



# WEBFOOTER EXTRA

## AUGUST 2023

### DAVIDSON BROTHERS PHOTO POSTCARDS



Real photo postcard of Chief Campbell's hearse, led by his favorite team of fire horses, is seen at Riverview Cemetery in 1911.

**WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB**

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# DAVIDSON BROTHERS PHOTO POSTCARDS

BY DONALD R. NELSON

Over a hundred years ago there was a series of Portland real photo postcards, photographed by Davidson Brothers of London and New York, which were published for Portland department store, Olds, Wortman and King circa 1907-1911. These cards depicted scenes and prominent buildings around the city.



Skidmore Fountain circa 1909.

Don Nelson Collection.

Among the cards was the Skidmore Fountain, today a National Register Landmark, which was installed in 1888 near SW First Avenue and Ankeny Street. Initial seed money for the fountain was a \$5,000 bequest from early Portland Druggist Stephen Skidmore, who died in 1883. Metal cups, which no longer exist, were attached for humans to fill and quench their thirst from the water jets coming from animal faces flowing into the troughs below. Animals could also drink from these. The Ankeny Block building is seen behind the fountain in the background and was levelled before 1950.

The fountain still stands in spite of efforts to remove it in the late 1920s because it was thought to be a hindrance to vehicular traffic.



Today, a portion of SW First Avenue by and near the fountain is only open for use for MAX trains.  
Don Nelson Photo 8-3-2023.



Union Depot circa 1909.

Don Nelson Collection.

Although known as Grand Central Station and Union Depot in earlier years, Portland's train depot at NW Sixth Avenue, Irving Street & Broadway, designed by Architects Van Brunt & Howe, is also known as Union Station and was completed in 1896. Small shops were opposite the depot before 1910. Horse drawn carriages from hotels were parked outside of the depot to transport patrons to their respective hotels. Neon signs were installed on the depot tower above the clock in the late 1940s. The signs spell out "Go By Train" and "Union Station". The area of the parking lot at the Union Station has been reconfigured many times over the years. Union Station is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Union Station as it stands today. Photo taken in 2022.

Don Nelson Photo.

The original Multnomah County Courthouse at SW Fourth & Fifth Avenue and Main & Salmon Streets was designed by architects W.W. Piper and E. M. Burton and was built in the mid-1860s. Later wings were added to the north and south of the original structure.

The new courthouse designed by architects Whidden and Lewis was built in two portions, first phase in 1909-1910. Part of the old courthouse was left intact and was used during the construction. The completion date for the back-half was 1914. It was in use until 2020. The building is being renovated into creative office space and has been renamed "The 10 Twenty-One." It is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Series 1351 A.

Court House, Portland, Oregon.

Davidson Brothers.

The original Multnomah County Courthouse at SW Fourth & Fifth Avenue and Main & Salmon Streets, circa 1909. Don Nelson Collection.



Multnomah County Courthouse as it stands today. Photo taken in 2023. Photo.

Don Nelson



Series 1327 A.

Hotel Portland, Portland, Oregon.

Davidson Brothers

The Hotel Portland, at SW Sixth Avenue & Broadway, Yamhill & Morrison Streets, circa 1909. Don Nelson Collection.



Pioneer Courthouse Square where the Portland Hotel stood until 1951. Photo taken in 2023. Don Nelson Photo.

The Portland Hotel, originally known as Hotel Portland, at SW Sixth Avenue & Broadway, Yamhill & Morrison Streets was completed in 1890. It was designed by the famed architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White. They sent William Whidden to Portland to supervise the construction of the hotel as well as another project in Tacoma, Washington. Whidden stayed in Portland and went on to design Cloud Cap Inn. With architectural partner, Ion Lewis, Whidden designed numerous buildings in the city.

The hotel was purchased by the owners of the Meier & Frank Department store in the mid-1940s for future retail usage and continued to operate it as a hotel because of a shortage of wartime housing. It was demolished in 1951. The Meier & Frank parking lot was then built on the hotel block and was later removed in the early 1980s. Pioneer Courthouse Square, a public event space and Portland Park, replaced the parking lot and opened in 1984.



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