CLARK COUNTY, WA

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Clark County, Washington Historic Preservation Commission

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Clark County Heritage Register **Nomination Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A) http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb16a/. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. This form is similar but not exact to the National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Some sections of the National Register form were not applicable to the local register therefore were not included. When using the National Register Bulletin 16A to fill out the form, look for the section names for information on completing the specific section. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Pro	perty							
Historic name	Blair Building							
Other names/si	ite number							
2. Location								
street & numbe	r 1801 Main St							not for publication
city or W	/ashougal						,	vicinity
town								
State Was	hington code	WA	county	Clark	code	011	zip code	98671
3. Classificatio	n							
Ownership of F (Check as many b X priva	oxes as apply)		j ory of Prope k only one box building(s	•	Number of (Do not incl. Contributing	previous		ources in the count.)
public	c-local	-	district		1			buildings
publi	c-State		site					sites
publi	c-Federal	_	structure					structures
		-	object					objects
								Total
	multiple property listinerty is not part of a mult		rty listing.)					es previously ige Register
n/a				0				
4. Owner Cons	ent for Nomination	Design	ation and Lis	sting				

I (we) consent 🖾 do not consent 🗌 to the nomination, and designation of the above property on the Clark County Heritage Register. I (we) also certify that I am/we are the legal owner(s) of the above property.

Owner signature

Owner signature

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5. Functions or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE – specialty store	COMMERCE/TRADE – <i>specialty store</i>
	WORK IN PROGRESS
6. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19 TH AND EARLY 20 TH CENTURY	foundation
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS	
	walls brick
	roof composite
	other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

Washougal is sited in southwestern Washington state, in the southeastern portion of Clark County. The Washougal River flows down from the Cascade Mountains through town just upstream from its mouth, which opens into the Columbia River. The town, with a current population between 15,000 and 16,000 people, is located about 17.5 miles east of county seat Vancouver. The traditional commercial core of which the Blair Building is an historic part is located to the north of Washington State Highway 14 at a low elevation of about 79'up from the Columbia.

The Blair Building is a rectangular two-story brick commercial building prominently located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main Street (formerly B Street) and Love (formerly 18th Street) in downtown Washougal. Nearby buildings lining Main Street are also commercial; those immediately across the street in each direction are all of much more recent construction. An apartment building is located directly to the north, and other residences are nearby. The building , which is 50' wide and 60' deep, is built out to the lot line on the south and east facades; there is a parking area to the rear. A contiguous parking lot to the east serves the building but is a separate lot from a legal perspective and is not part of this nomination. As is typical for a corner location, the south and western facades are equally ornamented. The Blair Building is one of the oldest remaining in Washougal's traditional downtown core, has a high level of integrity, and is the most intact of all remaining older brick commercial buildings in the nearby vicinity.

Exterior

The Flemish bond brick walls of the south (primary) and west facades have both glazed and plain headers; many stretchers have a roughened finish. A decorative brick belt course delineating the floors is formed of a soldier row bordered with glazed headers. The very slightly parapeted cornice line is accented by a soldier row of bricks which provide a siense of greater height.

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The 23 wood-framed inset casement windows with 12 lights in each panel on the second floor on all facades have simple brick surrounds formed by glazed enders on the lintels and sides and red brick soldier rows at the sills. The windows have been restored by Katie Rathmell, owner of Pacific Window Restoration LLC, headquartered in Astoria, Oregon. Decorative ceramic faces which are not original are applied to the upper wall plain beneath the cornice and over each window opening on the south and west facades

The first floor main (south) façade has three principal divisions delineated by brick piers from the street level up to an outline of flush arches created by glazed enders. A full-width flat awning provides rain coverage. An historic photo from c. 1944 indicates that the edges had the name "McFarland Apts" painted on the west and south facades, and were ornamented top and bottom with two rows of narrow horizontal banding which appear to stand slightly proud of the surface. The two commercial spaces have large metal-trimmed display windows over rough-finished concrete bases. A recessed entrance opens into the east commercial space. The metal-framed windows and door to reflect alterations undertaken presumably dating to the 1950s when such alterations were typical.

Reflecting the prominent corner location of the building, the western façade is just as ornamented as the front. The first story is visually divided by four flush brick arches formed of glazed enders. The two southernmost and northernmost arches have rectangular tri-partite windows with a row of brick headers for lintels inset high in the wall plane. The other glazed arch has an inset doorway to the commercial space topped by an arched awning. A ceramic heraldic shield ornament has been affixed to the building above the awning. The metal-framed door is similar to those on the front façade and presumably installed at the same time. A brick watercourse formed of glazed enders delineates the base. A partial row of glazed enders at ground level at the south end of the façade accommodates the need for a small amount of infill to level the building. A vertical sign formed of individual capital letters spelling "Meats" which appears in a c. 1944 historic photo was removed at an unknown date.

The less-prominent north (rear) and eastern façades are constructed of clay tile. On the first floor level of the north facade, there are two entry doors. The aluminum-framed full-light door located centrally in the western half of the building leads into the kitchen (rear) of The Sushi Joint restaurant. The metal security door in the eastern half, which is close to the center of the north facade, leads into the kitchen (rear) portion of Chinese Café. Three casement windows are placed symmetrically across the second story. A wooden stair case on the eastern third of the façade rises to a shed-roofed wooden landing leading into the second floor. A wooden door with a single light in the top portion provides access.

The eastern façade has a central wooden door with a small arched roof above. The second story has seven casement windows placed asymmetrically. A mural of bear cubs with a buckskin-clad human arm reaching for them is painted over most of the façade. Inspired by an entry in the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the mural was painted by Travis London, a Washougal resident and art teacher (Kramer email 5 2018).

Interior

While the interior first floor retains the general original perimeter configurations for the two commercial spaces, the spaces have been altered over time to reflect the business operations occupying them. Currently, The Sushi Joint occupies the western one-third of the commercial space, while Chinese Café occupies the eastern two-thirds. There may have been an interior staircase to the second floor but if so it had been removed by the time of ownership by the current owners, who found scant evidence of same.

<u>West commercial space</u> - Alterations done by the current owner include returning the ceiling in the restaurant to its original height and uncovering the transoms. The walls are formed of exposed brick, an applied horizontal wooden-board portion on the east wall, tall wooden wainscoting on the east and west sides, and plaster. The original concrete floors are covered with Luxury Vinyl Flooring (LVF). One interior wall located approximately two-thirds of the way to the rear was removed. The interior is currently very open, with only the approximately one-tenth of the space to the rear walled off for storage. The food preparation , serving, and eating spaces blend together, with the sushi prep portion located to the rear and seating to the front. A soft yogurt treat preparation bar is located on the west wall near the front. Double wooden

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doors to the restroom are located centrally on the east wall; the doors originally led to a refrigeration unit for the meat business and have industrial hardware.

<u>East commercial space</u> – Chinese Café has occupied this space for decades, and the interior reflects this use with a food preparation area walled off to the rear, and a seating area with booths and tables occupying approximatelytwo-thirds of the entire space to the front. The entry has a small vestibule which leads to a short hallway formed of half-height walls which delineate east and west dining areas. A cashier station is situated on the east wall about two-thirds of the way from the front of the building. A restroom is located at the same distance from the front on the west side. A central doorway with a swinging door leads from the cashier counter into the kitchen and storage area, which occupies the full width of the rear portion of the building. The floors are covered with carpet. The plaster walls are delineated with vertical wooden wainscoting topped with a horizontal strip. An exit door is located on the east wall near the cashier counter.

The second floor, which was extremely deteriorated due to general lack of maintenance over a long period of time, including severe leaks which ruined the walls and ceiling, is currently being rehabilitated by the Kramers. The original seven very small apartments (two studios and five one-bedrooms) had been mostly unoccupied (one was occasionally in use by an owner) and primarily used for storage since the 1970s. Over several years, the Kramers have been reconfiguring the space into four studio apartments and a mechanical room arranged along a central hall. Original structural framing has been left in place and reinforced; unstructural framing has been removed. The tongue-and-groove fir floors are being covered with a new plywood subfloor and LVF. The perimeter walls are exposed brick; the interior walls are wallboard. Some of the orginal doors and door framing components from the orginal apartments were salvageable and are being used in closet construction in the new units. A mechanical room with a metal stairway to the roof is located at the northeast corner of the second floor.

Plumbing and wiring have been updated throughout the building, though the new plumbing utilizes three original drains. The knob and tube wiring has been removed. New ductless heat pumps have been installed on the roof, as has the rest of the heating and ventilating equipment.

Use of Brick in Construction

The Blair Building is notable for its remarkably detailed and highly intact brick exterior. Brick has long been known as a durable building material since its use in ancient Mesopotamia and brick-making was well-developed by the Middle Ages. Brick was used in Colonial America as early as 1611 in Henrico, Virginia. Dutch immigrants, known as highly-skilled brickmakers in Europe, were operating kilns at New Amsterdam by 1628 on the southern tip of Manhattan. They experimented successfully with producing and building with bricks in various colors and glazed finishes. Glazing occurs in the bricks closest to the heat source in a kiln. The "header," the short end of the brick, is pointed at the heat source and, depending on the chemical content of the original clay, can become darker than the "stretcher," or the long side of a brick (Condit). This process happens naturally in the drying process for the reason stated above, but also can be produced on purpose, for reasons of style and design. The glazed headers can be used as decorative patterns and motifs, such as are seen in on the Blair Building.

Bricks were first made in what is now Clark County by the Hudson's Bay Company, but the most notable of substantial early brick buildings in Clark County is Providence Academy, completed in 1873. The school was closely followed in 1885 by the even larger St. James Cathedral (now known at the Proto-Cathedral of St. James the Greater). Despite readily-available, affordable, and widely-used sources of wood, brick became a common building material in Clark County by the late nineteenth century. Churches, commercial buildings, schools, civic buildings, and residences all benefited from the material's durability, fire safety, and aesthetic qualities.

The source of the bricks for the Blair Building is unknown, though they were not made by the Hidden Brick Company of Vancouver, one of the most major producers at the time. They were likely purchased from one of the at least four other brick yards in Clark County at the time of construction, located at Image, Fargher Lake, and Salmon Creek, and Robert B.

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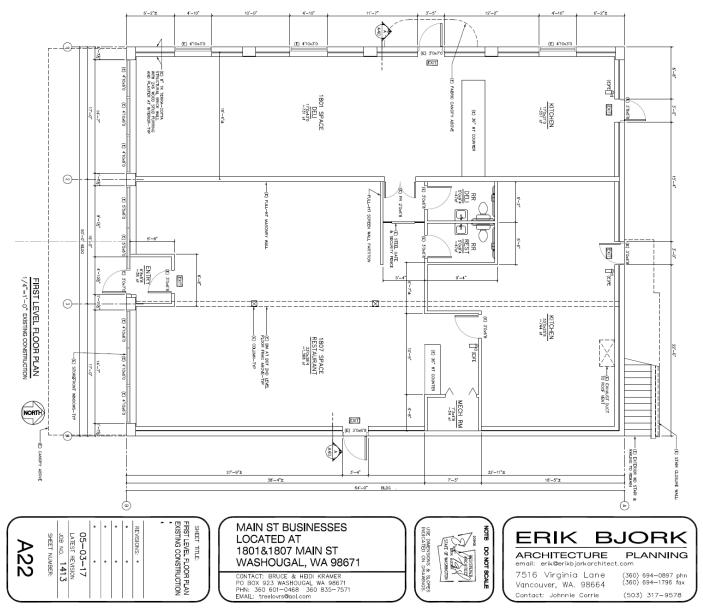
Muffet's Ridgefield plant, which also manufactured tile. Additionally, there were at least three brickyards in nearby Multnomah County at the time, so the material was readily available (Hidden, Allen, Ancestry).

Comparison with Other Vintage Meat Markets

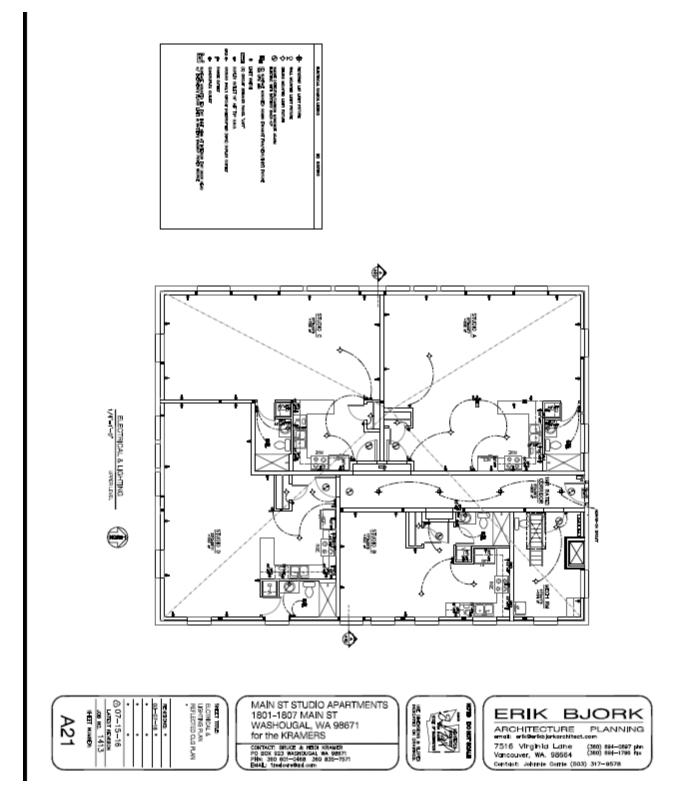
In comparison with how many meat markets and butcher shops there were in the late nineteenth and early to midtwentieth centuries in Washington, very few still exist. Once considered an essential sort of business – witness the fact that Washougal had one in 1871 at a time when there were very few businesses of any kind in town – stand-alone meat markets are no longer common. Evolution in the grocery business meant that more types of products were offered under one roof instead of consumers traveling from one business to another to purchase milk, bread, meat, etc. Pacific Northwest retailer Fred Meyer took the evolution another step further by pioneering the concept of "one-stop shopping." Information in the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's WISAARD database provides information for a statewide comparison of buildings with the same purpose. Searching with the word "meat" and "butcher" resulted primarily in buildings similar to the Blair Building in that they housed meat-related businesses, or groceries with a heavy meat component. One caveat for the comparsion is that the information in the database documents the building at the time registered or inventoried, and is frequently not current. Also, information is constantly being added to WISAARD, so data changes frequently.

Almost two-thirds of the 43 buildings which can be found searching with "meat" and "butcher" in the title are one-story, while about one-third are two story, and a few 1.5 stories. Thirteen were documented to have a high enough level of integrity to be eligible for a landmark register, or contribute to an historic district. Only seven had housing as part of their history, and those primarily had housing for the owning family who also operated a business in the building, as was typical of many late-nineteenth and early twentieth century business enterprises, not for rentals. Starting in age from the 1880s, the majority are constructed of wood or are part of a connected row of commercial structures. The vast majority have been adapted over time for some other kind of business or activity, reflecting changes in consumer preferences and expectations.

The National Register-listed Sanitary Meat Market in Bellingham, which was a meat market and sausage factory for 65 years, is one example of the building type constructed in brick. However, not only does it date to 1902, and therefore significantly earlier than the Blair Building, but it was originally built as one-story. A 1915 addition provided living quarters for the owning family. The free-standing Park Street Grocery and Meat Company in Aberdeen was built the same year as the Blair Building, but is clad in wood. Based on the statewide data available in WISAARD, the Blair Building appears to be a very rare example of a brick building originally built with both a meat market and additional street-level commercial space on the first floor, and rental housing on the second floor.



First Floor Plan 5/3/2017



Second Floor Plan, 7/15/2016

7. Statement of Significance

The Blair Building is significant for its associations with builder John Edgar Blair, who was active in commercial and political activities in Washougal; for its distinctive architecture featuring intricate, artistic, well-preserved brickwork; and for being a rare remaining example of early twentieth century commercial buildings in downtown Washougal.

Applicable Clark County Heritage Register Criteria

- X 1 It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- X 2 It embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style, or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- It is an outstanding work of a designer, builder, or Architect who has made a substantial contribution to their field.
- X 4 It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the county's history.
- X
 5
 It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history
- 6 It has yielded or may be likely to yield important
 - Archaeological information related to history or prehistory.
- 7 It is an historic building or cultural resource removed from its original location but which is signifcant for
 - architectural value, or association with an historic person or event, or prehistory.
 - 8 It is a birthplace of grave of a prehistoric or historical Figure of outstanding importance and is the o nly surviving structure or site associated with that person.
- **9** It is a cemetary or burial site which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or cultural patterns.
- 10 It is a reconstructed building that has been executed in a historically accurate manner on the original site.
- 11 It is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1925 - 1968

Significant Dates

1925, 1943

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion 5 is marked above)

John Edgar Blair

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Undetermined

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.)

History of Early Washougal

Although English explorer William Broughton claimed the area which is now Washougal for Great Britain on the 29th of October in 1792, Chinookan-speaking Native Americans had long used the land for fishing, camas bulb harvesting, and similar activities. Lieutenant Broughton, representing Captain George Vancouver, may have encountered Native Americans on his scouting trip up the Columbia, which took him a few miles further upriver than Washougal. Certainly, American explorers Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery interacted with Native Americans in the area during their winter camp at Fort Clatsop and around present-day Washougal specifically in March, 1806 on their return trip from the Pacific Ocean. The Corps' stay near Washougal during their return eastward was their longest at any of their camps in what is now Washington (HistoryLink.org). Early fur traders passing through the area collected mint for tea, which resulted in the place name of La Prairie du The, but the oldest known documentation of the current name is in the journals of Pacific Fur Company explorer Alexander Ross, who camped on the river at "Wasough-ally" in 1811 with David Thompson of the North West Company on their way east to the Cascades with a group from Astoria (Beck).

Permanent Euro-American settlement began around 1840 when Hudson's Bay Company seaman Richard Ough and his Native American wife Betsy (Betsey), born White Wing, moved from Fort Vancouver to farm land in the Washougal area. Missourians David C. and Ann Parker took out a Donation Land Claim in 1845, built a house, and began to farm nearby along the Columbia. They all became residents of America in 1846, when the signing of the Oregon Treaty set the boundary between the United States and Great Britain at the 49th parallel. The Parkers were joined by other business people who created a small community on the Columbia which came to be called Parkersville Landing. Other settlers followed, such as the James Walker family who acquired property near Cape Horn in c. 1846 and the Stevenson family who filed a Donation Land Claim on the Upper Washougal River in c. 1850. Credit for founding the local business community can go to Joseph and Maria Gibbons, who located a good site east of the present city to start a sawmill in 1847 that supplemented their farming, and H.J.G. Maxons, who built a lumber mill in 1849. In 1852, an early road to Vancouver supplemented boat traffic on the Columbia and improved upon a cattle trail dating to Hudson's Bay Company usage. Mail delivery by boat was no longer necessary by 1894 because improved roads to Vancouver superceded the water route for that purpose (Shinn).

Parkerville's Landing was supplanted as a townsite in 1880 when E.C. Durgan and steamship Captain Lewis Love platted the first 20 acres of town on land they purchased from the Oughs to the northeast and on a bit of rise from the river. The original 16-block town had named north-south streets named and numbered east-west streets (Parsons, Shinn). Durgan built a store and post office. Some buildings originally constructed at Parkersville, such as a hotel, store, and post office, were moved up the hill into the newly-developing Washougal town center. Durgan and Love also built a new dock that, unlike Parkerville's, could accommodate steamship landings at any height of water during any time of the year.

Various business enterprises were established to support the agricultural, fishing, and timber operations typical of the area. Dairying was developing into a major force with the growth of C.C. Stiles' dairy farm, established in 1870, into a significant butter and cheese operation. Washougal was well on its way to full-fledged community status in a year, with several businesses in addition to the hotel, such as blacksmiths, a butcher, and a bar to serve residents and nearby rural areas (Shinn; Caldbick). Notably, Washougal was home to the first grange in Washington, formed in 1883 under the Oregon State Grange, six years prior to Washington statehood ("*Oldest Grange*").

Twentieth Century Washougal

In 1902, the town proper grew to the east with the platting of the A.O. Hathaway Addition, and electric power was made available locally a year later by C.W. Cottrell's dam and power plant on the Washougal River. The Seattle, Portland, and Spokane Railroad completed its east-west line through the Columbia River Gorge in 1908, the same year that townspeople officially voted to incorporate. The population grew from about 100 in 1887 to 456 by 1910, when the first car dealership, Parker Ford, was established. That same year, the town's signature industry, fabric production, was started by residents

investing a pool of \$17,000 to construct a mill. Although this first attempt ended in the bankruptcy of operator J.F. Bailey, the Bishop family, already known for its burgeoning milling operations in eastern Oregon, leased and then purchased the facility and operated it as the Washougal Woolen Mill. (In 1953, the whole operation was incorporated into the Pendleton Woolen Mills.)

At the opening of the 1920s, the decade in which the subject building was built, Washougal had a population of about 768, which was served by at least six churches, multiple fraternal lodges, and a widening variety of businesses. For local comparison, county seat Vancouver had 13,000 people, immediate neighbor Camas 1,500, and Portland about 300,000. The economy of the state and Clark County was on a general upward trend, including in Washougal, and Secretary of State Grant Hinkle reported an increase in articles of incorporation being filed ("Clarke County Wealth; " "New Firms"). The privately-owned Northwestern Electric Company (out of Portland) and Western Light and Power Company in Washougal supplied power; Western was in the process of improving its Washougal River dam to guard against low flows impacting power production ("Cottrell's"). Telephone service was provided by an exchange belonging to the Camas Telephone and Telegraph Company (which had absorbed Washougal's original Home Telephone Company in 1918). Water was supplied by the privately-owned Washougal Water Company, which was embarking on a series of improvements to address issues such as water pressure, including the installation of larger mains and service pipes, and a booster pump to bolster fire protection service ("Washougal's Water Virtue").

Products and people arrived via roads, three trains each day of the Seattle, Spokane, and Portland Railroad, and several steamboats per day, (though fewer than before the completion of the Interstate Highway Bridge in 1917 on U.S. 99 – now Interstate 5). Strong local efforts continued to obtain federal funding for continuation of the North Bank Highway, thusly named in 1919 but formerly State Route 8 and today Washington State 14, which remained under construction but was paved to within two miles of Washougal to the west and graded the rest of the way; a graveled route continued east from Washougal ("Clark County Highway History," *Post*, 29 July 1921; Polk 1921; "Sum Available"). Highway construction occasioned much ongoing public interest as it constituted a major change in transportation options at the time for most segments of society; a large public celebration to open the section from Vancouver to Camas was held in January 1921. Washougal was trying to benefit from traffic on the highway in many ways to bolster local businesses. One strategy was to construct an auto park, a typical civic effort of the day which was also promoted by automobile clubs and tourism groups, at a time when cars were being used for longer distance travel and more recreation (*Post*, 29 July 1921; 9 September 1921). The Pacific Northwest Tourism Association promoted use of "Summer Playground of America" as a regional advertising slogan, and touted fishing, scenery, golfing, and peacefulness ("Advertising").

Diverse agricultural products were raised and grown, including the ubiquitous prunes for which Clark County was famed at the time ("County Has Record"). The major industries in town were the Washougal Woolen Mills, the Washougal Mill and Lumber Company, and the Hazelwood Milk Condensery (Washington, State of. *First Annual Report;* Polk 1921). The town continued to experience slow but steady growth up to the 1970s, when a spate of construction of federally-subsidized apartment housing layed the groundwork for a population increase. Completion of the Glenn Jackson Bridge on Interstate 205 from Washington to Oregon in the 1980s streamlined road transportation near Washougal, but little land was available for housing construction at that time so little population increase was seen. Demographics changed from the 1990s into the early 2000s, however, when family farms were sold in increasing numbers and turned into housing developments. From 1995 to 2008, around 5000 housing units were built, compared to around 2700 from 1940 to 1970 (Fairhurst). Washougal has continued to grow in the new century. The 2010 census documented the population at 14,095; the current population is over 15,000 people (U.S. Census). The downtown and waterfront have been redeveloped with many new buildings and public spaces, such as Washougal Town Center and Captain Clark Park, making the Blair Building a rare and intact reminder of the history of the town.

The Blair Family in Clark County

Two branches of the extended Blair family began to influence local history around 1872 when the first wave of many relatives started migrating west from Missouri, most if not all traveling first to San Francisco by train, and then up the Pacific coast by steamer. The four children of George W. and Sally Rook Blair and the children's spouses were the

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pioneers, and the second wave, comprised of most of the 11 children of Hillary (George's brother) and Amanda Huff Blair, some with their spouses, arrived about a year later (*Clarke County Pioneers*). The large and entrepreneurial family of emigrants grew even larger over time and became collectively and individually involved in commerce, politics, agriculture, and civic affairs, including homesteading, the construction and operation of sawmills, transportion, medicine, law, raising cattle and hogs, the founding and operation of a telephone company, and owning at least two types of stores (*Blair, Mattison, House*). They spread out from a homestead near what is now Mill Plain and SE 164th Avenue to acquire many other agricultural, commercial, and residential properties in the county, apparently primarily in the southern half. For many years at least in the 19-teens and 1920s, the family gathered in Camas annually on the first Friday in August for a reunion which was of sufficient prominence that it wascovered extensively in the local press. The 1921 event recorded an attendance of more than 125 ("Blair Family").

The Blairs in the Meat Business

Family businesses and employees thereof were intertwined between branches of the Blairs, as well as generations. Several members of the Blair family developed connections with the meat business, whether raising meat or selling it – and sometimes both. The primary family members associated with businesses at the site of the Blair the Blair Building were two of Amanda and Hillary's children, Rome J. Blair (1871-1952) and brother John Edgar Blair (1869-1943), and their wives Anna Courtney Blair (1876-1975) and Georgia Anabell Biven Blair (1871-1940) respectively, and John Edgar's son Lester Clarence Blair (1895-?) and his wife Helen (Nellie) Pugh Blair (?-?).

Although extended family members were engaged in raising meat by the late nineteenth century, certainly for home usage and possibly for sale, at least one operated an urban meat market in Camas and had some involvement in another in Washougal in the early twentieth century. In the 1910 census, Rome and wife Anna and family are recorded as living in Portland, but no occupations are listed for either parent. Other sources indicate that Rome was proprietor of the Camas Meat Market (sometimes referred to as Camas Meat Company), and Camas Ice Works by 1912 (*Polk Gazetteer, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Polk Directory 1912-1913*). The 1912 Polk lists Rome with a tax total of \$1,750, which, even if this includes tax on a residence, indicates that these were successful businesses. By contrast, his brother John that same year owed \$340.00, up from \$20.00 c. 1907. Rome also raised Poland-China hogs for some period of time, presumably for sale as meat, and the 1921 Polk directory also shows him selling feed (*American Poland-China Record*). Extensive advertising in the *Camas Post* promoted the business, with such inducements as "Patronize Home Industry" (a nod to World War I patriotism), "we make all our sausages," and "we cure our hams and bacon, we render our own lard" offered to consumers (Advertisements, various dates, *Camas Post*). He had at least one competitor in Camas by the late-nineteen tens – People's Market, owned by Karnath and Sons (Advertisements, various dates, *Camas Post*).

Rome was also involved in a meat business, name unknown, in Washougal at the site of the subject building by 1914. The 1900 census records him working at the Camas paper mill. However, Rome and Oma (one source called him Deoma) C. Hughes were in the meat business together in Washougal by 1914 at the site of the subject building. One or both of them may have purchased the business from A.F. McFee, who had a meat market in Washougal c. 1912 (*Polk*, 1912-1913). However, even small towns often had more than one butcher shop/meat market, so they may have been competitors. Dates vary and sources are unclear as to whether Rome and Oma were equal partners/investors in the business; perhaps Rome provided a loan. Oma was certainly the owner of the business by 1919, because his name was included in advertisements for the business promising the sale of "Good Fresh Meat," and in an offer to buy stock and hides in the *Camas Post* that year. Just as certainly, Rome stayed in business in Camas (*Polk Gazetteer*, Polk directories).

Oma Clayton Hughes (1879-1961) and wife Gladys Belle Courtney Hughes (1881-1972) had multiple connections with the Blairs. Prior to their marriage, Gladys (sometimes called Belle), had lived in Vancouver with members of the Blair family, one of whom shared the named of Courtney, and was possibly a relative as Rome's wife Anna also had Courtney as her birth name. William (one of John Edgar's brothers) and Millie Blair were witnesses to Oma and Gladys' August 5, 1900 marriage in Camas. Rome and Anna Blair and the Hughes' were all founding members of the Camas Christian Church in 1911 (Rome and Anna were also founders of the Washougal Christian Church in 1910) (Dailey). Oma and John were both members of the North Bank Association, which promoted the construction of the North Bank Highway (today's State Route 14) (*"Roster of Members"*).

Their marriage certificate gave Oma's place of residence as Marion County, OR and his occupation as teacher, while Gladys was listed as a resident of Camas who was working as a music teacher (*Ancestry.com*). The Hugheses had, however, moved to Camas by c. 1911, when they were founding members of the Camas Christian Church, and where by 1912 Oma had a nursery and/or florist business, raising carnations, greens, and vegetables (Pioneer History). By c. 1914, Oma and Gladys had moved to Washougal, where the Polk directory shows Oma's occupation as "meat market," but no name for the market. The same 1914 Polk also records that they owed a tax bill of \$290 in Camas, so the florist/nursery business may still have been in operation. The 1916 Polk directory indicates that Oma was a "stockman," which may refer to his operation of a slaughterhouse located near town north of the Washougal River ("Slaughterhouse").

The Hugheses owned the property into 1920, when they sold to the Blairs near the end of January. Oma moved to Hood River, where he opened the Mt. Hood Meat Market located at 4th and Oak, while the rest of the Hughes family stayed in Washougal to finish the school year before moving east down the Gorge. Oma and Gladys had tried to buy a meat market in Camas the previous year, but that arrangement did not come about (*Post*, 23 January 1920). A survey of newspaper advertisements did not indicate that there was any floristry business associated with the new meat market, so that part of his working life appears to have been over (*Hood River Glacier*). The families remained connected, however, as there were subsequent and multiple news accounts of Blair family members visiting the Hugheses in Hood River, and the Hugheses in return visiting Camas and Washougal.

John and Georgia Blair acquired the subject property in February, 1920 while still residents of Camas, for \$2,500 from the Hugheses (*Kramer*). The reason for the purchase is not known with certainty. Clearly, John had a number of occupations over time. The 1910 census lists him as working as a teamster; newspaper accounts show that at least some of the hauling work was for Clark County. The 1916 Polk directory records John as a carpenter, and the 1920 census as a machinist for Crown Willamette Paper, although the local paper and the 1921 Polk indicated that he was also still operating a meat business in Camas, possibly in some sort of cooperative venture with Rome. John was successful in politics in Camas as a member of the city council.

Buying the Washougal meat operation may have meant that John and Georgia were seeking a new investment, or a new business challenge. They could also have been trying to help son Lester C., who had been injured in WWI in the fall of 1918. News accounts in 1920 reported that he was going into business with his father a couple years later ("J.E. Blair;" "Official Casualty List"). The 1920 and 1930 censuses, however, list Lester and John and Georgia's other son, Archie (1893-1949), as paper mill employees. It remains unclear as to how much involvement in the business either son had, but Lester's World War II draft card shows him as self-employed at Washougal Market, presumably the name of the meat market at that point (Ancestry). John definitely continued with the business for many years. It is not known how many employees the business had, but sources indicated that John started out the business with at least one – butcher Charles Larsen (Polk, 1921). Whether John also had butchering skills is not known. Based on his previous known occupations, he may have been manager of the business and involved in sales rather than meat preparation.

Though not moving to Washougal immediately upon purchase of the market property, John and Georgia put their Camas home up for sale in April, 1920. They moved in March of 1921, when he also resigned from the Camas City Council ("*Moved to Washougal*"). John quickly became involved again in local politics by running for the Washougal city council in the fall of 1921 (*Post*, 11 November 1921; "Washougal Vote"). His political career remained on the rise, as he became mayor in 1930, and served in that capacity until 1933. In addition to politics, the family participated in various civic activities continuously, and were active in the Methodist church ("*This Week in Washougal*").

The Blair Building

For the purposes of this nomination, the building is referred to as the Blair Building as its historic name. No original plans are known to exist nor other records indicating an alternative, and the building was referred to thusly in the media.

The Blairs received a permit in November, 1924 from the Washougal City Council to demolish the existing building they had purchased from the Hughes' and erect a new concrete and tile butcher shop. John Blair, serving on the city council at the time, was not listed as in attendance. No sources indicated a specific reason for the demolition decision, but it was at a time of growth in Washougal, as in Clark County in general. Local news stories reported the lack of housing available, and that the schools were overflowing (*Post*, 24 October 1924). The previous building may have deteriorated, or not been up to current standards for sanitation. The previous butcher business owned by Oma Hughes was described in a floristry publication as being a sideline to an existing florist business when it was built c. 1914, so theoretically the existing building may not have been very substantial. State laws governing the construction and operation of meat markets had been in effect since at least 1917, and referred to the federal 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act and accompanying Meat Inspection Act, so it seems unlikely that construction in 1925 was a reaction to them. (Washington, State of. *Statutes.*) Certainly, however, ongoing concerns about sanitary meat practices sparked by such publications as Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* in 1906 were reflected in commercial and home sanitation concerns and practices into the 1920s.

The Blairs had made a major investment in the previous building in 1922, when the York Manufacturing Company installed a ³/₄ ton, single-acting, belt-driven, enclosed vertical refrigerating machine and high-pressure side complete ("Ice and Refrigeration"). However, they may also have seen an opportunity a couple years after that to diversify their business holdings by constructing a larger building which accommodated the continuation of the meat business, rental space for another business, and much-needed housing above. Inclusion of apartments put the Blairs on the leading edge of providing apartment-style housing in Clark County, and presaged a national apartment boom later in the decade which was very evident locally (*Wisteria Court*). The original seven apartments consisted of six one-bedroom units and one studio unit. Living rooms and bedrooms lined the perimeter while kitchens and bathrooms were clustered at the center of the building. The resulting limited access to natural light for the central spaces was alleviated by 11 4' by 4' skylights (Kramer).

Architect and Contractor Unknown

Definitive information regarding architect or contractor was not found in resources available at the time of the project. There are, however, a few possibilities for both designer and builder of people active in Clark County at the time.

The building could have been designed by teacher-turned-architect Blaine Ackley (1891-1932), who was working as an architect in Vancouver by early 1925, and was one of two architects listed in the 1928 Polk directory, the issue published most closely to construction of the Blair Building. Ackley studied in the School of Education at Washington State College (now Washington State University) and taught in Clark County public schools. He worked as an architect beginning in the mid-1920s, although he was not a member of the American Institute of Architects and appears to have been self-taught. At an unknown date, he went to work for Northwestern Electric Company, and then left Vancouver c. 1930 to work in DuPont, WA in a civil service position overseeing construction of housing, and died there in 1932 of septicemia (Chamberlain).

Ackley's facility with designing in brick was demonstrated in 1926 at the Lambert School in Ridgefield, which example also shows that he worked outside the city of Vancouver where he had his office. He designed the brick Wisteria Court Apartments in Vancouver in 1928-29, and the brick Normandy Apartments in 1928, the latter in conjunction with Tourtellote and Hummel of Portland and Boise, whose Portland branch office had existed since 1913 ("Normandy Apartments;" Wright).

The other mid- to late-1920s architect headquartered in Vancouver, according to Polk directory and newspaper sources, was R. V. Gough. However, research could not confirm that he was active in Clark County in 1925. He immigrated from England in c. 1905, and was working in Sheridan, Wyoming by 1908, where he designed a brick apartment building and a single-family residence that year, and a school in 1910. He was working in Omaha, Nebraska in 1915, in Seattle by 1918, and in Okanogan by 1919 (*Improvement Bulletin, American Contractor, Domestic Engineering*). Gough was still living in Okanogan in 1922, and serving from there as the 4th vice president of the Washington State Society of Architects (*"With the Architects"*). He relocated to Vancouver by 1928, from which he designed in that same year the Sciutto and Rector Building in Centralia, and the Laundry Building, McCready Building, and Columbian Building/Storm King Ice Cream (the latter in association with Day Hilborn) in Vancouver (WISAARD). By 1930, he was living in Skookumchuck, in Lewis

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County and in Seattle again by 1956, where he worked as an inspector for the Federal Housing Administration. (Ancestry).

Possible contractors

John Blair may have built the building, as an obituary noted that he was involved in construction. However, that does not seem to have been his primary occupation, even though he certainly spent some time as a carpenter. His capability of building in brick is undetermined at present. Other possibilities include:

- E.J. Patterson of Battle Ground was listed in the Polk from 1914 into the early 1920s as a brick and stone contractor, and also as a plasterer.
- Headquartered in Washougal, John Marius (or Marcus) Dahl (sometimes written as Dehl) (9/16/1879 8/10/1965) advertised his services as a general contractor building and financing homes, apartments, and commercial buildings in the *Camas Post*. He moved to Washougal sometime after 1920.
- By 1926, George W. Acker was advertising in *The Columbian* as a general contractor headquartered in Washougal. Acker, a Mason, served on the Washougal City Council and eventually as mayor from 1949 to 1953. Acker and John Blair must have known one another (Acker advertisement; "Interest at Washougal").
- E.S. Shwantes of Ridgefield was a carpenter, but is credited with building the brick Lambert School in Ridgefield, which was designed by Ackley (Dodds and Fitzsimons).
- Storey and Sons was a masonry contracting company which began work in Vancouver c. 1924. Certainly, Storey and Sons built the Normandy Apartments in Vancouver in 1928, which were designed by Ackley. Patriarch Charles D. Storey had relocated to Kelso, Washington from Boise in 1923, where he had a role in construction of the 1891 Idaho State Capitol Building, and branched out in work in southwest Washington from there. Tourtellote and Hummel architects, which designed the Idaho Capitol and hundreds of other buildings, worked with Ackley on the Normandy Apartments (Storey). The company continues in business today as B & B Masonry of Brush Prairie, and is still owned by a family member. However, company records from the 1920s no longer exist.

Construction and Operation of the Building and Businesses

The December 5 edition of the *Camas Post* reported that the Blair Building was being newly-built and that another butcher shop was also going in. A month later, the January 5, 1925 Washougal City Council minutes noted that Blair had received permission to close down the sidewalk in front of the building during working hours, presumably for demolition and construction. There is nothing noted in the minutes as to Council Member Blair recusing himself from the vote. (At the same meeting, he was appointed by Mayor E.J. White to serve on the council committees for Streets and Sidewalks, City Elections and Bonds, License, Electric Lights-Telephone, and Public Morals committees.) Resources do not indicate to what extent the previous building was demolished, nor what it looked like. However, it seems likely that the substantial and fairly-recently purchased refrigeration equipment was retained, and possibly the portion of the structure immediately surrounding it. Resources consulted do not indicate when the new building was started or completed, but the older building may have remained open until the middle of the month as *The Columbian* noted on the 13th of January that Blair employee Charles Larson was not able to perform his meat cutting tasks due to an accident ("Washougal," 13 January 1925).

At time of contruction, the Blair's Washougal Market occupied the western end of the building, and the eastern portion accomodated a store selling at various times furniture, hardware, and plumbing operated by Ernest B. (1891 - 1967) and Bertha E. (1890 - ?) Workman which lasted until at least 1931 (Polk 1920 and 1931). Ernest was also a carpenter/contractor who built many buildings in Camas and Washougal (Piontek). It appears that the Workman connection carried over from the previous building ("Washougal," 7 March 1924).

Other early businesses occupying the building in addition to the meat market included Stark-Davis Company, which sold plumbing, electrical, and heating supplies, the Northwestern Electric Company, Price Brothers men's clothing, and

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Rounsavell Jewelry (Piontek, *Post*). Early apartment occupants included Marie Minden, who moved into an apartment in March of 1931, and Mr. and Mrs. George Littlehales, who moved in in the mid-1930s following a move to Washougal where they operated a feed store for several years. They moved out of the building when they bought a home. (Piontek).

Physical Context around the Time of Construction

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps demonstrate the development of the site of the business and businesses nearby and provide a view of the development of downtown Washougal. The 1914 Sanborn map indicates a meat market with smokehouse on the lot to the northeast of the building, and a sausage factory adjacent to the east. A barber also operated in the building at the far eastern end. There was a dwelling on the northwest corner of the lot, facing onto Love Street. Neighboring businesses included a notions shop to the east, general merchandise stores to the south across the street and across Love to the west, and a bank diagonal across the intersection to the south and west.

The next available Sanborn, from 1922, shows the same configuration for the meat market lot and many of the same businesses, but the nearby blocks are more occupied. New on the same side of the block are cobbler, barber, and drugstore businesses, along with a residence. An office building was added to the south. The 1929 Sanborn shows the current building, with a meat business indicated in the westernmost space, and an electrical supply outlet in the eastern space. The smokehouse is gone. The bank and general merchandise stores still exist, but other businesses are new. They include a furniture store to the south across the street, along with a variety store and another meat market. On the same side of the block, the businesses are primarily the same. One addition is unfortunately difficult to read, but may be an optometrist.

The Building Moves on to Subsequent Owners and Uses

According to the 1930 U.S. Census, Lester was no longer working in the business but John was listed as a butcher, and the latter remained in the meat business through the 1930s. Despite the Great Depression, he was active in marketing the business, noting in advertisements that customers could "Place Your Order Over the Telephone," purchase "Especially Fine Steer Beef," and receive two deliveries a day. The business gave a ham to the first Washougal newlyweds of 1931.

Georgia Blair passed away in 1940 after an extended illness, and John married her sister Colenia. John passed away in 1943 after a second heart attack. He was working in a clerical capacity at the Kaiser Vancouver Shipyards at the time and the amount of time he spent at the meat business at the time is unknown ("John Blair"). Blair interests, however, continued to own the property until February, 1945 when Lester, as administrator of his father's estate, sold it to Lee (1881 - 1961) and May (1884 - 1965) MacFarland. The Blairs had at that point owned the property for 25 years, making them the longest owners to date.

Research did not establish a specific reason why the Blairs decided to sell the property. However, Lester W. (1928 - 2012), sole child of Lester C. and Helen Blair who had him when they were 33 and 32 years respectively, was on the verge of potential military service and it would not have been known when he would return. Lester C. had perhaps left the business by 1930 or was only working there part time, when the census noted him as working as a winderman at the Camas paper mill, and he stayed at the mill until at least 1940, which indicates that it was a long-term occupation. Lester W.'s obituary notes that he retired as a supervisor from the Clark County Road Department, so it is possible he had no interest in or training for operating a meat market, nor owning the building and renting it to others. Too, the widespread rise of home refrigeration by the late 1930s meant that people were not shopping for perishables every day. Other changes in merchandising, such as the advent of self-service groceries selling a wide variety of products under one roof pioneered in Butte, Montana in 1912 by the Lutey Brothers, meant that consumers were not shopping from store to store for separate products but rather going to one establishment for many needs (*My-Te-Fine*). The Blairs were undoubtedly aware of merchandising trends, and had perhaps experienced a reduction in business not connected to the Great Depression.

The McFarlands, married in 1901, farmed in Clark County between at least 1910 and 1930. The 1940 census records their residence as Camas, and May with the occupation of waitress and Lee as the owner of a tavern/restaurant. Lee's 1942 World War II draft card documents him as running a theater in Camas at that time. Their 1945 purchase of the Blair Building, which they re-named the McFarland Apartments, lasted until 1952, when the McFarlands sold to Harold and Vera White. The Whites and their successors owned the property until 1967, making them the third longest owners. They

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sold to Canadian immigrant and U.S. Army veteran Philip Eldon Peer (1922 - 1997) and his wife Vivian Lorraine Heise Peer (later McKechnie) (c. 1923 - 2003) in 1967, who were the owners until 1974. They had divorced in 1973, and the sale of the building to Melvin W. and Charlotte L. Evans, was probably the outcome of that event.

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The Evans' retained ownership for only three years, selling in 1977 to Edward W. and Emma J. Acheson, who held the property until 1984. Both business owners, Edward and Emma were also active in civic affairs, serving as volunteers with the Washougal Schools and Clark County Fire District #1. Edward devoted 37 years to the Camas paper mill as a machine operator. Emma worked as a nurse and was owner of Washougal Arts and Crafts, the Big Dipper Deli and the Knot-Nut Shoppe, at which Ed taught macrame, along with other craft classes taught by others ("Acheson"). In 1984, the Achesons sold the building to Kan Toy and Sau Hing Gin, who retained ownership until 2005. Their 21-year ownership is the second longest to date. The Gins started the Chinese Café and Restaurant in 1984 on the east end of the building; it is still in business currently. The Gins also purchased a home adjacent to the east which they demolished to provide parking for the businesses in the Blair Building.

During the c. 1970s and 1980s, the west tenant space was occupied by a number of businesses which included A Your Town Chimney, Gibson Girls Vintage, and a craft store. After 1974, the second floor apartments were primarily used as storage for the café, though the southwest apartment was occupied as a secondary residence by the owner, who primary residence was in Portland.

The Gins sold to the present owners, Bruce and Heidi Kramer, in 2005. The Kramers were operating a liquidation/discount store in the west side of the building when Kan Gin approached them about buying the building. Though the Kramers had just started their new business venture a year previously and had not previously been landlords, they decided to buy the building. Their business, renamed Main Street Mercantile after the City of Washougal changed the street names from "B" (east/west) and 18th (north/south) to Main and Love streets, respectively, closed in 2014 when they began the remodel to the second floor apartments. The Kramers have done extensive rehabilitation while preserving as much historic detail as possible (Kramer). The rehabilitation is continuing as of the date of this nomination.

Recent businesses in the west space have been the Echo Donut Lounge (2014), 2015 River Dogs Tap Room (2015), Smiley's Yogurt and Deli (2016). Current businesses renting from the Kramers are the Chinese Café and Restaurant and the Sushi Joint, which has been operating on the west end since 2017.

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Wright, Patricia. *Tourtellote and Hummel Architecture Thematic Resources*. National Register of Historic Places Nomination. 1982.

Previous documentation on file (CCHR): Preliminary determination of individual listing has been requested Previously listed in the Clark County Heritage Register Previously determined eligible by the Clark County Heritage Register Recorded by Clark County Cultural Resources Inventory Survey #	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:
9. Geographical Data Acreage of Property Less than one acre UTM References	
(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)	
1 Zone Easting Northing 3	Zone Easting Northing
2 Zone Easting Northing 4	Zone Easting Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Washougal Lot 5, Block 10	

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the perimeter of the lot on which the building is located.

10. Form Prep	ared By				
name/title H	olly K. Chamberlain Cultural Resources	Consu	lting		
organization			date	5/3/2018	
street & numbe	2223 G St		telephone	360-921-5992	
city or town	Vancouver	state	WA	zip code98663	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

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A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative photographs of the property.

Additional items

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(Check with the CCHPC Staff)

Property Owner				
nameHeidi and Bruce Kramer				
street & number PO Box 923		telephone	(360) 835-7571	
city or town Washougal	state	WA	zip code	98671

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	In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the Clark County Heritage Register criteria. (See continuation sheet.)
Signa	ature of commenting staff Date
4c.	CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / DECISION
4c.	

Photographs

Photo 1: South primary façade



Photo 2: West façade



Photo 3: North facade



Photo 4: East façade





Photo 5: Detail of south façade showing first story

Photo 6: Detail of south façade, west end, showing window adapted for serving ice cream to customes on sidewalk





Photo 7: Detail of south façade showing entry for Chinese Café

Photo 8: Detail of west façade showing first and second stories and brickwork



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Photo 9: Detail of west façade showing northwest corner and entry to Sushi Joint



Photo 10: Detail of west façade showing entry to Sushi Joint



Photo 11: Detail of west façade showing window



Photo 12: Detail of west façade corner brickwork



Photo 13: Detail of west wall brickwork

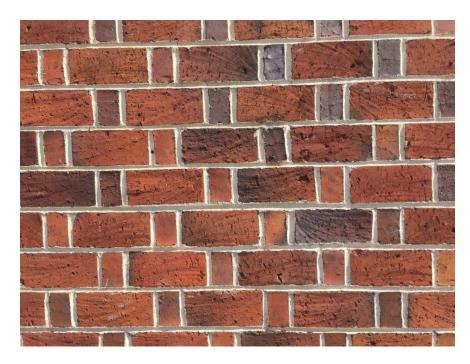


Photo 14: Detail of north façade showing wrap around brick from west facade



Photo 15: Detail of north façade of staircase to second floor



Photo 16: Detail of east façade ground floor entry



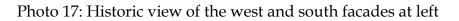




Photo 18: Interior of Chinese Café – first story east commercial space – looking northeast in dining area



Photo 19: Interior of Chinese Café looking northwest in dining area



Photo 20: Interior of Chinese Café looking west in dining area toward connecting hallway to west commercial space – Sushi Joint





Photo 21: Interior of Chinese Café looking north in kitchen

Photo 22: Interior of Chinese Café looking south to entry vestibule and Main Street



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Photo 23: Interior of Sushi Joint – west first floor commercial space – looking south in dining area



Photo 24: Interior of Sushi Joint – looking north in food preparation area



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Photo 25: Interior of Sushi Joint – detail double doors (original meat refrigeration space) to restroom looking east



Photo 26: Second story – entry hallway



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Photo 27: Second story – interior view to northwest of northwest apartment unit undergoing rehabilitation



Photo 28: Second story – interior view to southeast of southwest apartment unit undergoing rehabilitation



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Photo 29: Second story - interior view of typical bathroom space undergoing rehabilitation



Photo 30: Second story - mechanical room at northeast corner looking west

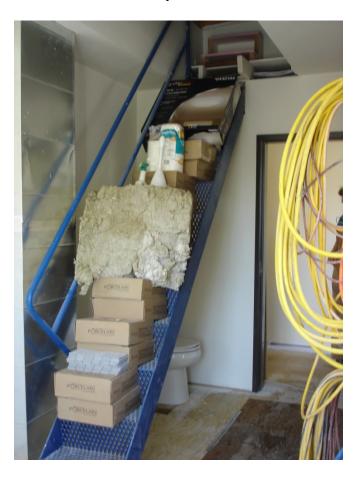


Photo 31: Second story - detail of typical window





