



**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE; Processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE; Warehouse

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER; Industrial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Asphalt

other Glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

## EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Located off the main railroad track in the Central Eastside Industrial District, the B & O warehouse soars above the surrounding structures. This building occupies an entire block in the industrial district and is bounded by the tracks to the west.

The B & O warehouse is constructed of reinforced concrete, resting on a concrete foundation with a full basement. The building has a number of levels; the southern two-thirds of the structure is two stories in height, but on the northern side the building rises seven floors. These two elements of the building are further divided and have multiple roof levels. The structure is covered by a flat roof with a full parapet. The primary window types are four-over-four double-hung sash set in groups, and six-over-six double-hung sash set alone.

The original entry is on the southeast corner; a wood door with a single pane of glass and a transom window above is located on the south elevation. Four elevated loading docks are in the center; all have new doors. The windows on this side have been replaced with aluminum frame windows. On the west elevation, four old elevated loading docks are extant, and all have the original doors which consist of wooden double doors divided into two panels each with diagonal bracing. Within the panels is diagonally applied tongue-and-groove. The north elevation on the first floor is broken only by two loading docks, and three other docks are located on the east elevation.

The additional five stories on the northern end have no windows on the third and fourth floors, but windows are located above. The exterior surface on these floors has a number of recessed bays created by raised concrete pilasters that

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run from the third floor to the seventh. Several horizontal bands further divide the surface. This treatment is seen on three of the four elevations. This building dominates the industrial district's skyline because of its massing, creating a strong visual landmark.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The configuration of the interior of the building is essentially as constructed. Some of the bins located on several floors have been removed to allow future storage space for the current occupant. Walls and ceilings are intact. Floors are as built, although sections of flooring on the first and second floors, which are subject to lift-truck traffic, have been overlaid with plywood.

The first floor retains the original office spaces on either corner of the south side of the building. Some partitions have been constructed within the portion of the southwest office originally designated as the mens lunch, coat and locker rooms.

Due to its original function, flooring is absent between the third and fourth floors. The upper floors are occasionally used for warehousing purposes, however, many spaces are in their original configuration and hold milling equipment.

08/11/83  
LANCASTER BOND  
100% COTTON FIBRE

### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1920-1938

Significant Dates

1920

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hurley-Mason

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Olympic Cereal Mill, constructed in 1920 by the Hurley-Mason Company, is an industrial landmark on Portland's east side. In 1950, the subject building was acquired by the Baggage and Omnibus Company, a transportation business, which was located across the street at the southeast corner of 2nd and Washington. The use of the name "B. & O. Warehouse" began as a way to identify the subject building as separate from the 2nd and Washington building. The Olympic Cereal Mill is significant under criterion A for its association with the Portland Flouring Mills and General Mills which played a pivotal role in establishing Portland as the principal west coast port for the shipment of flour products. Secondly, the building is significant under criterion C as a well-preserved example of a relatively early, reinforced concrete industrial building. The date of construction has been confirmed by building permit records and tax assessor information.

The Portland Flouring Mill was incorporated in 1883 by William Ladd, a prominent Portland businessman. It was originally located in Albina, to the north of the subject study area. This mill grew to become the largest of its kind on the west coast by the turn-of-the-century. Grain was Oregon's primary export through the 1880s and ranked second only to lumber through the remainder of the historic period. In 1914 Portland Flour expanded to the present site, taking over existing buildings for its Olympic Mill operation. These buildings were subsequently razed to make way for the subject building nine years later.

In 1918, Portland Flour was purchased by Max Houser, former president of the Port of Portland. Within two years Houser became the largest grain exporter in the world, and established Portland's pre-eminence as the primary four shipping port on the west coast. During this time Houser constructed the subject

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property. Houser's success was short-lived and by the end of 1920 he had lost 15 million dollars in the market. The mill was purchased by Sperry Four, a subsidiary of General Mills, in 1923. A specialty cereal milling operation, the subject building became known to many locals as the home of Wheaties and Bisquick.

The mill is the largest building of its type in the study area. The most distinctive element is the tower which rises 118' above grade creating a strong vertical emphasis. The form and mass of the mill and the materials used in construction reflect both the building's function as well as the latest technology of the day. Concrete not only promoted speed of construction but also had the high loading capacity necessary to endure the heavy weight of stored grains and flour. While brick has a bearing capacity of 3000 psi, concrete can sustain loads over 6000 psi. The grain was stored vertically for ease of loading and also to aid in the milling process. In addition, the tower housed the tall, gravity air-filtering devices necessary to control the explosive dust problem.

Today the building remains a prominent visual reminder of the important place which food-related industry has held in the development of the study area's wholesale and warehouse district.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- . City of Portland Building Bureau microform and card files.
- . City of Portland Bureau of Planning, Portland Historic Resource Inventory, 1983.
- . Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, and card files, Portland, 1980.
- . Sanborn Insurance Map, 1935.
- . The Oregonian, June 12, 1932. Sec 1, p.15
- " " July 21, 1934. p.1
- " " June 10, 1939. p.1
- " " April 21, 1940. Sec 1, p.16
- . The Oregon Daily Journal, July 7, 1941. p.1

See continuation sheet

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre Portland, Washington-Oregon 1:62500

**UTM References**

A 

1	0	5	2	6	3	5	0	5	0	4	0	4	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

East Portland addition, Lot 1-8, Block 42

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

Taxlot lines

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title K. Zisman, J. Koler, J. Morrison, B. Grimala, A. Yost

organization Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association date August 15, 1988

street & number 615 S.E. Alder telephone (503) 234-4801

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97214

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

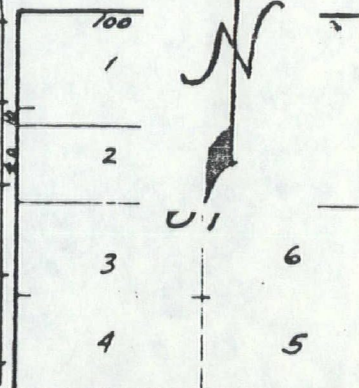
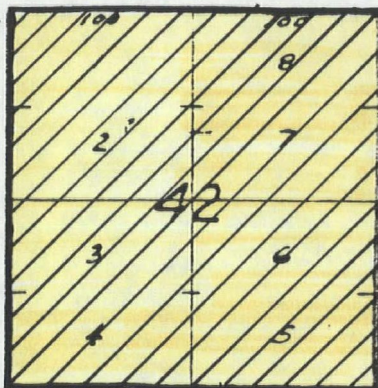
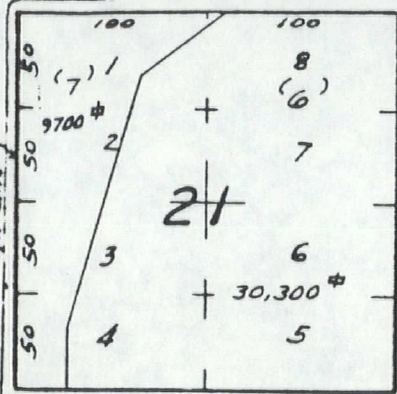
Section number   9   Page   2  

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. Vertical File, Oregon Historical Society Collection, Portland, Oregon.

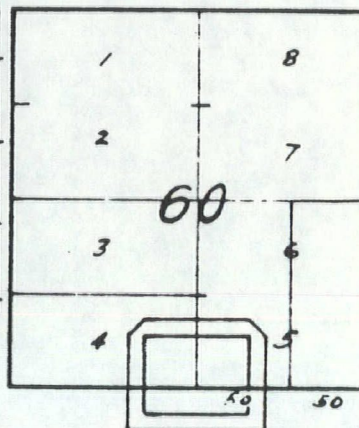
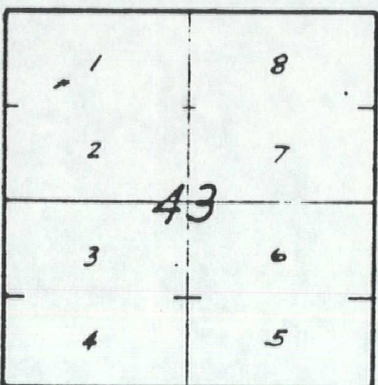
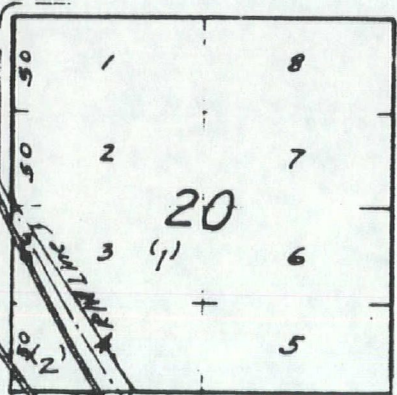
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STARK



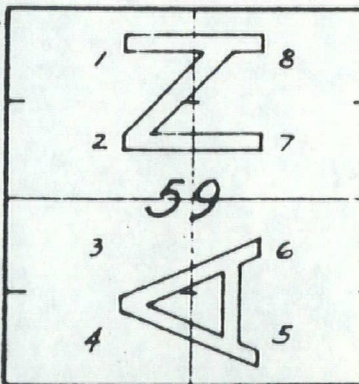
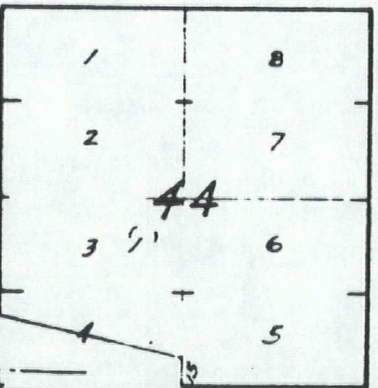
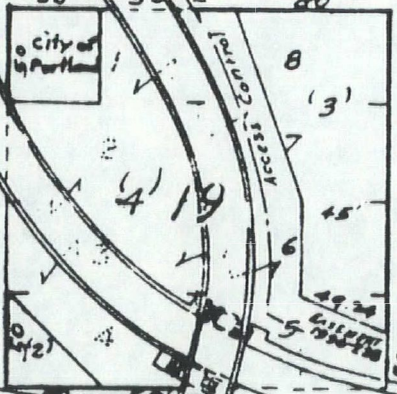
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WASHINGTON



S. E.

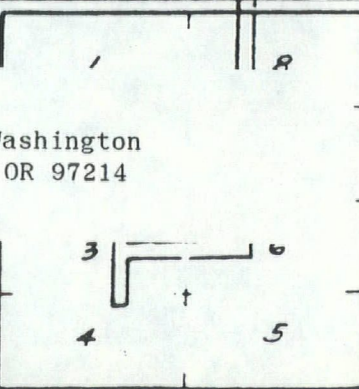
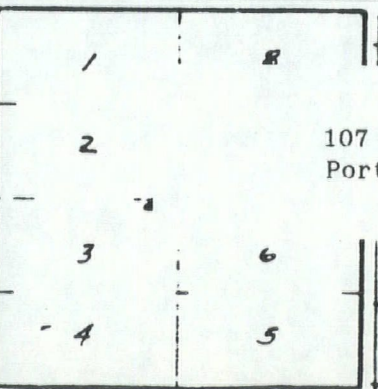
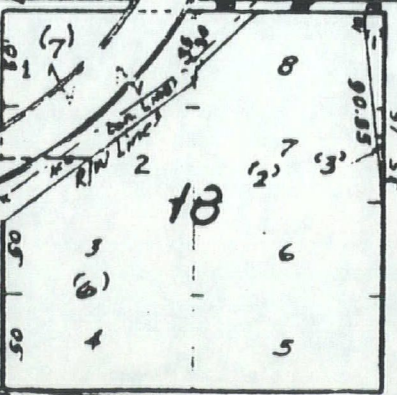
ALDER



S. E.

MORRISON

N. 88° 12' 12" W.



107 S.E. Washington  
Portland, OR 97214

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000115 Date Listed: 3/8/89

Olympic Cereal Mill Multnomah Oregon  
Property Name County State

Portland Eastside MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Bruce J. Noble Jr. 3/8/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====

#### Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination includes a claim for criterion C and architecture is discussed and justified in the nomination narrative. However, architecture should be added to the nomination as an **area of significance** to accompany the claim for criterion C. These amendments to the official record were discussed over the telephone with Elizabeth Potter of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office on March 8, 1989.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

4/27/89

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Portland Eastside MPS  
State Multnomah County, OREGON

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 21. **Olympic Cereal Mill** *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Druce J. Noble, Jr. 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Oregon Portland Cement Building *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Delores Byers 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Page and Son Apartments *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Delores Byers 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. Parelius, Martin, Fourplex *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Delores Byers 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. Piper, Charles, Building *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Delores Byers 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. Polhemus, James S., House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Delores Byers 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. Portland Fire Station No. 7 *Substantive Review* Keeper see nomination for signature  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_ 5/8/89
- 28. Portland Fire Station No. 23 *Substantive Review* Keeper see nomination for signature  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_ 5/8/89
- 29. Raabe, Capt. George, House *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Druce J. Noble, Jr. 3/7/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 30. Raymond, Jessie M., House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Delores Byers 3/8/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

SHP

SHP

SHP

Maintenance

SURF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Olympic Cereal Mill

MULTIPLE NAME: Portland Eastside MPS

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Multnomah

DATE RECEIVED: 1/27/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/13/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000115

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    3/8/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The mill is historically significant for its role in the establishment of Portland as a major port city. Also significant under criterion C as a relatively early, reinforced concrete industrial building. An SLR form was employed to add architecture as an area of significance following a 3/8/89 phone conversation with Elizabeth Potter of the Oregon SHPO.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - A, C  
REVIEWER Noble  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 3/8/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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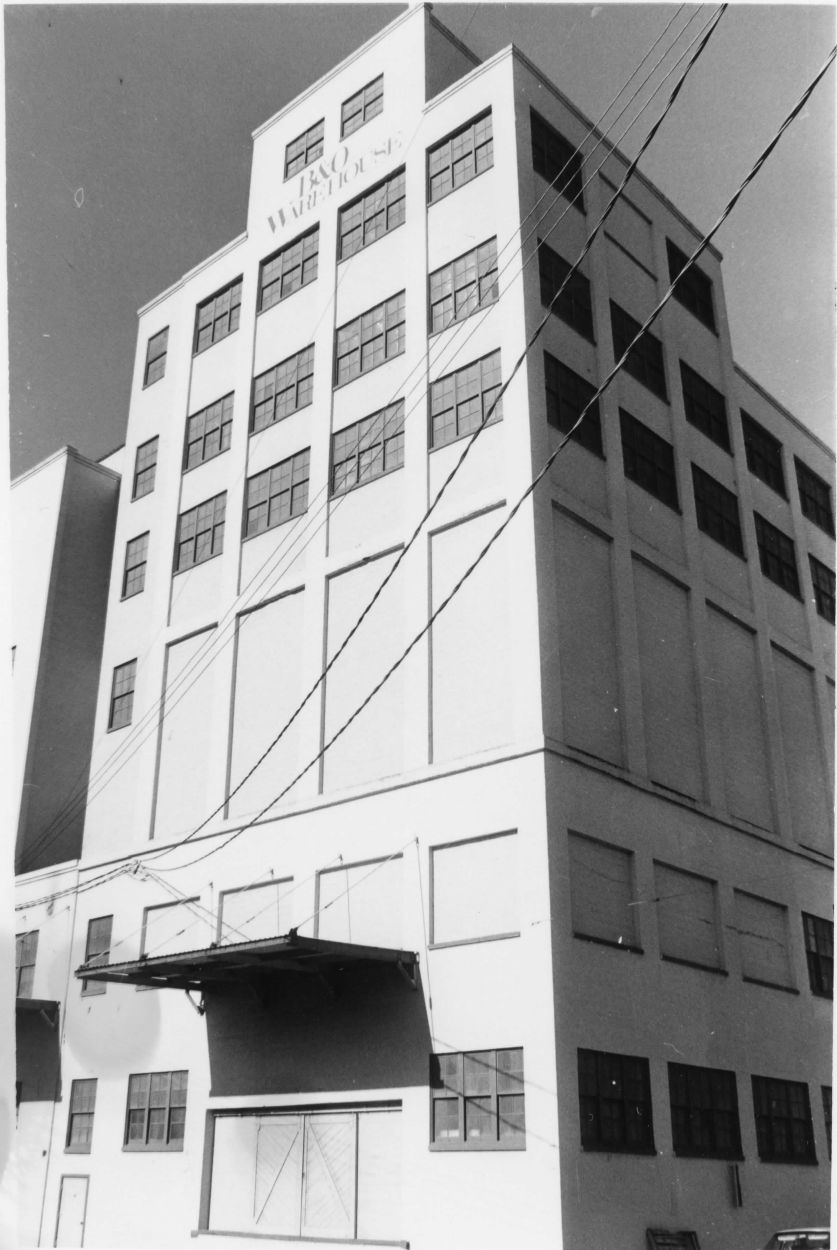
OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



B&O  
WAREHOUSE

- 1 Olympic Cereal mill / 107 S.E. Washington
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Smith, Patrick
- 4 August 1988
- 5 Roll S-22 #7
- 6 Looking southwest at east and north elevation
- 7 #1074

Portland Eastside mps

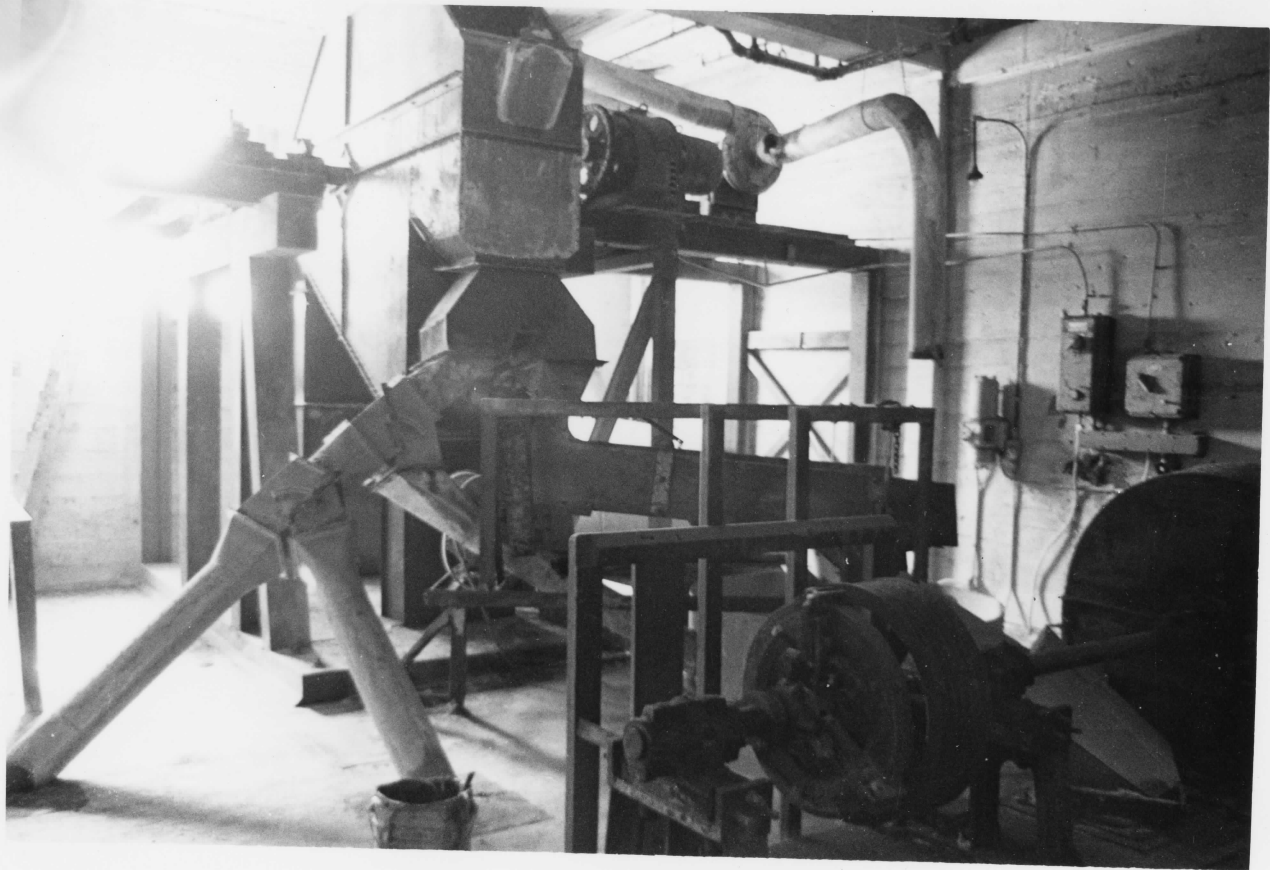


WESTLING CO

ACTON  
MASS

- 1 Olympic Cereal mill / 107 S.E. Washington
- 2 Portland, Oregon Multnomah County
- 3 Smith, Patrick
- 4 August 1988
- 5 Roll 5-22 #9
- 6 Looking northwest at south and east elevations
- 7 # 2 of 4

Portland Eastside MFS



- 1 Olympic Cereal mill / 107 S.E. Washington
- 2 Portland, Oregon , Multnomah County
- 3 Morrison, Jane
- 4 July 1988
- 5 Roll J-2 # 15
- 6 Interior detail of milling machinery
- 7 #3 of 4

Portland Eastside mps



- 1 Olympic Cereal Mill / 107 S.E. Washington
- 2 Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County
- 3 Morrison, Jane
- 4 July 1988
- 5 Roll J-2 # 17
- 6 Interior staircase
- 7 #4 of 4

Portland Eastside MPS

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500514