

City of Portland Archives & Records Center

MAP OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
 COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS
 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER
 SCALE OF MILES
 1931
 COPYRIGHT 1926
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
 OFFICE 22 32 33
 A. L. BARBUR, COMMISSIONER
 O. LAURGAARD, CITY ENGINEER
 SEWERS LAID PRIOR TO DEC. 1, 1932
 SEWERS LAID FROM DEC. 1, 1932 TO DEC. 1, 1937

REPORT OF INSPECTION
 CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 BUREAU OF BUILDINGS
 PERMIT NO. 90798

Date Dec. 15, 1920
 Building on 224-226 Burnside Between 1st and 2nd
 Lot _____ Block _____
 Owner Sonna Goldstone in West Side
 Contractor Theo. Butts & Oake Address 223 Burnside St. Addition _____
2 Story, Class VI, Grade 2, Restaurant & Amp. Office
 Address 952 Hassalo St.

DATE	HOUR	DESCRIPTION OF ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS	
		set front back and make entrance to basement, put in steps; make board partition in room; cut in stairway	100x50
<u>14/20</u>	<u>3 10</u>	<u>Building Counter no more work till next month</u>	<u>JHS</u>
<u>1-6-21</u>	<u>3 10</u>	<u>Front moved back</u>	<u>JHS</u>
<u>1-22-21</u>	<u>10 35</u>	<u>Putting on finish</u>	<u>JHS</u>
<u>3-7-21</u>	<u>2 10</u>	<u>All Finished</u>	<u>JHS</u>

City of Portland

Guide to historical City records related to Building Research

Guide to City specific-records related to building research

There are many reasons why you might perform property-related research. Perhaps you are researching a building you want to purchase, or you want to locate the house your great-grandmother lived in as a child, or you have an interest in a specific architect. As home owners, genealogists, planners, students, historians, lawyers, writers, and business owners, you have different reasons for researching buildings. Fortunately, there are a variety of tools available to help you.

There is no single source for information about a building. Compiling a list of previous owners may require a different set of records than what is needed to document zoning changes over a period of time. This guide focuses on specific resources available at the City of Portland Archives, including photos, maps, plans, and documents, many of which are unique to our collections.



Top: 7255 SE 82nd near Division and Powell, 1985. A2008-008.700

Bottom: Southwest corner of N Lombard St and Portsmouth Ave, 1963. A2011-013



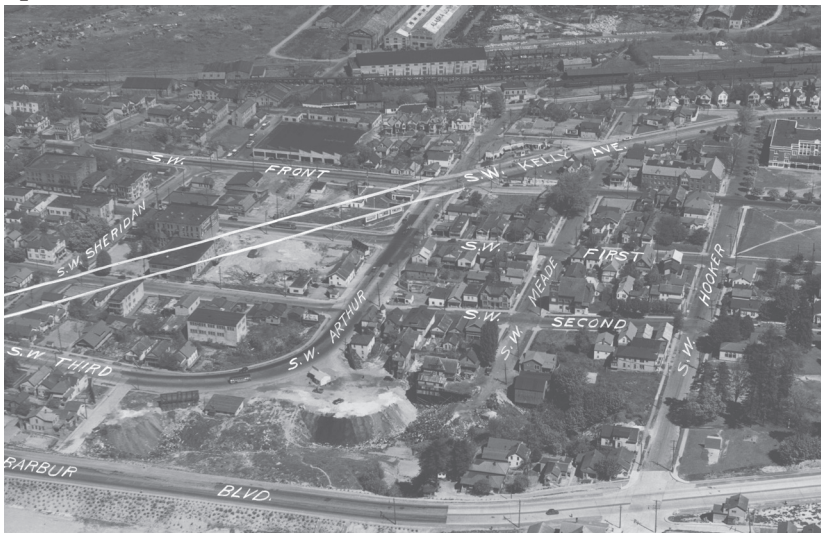
City Bureaus

Many City bureaus take photographs to document their work, like widening streets, reviewing land use issues, fighting fires, and installing sewer pipes.

While the purpose of a photo is to document the work the City is doing, details captured in the background are often helpful for research. Even though the City does not create a photographic history of every building within the city limits, there are a wealth of photos, negatives, slides and even some moving images that show buildings and neighborhoods throughout the City's history. The quantity and location of photos mirrors the growth of the city, so most of the earliest images are in and around downtown and move outward as the city limits expanded.



Rudie Wilhelm Warehouse fire, 1947. A2001-083



Aerial view of southwest waterfront, 1938. A2010-001.91

Urban Renewal & Land Use

The City has a variety of photos taken of buildings that were impacted by urban renewal projects and land use issues. The Portland Development Commission (PDC), the Planning Bureau and the Exposition Recreation Commission collections contain a wide variety of photos. Some photos are of structures that no longer exist, while other photos document buildings as part of a land use review including zone changes and variances. The PDC has overseen many programs affecting individual structures. Those files, organized by street location, range in date from the 1950s to the 1990s and contain images in a variety of formats including black and white prints and color slides.



Right: Two boys with a bike in front of 219 N Cherry St, 1957. A2001-004.94

Left: 3705 NE Sandy, 1981. A2012-008.681.1

Other Photos

A rich source of images for individual and multi-unit homes is the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) collection. HAP photographed most of its projects, including Vanport, Guilds Lake, and Columbia Villa, dating from the 1940s and the 1990s. The HAP photos are primarily publicity photos taken to document the newly built housing stock.

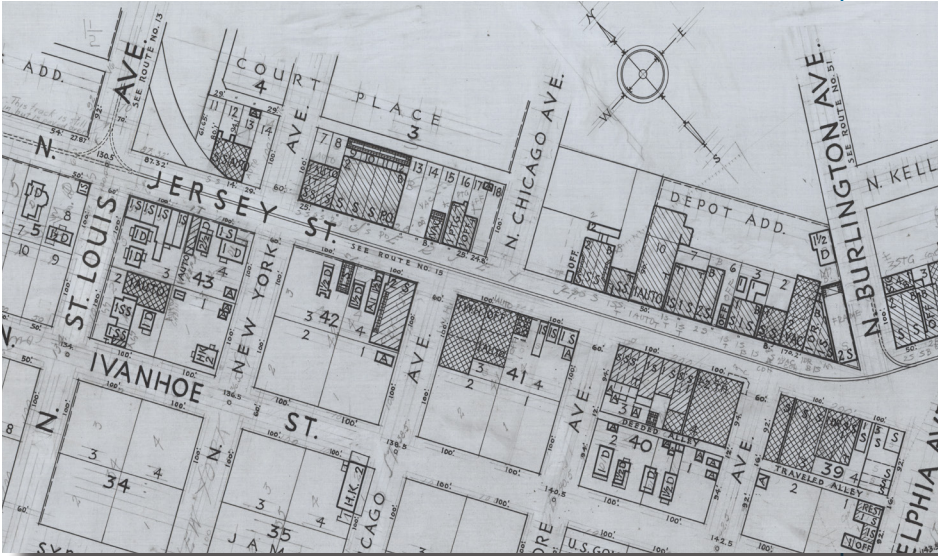
The Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) was compiled in the early 1980s to identify significant and historic structures in Portland. These buildings were photographed, researched, and organized by area. While copies of the HRI are available in a variety of places in Portland and online, the City Archives is home to the original HRI negatives.



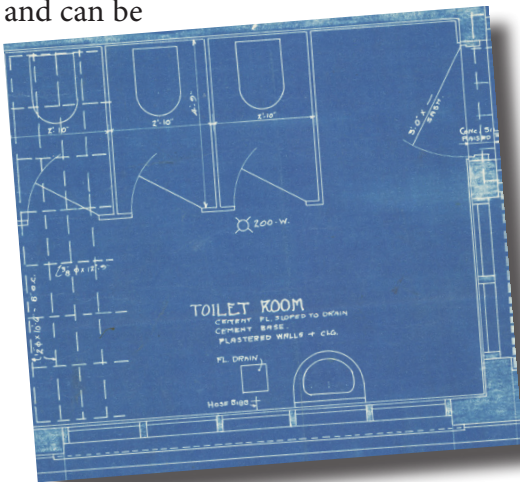
NE 82nd and Hancock, 1918. A2004-002.2037

The archives also contain collected or donated photos that are related to the city but not created by a city bureau. Many of these images come from early souvenir books and postcards, but also include photographs of historic buildings. Many photos have been scanned and can be found on Efiles. Efiles (www.portlandoregon.gov/efiles) is the City's online database.

Plans

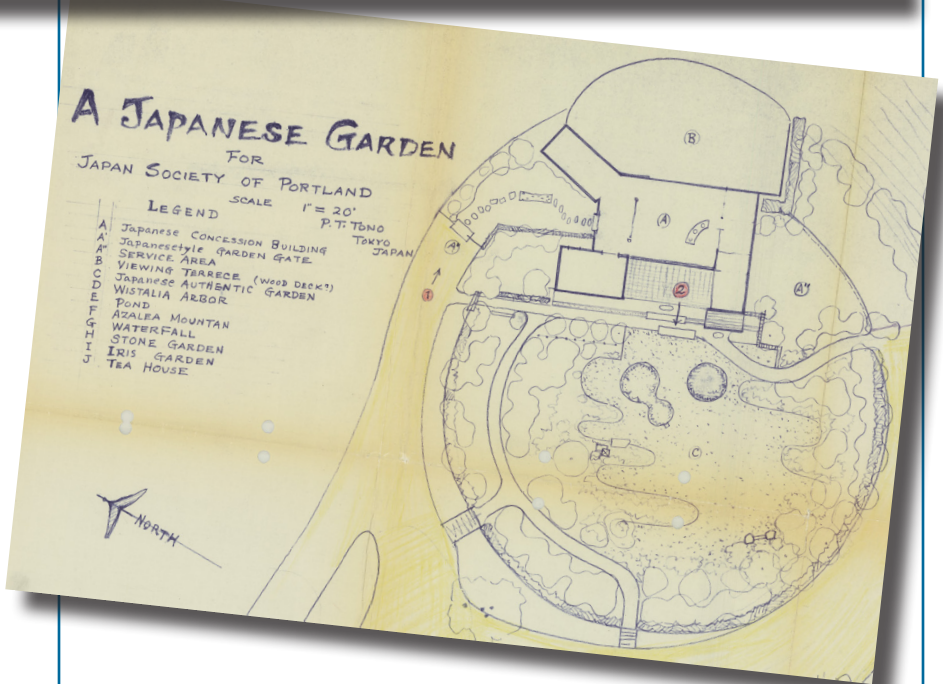
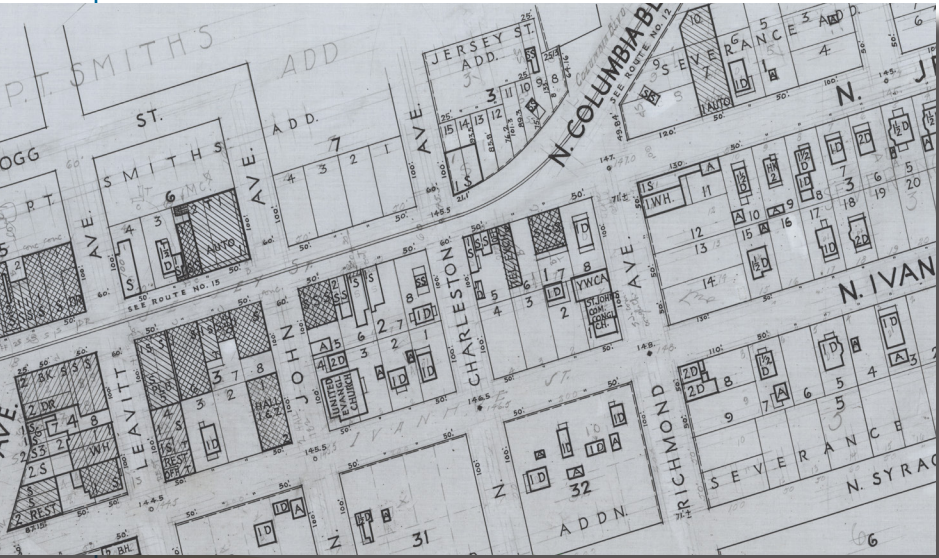


The City Archives primarily holds plans for city-owned buildings such as park facilities and City Hall. Plans for street and other city projects often include details about nearby properties and structures. Many collections contain a variety of historic building plans throughout the city and are available by address or the name of the facility. Most plans and drawings for residential and commercial buildings are available through the Bureau of Development Services and can be



accessed by contacting them directly (503-823-7660). It is important to keep in mind that early plans and drawings may not have been submitted to the city, or may not have been required at the time the building was built. Rules and best practices have changed over time.

Plans



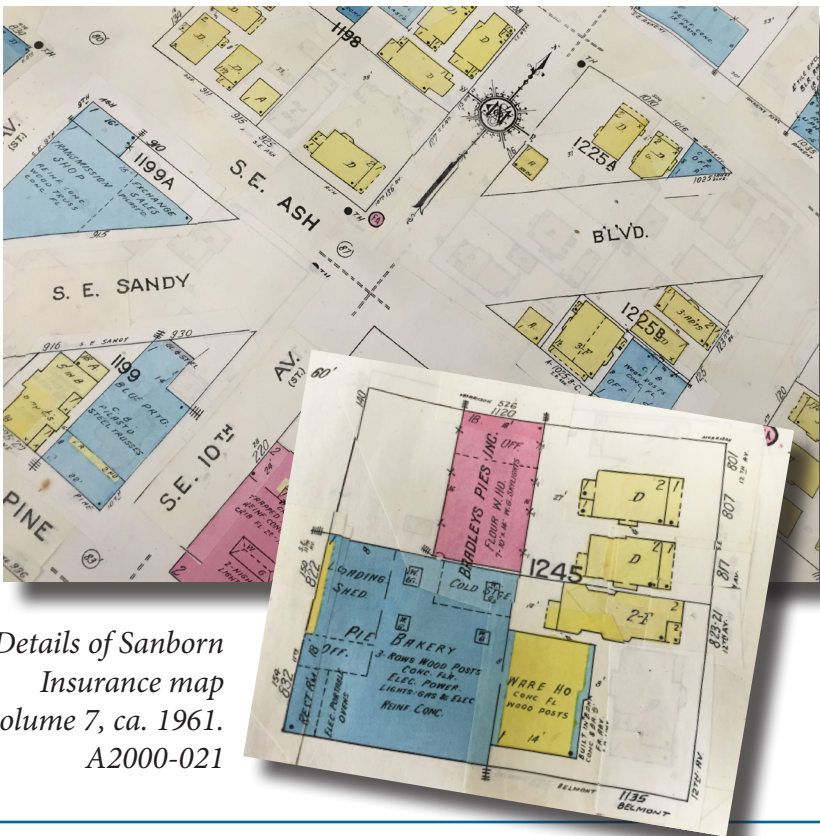
Top: Portion of street Route 50, ca. 1935. A2009-018

Left: Portion of Comfort Station plan, 1921. A2010-014

Right: Plan for Japanese Garden, ca. 1962. A2013-007

Topographic Maps & Sanborns

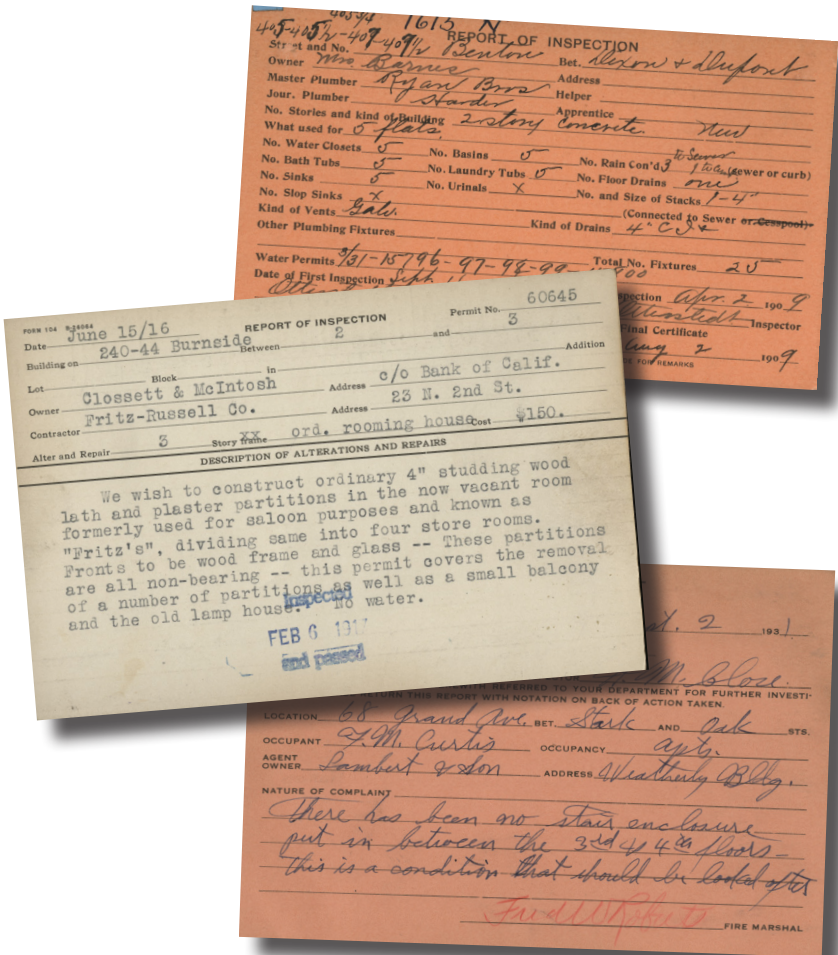
Topographic maps and Sanborn Insurance maps often show a structure's footprint and identify where a building was located. Both can be used to see changes to a structure or property over time. The topographic maps in the City's collection date from 1963 to 1992. The Sanborn collection contains volumes with dates and revisions from 1908 to 1998. Sanborn maps were updated to show changes to structures and properties over time with alterations to the original base maps. These changes were physically pasted over the old information so the maps were always up-to-date. Changes to an individual property or structure vary depending on its history. Sanborn maps are a good source for block by block street map illustrations. They often contain detailed address information, type of construction material and details regarding the structures on a given property.



Details of Sanborn
Insurance map
volume 7, ca. 1961.
A2000-021

Building Inspection Cards

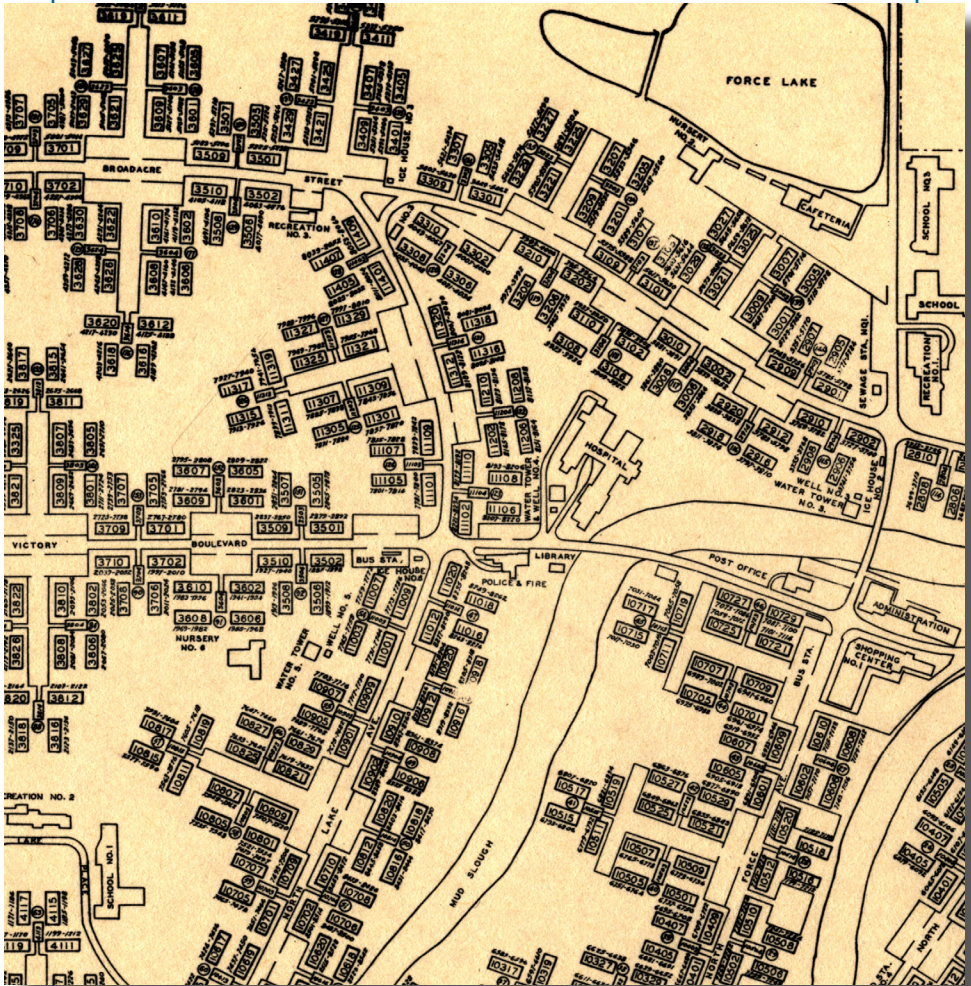
Building inspection cards list many useful historical facts about specific structures in Portland. Often the cards list the owner at the time, contractor, purpose of structure, type of work, and dates for construction and changes. Structures that no longer exist are also included. The cards are filed alphabetically or numerically by street name. The building report of inspection cards range in date from 1908 to 1920, while the plumbing report of inspection cards range in date from the early 1900s to the 1980s.



Various Report of Inspection cards ranging in date from 1909 to 1931. A2014-005

Public Works

Public works construction files often feature materials that include information regarding structures as they existed at the time of a project. City facilities management files contain information on a variety of public buildings. Some of those buildings started out in private ownership and materials regarding the structure were often passed to the City. Parks Bureau files also contain materials related to their facilities.



Detail of Vanport City map, ca. 1943. A2001-025

City Directories & Phone Books

R. L. POLK & CO'S PORTLAND CITY DIRECTORY 1896.

FOR NAMES AND REMOVALS NOTED TOO LATE FOR REGULAR
INSERTION, SEE PAGES IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING.

ABBREVIATIONS.

add addition	elec. electric, or electrical	op opposite
appr apprentice	eng engineer	oper operator
bds boards	fret freight	pub publisher
bldr builder	insp inspector	r or res resident
ch church	lab laborer	rms rooms, or rooms at
coll collector	m mile	rpr repairer
com. commission or com	mach machinist	s. south, south of or side
merch..... merchant	Milw Milwaukee	sch school
comp compositor	mkt market	Slwd steamer
contr contractor	mmsg messenger	stmr telephone
depu deputy	n north, or north of	w west, or west of
dom domestic	Nat National	wid widow, or widow of
e east, or east of	nr near	

The word "street" is always understood.

Abbreviations of Corporations.

A T F Co. American Type Founders' Co.	O P Co. Oregon Pottery Co.
B & O T Co. Baggage & Omnibus	O T Co. Oregon Transfer Co.
T Co. Transfer Co.	P Portland
Col C & T Wks. Columbia Car &	P or Ice Co. Portland Artificial Ice Co.
Tool Works.	P Gen Elec Co. Portland General
C W W City Water Works	Electric Co.
C O & E Mfg Co. Cleveland Oil &	P F M Co. Portland Flouring Mills Co.
	D L & M Co. Portland Lumber &

City directories contain names and addresses for businesses and individuals, listed alphabetically. Beginning in 1930, a reverse look-up listing makes it possible to browse by address, which helps when the occupant's name isn't known. Older phone books can also be used for similar purposes. Newly constructed buildings may not be listed until the following year due to the manner in which the data was collected.

Wagner W F r 943 E 7th N WA Int-3212	Watts Harry r 1512 E Madison BE acm-5654	Wagner W A
Wagner Mrs r 494 Arlington pl WA Int-7498	Watts L r 400 Furze EA h-6605	Wagner W A
Warkentin A r 124 Williams st NW WA Int-8873	Watts Lewis L r 1112 E 3rd N GA Int-5408	Wagner W A
Warkentin L Dr r 2143 Miss EA-9420	Watts M E r 818 Dupont BR dwy-5123	Wagner W A
Warkentin Annie Mrs r 798 E Hoyt SE Int-2843	Watts R B r 1306 Curtis BR dwy-3095	Wagner W A
Warkentin Anna Mrs r 986 Clinton TA bor-7959	Watts Ray E Mrs r 1248 W Adams TR Int-7416	Wagner W A
Warkentin A F r 259 S 11th N GA rfd-6592	Watts Rose Mrs r 960 E Astor EA h-2401	Wagner W A
Warkentin J F r 758 Schuyler WA Int-8201	Watts Thos Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
Warkentin Geo C r 659 Buffalo EA at-6680	Watts Thos Mrs r 960 E Astor EA h-2401	Wagner W A
Warkentin N r 541 Morrison EA at-6680	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
Warkentin's Red & White Store	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
8498 Sandy GA rfd-5420	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
Warkentin's Red & White Store	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
8498 Sandy GA rfd-5420	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
Warkentin's Red & White Store	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A
8498 Sandy GA rfd-5420	Watts Wm Dr r 542 Woodland BE acm-1994	Wagner W A

Top: Polk City Directory, 1896. 2012-30
Bottom: Telephone book, 1928. A2011-014



Looking east at SW Front between Ankeny & Ash, 1929.

A2009-009.2495

Front Cover

Left: 315-319 SE Union Ave [Martin Luther King Jr Blvd], 1929. A2009-009.2441

Right: Report of Inspection card, 1920. A2014-005

Portland Archives & Records Center

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www.portlandoregon.gov/archives

Search our online database Efiles

www.portlandoregon.gov/efiles



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