

Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



3-020-00624

624-636 N.W. Twentieth Avenue

Couch's, Block 272, Lots 15, 16
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 2928
Northwest District Association
OTHER NAMES: White Apartments

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Apartment House

DATE BUILT: 1925

STYLE: California Mission Style

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Bowman, F.E.

ORIGINAL OWNER: Bowman, F.E.
OTHER OWNERS: Hjerinstad, C.O.

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-18022-6270
ZONING: RH

Rank II
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Nob Hill (potential)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:
Hip roof. Exterior finish of stucco. All ground floor openings are round-headed. Wrought iron balconies. Main entries are set in small projecting pavilions with clay roof tiles.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

655

2909

[REDACTED]

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City of Portland Buildings Bureau microform and card files.

Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, automated data files, and card files (Portland, 1980).

Bowman, F.E., plans, City of Portland Buildings Bureau Microfiche Collection.

[REDACTED]

OLD ADDRESS: 150-152 Twentieth Street North

ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT #: 148520

Present owners, as of May 1980: Walter and Elinor McMonies

MAILING ADDRESS: c/o Metzger Parker Company, 2500 N.E. Sandy Boulevard, Portland 97232

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 566-2

- Score - Design/Construction: 10
- Score - Historical: 10
- Score - Rarity: 0
- Score - Environment: 8
- Score - Integrity: 10
- Score - Intrinsic: 20
- Score - Contextual: 18
- Score - Total: 88

956

2909

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
COUNTY: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

HIST. NAME: F.E. Bowan
COMMON NAME:
ADDRESS: 624-36 Northwest Twentieth Avenue
CITY: Portland
OWNER: McMonies, Walter W., Sr.
ADDRESS: 4333 NE Broadway, Portland, OR
97232

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925
ORIGINAL USE: Domestic: multiple dwelling
PRESENT USE: Domestic: multiple dwelling
ARCHITECT: Bowman, F.E.
BUILDER: Bowman, F.E.
THEME: Culture: 20th Century Architecture
STYLE: Mission Style

T/R/S: TIN R1E S33
MAP NO.: 2928 TAX LOT: NA
ADDITION: Couch's Addition
BLOCK: 272 LOT: 15, 16
ZONE: RH QUAD.: Portland
ASSESSOR NO.: R180226270

RESOURCE TYPE: Apartment
CONDITION: Good
MOVED (DATE):

Old Address: 150-52 20th Street, N.
RANK:

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: U-shape
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Brick
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Hip/composition
shingles
WALL/FRAME: Wood frame
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: 6/6 and 8/8 casements; multi-pane fixed-pane
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Stucco

NO. OF STORIES: 2
BASEMENT: Yes, raised

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Two centered main entries in shallow projecting bays with Spanish clay tiled shed roof; large, curvilinear stucco cornice, deep eaves; molded watertable course at first floor; first story has sets of triple segmental balcony doors, fully glazed with small panes, opening to shallow wrought iron balconies flanking each main entry door; courtyard units have porch onto courtyard; four main chimneys flanking arms of "U".

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): None.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Street trees, ornamental plantings, mature deciduous trees; courtyard with wooden entrance gates, patios, stucco wall with polychrome ceramic tile fountain.

ASSOCIATED FEATURES: None

SETTING: The apartment building is located on the east side of N.W. Twentieth Avenue on the southeast corner of N.W. Twentieth Avenue and N.W. Irving Street. The parcel is a corner lot, set back slightly from N.W. Twentieth, right to the sidewalk. The area is characterized mainly as mixed residential, mostly two story apartment buildings. Couch Park is located one block to the south.

RECORDED BY: Donovan and Associates
Prohaska and Associates

SHPO INVENTORY NO.:
DATE: August 1991

2909

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
NORTHWEST PORTLAND

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: The apartment, constructed by developer F.E. Bowman in 1925 for a cost of \$60,000, was designed in the Mission Style. The building displays characteristics of the style in its clay tile roof, curvilinear parapet, segmental balcony, multi-pane windows, courtyard and wrought iron work. The apartment is intact and an excellent example of its type.

Historical: The property is associated with the following Portland families: F.E. Bowman Company, Hjermstad Company, Morris.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP HISTORY

1924-1928 F.E. Bowman Co. purchased lots 15 and 16/Block 272 from Virginia and Clementine Wilson in November 1924.

Bowman deeded the property to Hjermstad Company on May 11, 1928.

1928-1943 A U.S. National Bank executor deeded the property to Barney and Ana Morris, husband and wife, in 1943.

OWNERS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Frederic E. Bowman (1862-1948) conducted business as F.E. Bowman and Company in Portland for twenty years. The company is described alternatively as 'contractors' and 'real estate and architects' in Portland city directories. A successful contractor, Bowman was responsible for the construction of three apartment buildings identified in the Portland Historic Resource Inventory. Included in this number are the Bowman Apartments (1926) on Irving, the California Mission style apartments on N.W. 20th (1925), and a Craftsman style apartment building constructed in 1916.

An apartment building constructed in 1913 for Bowman in the Craftsman style, located at 1624 - 1636 N.E. Tillamook, was not included in the Portland Historic Resource Inventory. However, it was identified as an early example of a Craftsman style apartment house designed by the F.E. Bowman Company, and was recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Bowman and his wife Harriet lived in the apartment complex located at 1825 S.W. Elm. Bowman was associated for several years with his nephew Mark D. Hawes, who was both vice-president and secretary-treasurer of the F.E. Bowman Company. Hawes was involved with financial transactions for the Bowman Apartments on N.W. Irving, having held the deed to the property from 1926 - 1927.

Several designers were involved with the F.E. Bowman Company including George R. Wright, formerly a draftsman in the office of A.E. Doyle. Wright designed the Craftsman style apartment house on S.W. Elm where Bowman resided. It is not clear whether Otis J. Fitch's involvement with Bowman continued beyond the design of the Bowman apartment house on N.W. Irving, however the apartment building Fitch designed for the F.E. Bowman Company stands out as the most unique in style and scale."

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Hjermstad Company: According to the 1939 Portland city directory, Christian O. Hjermstad was a manager of the White Apartments. He lived at the subject property in apartment # 9. No further biographical information is currently known.

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER

F.E. Bowman: See biographical information above.

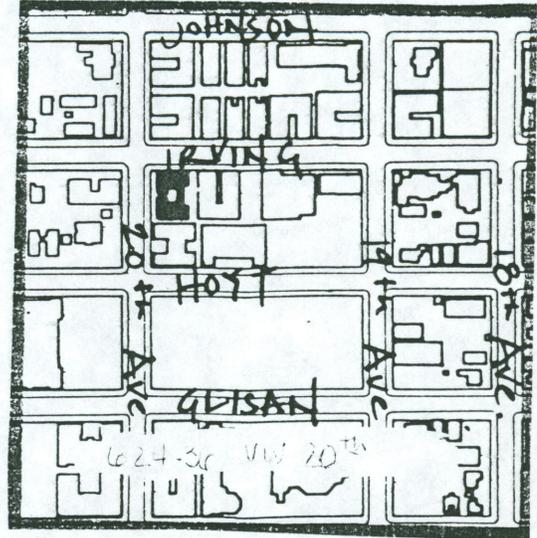
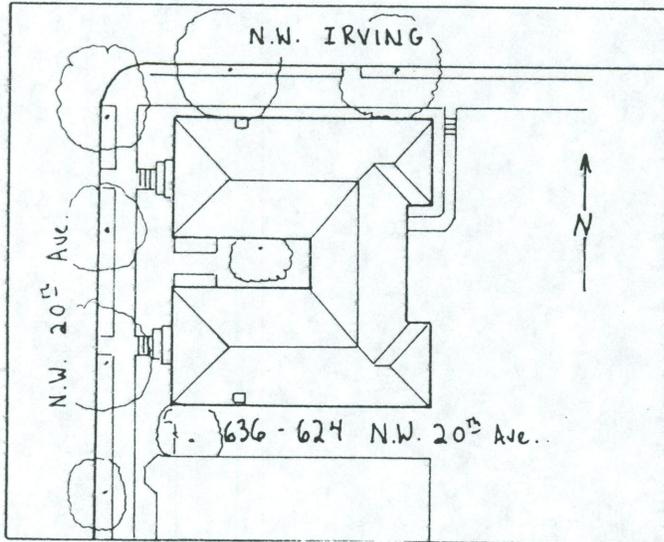
Sources: Ticor Title Company Records
Multnomah County Tax Assessor Records
City of Portland Building Bureau
Portland City Directories
Portland Block Books
National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form,
Patricia L. Sackett, August, 1989

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COUNTY: MULTNOMAH COUNTY

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NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 23, 16A, 17A

DATE: 1/26/1991



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