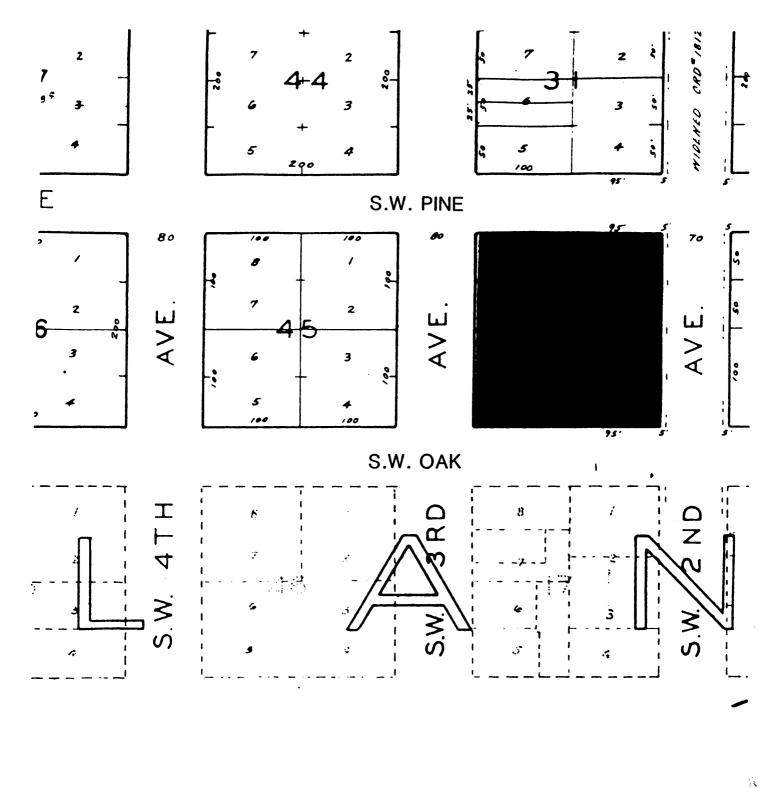
Control number: 85001185

Listing date: 6-6-85

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to correct the nomination form pertaining to the above-named property. The address of the property is <u>not</u> restricted. The box for checking "not for publication" should have been marked N/A for not applicable. The address of the property, as indicated above, is: 209 SW Oak Street, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 9, 1986



PORTLAND POLICE BLOCK NORTH

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1