

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Marshall, Dr. John D., Building

other names/site number Marshall, Dr. John D., Clinic; Brown, Dr. Samuel J., Office; Brown, Aaron, Office; Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic; Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic; Skanner News Group; Brown, Spielberg and Culp Funeral Directors; Terry Family Funeral Home

Name of Multiple Property Listing African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

street & number 2337 N Williams Avenue  not for publication

city or town Portland  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97227

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date \_\_\_\_\_

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- HEALTH CARE: clinic
- HEALTH CARE: medical business/office
- COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
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- 
- 
- 

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- FUNERARY: mortuary
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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- MODERN MOVEMENT
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: BRICK, CONCRETE
- WOOD
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: GLASS
-

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

### Summary Paragraph

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is a one-story, rectangular-in-plan commercial building located at 2337 N Williams Avenue in the Eliot neighborhood of Portland, Oregon (Figures 1 and 2). Constructed in 1952, the building exhibits characteristic features of the Modern Movement including a horizontal emphasis, cuboid form, and simplified design.<sup>1</sup> It fronts the sidewalk along the west side of N Williams Avenue, and it has a concrete slab foundation and a flat roof with a low parapet and internal brick chimney. The north, south, and west façades are constructed of concrete masonry units with glass block windows on the south and west facades, while the primary (east) façade is wood-framed and clad in a combination of Roman brick, tile, and wood planks. The primary façade is divided into three bays: the central bay features a shallow, inset porch containing the primary entrance, and the two outer bays contain large replacement windows. Exterior modifications since the conclusion of the period of significance include the reconfiguration of the southern portion of the primary façade; replacement of much of the original fenestration; exterior painting and the replacement or covering of original tilework in the inset porch; the installation of modern signage; and the addition of a noncontributing storage shed at the west (rear) property boundary. The interior of the building, which is currently divided into a lobby, offices, viewing rooms, and lavatories, has been more extensively altered. However, the location of the building's primary hallway remains generally intact to the 1952 to 1979 period of significance, as do minor finishes such as the doors to the linen closet and furnace room. Overall, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association despite changes that have reduced its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

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### Narrative Description

#### SITE

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is located at 2337 N Williams Avenue, on the west side of N Williams Avenue opposite the intersection with NE Sacramento Street in Portland's Eliot neighborhood (Figure 1 and 2). Eliot is among several inner North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods collectively referred to as "Lower Albina." Both descriptors—Eliot and Lower Albina—are used to describe the building's setting throughout this nomination, with Lower Albina referring to the collection of neighborhoods that includes Eliot, Boise, King, Humboldt, and Overlook.

The building's primary (east) façade fronts N Williams Avenue, which is a one-lane, one-way, northbound street lined by sidewalks, a bike lane, and street parking. Mature deciduous trees create a dense canopy over the sidewalks on both sides of the street, and a single lighting standard is located immediately in front of the building's primary façade (Photograph 1). The building is built to the east lot line, adjoining the sidewalk, and to the south lot line, adjoining an asphalt-paved parking lot and driveway; the parking lot and driveway are located on a separately addressed tax lot (2333 N Williams Avenue) that has been under the same ownership as 2337 N Williams Avenue since 1986.<sup>2</sup> The area to the rear (west) of the building includes paved parking, a shipping container at the west lot line (installed ca. 2000 and

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<sup>1</sup> City of Portland Bureau of Buildings, Report of Inspection, May 28, 1952 (City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Records Collection, Permit Application No. 327672); Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates, "Clinic & Store Building for Dr. John D. Marshall, Portland, Oregon," May 16, 1952, Job No. 6032 (City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Records Collection, Permit Application No. 327828 26-26).

<sup>2</sup> "2337 N Williams Avenue," *PortlandMaps*, accessed June 6, 2022, at [https://www.portlandmaps.com/detail/assessor/2333-N-WILLIAMS-AVE/R102518\\_did/](https://www.portlandmaps.com/detail/assessor/2333-N-WILLIAMS-AVE/R102518_did/).

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noncontributing), and a grassy lawn bisected by a concrete-paved path.<sup>3</sup> The path cuts diagonally across the rear of the property, from the parking area to a chain-link gate at the northwest corner of the building, and continues along the length of the building's north façade; it terminates at a spear-top metal fence with a gate that opens onto the sidewalk lining N Williams Avenue. Along the north side of the path, the property's north lot line is delineated by a high, painted concrete block wall.

The building's surrounding vicinity is characterized by a diverse range of commercial buildings and apartment buildings dating from the 1910s through the early twenty-first century. The tax lot immediately north of the building features a 1983 shopping center set back from the sidewalk along N Williams Avenue, and the property to the south of the associated driveway and parking area is a 1968 commercial building.<sup>4</sup> The Legacy Emanuel Medical Center campus, the product of an urban renewal project that displaced many Lower Albina residents and businesses in the mid-twentieth century, is located one block to the north.

## EXTERIOR

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is a one-story building with a rectangular plan, a concrete slab foundation, and a flat roof with a low parapet that runs the length of the north, east, and south façades. An internal brick chimney punctuates the roof near the northwest corner of the building (Photograph 1).

On the primary elevation, the building's exterior wall is wood-framed and primarily clad in a narrow Roman brick veneer in a running bond pattern. The façade features a simple brick cornice and a narrow string course, which frame an illuminated fascia sign reading "Terry Family Funeral Home / Funerals • Cremations • Memorial Services" (Photograph 2). Beneath the string course, the façade is divided into three bays of roughly equal width. The southern bay features a ceramic tile-clad pilaster at the southeastern corner of the building and one tripartite, aluminum-framed window centered in the wall face. The central bay is an inset entryway with horizontally oriented wood plank cladding, which covers or has replaced original tile cladding; a fully glazed steel door with a fixed transom flanked by full-height, fixed windows is located slightly off-center in the façade, and a 4-inch round pipe post is located near the northeast corner of the space (Photograph 3). A nonoriginal spear-top metal fence with a single-leaf gate runs the length of the central bay, separating the inset entryway from the sidewalk. Finally, the northern bay features a single large, tripartite display window with a ceramic tiled bulkhead, set between pilasters clad in stacked-bond Roman brick veneer.

The building's north, south, and west exterior walls are constructed from concrete masonry units (Photograph 4). The south wall features eight pairs of square glass blocks in the east half of the façade. The blocks are arranged into a regular, offset pattern with three pairs in the top row, near the roofline; two in the middle; and three in the bottom row, approximately halfway up the building face (Photograph 5). All but three of the blocks have been painted over; those that remain visible display an interior pattern of vertically oriented parallel flutes to maximize light transition. Near the west side of the south wall is a rectangular window comprising sixteen glass blocks; this has also been obscured with paint.

The rear or west exterior wall contains four large windows, each comprised of a small, aluminum-framed awning window surrounded by square glass blocks (Photographs 4 and 6). Two of these windows are grouped closely together in the northern third of the façade, and two are more broadly spaced in the

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<sup>3</sup> Google Earth Pro (45.540016°, -122.667150°), July 2001, [earth.google.com/web/](http://earth.google.com/web/); Google Earth Pro (45.540016°, -122.667150°), July 1990, [earth.google.com/web/](http://earth.google.com/web/).

<sup>4</sup> "2415 N Williams Avenue," *PortlandMaps*, accessed June 8, 2022, at [https://www.portlandmaps.com/detail/assessor/2415-N-WILLIAMS-AVE/R102520\\_did/](https://www.portlandmaps.com/detail/assessor/2415-N-WILLIAMS-AVE/R102520_did/); "2323 N Williams Avenue," *PortlandMaps*, accessed June 6, 2022, at [https://www.portlandmaps.com/detail/assessor/2323-N-WILLIAMS-AVE/R102517\\_did/](https://www.portlandmaps.com/detail/assessor/2323-N-WILLIAMS-AVE/R102517_did/).

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middle and south portions of the façade. The awning windows are covered with metal grilles, and several of the glass blocks have been replaced with concrete.

The north exterior wall contains multiple types and styles of fenestration (Photograph 7). The eastern half of the façade is punctuated by one vinyl picture window with faux muntins and two single-hung aluminum windows covered by metal grilles; all three windows feature curved concrete sills (Photograph 8). The western half of the façade is punctuated by two single-leaf doors; the doors are slightly inset within the concrete masonry unit walls, and they feature matching metal outswing security doors with scrolled details. Three louvered vents are located in the wall between the doors, and the building's utility meters are located nearby.

## **INTERIOR**

The interior of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building reflects its current use as a funeral home. The primary entrance opens to a rectangular reception area at the east side of the building (Photographs 9 and 10). This space is flanked by offices, a showroom, a breakroom with a small kitchen, and a large conference room (Photographs 11 and 12). A double-loaded corridor at the southwest corner of the reception area leads to four viewing rooms, two bathrooms, a linen closet with built-in cabinet doors, and a furnace room at the rear of the building (Photograph 13). The hallway terminates at an exterior door located in the building's north wall, near the northwest corner of the building (Photograph 14).

The reception area, conference room, offices, showroom, and a portion of the hallway feature low-pile carpeting, wood moldings, and dropped ceilings with rectangular acoustic tiles. The bathrooms and the portion of the hallway near the rear of the building feature linoleum tiled flooring, plastic moldings, and older, smaller acoustic ceiling tiles. All of the interior doors are wood doors with varying fenestration, except for a welded, paneled metal door to the furnace room near the northwest corner of the building.

## **ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS**

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building has experienced moderate alterations to its primary façade since the end of the period of significance (1952-1979), including the reconfiguration of the inset entryway and the replacement of fenestration and signage. As originally constructed, the building's primary façade featured an angled plate-glass window and a triangular, integral planter in the southern bay, as well as a total of four single-leaf doors. A second integral planter was located off the southeast corner of the north bay, extending into the inset entryway and intersecting the extant pipe post, and a second pipe post was located near the southeast corner of the central bay (Figure 5).<sup>5</sup>

In late 1981 and early 1982, following the building's purchase by Bernie Foster and Bobbie Dore Foster, the southern bay of the primary façade was built out to mirror the northern bay; the integral planters were removed; one of the doors was relocated; the second pipe post was enclosed in a new masonry wall; and a long, horizontally oriented window was installed in the new wall. The ceramic tile-clad pilaster at the southeastern corner of the building was retained, and the new masonry wall was clad in Roman brick veneer to match the existing wall surface. In the central bay, another original door was replaced with a window and the integral planter was removed (Figure 8).<sup>6</sup>

By the early 2000s, the central bay had been reconfigured to contain a single entrance flanked by large fixed windows, and the windows in the northern and southern bays had been replaced within the same openings. Around 2007, new tenants covered or replaced the tiled wall surface of the central bay with stained wood planks and installed an illuminated fascia sign advertising the Terry Family Funeral Home

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<sup>5</sup> Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates, "Clinic & Store Building for Dr. John D. Marshall, Portland, Oregon."

<sup>6</sup> Pyramid Designs, "For Bernie Foster – The Skanner," September 15, 1981, Job No. 1401 (City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Records Collection, Permit Application No. 544430 18-15).

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in the upper part of the façade.<sup>7</sup> Most of the building's exterior, including the Roman brick veneer and tile cladding on the primary façade and several of the glass blocks on the south façade, was painted around this time.<sup>8</sup> At unknown dates, four small light fixtures were added to the primary façade; the spear-top fencing and gates were installed in front of the primary façade's central bay and at the northeast corner of the building; and the picture window near the east corner of the north façade was replaced (in the original opening) with a vinyl unit.

The interior of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building was largely reconfigured in the early 1980s, concurrent with the major exterior alterations. The original layout featured two small commercial spaces in the northeast portion of the building and a clinic (including a reception area, exam rooms, offices, storage areas, lavatories, and a furnace room) in the south and west (rear) portions of the building (Figure 7). Several of the interior walls in the rear of the building were retained, including the walls around two original exam rooms (repurposed as offices), a dressing room (repurposed as a lunchroom), two lavatories, a linen closet, and the furnace room. The ell-shaped, double-loaded corridor providing access to these spaces was also retained (cf. Figures 7 and 8). The interior walls in the front or eastern portion of the building were entirely reconfigured, obscuring the original layout of the commercial spaces and a portion of the clinic. Additionally, nearly all interior finishes dating to the period of significance have been removed. Those that have been retained are largely located at the northwest corner of the building, including the linen closet doors; the welded, paneled metal door to the furnace room; and possibly the linoleum flooring in the hallway.<sup>9</sup>

## **INTEGRITY**

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association to the period of significance, although its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship have been reduced through various alterations to the building. The *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Form establishes that, for buildings that are significant for their association with Portland's African American community under Criteria A or B, integrity of association, location, and feeling are of a comparatively higher importance than integrity of setting, design, materials, and workmanship.<sup>10</sup> Because the building is significant under Criterion A (see Section 8), its relatively high integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association are sufficient to qualify it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the auspices of the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD.

## **Location and Setting**

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is extant in its original location at 2337 N Williams Avenue in Portland's Eliot neighborhood and so retains integrity of location. Topographical features and the position of adjacent roads and sidewalks have not been altered since the building's construction for Dr. Marshall in 1952, and the architectural composition of the surrounding neighborhood reflects the shift from primarily residential to primarily commercial use that was ongoing during the property's period of significance.<sup>11</sup> Overall, the building retains integrity of setting, especially in the context of urban renewal and other

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<sup>7</sup> City of Portland Bureau of Development Services, Sign Permit Application for 2337 N Williams Avenue, June 28, 2007 (City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Records Collection, Permit Application No. SG07-142620).

<sup>8</sup> Chelsea Hale (Terry Family Funeral Home), conversation with author, May 25, 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates, "Clinic & Store Building for Dr. John D. Marshall, Portland, Oregon."

<sup>10</sup> Catherine Galbraith with Caitlyn Ewers, Kerrie Franey, Matthew Davis, and Brandon Spencer-Hartle, *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973*, Multiple Property Documentation Form (Portland, OR: 2020), F-145 to F-146.

<sup>11</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Portland, Oregon, Including Albina and Irvington*, vol. 6 [1924, updated Sept. 1950], Sheet 628.

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redevelopment programs that have impacted Lower Albina in the decades following the building's construction.<sup>12</sup>

### **Material, Workmanship, and Design**

As described in previous sections, the exterior of the building has experienced a handful of impactful alterations to the primary façade. However, the building retains its original footprint, massing, and roof form, as well as much of its original cladding. The alterations to the southern bay on the primary façade were completed using sympathetic materials such as Roman brick veneer, and character-defining features including the brick cornice and string course, the ceramic tile-clad pilaster, and the general location of the primary entrance were retained. Additionally, the south, west, and north façades are almost entirely intact to the period of significance, with the exception of some minor fenestration that has been replaced, removed, or painted over. The building therefore maintains some integrity of materials, workmanship, and design with regard to its exterior. Due to the extent of alterations to the interior, the building does not retain integrity of materials, workmanship, and design with regard to its interior spaces.

### **Feeling and Association**

Although no longer used as a healthcare clinic, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building remains under the ownership of local Black entrepreneurs and continues to house a local, Black-owned small business. The building is currently owned by Bernie Foster and Bobbie Dore Foster, founders and publishers of *The Skanner News*, and leased to the Terry Family Funeral Home, owned by funeral directors Dwight and Amy Terry. Many of its extant physical features, including the large picture windows on the primary façade, inset entry porch, and interior organization around a lobby and central hallway, connect the building's historic use to its current function. Furthermore, distinctive original features including the Roman brick veneer, exterior tilework, and glass block windows visually anchor the building to the period of its construction for Dr. Marshall. These physical features, in combination with the building's location in a historically African American neighborhood and its continuing relevance within Portland's Black business community, contribute to its relatively high integrity of feeling and association.

### **CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES**

The character-defining features of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building include the building's one-story height and cuboid massing; flat roof with low parapet; Roman brick and tile cladding, large windows, and three-bay design with inset entryway on the primary façade; and glass block windows on the south and west façades. The building's location on N Williams Avenue and its position on the lot, with no setback from the sidewalk, are also character-defining features of the property.

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<sup>12</sup> For additional information on the urban renewal programs that impacted Lower Albina between the 1950s and early 1970s, see Context I, *Settlement Patterns*, in the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE - BLACK  
HEALTH/MEDICINE  
SOCIAL HISTORY - CIVIL RIGHTS

**Period of Significance**

1952-1979

**Significant Dates**

1952: The building, then addressed 2337-2343 N Williams Ave., is constructed for Dr. John D. Marshall; Dr. Marshall's medical clinic opens at 2337 N Williams Ave. and Neal Drugs opens at 2341 N Williams Ave.  
1955: Dr. Samuel J. Brown replaces Neal Drugs at 2341 N Williams Ave.  
1970: Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic opens at 2341 N Williams Ave.  
1973: Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic relocates from 109 N Russell St. to 2337 N Williams Ave.  
1975: Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic relocates from 2341 N Williams Ave. to 214 N Russell St.  
1979: Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic at 2337 N Williams Ave. closes permanently.

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates (architects)  
Beebe & Wechner (builders)



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### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Dr. John D. Marshall Building at 2337 N Williams Avenue (historically 2337-2343 N Williams Avenue) spans 1952 to 1979, from its construction for Dr. John D. Marshall through the end of its association with the Portland chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP). Throughout this period, the building housed a series of healthcare resources serving the local Black community and other residents of the city's Lower Albina neighborhoods. Dr. Marshall, one of the only Black doctors practicing in Portland in the early postwar period, operated a medical clinic from the building's main office space (addressed 2337 N Williams Avenue) between 1952 and at least the early 1960s. He leased one of the building's two smaller commercial spaces (addressed 2341 N Williams Avenue) to Dr. Richard Neal, a Black pharmacist, between 1952 and 1955, and then to Dr. Samuel Brown, a Black dentist, between 1955 and at least the early 1960s. In 1970, Dr. Marshall let the building to the local chapter of the BPP, who operated first the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic and later the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic from the building between 1970 and 1979.<sup>13</sup> The period of significance ends in 1979, when the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic closed and the building ceased to be used for healthcare-related purposes.

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### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Criteria Consideration G is applicable because the period of significance for the Dr. John D. Marshall Building concludes less than 50 years before the date of this nomination. According to National Register Bulletin 22, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years*, properties with a period of significance that extends into the period 50 years before present "may be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, according to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, only if they are of 'exceptional importance,' or if they are integral parts of districts that are eligible for listing in the National Register."<sup>14</sup>

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is of exceptional importance within its particular historic contexts and therefore meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration G. Within the context of Black healthcare in Portland, Oregon, the building represents a particularly long and diverse association with Black medical professionals and with healthcare resources specifically serving the city's Black community. Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) are historically underrepresented in healthcare professions, and at the time of the building's construction for Black physician Dr. John D. Marshall, fewer than five Black medical doctors were practicing in Portland.<sup>15</sup> Between 1952 and 1970, Dr. Marshall's building housed his own medical practice as well as, at various times, a Black pharmacist's drugstore and pharmacy, a Black dentist's dental practice, and a white speech pathologist and audiologist's office.<sup>16</sup> From 1970 to 1979, the building was the site of the BPP's no-cost community dental and medical clinics, the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic and the Fred Hampton

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<sup>13</sup> Lucas N. N. Burke and Judson L. Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers: Empowering Albina and Remaking a City* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2016), 167-168, 202-203; Jules Boykoff and Martha Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves': The Portland Chapter of the Black Panther Party and the Local Media Response," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 111, no. 3 (Fall 2010): 288.

<sup>14</sup> Marcella Sherfy and W. Ray Luce, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years*, National Register Bulletin 22 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1979 [rev. 1990, 1996, 1998]), 1.

<sup>15</sup> Dr. Walter Reynolds, "Oral History Interview with Walter C. Reynolds," by Ralph Crawshaw, *History of Medicine in Oregon Project* (May 23, 2007): 10-11; Sara Piasecki, "DeNorval Unthank (1899-1977)," *Oregon Encyclopedia*, last modified April 6, 2022, accessed June 22, 2022, [https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/unthank\\_denorval\\_1899\\_1977\\_#YrSV7kbMJJaQ](https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/unthank_denorval_1899_1977_#YrSV7kbMJJaQ); Mary T. Henry, "Joyner, Robert Nathaniel, M.D. (1913-1999)," *HistoryLink*, last modified May 12, 1999, accessed June 11, 2022, at <https://historylink.org/file/1164>; Martha Gies, "Radical Treatment," *Reed Magazine* (December 1, 2009), accessed June 10, 2022, at <https://www.reed.edu/reed-magazine/articles/2009/black-panthers-clinics.html>.

<sup>16</sup> "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952; "Dentist to Open Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 17, 1955; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1959* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1959), 425.

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People's Free Health Clinic, which were organized by members of the Portland Panthers and staffed by Black and white volunteer doctors and dentists.<sup>17</sup> No other extant building is known to have offered a similarly diverse range of healthcare services to Black Portlanders during the 1952 to 1979 period of significance.

Within the specific context of the Portland Panthers and the BPP's community programming, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building is again of exceptional importance. Although it is not the only extant resource in Portland associated with the BPP's community healthcare programs, it represents the longest and most significant association. No other building was ever associated with both the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic and the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic, and no other building associated with the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic remains extant (the original location at 109 N Russell Street was demolished in 1973).<sup>18</sup> In all, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building was associated with the Portland Panthers for nine years, longer than any other documented property and for nearly the entire lifespan of the chapter.<sup>19</sup> As such, the building uniquely represents the history of the BPP in Portland.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building at 2337 N Williams Avenue is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851-1973* Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Form. The building meets the general and property-specific registration requirements established by the MPD, and it is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of *Ethnic Heritage - Black* and *Health/Medicine* for its long and varied association with Black medical professionals and with healthcare programs serving Portland's Black community. The building was commissioned by Dr. John D. Marshall, one of fewer than five Black physicians practicing in Portland during the early postwar period, and Dr. Marshall owned the property throughout the entire period of significance (1952-1979). Dr. Marshall operated his own medical practice out of its main clinic space between 1952 and at least 1962, and at various points, he leased the building's smaller commercial spaces to Dr. Richard Neal, a Black pharmacist; Dr. Samuel Brown, a Black dentist; and Dr. Paul F. Ventura, a white speech pathologist and audiologist.<sup>20</sup> The building was an important and centrally located healthcare resource for Portland's postwar Black community, which was concentrated in the surrounding Lower Albina neighborhoods during the period of significance.

The former John D. Marshall Building is also locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of *Ethnic Heritage - Black, Health/Medicine, and Social History - Civil Rights* for its association with the community healthcare programs operated by the Portland chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. The Portland Panthers operated two free healthcare clinics from the building between 1970 and 1979: the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic from 1970 to 1975 and the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic from 1973 to 1979. Both clinics were organized and administered by the Portland Panthers and staffed by volunteers, including Black and white physicians and dentists.<sup>21</sup> These programs were an important subset of the BPP's "community survival" programming, and Panther chapters across the United States established similar community healthcare resources during the 1960s and 1970s. However, the Portland Panthers are the only local chapter known to

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<sup>17</sup> Gies, "Radical Treatment."

<sup>18</sup> "Emanuel's victims voice complaints," *Sunday Oregonian* (Portland, OR), April 15, 1973.

<sup>19</sup> "Dental Clinic Opens Doors," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), March 15, 1970; Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 16.

<sup>20</sup> "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952; "Dentist to Open Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 17, 1955; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1959* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1959), 425.

<sup>21</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 167-168; Martha Gies, "Black Panthers in Portland," *Oregon Encyclopedia*, last modified January 20, 2022, accessed June 20, 2022, at [https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/black\\_panthers\\_in\\_portland/#.YqdhuaHMJaR](https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/black_panthers_in_portland/#.YqdhuaHMJaR).

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have operated both a general medical clinic and a separate, dedicated dental clinic.<sup>22</sup> Furthermore, Panther historians judge that no other chapter's health clinics experienced such a consistent volume of volunteer physicians and dentists.<sup>23</sup>

As the only building in Portland to have housed a Black-owned medical practice, dental practice, and pharmacy as well as both BPP healthcare clinics, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building uniquely represents efforts to address disparities in medical access for African Americans living in postwar Portland. Its period of significance is 1952 to 1979, encompassing the building's entire association with healthcare resources serving the Black community and other residents of Lower Albina. As described in the preceding section, the property satisfies Criteria Consideration G for properties achieving significance within the past 50 years, due to its exceptional importance within its historic contexts.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **DEVELOPMENT OF A BLACK BUSINESS DISTRICT ALONG N WILLIAMS AVENUE**

In 1952, when the building at 2337 N Williams Avenue was constructed for Dr. John D. Marshall, N Williams Avenue was at the heart of Portland's Black business district. However, the district's location in Lower Albina was a relatively recent development in the history of the city. Portland's African American business community had initially developed in inner Northwest Portland, near the white-owned railroad and hospitality industries that were Portland's major employers of Black men during the late nineteenth century. During the early twentieth century, redevelopment activities and rising property values on the west side of the Willamette River gradually forced Black Portlanders out of Northwest Portland. At the same time, racially restrictive covenants, discriminatory real estate and lending practices, and geographically limited employment opportunities restricted where they could relocate; in general, African American Portlanders were able to purchase or rent homes in only a small number of older, close-in neighborhoods during much of the twentieth century. These restrictions gradually concentrated Portland's Black population in Lower Albina, a collection of inner North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods including Eliot, Boise, King, Humboldt, and Overlook, where property was comparatively affordable and a well-developed streetcar system connected residents to railroad and hospitality jobs on the city's inner west side. Portland's Black-owned businesses relocated as well, shuttering their original locations near Union Station in Northwest Portland and reopening in Lower Albina, specifically along N Williams Avenue and NE Union Avenue (renamed NE Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard in 1989).<sup>24</sup>

The Black business community's transition from Northwest Portland to Lower Albina was largely complete by 1929, the onset of the Great Depression. The few Black-owned businesses that remained in Northwest Portland were distanced from their clientele, and virtually all had relocated or been forced to close by 1940. However, the 1940s and 1950s saw a major revitalization of Black business in Portland, due largely to an exponential increase in the city's Black population during World War II. Approximately 18,000 Black Americans relocated to Portland in the early 1940s, in search of lucrative employment opportunities at the six local shipyards that produced military vessels for the U.S. Maritime Commission. Although nearly half of this number were forced to leave Portland following the end of the war and the closure of the shipyards, the period would leave a permanent impact on the city's demographics generally, and on the Black business landscape in particular.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 239-330.

<sup>23</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 230.

<sup>24</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-19 to E-20; Roy E. Roos, *The History of Albina: Including Eliot, Boise, King, Humboldt, and Piedmont Neighborhoods* (Portland, OR: self-published, 2008), 33-35; "It's Now Time to Speak up for King Blvd.," *Skanner News* (Portland, OR), April 5, 1989.

<sup>25</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-23 to E-24. For additional information on African American involvement in Portland defense industries, see Context II, *Business and Employment*, in the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973 MPD*.

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Portland's Black population stabilized at approximately 9,500 people by 1950, roughly five times its pre-World War II number.<sup>26</sup> The increased number of African Americans living in the city invigorated the local Black business community, and many new commercial ventures emerged during the early postwar era. Continuing earlier trends, most of these established themselves in Lower Albina, within the commercial district centered on N Williams Avenue and NE Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, north of Broadway. The corridor boasted a vibrant array of Black-owned business including restaurants, grocery stores, clothing shops, hotels, and offices. A small but significant segment of these businesses were associated with a growing class of Black professionals including lawyers, real estate agents, and medical professionals such as Dr. John D. Marshall.<sup>27</sup>

### **BLACK HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN TWENTIETH CENTURY PORTLAND**

Dr. John D. Marshall, who commissioned the building at 2337 N Williams Avenue in 1952, was one of a small number of Black physicians working in Portland during the early postwar era. Black Americans and other people of color are historically underrepresented in Oregon's healthcare workforce, and through at least the mid-twentieth century, few Black physicians, dentists, or other medical professionals were practicing in Portland at any given time.<sup>28</sup> Among other factors, the scarcity of Black healthcare workers in Portland reflects a lack of access to specialized education and medical facilities, as well as the limited size of the African American population in Portland relative to other major American cities. At the same time, white-owned hospitals and other medical facilities regularly refused to accept Black patients, and few white doctors made house calls to African American homes. These and other barriers engendered substantial disparities in healthcare access and health outcomes for Black Portlanders, which persist on a local and national level today.<sup>29</sup>

Portland's first documented Black doctors, Dr. James A. Merriman and Dr. Stanley Lucas, were both recruited by railroad companies, which were among the city's primary employers of Black men in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>30</sup> Because Portland's white medical professionals and white-owned healthcare facilities regularly refused service to Black patients, several railroad companies recruited and relocated Black doctors to care for their African American porters, waiters, and other employees. Dr. Merriman was hired by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in 1903 and Dr. Lucas by the Northern Railroad Company in 1909; both doctors served the city's broader African American community, then numbering around 1,000 people, as well as railroad employees.<sup>31</sup>

In 1929, Dr. Merriman scouted a recent graduate of Howard University College of Medicine, Dr. DeNorval Unthank, to join him in his practice. A front-page article in the *Advocate*, a popular local Black newspaper, celebrated his arrival.<sup>32</sup> By 1931, both Dr. Merriman and Dr. Lucas had relocated or ceased to practice, and for the next decade, Dr. Unthank was the only Black medical doctor serving a growing population of 1,500 to 2,000 African American Portlanders.<sup>33</sup> The number of Black medical professionals practicing in Portland grew slightly in the postwar period, but still it did not keep pace with the city's rapidly expanding African American population. Newspaper and oral history sources suggest that fewer than five Black medical doctors were practicing in Portland at any given time between the 1940s and late 1970s. At various points, practicing Black

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<sup>26</sup> Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung, *Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for Large Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005), Table 38.

<sup>27</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-63.

<sup>28</sup> Latisha Jensen, "People of Color in Oregon Are Unlikely to Find a Doctor with a Shared Background," *Willamette Week* (Portland, OR), October 7, 2020; Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-205.

<sup>29</sup> Lisa K. Bates, Ann Curry-Stevens, and the Coalition of Communities of Color, *The African American Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile* (Portland, OR: Portland State University, 2014), 3.

<sup>30</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-42.

<sup>31</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-47 to E-48

<sup>32</sup> "Dr. Unthank Opens Office," *Advocate* (Portland, OR), January 25, 1930.

<sup>33</sup> Sara Piasecki, "DeNorval Unthank (1899-1977)," *Oregon Encyclopedia*, last modified April 6, 2022, accessed June 22, 2022, [https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/unthank\\_denorval\\_1899\\_1977/#.YrSV7kbMJJaQ](https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/unthank_denorval_1899_1977/#.YrSV7kbMJJaQ).

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physicians included Dr. Unthank, Dr. Robert Joyner, Dr. Walter C. Reynolds, and Dr. John D. Marshall.<sup>34</sup> Practicing Black dentists in postwar Portland, which were even fewer in number, included Dr. Carle R. Vickers and Dr. Samuel J. Brown.<sup>35</sup>

### **Dr. John D. Marshall**

Dr. John D. Marshall was born ca. 1921 in Chicago, Illinois, and dedicated much of his life to providing medical care for Black Americans. After completing his medical training at Meharry Medical College, a historically Black medical school in Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Marshall relocated to New York for a medical internship at Harlem Hospital.<sup>36</sup> He may have met his future wife, Viola M. Artsen, during this period, as she was employed by the hospital as a student nurse.<sup>37</sup> Upon finishing his internship, Dr. Marshall moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he completed his residency at Kansas City General Hospital No. 2, a segregated medical care facility for African American patients.<sup>38</sup> In 1947, Dr. Marshall and Viola Artsen married in Kansas City and then relocated to Portland, where Dr. Marshall initially entered into joint practice with Dr. Unthank.<sup>39</sup>

By 1948, the Marshalls were living in an apartment in the City of Vanport, a sprawling World War II-era housing development in North Portland along the southern bank of the Columbia River.<sup>40</sup> Erected in 1942 for the Kaiser Shipyard's wartime employees, Vanport was the largest federal housing project in the country at the time of its construction. It was also one of the few areas where Portland's Black residents could reliably secure housing during and after World War II; at the time the Marshalls were living in Vanport, around one-third of the city's residents were African American.<sup>41</sup> The Marshalls and their neighbors were ultimately displaced from Vanport by the Vanport Flood, which destroyed the homes of more than 18,000 people and took the lives of at least 15 in May 1948.<sup>42</sup> Like so many others, the Marshalls lost their housing and many of their possessions in the floodwaters.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Dr. Walter Reynolds, "Oral History Interview with Walter C. Reynolds," by Ralph Crawshaw, *History of Medicine in Oregon Project* (May 23, 2007): 10-11; Steve Duckworth, "Walter C. Reynolds (1920-2020)," *Oregon Encyclopedia*, last modified May 4, 2022, accessed June 11, 2022, at <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/reynolds-walter/#.Yqzrn6HMldU>; Mary T. Henry, "Joyner, Robert Nathaniel, M.D. (1913-1999)," *HistoryLink*, last modified May 12, 1999, accessed June 11, 2022, at <https://historylink.org/file/1164>; Gies, "Radical Treatment."

<sup>35</sup> "Carle R. Vickers, D.D.S.," *Portland Inquirer* (Portland, OR), December 15, 1944; "Dentist to Open Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 17, 1955.

<sup>36</sup> United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*, Record Group Number 29, Roll 1163, Sheet Number 4, Enumeration District 37-512; "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger* (Portland, OR), September 12, 1952.

<sup>37</sup> United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940*, Roll m-t0627-02664, Sheet Number 3B, Enumeration District 31-1671.

<sup>38</sup> "Marriage Licenses," *Kansas City Times* (Kansas City, MO), July 22, 1947. The first superintendent of Kansas City General Hospital No. 2 was Dr. Thomas C. Unthank, who was born to formerly enslaved parents in Greensboro, South Carolina, in 1866 and graduated from Howard University College of Medicine in 1898. The 1920 census identifies Dr. Thomas Unthank as the adopted father of DeNorval Unthank, then a college student. Dr. Thomas C. Unthank died in 1932, prior to Dr. John D. Marshall's time at Kansas City General Hospital No. 2 (Nancy J. Hulston, "Biography of Thomas C. Unthank (1866-1932), Physician," *Kansas City Public Library | Digital History*, last modified 1999, accessed October 3, 2022, at <https://kchistory.org/document/biography-thomas-c-unthank-1866-1932-physician>).

<sup>39</sup> "Marriage Licenses," *Kansas City Times* (Kansas City, MO), July 22, 1947; "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger* (Portland, OR), September 12, 1952.

<sup>40</sup> "Grateful," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 12, 1948.

<sup>41</sup> Carl Abbott, "Vanport," *Oregon Encyclopedia*, last modified March 9, 2022, accessed June 22, 2022, at <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/vanport/#.YrOwPkbMJJaQ>.

<sup>42</sup> Michael N. McGregor, "The Vanport Flood," *The Oregon History Project*, last modified January 25, 2022, accessed June 24, 2022, at <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/essays/the-vanport-flood/#.YrZDgUbMJJaQ>. For more information about the Vanport Flood and its impact on Portland's African American residents, see Context I, *Settlement Patterns*, in the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973 MPD*.

<sup>43</sup> "Grateful," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 12, 1948. In this open letter published in the *Oregonian*, a daily newspaper in Portland, Viola Marshall thanks the Multnomah County officials for "entering our Vanport apartment to make sure we

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By late 1949, the Marshalls were living at 3941 N Sitka Street in University Homes, another wartime housing development in North Portland.<sup>44</sup> This move was short-lived, however, as in 1950, Dr. Marshall commissioned the construction of a new Ranch Style house at 8208 N Dana Avenue in the Portsmouth neighborhood.<sup>45</sup> The couple had two children during this period—John D., Jr., born August 1948, and Robert, born October 1949—and Viola Marshall worked as a homemaker while Dr. Marshall practiced medicine from offices at 1415 N Williams Avenue.<sup>46</sup> City directories indicate that his neighbors at this location included other Black-owned businesses such as Charlene’s Beauty Box at 1409 N Williams Avenue and Waldo Bogle’s barber shop at 1411 N Williams Avenue.<sup>47</sup> The building had previously housed the offices of Dr. Robert Joyner, a Black physician who practiced in Portland from 1943 to 1949, and would later be leased to Dr. Walter C. Reynolds, the first Black graduate of the University of Oregon Medical School (now Oregon Health & Science University [OHSU]).<sup>48</sup>

Dr. Marshall did not remain at 1415 N Williams Avenue long, possibly due to the looming threat of urban renewal: over the next two decades, this building and its neighbors would all fall to the construction of the Memorial Coliseum, the Minnesota Freeway (Interstate 5), and related infrastructure developments.<sup>49</sup> A few years before active displacement began, however, Dr. Marshall purchased a vacant lot at 2337 N Williams Avenue and began construction of a new clinic building in 1952.<sup>50</sup> His decision to locate the building on N Williams Avenue, just a half-mile north of his former offices, indicates the continued vitality and relevance of this street as a center of Black commercial activity during the 1950s. It also reflects the limited options available to Black property buyers and business owners in postwar Portland, even as urban renewal programs placed increasing pressure on the community in Lower Albina.<sup>51</sup>

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were not trapped,” and for rescuing “most of Dr. Marshall’s valuable medical books and enough of our outer clothes to raise our morale 100 per cent and give us the courage to start over again.” For additional information surrounding the City of Vanport and the Vanport Flood, see Context I, *Settlement Patterns*, in the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD.

<sup>44</sup> “Marshall,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), October 9, 1949; Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Portland, Oregon, Including St. Johns, University Park & Municipal Terminal*, vol. 3 [1924, updated Sept. 1950], Sheet 359; “Index map of Portland Oregon and environs war housing projects,” Record No. AD/6492, *Portland Efiles* accessed October 3, 2022, at <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/10936940>. This house (and N Sitka Street in its entirety) are no longer extant.

<sup>45</sup> “John D. Marshall, M.D.—Residence,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), January 17, 1950. This house remains extant.

<sup>46</sup> “Dr. and Mrs. John D. Marshall announce...” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), August 31, 1948; “Marshall,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), October 9, 1949; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*, Record Group Number 29, Roll 1163, Sheet Number 4, Enumeration District 37-512; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk’s Portland City Directory 1950* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1950), 680.

<sup>47</sup> R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk’s Portland City Directory 1952* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1952), 1571.

<sup>48</sup> “Robt. N Joyner Jr., M.D.,” *Portland Inquirer* (Portland, OR), January 25, 1946; Henry, “Joyner, Robert Nathaniel, M.D. (1913-1999);” R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk’s Portland City Directory 1953-54* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1953), 911.

<sup>49</sup> “PCRI Honors Five Pioneers for Contributions to Black Community,” *Skanner News*, July 10, 2014, accessed October 3, 2022, at <https://www.theskanner.com/news/newsbriefs/21516-pcri-honors-five-pioneers-for-contributions-to-black-community>; Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-32-33, E-65.

<sup>50</sup> City of Portland Department of Public Works, Bureau of Buildings, Application for Permit, Alterations or Repairs, February 4, 1942 (City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Records Collection, Permit Application No. 261155); Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Portland, Oregon, Including Albina and Irvington*, vol. 6 [1924, updated Sept. 1950], Sheet 628. The property was vacant and undeveloped at the time, as a single-family residence that had formerly occupied the lot was “condemned as a nuisance” and razed in early 1942.

<sup>51</sup> Dr. Marshall purchased the property in April 1951 (Multnomah County Deed Records, Book 1469, Page 5). Permit records suggest that he briefly relocated to 1620 N Williams Avenue while his new clinic was under construction (City of Portland Bureau of Buildings, Report of Inspection [Permit No. 327672], May 28, 1952; Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates, “Clinic & Store Building for Dr. John D. Marshall, Portland, Oregon”). However, the 1952 city directory for Portland continues to list his address as 1415 N Williams Avenue (R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk’s Portland City Directory 1952*, 1776).

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### CONSTRUCTION OF THE DR. JOHN D. MARSHALL BUILDING

In spring 1952, Dr. Marshall engaged Portland architecture and engineering firm Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates to prepare architectural drawings for a one-story building including a medical clinic and two small commercial spaces at 2337 N Williams Avenue. Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates were a small local firm that evolved from Lathrop and Associates, established by white civil engineer Sidney P. Lathrop in 1946.<sup>52</sup> Roger V. Gillam, a white structural engineer, joined the company in early 1947, and Harry L. Percy, Jr., a white architect, joined in late 1948.<sup>53</sup> As Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates, the firm moved their offices into the Terminal Sales Building at 1220 SW Morrison Street, where they were located during the design and construction of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building.<sup>54</sup>

Newspaper announcements from this period suggest that Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates were a versatile firm with a wide range of local projects including distribution warehouses, large retail facilities, and medical clinics. Some of their more prominent projects include a warehouse erected at 1313 NE Lombard Place for Spool Cotton Company in 1949, a commercial building for the Homelite Corporation at 3935 N Williams Avenue in 1952, a medical clinic for Dr. Robert W. Kullberg at 2803 NE Everett Street in 1953, and the Hillsdale Shopping Center at 6309 SW Capitol Highway in 1954.<sup>55</sup> The firm tended to work in utilitarian and Modern styles, forgoing applied ornamentation and embracing a strong horizontal element in their designs. In their commercial and institutional projects, Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates regularly employed modern, mass-produced cladding materials with interesting textures, including glazed ceramic tile as seen on the façade of the Hillsdale Shopping Center and rusticated Roman brick veneer as seen on the (now demolished) medical clinic at 2803 NE Everett Street.<sup>56</sup>

Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates completed the architectural drawings for the Dr. John D. Marshall Building in mid-May 1952, and Dr. Marshall hired Beebe & Wechner, a white-owned construction company at 2134 N Flint Street, to construct the building in late spring and summer 1952.<sup>57</sup> Permit announcements from the late 1940s and early 1950s indicate that Beebe & Wechner was primarily engaged in the construction of single-family homes and small commercial and institutional buildings at this time, although the company was also contracted for larger projects at the University of Oregon Medical School and Lewis and Clark College.<sup>58</sup> Dr.

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<sup>52</sup> "Engineer Opens Portland Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), November 3, 1946; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*, Record Group Number 29, Roll 464, Sheet Number 21, Enumeration District 26-132; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*, Record Group Number 29, Roll 1164, Sheet Number 20, Enumeration District 37-589; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*, Record Group Number 29, Roll 1161, Sheet Number 72, Enumeration District 37-450.

<sup>53</sup> "Engineer Joins Lathrop Group," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), January 12, 1947; "Firm Joined by Architect," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), October 3, 1948.

<sup>54</sup> "Hillsdale Fete Ahead: Shopping Hub Set to Open," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 16, 1954.

<sup>55</sup> "\$200,000 Structure to House Spool Cotton Concern Plant," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 12, 1949; "Firm Building Storage Plant," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), September 7, 1952; "Bitars Start New Building," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), December 21, 1952; "Clinic Now Building," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), April 19, 1953; "Hillsdale Fete Ahead: Shopping Hub Set to Open," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 16, 1954.

<sup>56</sup> Google Street View, "2803 NE Everett St, Portland, OR 97232," accessed June 28, 2022, at <https://www.google.com/maps/place/2803+NE+Everett+St,+Portland,+OR+97232/@45.5251886,-122.6369733,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x5495a0b8afb2855d:0x4b827fa96a2089cd!8m2!3d45.5251886!4d-122.6369733>.

<sup>57</sup> "Ground-Breaking Event Scheduled," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 4, 1951; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940*, Roll m-t0627-03386, Sheet Number 1B, Enumeration District 37-90; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*, Record Group Number 29, Roll 3884, Sheet Number 75, Enumeration District 37-365.

<sup>58</sup> "New Building Due Company," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), December 25, 1949; "Building Permits," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 11, 1950; "L-C to Build New Dormitory," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 2, 1951; "Lewis and Clark to Build \$250,000 Dormitory Unit," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 6, 1951; "Laboratory Plans Approved," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 18, 1952; "First National Contracts for New Branch Building," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), October 11, 1953.

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Marshall's medical clinic at 2337 N Williams Avenue was at least the second medical building for which Beebe & Wechner had been contracted in the early postwar era, as the company had built a small dental office at NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Knott Street in early 1951.<sup>59</sup>

Beebe & Wechner completed Dr. Marshall's building in 1952 for approximately \$25,000.<sup>60</sup> The design reflected Lathrop, Gillam & Percy, Associates' penchant for Modern architecture, with its horizontal emphasis and use of both Roman brick veneer and glazed ceramic tile cladding, large storefront windows, and glass blocks on the south and rear (west) façades. As depicted in original plans, the interior of the building was divided into three distinct spaces, each with a distinct address and an exterior entrance on the primary façade. The medical clinic (2337 N Williams Avenue) occupied the south and west portions of the building, while the two commercial spaces (2341 and 2343 N Williams Avenue) were clustered at the northeast corner. The commercial spaces each included one open-plan, multi-use space and a lavatory, while the clinic comprised a series of rooms including a lobby, an X-ray room and attached darkroom, a small laboratory, a consultation room, two exam rooms, a physiotherapy room, file storage, a dressing room, two restrooms, and the building's furnace room.<sup>61</sup>

### **HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AT THE DR. JOHN D. MARSHALL BUILDING: 1952-1970**

The *Portland Challenger*, a Black-owned biweekly newspaper, celebrated the opening of Dr. Marshall's new building with a front-page article in September 1952 (Figure 9). In a short interview, Dr. Marshall attested that the clinic's features—including "a better equipped medical office with enlarged laboratory facilities to assist in more effective diagnosis"—were suited "all around to take care of the needs of the community."<sup>62</sup> In the interest of furthering accessible medical services for Portland's Black community, Dr. Marshall also leased one of the commercial spaces (2341 N Williams Avenue) to Neal Drugs, operated by Black pharmacist Dr. Richard Neal, and announced his intention to eventually host a dental practice in the building. Dr. Marshall leased the second, smaller commercial space (2343 N Williams Avenue) to Lillian's Beauty Salon, a Black hair salon operated by Lillian Williams.<sup>63</sup>

In early 1955, Dr. Neal closed Neal Drugs and took a position at PayLess Drug in Vancouver, Washington, leaving the 2341 N Williams Avenue storefront vacant.<sup>64</sup> By June, however, Dr. Marshall had leased the space to Dr. Samuel J. Brown, Jr., a Black dentist.<sup>65</sup> Dr. Brown was a graduate of Howard University's College of Dentistry with experience at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tuskegee, Alabama, and with the U.S. Air Force in Fairbanks, Alaska.<sup>66</sup> He moved from Fairbanks to Portland in 1955 and opened his dental practice in Dr. Marshall's building shortly thereafter.<sup>67</sup> Lillian's Beauty Salon remained at 2343 N Williams Avenue at this time, but by 1959 Dr. Marshall had leased this space to Dr. F. Paul Ventura, a white speech pathologist and audiologist formerly with Portland Public Schools.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> "Dental Center Ready for Use," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), February 6, 1951.

<sup>60</sup> City of Portland Bureau of Buildings, Report of Inspection, June 6, 1952 (City of Portland Bureau of Development Services Records Collection, Permit Application No. 327828).

<sup>61</sup> Lathrop, Gillam & Percy Associates, "Clinic & Store Building for Dr. John D. Marshall, Portland, Oregon."

<sup>62</sup> "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952.

<sup>63</sup> "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952; Bosco-Milligan Foundation, *Cornerstones of Community: Buildings of Portland's African American History (Revised and Expanded)* (Portland, OR: Bosco-Milligan Foundation, 1997), 55; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1953-54* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1953), 1608. For additional context surrounding Black-owned salons and barber shops in postwar Portland, see the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop at 213-215 NE Hancock Street (NRHP Reference No. 100007455).

<sup>64</sup> R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1956, Including Milwaukee* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1956), 764.

<sup>65</sup> "Dentist to Open Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 17, 1955.

<sup>66</sup> "Dr. Samuel J. Brown Jr.," *Legacy.com*, accessed June 23, 2022, at <https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/samuel-brown-obituary?id=21815640>.

<sup>67</sup> "Lillian's Beauty Shop," *Northwest Clarion* (Portland, OR), December 30, 1955.

<sup>68</sup> R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1959* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1959), 425; "Classes



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City directories and newspaper records indicate that Dr. Marshall and Dr. Brown retained their offices at 2337 N Williams Avenue and 2341 N Williams Avenue, respectively, through at least the early 1960s.<sup>69</sup> Dr. Ventura, however, left the building by early 1960.<sup>70</sup> Dr. Marshall subsequently leased 2343 N Williams Avenue to Aaron Brown, a young Black lawyer who would later become Oregon's first Black judge.<sup>71</sup> Brown graduated from Portland's Northwestern School of Law in spring 1959 and was admitted to the Oregon State Bar the following September.<sup>72</sup> He practiced from 2343 N Williams Avenue until 1969, when Portland Mayor Terry Schruck appointed him a *pro tem* municipal court judge and he ceased private practice.<sup>73</sup>

### **THE BLACK PANTHERS AT THE DR. JOHN D. MARSHALL BUILDING: 1970-1979**

In 1970, Dr. Marshall leased a portion of his building to the Portland chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP) for use as a no-cost community dental clinic. Three years later, when urban renewal programs displaced their free medical clinic from its original location, the Panthers moved this program into the building as well. In all, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building was associated with the Portland Panthers' health care programs for nine years, from 1970 to 1979—nearly the entire life of the chapter. The building's varied and ongoing relationship to healthcare resources during this period reflects Dr. Marshall's commitment to provide accessible medical care to Black Portlanders and other residents of Lower Albina. The use and reuse of the building by successive Black professionals and programs, from Dr. Marshall to the BPP, is also indicative of the structural racism that limited Black Portlanders' access to real estate during the twentieth century. Discriminatory real estate, lending, and property management practices continued to restrict where African Americans were able to purchase or lease property in Portland, and so many properties in Lower Albina were passed from one Black family, business, or program to another well beyond the postwar years. The city's urban renewal programs, which disproportionately impacted Black Portlanders, accelerated this phenomenon even as they reduced Lower Albina's available building stock.

### **The Black Panthers in Portland**

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was founded in 1966 in Oakland, California, by Merritt College students Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. The party's platform, called the *Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program* or the *Black Panther Party for Self-Defense Ten-Point Platform and Program*, is both a statement of core beliefs and a list of demands for human rights—including freedom, full employment, an end to capitalist exploitation, free education emphasizing Black history, an exemption from military service, an end to police brutality and wars of aggression, the freeing of all Black prisoners, all-Black juries for Black defendants, and "land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace" for all Black Americans. The platform also describes the longstanding political and economic exploitation of Black people in America and asserts Black Americans' right to armed self-defense.<sup>74</sup>

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Set for Children: Hearing-Deficiency to Receive Aid," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), January 18, 1953.

<sup>69</sup> R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1959* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1959), 425; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1960* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1960), 135; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1962* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1962), 167 and 843.

<sup>70</sup> "Brown Opens Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), February 12, 1960.

<sup>71</sup> "Tribute to Oregon Judge Aaron Brown '59," *Lewis & Clark Law School Newsroom*, September 6, 2016, <https://law.lclark.edu/live/news/33832-tribute-to-oregon-judge-aaron-brown-59>; Symone Jackson, "What's up with the young Black lawyers? Remembering Aaron Brown, Oregon's first African American judge," *Beneficial State Foundation*, February 28, 2018, <https://beneficialstate.org/perspectives/remembering-aaron-brown-oregons-first-african-american-judge/>. Judge Aaron Brown was of no known relation to Dr. Samuel J. Brown, Jr.

<sup>72</sup> "Brown Opens Office," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), February 12, 1960.

<sup>73</sup> "Tribute to Oregon Judge Aaron Brown '59." In 1971, when the Portland Municipal Court merged with the Multnomah County District Court, Governor Tom McCall appointed Brown a district court judge. He was subsequently elected to the position four times, retiring in 1995.

<sup>74</sup> "The Black Panther Party Ten Point Platform & Program - October 1966," *It's About Time: Black Panther Party Legacy & Alumni*, accessed June 24, 2022, at [http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/home/bpp\\_program\\_platform.html](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/home/bpp_program_platform.html).

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From its beginnings as a local community organization with a small number of members, the BPP expanded to include as many as 5,000 members in at least 34 chapters across the United States.<sup>75</sup> The party's early activities included patrolling city streets while carrying visible firearms, in an effort to monitor law enforcement officers and prevent police harassment of Black citizens. As the party grew, party members confronted politicians, legal authorities, and police in organized protests. Members also expended tremendous effort to build mutual aid networks within their communities, which were often chronically underserved by government welfare programs. Across the country, BPP chapters operated at least sixty-five social service programs including free breakfasts for children, free medical clinics, free ambulance services, free legal aid services, and free food and clothing distributions.<sup>76</sup>

Portland's arm of the BPP was led by activist Kent Ford, who moved to the Pacific Northwest shortly after completing high school in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ford had initially learned of the party in 1967, from a *New York Times* article covering the Panthers' protest of a California bill banning the public display of loaded firearms.<sup>77</sup> The image of BPP members standing in defense of Black people's right to arm themselves deeply affected Ford, and he sought to learn more about the Black Power movement. With his friend Tommy Mills, a Black Army veteran of the Vietnam War, Ford began to study the works of Malcolm X, Mao Zedong, and Che Guevara. Within a year, they began a project to raise bail money for people whom they believed were unfairly incarcerated.<sup>78</sup>

The exigency of their activities was made clear in spring 1968, when preacher, pacifist, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered in Memphis, Tennessee.<sup>79</sup> According to Ford, "after King got assassinated, we knew that those [nonviolent] days was pretty much over. The people that was always on the left, that wanted radical change, it was their turn now."<sup>80</sup> Ford and Mills soon organized a reading group and political education classes in Northeast Portland to gather and discuss Black liberation. The group met twice a week to study *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung*, Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, and Huey Newton's "Executive Mandate Number One"—all popular texts among BPP members. The classes were often conducted by Kent Ford, Sandra Ford (then Sandra Britt), Percy Hampton, Oscar Johnson, or Linda Thornton, who all emerged as early leaders within the organization. Ford and Mills also began to attend political gatherings and met with radical political and social organizations including the Students for a Democratic Society.<sup>81</sup>

In 1968 or 1969, Ford and Mills met Aaron Dixon, captain of the Seattle chapter of the BPP, at a reception following Dixon's speaking engagement at Portland State College (now Portland State University). Inspired by their conversation, Ford and Mills resolved to establish a party branch in Portland. At the time, the pair were unaware that prospective branches were required to obtain authorization from the BPP's national leadership in Oakland; Ford and Mills moved forward independently, renting out a space at NE Cook Street and NE Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard that was also occupied by an antiwar group named The Resistance. Ford and Mills held meetings under the BPP name, posted signs and hung posters of famous Panther leaders, and produced leaflets about issues pertaining to the party. Membership grew steadily as word of the group spread through the community, and Ford and Mills soon relocated their offices to a larger space at 3619 NE Martin Luther King

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<sup>75</sup> Michael X. Delli Carpini, "Black Panther Party: 1966-1982," in *The Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America* (Armonke, NY: Sharpe Reference, 2000), 194.

<sup>76</sup> Gies, "Radical Treatment"; Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 282; "Black Panther Community Survival Programs," *Black Panther Party Alumni Legacy Network*, accessed June 24, 2022, at <https://bppaln.org/programs>.

<sup>77</sup> The article was possibly "Armed Negroes Protest Gun Bill; 30 Black Panthers Invade Sacramento Legislature, Lawmakers Startled," *New York Times*, May 3, 1967.

<sup>78</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 68-70.

<sup>79</sup> Gies, "Black Panthers in Portland"; Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 287.

<sup>80</sup> Kent Ford, interview by Martha Gies, May 6, 2004 (quoted in Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 287).

<sup>81</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 69-70; Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 287.

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Jr Boulevard. In a short period, the group swelled to thirty or forty members, with a nucleus of about half a dozen people driving the early direction and activities of the chapter.<sup>82</sup>

Through his efforts to grow a Portland cadre of the BPP, Kent Ford earned a reputation as a charismatic and radical activist within Portland's Black community. His success also captured the attention of the Portland Police Bureau, and law enforcement officers harassed, cited, or arrested Ford on numerous occasions for jaywalking and traffic violations.<sup>83</sup> In June 1969, while driving with Mills and Percy Hampton, a young BPP recruit, Ford intervened in a confrontation between police and several Black middle schoolers in a parking lot. For releasing a young Black boy from a police car, officers maced, beat, and arrested Ford for "inciting to riot."<sup>84</sup> He was incarcerated in Rocky Butte Jail, where his bail was set at \$80,000—an exorbitant figure for the time.<sup>85</sup> Don Hamerquist, a white former member of the local Communist Party, heard of Ford's predicament and used his connections to raise the money: Dr. Morris Malbin, a white radiologist known for his liberal politics, put up \$40,000, and Penny Sabin, a white heir to the Blue Bell Potato Chip company, contributed \$40,000 in stocks.<sup>86</sup> Following his release, Ford emerged from the police station at SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and SW Oak Street to a small crowd of Black and white supporters, to whom he announced: "If they keep coming in with these fascist tactics, we're going to defend ourselves."<sup>87</sup> This declaration directly referenced the BPP's *Ten-Point Platform and Program*, which states that in the face of police brutality and murder of Black people, "it is our right [...] to defend ourselves against such armed forces."<sup>88</sup>

The Portland chapter of the BPP, though still unrecognized by the national organization, was galvanized by Ford's arrest and public declaration of the party's presence in Portland. Membership grew to include approximately fifty Panthers, around a third of whom were women, and numerous white allies who supported the group's community programs.<sup>89</sup> In line with the *Ten-Point Platform and Program* of the BPP, members of the Portland cadre worked to raise awareness surrounding episodes of police brutality against Black Portlanders; agitated for the removal of law enforcement officers, judges, and lawyers whom they considered white supremacists; and advocated for laws that would require police officers to live in the same neighborhoods that they patrolled. Some of their earliest legal advocacy work surrounded the 1969 charges against Kent Ford. With the legal aid of Nick Chaivoe, a white leftist known as the "go-to attorney for activist-minded Portlanders," Ford was not only acquitted but won \$6,000 in a civil suit against the Portland Police Bureau for "indignities suffered."<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 76-78; Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 288.

<sup>83</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 74.

<sup>84</sup> "Suspects Delay Pleas in Albina Incidents," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 21, 1969; Trevor Canton, Cheyenne Porcher, Laura Zhang, and Delio Vasquez, "Portland, OR," *The Black Panther Party: History and Theory*, accessed June 26, 2022, at <https://wp.nyu.edu/gallatin-bpparchive2021/west-coast-chapters/portland-or/>.

<sup>85</sup> Rocky Butte Jail was demolished in 1983 to make way for I-205 construction.

<sup>86</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 111, 133-134; Jules Boykoff, "'We Can't Be Duped by Petty Reforms': A Q&A With a Black Panther," *The Nation*, June 25, 2020, <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/kent-ford-interview-black-panther-party/>; Gies, "Radical Treatment."

<sup>87</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 78; Gies, "Radical Treatment."

<sup>88</sup> "The Black Panther Party Ten Point Platform & Program - October 1966," *It's About Time: Black Panther Party Legacy & Alumni*, accessed June 24, 2022, at [http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/home/bpp\\_program\\_platform.html](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/home/bpp_program_platform.html). As observed by Lucas N. N. Burke and Judson L. Jeffries in *The Portland Black Panthers: Empowering Albina and Remaking a City*, Ford's declaration invoked a tradition of Black self-defense dating back to David Walker's 1829 *Appeal*, in *Four Articles [...] to the Colored Citizens of the World*, which asserted, "they want us for their slaves, and think nothing of murdering us [...] therefore, if there is an attempt made by us, kill or be killed [...] and believe this, that it is no more harm for you to kill a man who is trying to kill you, than it is for you to take a drink of water when thirsty" ("Historical Document: David Walker's *Appeal*, 1829," *PBS: Africans in America*, accessed June 26, 2022, at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h2931.html>).

<sup>89</sup> Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 290.

<sup>90</sup> "Judge Awards \$6,000 Judgment to Black Panther from Police," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), August 28, 1970.

Description of additional advocacy work advanced by the Portland chapter of the BPP may be found in *The Portland Black Panthers: Empowering Albina and Remaking a City* by Lucas N. N. Burke and Judson L. Jeffries (Seattle, WA: University

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Around the same time that Ford won his civil suit against the Portland police, the California State Court of Appeals overturned BPP cofounder Huey P. Newton's manslaughter conviction for the 1967 death of Oakland Patrolman John Frey. Newton was released from prison in August 1970, and Ford traveled to Oakland to formally request BPP recognition for the Portland chapter. After Ford's return to Portland, the group received an official letter from Newton authorizing their status and use of the BPP name. Following this formal ratification, the Portland Panthers began to receive and distribute copies of the party's weekly *Black Panther* newspaper, and members made occasional trips to Oakland for rallies, funerals, and major gatherings.<sup>91</sup>

### **The Community Survival Programs of the Portland Panthers**

While the Portland chapter of the BPP were in ideological agreement with the national organization,<sup>92</sup> they consciously downplayed the confrontational image of the BPP's Oakland chapter—possibly out of concern that the city's white establishment would move to overpower and subvert their efforts.<sup>93</sup> This was reflected in their decision to refrain from the open display of firearms, and in their focus on a broad range of community programs based on mutual aid.<sup>94</sup> Several of these were based on programs enacted by other BPP local chapters across the country, or encouraged by national leadership in Oakland.<sup>95</sup> In March 1969, a few months prior to Ford's arrest, party cofounder Bobby Seale had identified four initiatives around which the party should organize: free breakfast programs, free health clinics, a petition campaign for community control over the police, and Black liberation schools.<sup>96</sup> In 1971, these programs were renamed "community survival programs." As described by David Hilliard, the BPP's Chief of Staff, the name "survival program" referred to the party's ideology of "survival pending revolution—not something to replace revolution or challenge the power relations demanding radical action, but an activity that strengthens us for the coming fight."<sup>97</sup>

In Portland, the Panthers' inaugural community initiative was a free clothing giveaway, which began in 1969.<sup>98</sup> The parents of a member had operated a secondhand clothing store at NE Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard and NE Beech Street, and upon deciding to exit the business, donated their remaining inventory to the BPP and turned the lease over to Kent Ford. The program was short-lived, as donations were infrequent and demand outstripped supply. However, the Panthers established three additional and highly successful community survival programs in Portland between 1969 and 1970, all furthering Bobby Seale's calls for increased and equitable access to food and medical care for Black Americans.<sup>99</sup> These were operated by volunteers and funded largely through donations from local businesses, students, and other allies, as well as local sales of the *Black Panther* newspaper.<sup>100</sup>

#### *Children's Free Breakfast Program*

The Portland Panthers' first long-term community survival program was a children's free breakfast program modeled after the Oakland chapter's "Serve the People" program, which was introduced in fall 1968 to address

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of Washington Press, 2016).

<sup>91</sup> Boykoff and Gies, "We're going to defend ourselves," 289; Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 134.

<sup>92</sup> Bill Keller, "Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), November 12, 1971. In this article from Portland's dominant newspaper, when asked if the work of the Portland Panthers represented "an about-face in the Black Panther image," Kent Ford responded, "No [...] We're still basically a vanguard party with a Marxist-Leninist philosophy. [...] We're here to serve the people and if you mess with our programs, prepare to meet your maker."

<sup>93</sup> Boykoff and Gies, "We're going to defend ourselves," 289.

<sup>94</sup> Boykoff and Gies, "We're going to defend ourselves," 289.

<sup>95</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 103.

<sup>96</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 103-104.

<sup>97</sup> David Hilliard, *This Side of Glory: The Autobiography of David Hilliard and the Story of the Black Panther Party* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2007), 29. Some critics within the party viewed the programs as reformist, questioning their organizers' commitment to revolution and radical change; however, party cofounder Huey P. Newton himself opined, "Reforms are all right. Reforms are good as long as they don't put up an obstacle to your final revolutionary goal" (quoted in Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 104).

<sup>98</sup> Canton et. al, "Portland, OR."

<sup>99</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 104.

<sup>100</sup> Canton et. al, "Portland, OR"; Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 120-123.

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the lack of adequate nourishment for children. As outlined in the *Ten-Point Platform and Program*, the BPP demanded a right to nutrition; party members considered a lack of access to food—for children, in particular—to be an act of endangerment and violence.<sup>101</sup> By early 1970, the Portland Panthers were serving between 75 and 125 children every weekday morning from the Highland United Church of Christ at 4635 NE 9th Avenue, near Martin Luther King Elementary. They were praised in the local mainstream press by the school's principal, Bill D. White, despite claims from some teachers that they were "indoctrinating" children with socialist convictions (Figure 11).<sup>102</sup> With the dedication of volunteers including Robert "Bob" Frost and donations from neighborhood businesses, the program ran for four or five years.<sup>103</sup>

#### *The Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic*

In January 1970, while yet to be recognized by the national organization, the Portland chapter of the BPP opened the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic in Portland's Eliot neighborhood. Named in remembrance of a young Panther leader from Chicago who was killed by police in his sleep in December 1969, the no-cost health clinic was established by the Portland Panthers with financial and organizational support from the Health Research Action Project (Health-RAP). Health-RAP was a research and advocacy partnership founded by white activists Jon Moscow and Robert Spindel during their final term at Reed College, and it was dedicated to raising public awareness surrounding racial and economic disparities in Portland's healthcare systems. Don Hamerquist, who had organized Kent Ford's bail in spring 1969, put Moscow and Ford in touch a few months later.<sup>104</sup> Health-RAP were eager to work with the Panthers and committed to helping them establish a clinic, while promising that "as soon as possible, control [would] be handed over to the [B]lack and white communities."<sup>105</sup>

By early 1970, Moscow located a former doctors' office at 109 N Russell Street that could house the proposed clinic. "There was a bar on the right and a men's store on the left," Kent Ford recalled. "It was a rowdy area. It would have been considered the ghetto, back then."<sup>106</sup> With Moscow's help, the BPP began raising money, sourcing equipment, and mustering doctors who agreed to volunteer their services. The first recruit was Dr. George Barton, a white neurosurgeon and Peace Corps alumnus who volunteered at the clinic once a week for two years. Other volunteers included Dr. Bill Davis, a Black pathologist and then-laboratory director at Emanuel Hospital; Dr. Frances Storrs, a white dermatologist and the first woman to complete a residency in the University of Oregon Medical School's dermatology department; Dr. Lendon Smith, a white obstetrician, pediatrician, and television personality known as "The Children's Doctor"; and Dr. Paul Hull, a white cardiologist.<sup>107</sup> BPP member Sandra Ford was critical to the clinic's operations during this time, managing the finances, organizing the scheduling, and cleaning equipment, as well as assisting male doctors with female patients. Kent Ford also visited the clinic daily, cleaning the space and arranging the complicated schedule of volunteers.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 105.

<sup>102</sup> Keller, "Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image."

<sup>103</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 107, 110; Boykoff and Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 288. Sources conflict as to the length of the free breakfast program.

<sup>104</sup> Gies, "Radical Treatment."

<sup>105</sup> "People's Clinic from Panthers and HEALTH-RAP," *Willamette Bridge* vol. 3, no. 11 (October 1970): 7.

<sup>106</sup> Kent Ford, interview by Martha Gies, undated (quoted in Gies, "Radical Treatment").

<sup>107</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 111-114; "Dr. William Conan Davis, Biochemist born," *African American Registry*, accessed October 3, 2022, at <https://aaregistry.org/story/dr-william-conan-davis-born/>; "Women Who Inspire Us: Frances Storrs, M.D.," *OHSU Center for Women's Health*, accessed June 26, 2022, at <https://www.ohsu.edu/womens-health/women-who-inspire-us-frances-storrs-md>.

<sup>108</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 112-113; Gies, "Radical Treatment"; Sandra Ford, "My Involvement with the Portland Chapter of the Black Panther Party," *It's About Time*, accessed June 26, 2022, at [http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/Chapter\\_History/Sandra\\_Ford\\_Portland.html](http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/Chapter_History/Sandra_Ford_Portland.html).

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Although the health clinic's schedule varied over the years, it was regularly open three to five nights a week from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.<sup>109</sup> Between 25 and 50 patients, most of whom were seeking treatment for minor illnesses, would arrive on any given evening. The program was open to people of all races and income levels: Yvonne Joe, a BPP member who served as the clinic's receptionist for a time, has reflected: "We were a life saver for a lot of people [...] All kinds of people walked through the doors—Blacks, whites, even Latinos."<sup>110</sup> Said Dr. Barton, "We didn't turn anyone away, regardless of their financial situation."<sup>111</sup> In May 1970, the *Oregonian* published a letter from Twila Harris, a white woman and freelance writer whose son received care at the clinic, praising the Panthers' clinic and breakfast program as "for the benefit of all who need them."<sup>112</sup>

Like many other Panther health clinics across the country, the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic also worked to raise awareness of specific medical conditions which disproportionately affected Black Americans. The medical clinic offered testing for lead poisoning in children, high blood pressure in adults, and sickle cell anemia in all Black patients. Panther volunteers supplemented the clinic's work with outreach efforts, going door-to-door in Lower Albina to distribute pamphlets about breast cancer, administering lead poisoning tests at local schools, and hosting community barbecues with live music, free food, and sickle cell anemia testing.<sup>113</sup> Members also coordinated free transportation for patients who needed assistance accessing the clinic.<sup>114</sup>

#### *The Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic*

In March 1970, shortly after the medical clinic opened, the Panthers and Health-RAP opened a dental clinic in the Dr. John D. Marshall Building (Figure 10).<sup>115</sup> Named the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic, the opening of the BPP's dental clinic marked a major victory for the Portland chapter and for the BPP as an organization—although several other BPP chapters operated general healthcare programs, only the Portland chapter had succeeded in opening a stand-alone dental clinic.<sup>116</sup> According to Kent Ford, the space "was equipped with a waiting room, a reception area, and one operatory."<sup>117</sup> It was initially open Monday through Wednesday from 7:00pm to 10:00pm and Thursday and Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm, and gave priority first to emergency cases, then to children, then to adult routine care.<sup>118</sup> On occasional Saturdays, the clinic would also host presentations on preventative care measures and distribute toothcare kits with floss and other items.<sup>119</sup>

Dr. Gerry Morrell, a white general dentist and head of community outreach for the Multnomah County Dental Association, was one of the dental clinic's first volunteers; he used his connections in the University of Oregon Dental School and his own dental study club to bring in other dentists and dental students.<sup>120</sup> Dr. Clarence Pruitt, the first Black graduate of the University of Oregon Dental School and a part-time instructor at the school, persuaded administrators to donate or loan quality equipment to the clinic. Other dentists who

<sup>109</sup> "Dental Clinic Opens Doors"; Keller, "Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image."

<sup>110</sup> Yvonne Joe, phone interview by Lucas N. N. Burke, June 2, 2014 (quoted in Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 111-112).

<sup>111</sup> George Barton, phone interview by Lucas N. N. Burke, October 29, 2013 (quoted in Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 113).

<sup>112</sup> Twila Harris, "Something Good," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 30, 1970. Wryly, Harris observed in her letter, "It will be interesting to see if this letter is printed as fast as it would be if I were telling of the latest Panther-police shoot-out. I believe that if the community were more aware of some of the good being done by the Panthers, a lot of the fear and hate would be eliminated. At least, I would like to think so."

<sup>113</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 115-117; "Panthers sponsor test for sickle-cell victims," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), May 23, 1971.

<sup>114</sup> Keller, "Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image."

<sup>115</sup> "Dental Clinic Opens Doors."

<sup>116</sup> Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press: 2011), eBook.

<sup>117</sup> Kent Ford, phone interview by Lucas N. N. Burke, December 2, 2013 (quoted in Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 117).

<sup>118</sup> "Dental Clinic Opens Doors."

<sup>119</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 119.

<sup>120</sup> Gies, "Radical Treatment"; Gies, "Black Panthers in Portland."

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volunteered their services were Dr. Edward Ward, a Black cosmetic dentist; Dr. Duane Paulson, a white pediatric dentist; Dr. George Casterline, a white general dentist; and Dr. Barbara Grundle, a white dental student at Reed College.<sup>121</sup>

### **Urban Renewal and Its Impacts on the Portland Panthers**

The community survival programs operated by the Portland chapter of the BPP emerged against the background of the urban renewal programs of the late 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. These programs, which combined federal grant monies and local investments to redevelop “blighted” urban centers, disproportionately impacted communities of color. In 1962, it was estimated that more than three-quarters of all people displaced by urban renewal programs nationwide were Black Americans, and only one-half of one percent of total federal expenditures for urban renewal were spent on relocation.<sup>122</sup> In Portland, as in other major American cities, urban renewal programs and other midcentury redevelopment projects decimated the residential and commercial development that formed the heart of the city’s Black community.<sup>123</sup>

By the time the Panthers established the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic and the Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic in 1970, a significant portion of the Eliot neighborhood had already been cleared to accommodate development of the Memorial Coliseum and the Minnesota Freeway (Interstate 5); in the late 1950s or early 1960s, Dr. John D. Marshall’s former offices at 1415 N Williams Avenue and 1620 N Williams Avenue were both razed for construction of the I-5 Broadway-Weidler Interchange.<sup>124</sup> In 1962, Emanuel Hospital notified the City of Portland that it was interested in expanding its Lower Albina campus to include state-of-the-art hospital facilities, parking, offices, employee housing, and low-income housing for the elderly on more than 55 acres bounded by N Williams Avenue, N Russell Street, and the Fremont Bridge interchange with Interstate 5 and N Kerby Avenue. The project was approved in early summer 1968, and clearance and construction moved forward at a rapid pace.<sup>125</sup>

The Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic at 109 N Russell Street was among acres of buildings slated for removal by the Emanuel Hospital project. The Portland chapter of the BPP protested the development plan, forming the Black Community Survival Conference in 1972 with support from Portland State University’s Black Student Union and the Portland arms of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the White Panther Party, and the Socialist Workers Party, as well as other members of Portland’s leftist community. Over the course of three days in July 1972, the group held an extended protest rally in Irving Park; an estimated six to eight hundred people gathered for live music, guest speakers, and testing for sickle cell anemia. By the end of the summer, the group of individuals and organizations that comprised the conference had reformed under the name The Left Out Ones, Inc. This group—led by local Black activist Nate Proby, with the support of Kent Ford—vocally criticized the Emanuel Hospital project for failing to hire local residents to construct and staff the new hospital buildings, and for breaking an earlier promise to construct low-income housing for displaced residents.<sup>126</sup>

The Portland Panthers appealed to Emanuel Hospital leadership and the City of Portland’s community development corporation, the Portland Development Commission (PDC), to keep the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic at 109 N Russell Street. However, on March 14, 1973, a Multnomah County circuit judge

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<sup>121</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 118-119; “Free Dental Care Given in Newly Opened Clinic,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), March 29, 1970; Michelle DePass, oral history interview by Kimberly Moreland, May 2, 2022.

<sup>122</sup> Russ P. Lopez, “Public Health, the APHA, and Urban Renewal,” *American Journal of Public Health* 99, no. 9 (September 2009): 1603-1607.

<sup>123</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-32.

<sup>124</sup> “PCRI Honors Five Pioneers for Contributions to Black Community,” *Skanner News*, July 10, 2014, accessed October 3, 2022, at <https://www.theskanner.com/news/newsbriefs/21516-pcri-honors-five-pioneers-for-contributions-to-black-community>.

<sup>125</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-32 through E-35; Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 150.

<sup>126</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 161-164

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ruled that the Panthers should vacate the building.<sup>127</sup> Days later, members of the organization participated in a peaceful demonstration outside the hospital, carrying signs that read “Emanuel has no respect for Black and Poor People,” “STOP the Destruction until You Hire Black People,” and “The Clinic Will Continue to Serve the People Body and Soul.”<sup>128</sup> After a long period of negotiations between hospital administrators and Portland Panther leadership, it was agreed that the Panthers could move their clinic into an office at 2846 N Williams Avenue; Emanuel Hospital would cover the lease for a period of five years, after which the Panthers would assume responsibility for the rent. It was also agreed that the PDC would pay to renovate the facility, and the hospital would provide relocation expenses.<sup>129</sup>

The health clinic’s move to 2846 N Williams Avenue was initially scheduled for May 1, 1973, but as the date drew nearer, Kent Ford realized that the Panthers would need additional time to relocate all of their equipment. On April 30, 1973, he met with the project’s relocation chief Benjamin C. Webb, who allegedly granted an extension. The next day, however, Ford arrived at the clinic only to find that the Multnomah County sheriff, local police, and PDC officials had entered the clinic and begun forcibly removing files, medical supplies, and other equipment. Electricity to the building had been cut the previous night, and more than \$1,000 worth of vaccines and other refrigerated medications were ruined. Shortly thereafter, the building was razed. Federal budget cuts ultimately cut short Emanuel Hospital’s expansion, and to this day, 109 N Russell Street remains a vacant lot.<sup>130</sup>

The PDC ultimately failed to complete the Portland Panthers’ requested renovations to the 2846 N Williams Avenue building, claiming a lack of funds; the Panthers posted flyers denouncing the hospital project and sought counsel from the Albina Legal Aid office, but to no avail.<sup>131</sup> With few options available to them, the organization relocated what remained of the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic into Dr. Marshall’s building alongside the Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic. The loss of supplies and equipment was a major setback for the organization, and the healthcare clinic was not able to resume taking appointments until fall 1973. However, many volunteer physicians and several Panther members returned to treat patients from the new location, and the second iteration of the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic operated from the Dr. John D. Marshall Building until 1979. The Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic remained in the building until 1975, when it relocated to the second floor of a recently opened Kaiser Permanente clinic (currently the OHSU Russell Street Dental Clinic) at 214 N Russell Street. The Panthers remained involved for just a few years after the move, during which time the program was taken over by OHSU. The Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic closed by 1980, but OHSU continues to provide dental care for low-income patients from 214 N Russell Street as of this writing.<sup>132</sup>

### **Law Enforcement Harassment and the Disbanding of the Portland Panthers**

Like other BPP chapters across the country, the Portland Panthers were undermined and harassed by law enforcement and government organizations threatened by the BPP’s declarations of Black empowerment and the right to armed self-defense. On a national scale, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) worked to eradicate the BPP through a covert program of surveillance, infiltration, and subversion known as COINTELPRO (“Counterintelligence Program”). Between 1967 and 1971, federal officers assigned to COINTELPRO targeted BPP chapters across the country, including the Portland Panthers. Federal documents released in the late 1970s revealed that the FBI anonymously mailed material to Portland doctors and dentists, discouraging them from volunteering at the Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic and the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic. Agency records also indicate that the FBI supported efforts to establish another free clinic

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<sup>127</sup> “Hampton clinic told it must vacate site,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), March 15, 1973.

<sup>128</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 165.

<sup>129</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 166; “Hospital offers alternate site for clinic,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), April 6, 1973.

<sup>130</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 166-167.

<sup>131</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 167.

<sup>132</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 167-168, 202-203; Boykoff and Gies, “We’re going to defend ourselves,” 288.



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to compete with the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic and poach its volunteer physicians. Members of the Portland chapter of the BPP also alleged that the FBI tapped their phones, raided their offices, intimidated their family members, and convinced local businesspeople not to donate to their programs.<sup>133</sup> The Portland Panthers were also closely surveilled by the Portland Police Bureau, which kept detailed files on leaders including Kent Ford and Percy Hampton and allegedly attempted to infiltrate chapter meetings.<sup>134</sup>

As the Portland chapter of the BPP was troubled by these activities in the early 1970s, the national BPP headquartered in Oakland was in the midst of decline. Ideological differences between BPP leaders in Oakland, possibly exacerbated by police pressure, led to division in the party and sharp decline in Panther membership across the country. Chapters in New York, New Orleans, Seattle, and other major cities were abruptly disbanded. Several local chapters of the BPP persisted, but they did so with diminishing membership, influence, and support from the national organization. By 1980, the national BPP was practically nonexistent. The Portland Panthers, weary from police harassment and the struggle to halt the Emanuel Hospital project, gradually reduced their programming and political engagement. The chapter ended their children's free breakfast program around 1974, as local schools became more involved in providing free breakfast to students from low-income families.<sup>135</sup> The medical programs survived a few more years, but their services and hours were gradually reduced. The Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic closed in 1979, and the dental clinic followed a year later. With no active programs left, the Portland Panthers' few remaining members disbanded their chapter in the early 1980s.<sup>136</sup>

#### **THE SKANNER NEWS GROUP AT THE DR. JOHN D. MARSHALL BUILDING: 1981-2001**

In 1981, following the closure of the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic and the dissolution of the Portland chapter of the BPP, Dr. Marshall sold 2337-2343 N Williams Avenue to Black journalist and newspaper publisher Bernie Foster.<sup>137</sup> Foster had worked for Black newspapers in his hometown of East St. Louis, in Seattle, and in Alaska before moving to Portland in the mid-1970s. Recognizing a demand for Black journalism in the city, Bernie Foster and his wife, Bobbie Dore Foster, established *The Skanner News* in 1975. Their first offices were located at 4200 Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, in a building they leased from a realtor. As the paper grew in circulation and hired additional staff, the Fosters sought a new, larger location in Albina for the Skanner News Group, eventually settling on Dr. Marshall's building.<sup>138</sup>

Between 1981 and early 1982, Bernie and Bobbie Foster substantially remodeled the former medical and dental clinic to accommodate the *Skanner's* offices. Most of the interior walls were removed or relocated, as were the remnants of medical equipment, furniture, and plumbing systems. Divisions between the clinic space and the commercial spaces were removed, and the building's address was changed from 2337-2343 N Williams Avenue to 2337 N Williams Avenue. A portion of the primary façade was built out to convert the former lobby into an office space; exam rooms were converted to offices; and a darkroom for processing photographic film replaced two of the lavatories.<sup>139</sup>

Following these renovations, the Skanner News Group remained at 2337 N Williams Avenue for approximately two decades. The newsgroup was involved in various community programs and advocacy campaigns during

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<sup>133</sup> Stan Federman, "Phone tap confirmation asked," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), February 25, 1978; Bill Keller, "Portland said 1970 target of FBI anti-Panther effort," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), February 26, 1978; Alan K. Ota, "Jury probe said more 'harassment,'" *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), February 27, 1978.

<sup>134</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 172.

<sup>135</sup> Gies, "Radical Treatment"; Boykoff and Martha Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 288.

<sup>136</sup> Sarah Mirk, "In the Shadows: Talking with the Black Panthers," *Portland Mercury*, March 25, 2010; Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 16.

<sup>137</sup> Multnomah County Deed Records, Book 1159, Page 1978 (October 1, 1981).

<sup>138</sup> Bernie Foster and Bobbie Dore Foster, oral history interview by Kimberly Moreland, May 19, 2022; Bob Olmos, "Minority-owned newspapers expanding," *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), September 5, 1982.

<sup>139</sup> Pyramid Designs, "For Bernie Foster – The Skanner.," Bernie Foster and Bobbie Dore Foster, oral history interview by Kimberly Moreland, May 19, 2022.

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this period, including a successful call to rename NE Union Avenue for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1989.<sup>140</sup> Also while located in the 2337 N Williams Avenue building, the Fosters created the *Skanner's* first website, introduced a Seattle edition of the newspaper, and launched radio stations in Eugene and Roseburg, Oregon. The paper won numerous awards during these years, including the West Coast Black Publishers Association's Publisher of the Year Award in 1986 and 1993 and the Oregon Minority Enterprise's Achievement Award in 1989.<sup>141</sup>

#### LATER TENANTS AT THE DR. JOHN D. MARSHALL BUILDING: 2001-PRESENT

In 2001, Skanner News Group relocated to 415 N Killingsworth Street; their offices remain at this location today. Bernie and Bobby Dore Foster continue to own the building at 2337 N Williams Avenue and have leased it to a variety of Black-owned businesses and local organizations in the past two decades, including the Albina Ministerial Alliance; the Brown, Spielberg and Culp Funeral Directors; and (presently) the Terry Family Funeral Home, which is owned by Dwight and Amy Terry.<sup>142</sup>

#### ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY

##### Eligibility under the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the auspices of the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD. The property meets the five general registration requirements provided in Section F of the MPD, as detailed below.<sup>143</sup>

1. The nominated property is located within the 2019 City of Portland city limits.
2. The period of significance for the nominated property, which is identified as 1952 to 1979, largely overlaps with the 1851 to 1973 period of significance defined by the MPD. Although the period of significance for the nominated property does extend slightly beyond that of the MPD, the historical context that supports its eligibility is entirely encapsulated by the MPD's Context II: *Business and Employment*, which references Black-owned medical and dental offices, and Context VII: *Civil Rights*, which includes a subsection on Black Power Organizations that references the BPP's community survival programs in Portland.<sup>144</sup>
3. The nominated property retains its significant association with Portland's African American history and demonstrates significance through the MPD's Context II: *Business and Employment* and Context VII: *Civil Rights*.
4. The nominated property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, under the *Ethnic Heritage - Black* area of significance.
5. The nominated property retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association and so retains the required aspects of integrity for properties nominated under Criterion A through this MPD.

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building, which falls under the *Commercial and Professional Buildings* property type defined in Section F of the MPD, also meets the property type-specific registration criteria set forth in the document. Specifically, the former clinic draws its significance from the MPD's Context II: *Business and*

<sup>140</sup> Brian Stimson, "Renaming the Boulevard: A Retrospective," *The Skanner News* (Portland, OR), January 14, 2010.

<sup>141</sup> "Bernie Foster: Co-founder and Publisher," *The Skanner News* (Portland, OR), accessed June 27, 2022, at <https://www.theskanner.com/staff-list/1-bernie-foster>; "About Us," *The Skanner News* (Portland, OR), last modified August 30, 2013, accessed June 27, 2022, at <https://www.theskanner.com/contact/about-us>. For additional information on the history of Black journalism in Portland, see Context III, *Journalism*, in the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD.

<sup>142</sup> Bernie Foster and Bobbie Dore Foster, oral history interview by Kimberly Moreland, May 19, 2022.

<sup>143</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, F-148.

<sup>144</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-47 to E-48, E-131.

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*Employment* and Context VII: *Civil Rights*, and it is known to have “provided space for community interactions and office locations for African Americans” during the period of significance.<sup>145</sup> As described in Section 7, the building also retains the required property type-specific aspects of integrity for Criterion A eligibility (association, location, and feeling) for commercial and professional buildings.<sup>146</sup>

### Significance under Criterion A

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building at 2337 N Williams Avenue is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of *Ethnic Heritage - Black, Health/Medicine*, and *Social History - Civil Rights* for its long and multilayered association with Black medical professionals and healthcare programs in postwar Portland. Decades of disinvestment and discrimination—on both structural and individual levels—restricted Black Portlanders’ access to adequate medical care in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, resulting in profound disparities in health outcomes as compared to the city’s white residents. The Dr. John D. Marshall Building represents efforts to mitigate these disparities in the postwar period, from the building’s construction for Dr. John D. Marshall in 1952 through the end of the Portland Panthers’ healthcare programming in 1979. Dr. Marshall, who retained ownership of the property throughout the entire period of significance, was one of the few Black physicians practicing in Portland at the time. He practiced from the building’s main clinic space and, at various points between 1952 and 1970, leased offices to Dr. Richard Neal, a Black pharmacist; Dr. Samuel Brown, a Black dentist; and Dr. Paul F. Ventura, a white speech pathologist and audiologist.<sup>147</sup> By actively concentrating a range of healthcare professionals in one building, located directly on the city’s Black commercial corridor, Dr. Marshall strove to create an essential, accessible healthcare resource for Portland’s postwar Black community.

Usage of the building shifted slightly in the 1970s, when Dr. Marshall leased space to the Portland chapter of the BPP for use as a no-cost community clinic. Free community healthcare programs, one of the four types of community survival programs advanced by the BPP nationally, were an important aspect of the party’s commitment to improving conditions for Black Americans. The Portland Panthers had perhaps the most comprehensive and active healthcare apparatus of any local chapter of the BPP, and the Dr. John D. Marshall Building is the site most closely associated with their programs.<sup>148</sup> The building was both the first location of the Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic—reportedly the only stand-alone dental clinic operated by any BPP chapter—and the second, final location of the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic, after the latter’s original building was razed for the Emanuel Hospital expansion project. While both programs welcomed patients of all races and income levels, their work primarily supported the Black residents of Portland’s Lower Albina neighborhoods. As the location of the Panthers’ dental clinic between 1970 and 1975 and the medical clinic between 1973 and 1979, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building served a critical role in advancing the mission of the Portland Panthers and embodies a significant history of Black resilience, survival, and community empowerment.

### Comparative Analysis

The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is uniquely significant for the multifaceted nature of its association with Black healthcare professionals and programs operating in Lower Albina during the period of significance. No other property is known to have housed such a diverse array of Black healthcare professionals, which at various times included a medical doctor (Dr. Marshall), a pharmacist (Dr. Neal), and a dentist (Dr. Brown), and no other property was ever associated with both of the Portland Panthers’ no-cost healthcare programs (the Malcolm X People’s Dental Clinic and the Fred Hampton People’s Free Health Clinic). The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is also remarkable in that it was commissioned and owned by a Black physician, given the discriminatory lending practices advanced by white-owned banking institutions in twentieth-century Portland.<sup>149</sup> Black

<sup>145</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, F-152.

<sup>146</sup> Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, F-155.

<sup>147</sup> “Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams,” *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952; “Dentist to Open Office,” *Oregonian* (Portland, OR), June 17, 1955; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk’s Portland City Directory 1959* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1959), 425.

<sup>148</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 229.

<sup>149</sup> For additional information on racially discriminatory real estate policies, lending practices, and covenants, see Context

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healthcare professionals practicing in mid-twentieth-century Portland generally rented space in existing buildings, as Dr. Marshall did prior to the construction of 2337 N Williams Avenue. In some cases, professionals shared a space, or leases passed from one professional to another; this is illustrated in Dr. Marshall's early partnership with Dr. DeNorval Unthank and his later tenancy in the 1415 N Williams Avenue building, which was previously occupied by Dr. Robert Joyner and later leased to Dr. Walter Reynolds.<sup>150</sup> In renting space from his own building to Dr. Neal and Dr. Brown during the 1950s and 1960s and to the Portland Panthers in the 1970s, Dr. Marshall continued this pattern of shared practice.

Many of the buildings that housed Black-owned healthcare offices in the postwar period have been demolished, further elevating the Dr. John D. Marshall Building's relative significance. Dr. Marshall's early offices at 1415 N Williams Avenue and 1620 N Williams Avenue were both razed for urban renewal projects in the mid-twentieth century, as were Dr. DeNorval Unthank's offices at 1631 N Williams Avenue and 19 NE Broadway and Dr. Carle Vickers's office at 1471 NE Williams Court.<sup>151</sup> The only building associated with Dr. Unthank's practice that remains extant is the Portland Medical Center at 511 SW 10th Avenue, where he located his offices from the mid-1960s until his retirement in 1970.<sup>152</sup> This building differs from the Dr. John D. Marshall Building in that it was not constructed specifically for Dr. Unthank, and it has housed mostly white professionals and white-owned healthcare businesses since its construction in 1956.<sup>153</sup> It is also located outside of Lower Albina, where Portland's African American community was concentrated in the postwar period. The only roughly contemporary building in Portland known to have been constructed for a Black medical professional is the former Phil Reynolds Clinic at 15 N Morris Street, which is located five blocks north of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building and was built for Dr. Walter Reynolds in 1983.<sup>154</sup> This building remains extant, but it was constructed more than three decades after Dr. Marshall's clinic and outside of the period of significance. It also lacks an association with the Portland chapter of the BPP, which is an essential element of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building's significance.

With regard to the Portland Panthers, the Dr. John D. Marshall Building is one of only three extant buildings associated with the organization's community survival programs; of these three buildings, it is uniquely significant for the length and breadth of this association. The two other extant buildings are the Highland United Church of Christ at 4635 NE 9th Avenue, which was home to the Portland Panthers' free breakfast program between about 1970 and 1974, and the OHSU Russell Street Dental Clinic at 214 N Russell Street, where the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic operated from 1975 to 1980.<sup>155</sup> The Dr. John D. Marshall Building is the only building known to have been associated with multiple Portland Panther programs—the Malcolm X People's Dental Clinic from 1970 to 1975 and the Fred Hampton People's Free Health Clinic from 1973 to 1979—and it represents by far the longest association with the organization.<sup>156</sup>

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I, *Settlement Patterns*, in the *African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973* MPD.

<sup>150</sup> "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger* (Portland, OR), September 12, 1952; "Robt. N Joyner Jr., M.D.," *Portland Inquirer* (Portland, OR), January 25, 1946; R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1953-54* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1953), 911.

<sup>151</sup> R.L. Polk & Company, *Polk's Portland City Directory 1950* (Southfield, MI: R.L. Polk & Company, 1950), 680; City of Portland Bureau of Buildings, Report of Inspection (Permit No. 327672), May 28, 1952; Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-48; "Carle R. Vickers, D.D.S.," *Portland Inquirer* (Portland, OR), December 15, 1944.

<sup>152</sup> Piasecki, "DeNorval Unthank (1899-1977)," Galbraith et al., *African American Resources in Portland*, E-48.

<sup>153</sup> "505-515 SW 10th Avenue," *PortlandMaps*, accessed October 5, 2022, at

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<sup>154</sup> Erin Hoover Barnett, "Centenarian's wisdom remains a lesson today," *OHSU News*, March 24, 2020,

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<sup>155</sup> Burke and Jeffries, *The Portland Black Panthers*, 106-110; Boykoff and Martha Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 290.

<sup>156</sup> Boykoff and Martha Gies, "'We're going to defend ourselves,'" 288, 290.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>45.540013°</u>	<u>-122.666919°</u>	3	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u></u>	<u></u>	4	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building coincides with the boundary of tax lot 1N1E27DB - 00300 in block 30, lot 12 of the Albina District in Portland, Oregon. The eastern boundary of the property is delineated by the sidewalk adjoining N Williams Avenue. The boundary area encompasses approximately 0.11 acres or 5,000 square feet.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The tax lot is the historic boundary for the property, with which the building has been associated since its construction for Dr. John D. Marshall in 1952. The tax lot boundaries remained consistent throughout the period of significance (1952-1979).

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Caitlyn Ewers, Matthew Davis, and Kimberly Moreland date December 1, 2022  
organization Architectural Resources Group (ARG) and Moreland telephone 971-256-5314  
Resource Consulting, LLC (MRC)  
street & number 720 SW Washington Street, Suite 605 email c.ewers@argcreate.com  
city or town Portland state OR zip code 97205

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property:** Dr. John D. Marshall Building  
**City or Vicinity:** Portland  
**County:** Multnomah **State:** Oregon  
**Photographer:** Caitlyn Ewers, Architectural Resources Group  
**Date Photographed:** May 25, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photograph 1 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0001  
Overview of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building, view northwest.
- Photograph 2 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0002  
East (primary) façade, view northwest.
- Photograph 3 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0003  
Detail of entryway, view west.
- Photograph 4 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0004  
South and west (rear) façades, view northeast.
- Photograph 5 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0005  
Detail of glass blocks in south façade, view north.
- Photograph 6 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0006  
Detail of glass blocks in west façade, view east.
- Photograph 7 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0007  
North façade, view east.
- Photograph 8 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0008  
Detail of aluminum-framed window on north façade, view south.
- Photograph 9 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0009  
Lobby, view northeast.
- Photograph 10 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0010  
Lobby, view southeast.
- Photograph 11 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0011  
Offices in northeast portion of building, view east-southeast.

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- Photograph 12 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0012  
Service panel and exterior door in north façade, view northwest.
- Photograph 13 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0013  
Primary hallway, view west from lobby.
- Photograph 14 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0014  
Primary hallway, view north.
- Photograph 15 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0015  
Noncontributing storage unit at west side of property, view west-southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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National Park Service

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### List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all documents should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)

- Figure 1:** Regional Location Map
- Figure 2:** Local Location Map
- Figure 3:** Tax Lot Map
- Figure 4:** Site Plan
- Figure 5:** Architectural Drawings (1952): Primary (East) Elevation, Roof Plan, and Wall Detail
- Figure 6:** Architectural Drawings (1952): Rear (West) Elevation and Foundation Plan
- Figure 7:** Architectural Drawings (1952): North Elevation and Floor Plan
- Figure 8:** Architectural Drawings (1981 Renovation): Floor Plan
- Figure 9:** "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952
- Figure 10:** "Dental Clinic Opens Doors," *Oregonian*, March 15, 1970
- Figure 11:** "Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image," *Oregonian*, November 12, 1971

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**Figure 1:** Regional Location Map



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**Figure 2: Local Location Map**







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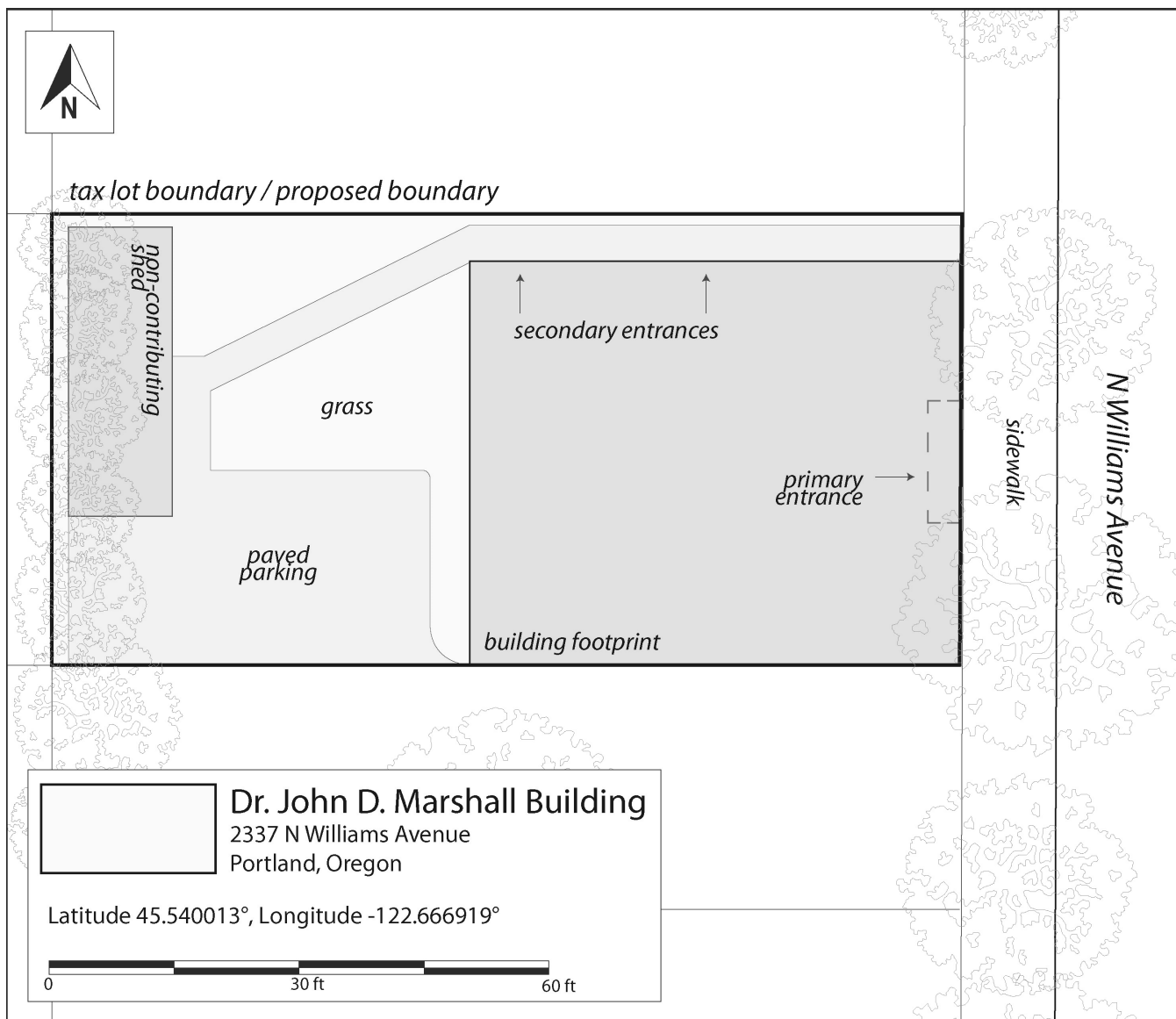
African American Resources in Portland,  
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Figure 4: Site Plan



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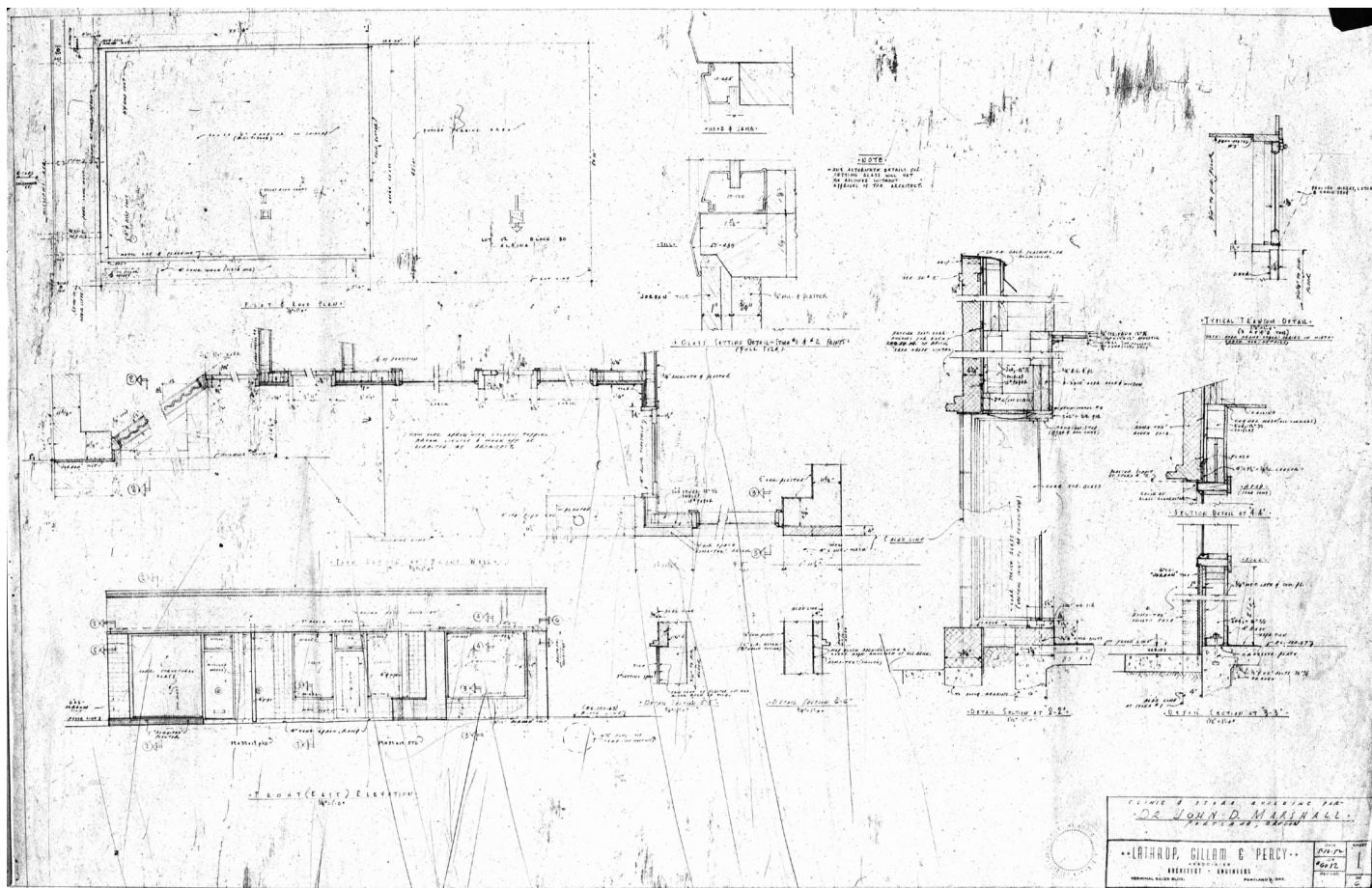
Multnomah Co., OR

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Figure 5: Architectural Drawings (1952): Primary (East) Elevation, Roof Plan, and Wall Detail



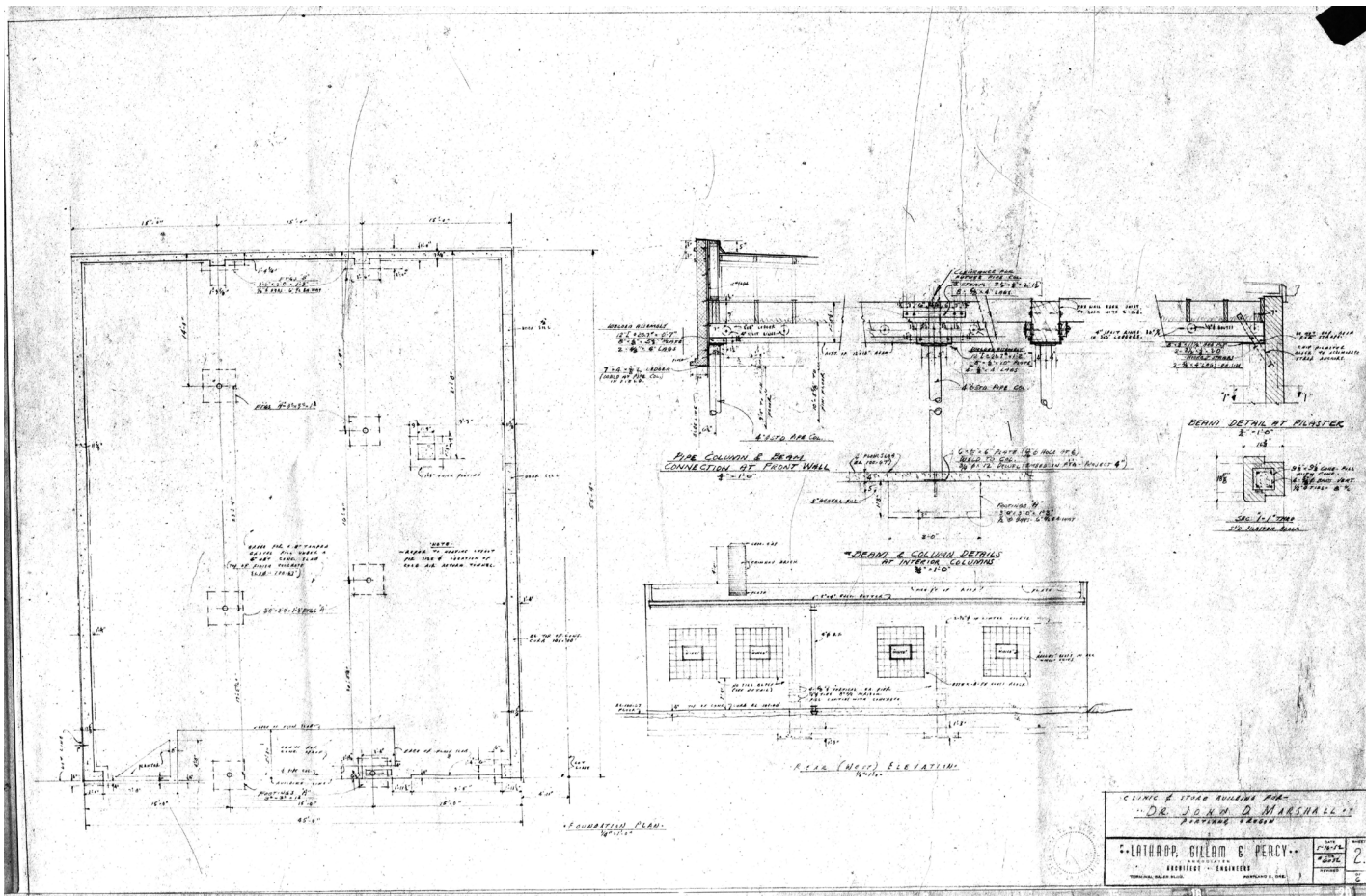
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Figure 6: Architectural Drawings (1952): Rear (West) Elevation and Foundation Plan





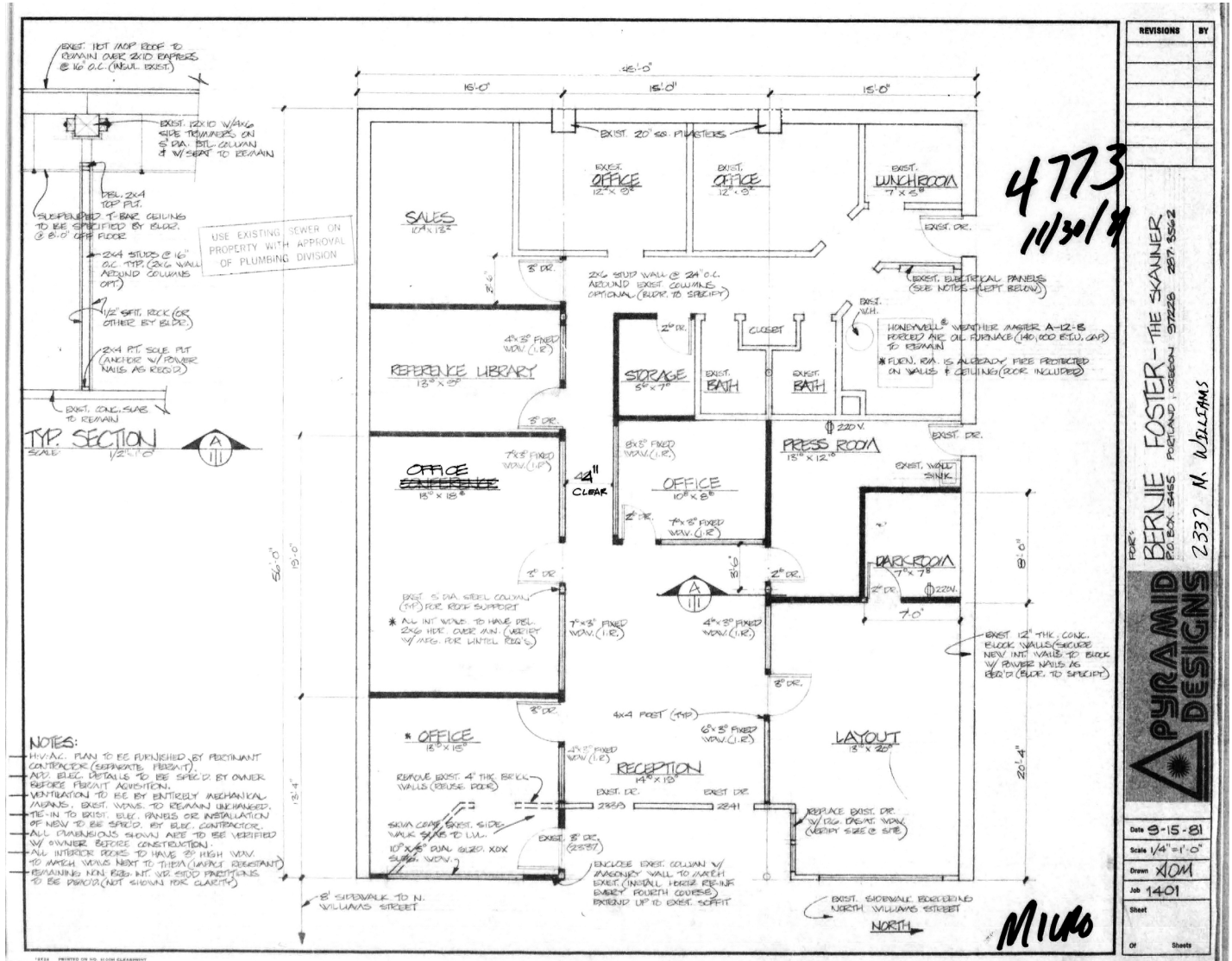
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Figure 8: Architectural Drawings (1981 Renovation): Floor Plan



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**Figure 9:** "Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams," *Portland Challenger*, September 12, 1952

# Dr. John Marshall to Open New Office on Williams

Scheduled to open in about 10 days on Williams avenue between Sacramento and Russell streets is the new office of Dr. John Marshall.

Almost complete and ready for occupancy, the spanking-new brick-front building is to hold space for Dr. Richard Neal and Mrs. Lillian Williams.

Dr. Neal will have a complete pharmaceutical service and Mrs. Williams will have a modern beauty salon. Dr. Neal formerly ran Neal drugs at North Williams and Knott street.

### Better Adapted Facilities

Dr. Marshall, moving from his old office into the Professional building, will have a better equipped medical office with enlarged laboratory facilities to assist in more effective diagnosis of his patients. This, the problem of diagnosis, is basic in medical science, according to Dr. Marshall.

The new building will be better adapted all around to take care of the needs of the community, stated Dr. Marshall.

Dr. Marshall came to Portland in 1947 and first established his practice here with Dr. DeNorval Unthank. He took his medical training at Meharry in Nashville, Tennessee.

After completing his courses there, he took intern work at Harlem hospital in New York and later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he took his residency at Kansas City General hospital.

### Dentist Due Locale.

He is married and has two children. Dr. Marshall is a mem-

ber of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and very interested in community advancement.

Still in the cards for his new building is the hope of a dental office. No definite steps have been taken, however, to insure the community a dentist in the near future, but, according to Dr. Marshall, there is a good chance that a dentist will be established there some time soon.

## Ide Wild Club To Advise Teens

Chaperons for the Williams avenue YWCA Canteen Club for youngsters 18 and over is the Ide Wild club of Portland. President of the club is Mrs. Dorothy Vickers.

The Ide Wilders wanted to make themselves valuable to the community, according to their former president Mrs. Virginia Davis, and availed themselves to the YWCA for community service and drew the chaperon job.

The canteen program is held every Wednesday and the Ide Wilde women take charge of the group every other Wednesday.

The program consists of dancing, card playing and other recreational facilities.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 48

Marshall, Dr. John D., Building
Name of Property
Multnomah Co., OR
County and State
African American Resources in Portland, Oregon, from 1851 to 1973
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 10: "Dental Clinic Opens Doors," *Oregonian*, March 15, 1970

# Dental Clinic Opens Doors

Dentists are now joining physicians in providing a better health program for residents of the Albina community.

About 20 dentists and dental students have volunteered to provide free dental care at the Malcolm X Memorial People's Clinic, opening March 16 at 2341 N. Williams Ave., according to Sandra Britt, spokesman for the Neighborhood Committee to Combat Fascism (Black Panther Party) and Health-RAP (Research Action Project).

The clinic will be open Monday through Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. First priority will be given to emergency cases, second priority to children and third priority to routine dental care for adults.

Equipment for the clinic has been donated. The clinic is located a short distance from the Fred Hampton Memorial People's Clinic, 109 N. Russell Ave., where doctors and nurses provide free medical care Monday through Friday from 7 to 10 p.m.

According to Miss Britt, about 14 patients are being seen every night at the Fred Hampton Clinic. Response from doctors to do the volunteer work has been "excellent," Miss Britt said.



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Figure 11: "Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image," Oregonian, November 12, 1971

## Breakfast, clinic programs belie militant Panther image

By BILL KEELER

Black Panthers. To most white Portlanders the name means menacing, warlike figures, militant slogans, shootouts and subversive politics.

But to another group of Portland residents, the name means children with full stomachs, free dental care, or help to cure venereal disease.

For almost two years, the Panthers have been winning widespread approval in the Albina community with a group of programs designed, according to the Panthers, to "serve the people, body and soul."

The free breakfast program for school children, free dental clinic and free health clinic will soon enter a third year of operation, despite constant FBI and city harassment, early inexperience and one hard fight at city hall for a permit to solicit donations.

"The purpose of our programs is simple," said Black Panther Kent Ford. "To help our people survive. Our people does not mean just Panthers. It means just survivors."

Portland — but any black and anyone else in the area.

From 40 to 100 youngsters gather each morning at Highland United Church of Christ, a few blocks from King School, for a hot breakfast of eggs or French toast, pancakes, ham or sausage, juice and milk.

The breakfasts are more orderly than meals in most school cafeterias. Down a soft drink machine in the church annex is kept up each morning so the children won't spend their lunch money.

"Not all poor"

"Most of these kids wouldn't be getting breakfast at home," said Ford. "We all of them are poor, but most come from homes where the mother doesn't have time to get up and cook in the mornings."

The children could eat at school, but according to King School Principal Bill D. White, "The Panthers serve a much better breakfast than we do."

"When the government steps forward and gives our people a balanced diet," said Ford, "we'll be glad to stop."

Ford is aware of the outside suspicion that the Panthers are "indoctrinating" children. A year ago, notes a King complainant, the breakfast program was making the children more hostile in the classrooms, but since then the complainant has died out.

"Indoctrination?" said Ford. Let's put it this way. In China when the kids are told to ask God for food. No food. Then the kids are told to ask Mao for breakfast, and there it is. The only thing we're teaching here is by example, that socialism can work."

Ford said the children are sometimes told about Panther battles, like George Jackson, for whom the program is named, or they may get a lesson in the perils of drug abuse. But there is no preaching.

Ford for the free breakfast is donated mostly by local businessmen. Critics have accused the Panthers of intimidating businesses into contributing, especially after a Panther boycott.

"I saw Americans going overseas and trying to impose the American way of life on people. It's the same thing," he said. "The government-imposed health care. Bureaucrats can't touch this area. The community has to learn to solve its own problems."

"I'm not saying the Panthers can do it either, but so far they leave the best approach."

Barton said the Panthers still have plenty to learn about "efficiency, and the complexity of medical care." He added that the clinic desperately needs a cadre of trained counselors to pursue social problems such as drug addiction in the community.

"But I feel a real growth here," he added.

Medical and dental help

helped convince McDonald's Restaurants to contribute 20 pounds of meat each week.

"It's not just the food," Ford, "that the businessmen who take from our community should have a little something in return. Of course, our image starts to hurt us. Some of them see us coming and just hand over the food."

Others are more willing to visit, without wanting the breakfast program and the impression left by such a visit is drastically different from that held by whites who have never met a Black Panther.

There is a similar openness at the Fred Hampton Peoples Free Health Clinic and the Fred Hampton Free Dental Clinic, both in the core of Albina.

About 20 to 25 patients — white and black, young and old — visit the health clinic each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Patients range from severe cases of venereal disease to work starts when the doctor arrives, usually about 7 a.m. and when the patients have all been seen, about 10 a.m.

Transportation provided

The dental clinic, which is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, serves six to nine patients a day. In addition to a monthly four-session program of preventive hygiene for the two clinics includes about 30 dentists, six dentists, and numerous nurses, dental assistants and technicians. Free rides are available to patients who live beyond walking distance. When patients come to the clinic, the company delivered clinic patients free, but now the Panthers provide transportation themselves.

Doctors and patients interviewed said the only politics apparent in the clinics are the posters on the wall and the Panther literature in the waiting rooms.

"I'm not even too sure what the Panthers' politics are," said a white, out-of-work production planner on his second visit to the Hampton Clinic. "But the dentist hospital they told me I could get somebody to look at my back. Here, I don't have to wait."

Clinic always busy

Dr. Gerald Merrill, director of dental clinic, said the facility started with 24 dentists. "Some of them, some were scared off by the Panthers and some were just scared to act. I guess they thought this was going to be glamorous."

"It's not glamorous, but it is needed. I've been working here one or two nights a month for almost two years, and I've never seen a crowd when there wasn't a crowded waiting room."

Most dentists who donate time use two operating chairs while a technician is taking x-rays of a patient while an assistant administers an anesthetic in an adjacent room.

Merrill, who was on the board of the Multnomah County Dental Society when the clinic opened, said the society has known the center's existence.

"When the clinic started, it was the first in the area. For years, public health groups had been crying for it and doing nothing," he said.

But since the Panthers opened their clinic, other established groups have gone into the business, so it is easy for the dental society to pretend the Panthers don't exist.

Dr. George Barton, a neurologist who gives two nights each month to the health clinic, admitted he was "a little skeptical" by the Panther public image when he started work there about two years ago. Now he considers himself "apologetic when it comes to the Panthers, viewing the clinic as a welcome alternative to government-imposed health care."

A former Peace Corps volunteer, he sees federal health programs as "colonialistic."

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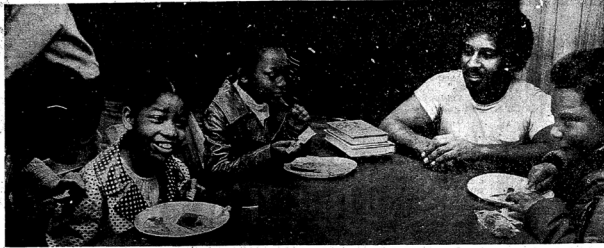
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Medical and dental help



SERVING THE PEOPLE — Black Panther Kent Ford supervises children from King School, who get a free hot breakfast under a Panther program. Ford says the free breakfast, and free dental and medical clinics sponsored by the Panthers, are "to help our people survive."

our programs, prepare to meet your maker." i  
Albina residents say the Panthers have always had a better image in the black community than in the national headlines.  
"The Panthers express something that many of the people here feel," said King Principal White. "They may express it more strongly. But if you took a vote on the street the Panthers would get a good majority of support, mostly because of programs like the free breakfast and the clinics."  
One leader of a federally funded anti-poverty program said: "I have some misgivings about the Panthers, but I think they are doing one helluva job. It makes you wonder, if they can do so much with volunteer help, what happened to all those agencies living on federal money?"  
"Most people in the black community are, if a little, more familiar with the Black Panthers than with established programs. And while whites tend to think of the bad things the Panthers have done, the blacks may think of the first time their youngsters had breakfast, or the first time they were able to get a tooth pulled without feeling like they were the scum of the earth."

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**Marshall, Dr. John D., Building  
Multnomah County: OR**



**Photograph 1 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0001  
Overview of the Dr. John D. Marshall Building, view northwest.



**Photograph 2 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0002  
East (primary) façade, view northwest.

**Marshall, Dr. John D., Building  
Multnomah County: OR**



**Photograph 3 of 15: OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0003**  
Detail of entryway, view west.



**Photograph 4 of 15: OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0004**  
South and west (rear) façades, view northeast.

**Marshall, Dr. John D., Building  
Multnomah County: OR**



**Photograph 5 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0005  
Detail of glass blocks in south façade, view north.



**Photograph 6 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0006  
Detail of glass blocks in west façade, view east.



**Photograph 7 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0007  
North façade, view east.



**Photograph 8 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0008  
Detail of aluminum-framed window on north façade, view south.



**Photograph 9 of 15: OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0009  
Lobby, view northeast.**



**Photograph 10 of 15: OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0010  
Lobby, view southeast.**



**Photograph 11 of 15: OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0012**  
Offices in northeast portion of building, view east-southeast.



**Photograph 12 of 15: OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0013**  
Service panel and exterior door in north façade, view northwest.



**Photograph 13 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0011  
Primary hallway, view west from lobby.



**Photograph 14 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0014  
Primary hallway, view north.



**Marshall, Dr. John D., Building**  
**Multnomah County: OR**



**Photograph 15 of 15:** OR\_MultnomahCounty\_MarshallDr.JohnD.Building\_0015  
Noncontributing storage unit at west side of property, view west-southwest.