

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 Property

Historic name **Sedgwick Building**
Other names/site number **Murray's Corner**

2. Location

street & number **801 Washington Street** not for publication
city or town **Vancouver** vicinity
State **Washington** code **WA** county **Clark** code **11** zip code **98660**

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

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

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the Clark
County Heritage Register

0

4. Owner Consent for Nomination, Designation and Listing

I (we) 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.

09/28/2016

Owner signature

Date

Owner signature

Date

organization _____ date Mar 15, 2015
 street & number 106 W 9th Street telephone 360-607-7946
 city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98660

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets Attached

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative photographs of the property. **Attached**

Additional Items

(Check with the CCHPC Staff)

Property Owner

name Murray's Corner LLC W. Dean Irvin \ Owner
 street & number 114 E. 6th Street telephone 360-737-8929
 city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98660

4b. **CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the Clark County Heritage Register criteria.
 (See continuation sheet.)

 Signature of commenting staff

 Date

4c. **CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / DECISION**

IN THE OPINION OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE
 PROPERTY MEETS / DOES NOT MEET THE CLARK COUNTY HERITAGE REGISTER
 CRITERIA. (See continuation sheet.)

 CHAIRPERSON,
 Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

 Date

5. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL/TRADE/Specialty Store

DOMESTIC/ Multi-Family Dwelling

HEALTHCARE/Trade-Medical Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTHCARE/Trade-Medical Office

COMMERCIAL/TRADE/Restaurant

6. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Streetcar

2-story Two Part Block

40' (Wide South) X 100' (Long West)

Rectangular Footprint

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured in Place Concrete

walls Non Reinforced Brick

other Flat Roof with Parapet

Asphalt

Narrative Description

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

See Attached Continuation Sheets

7. Statement of Significance

Applicable Clark County Heritage Register Criteria

- 1 It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- 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.
- 3 It is an outstanding work of a designer, builder, or Architect who has made a substantial contribution to their field.
- 4 It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the county's history.
- 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 significant 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 only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
- 9 It is a cemetery 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)

Medical Sedgwick Sanatorium

Period of Significance

1909 -2016

Significant Dates

1909, 2001, 2016

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion 2 is marked above)

Dr. Isabel Sedgwick

Dean Irvin

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.)

See Attached Continuation Sheets

8. Major Bibliographical Research

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See Attached Documents List

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	10	5	25	529	50	52	711	3						
	Zone	Easting			Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
2								4						
	Zone	Easting			Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is located in downtown Vancouver, WA and is legally described as West Vancouver #1 Lot 5 Blk 9

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot occupied by the Salvation Army Building. Property also known as parcel number 48094000.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Dodd

Clark County Heritage Register Continuation Sheet -

PROPERTYNAME:
SEDGWICKBUILDING\MURRAY'S CORNER
801 WASHINGTON STREET
VANCOUVER,
CLARK COUNTY, WA

Section number 6 2 Pages

PHYSICAL SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Streetcar Commercial style of the early 1900's was primarily wood, brick and masonry construction and many times unadorned. In the case of the Sedgwick, the building had generous ground floor commercial/retail space with practical individual upper level residential. Its style is simple. It was common that similar buildings be built close together to form a continuous row, sometimes for blocks at a time. The building's design and purpose followed architecture that became popular in the area after the 1905 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon. In 1913, Dr. Isabel Sedgwick applied for a streetcar franchise to run in front the building.

The Streetcar Commercial style, two-part block building, at 801 Washington, originally known as the Sedgwick, and later as Murray's Corner is a two-story with full-basement. It has a rectilinear footprint measuring 40' x 100' and stands at the southwest corner of W. 8th Street and Washington in downtown Vancouver.

Circa. 1909, this non-reinforced brick building has a concrete foundation. Poured-in-place concrete walls fashion the full basement; it's ceiling ranges from 8' tall at the north end to 12' at the south end. At first elevation, the floor is bi-level in order to compensate for the two-foot street grade fall-off (north to south). The first floor ceiling heights measure 14' in the northern half of the building, 16' in the southern half. Second floor ceilings are 10' high with skylights in eight bathrooms and kitchens. The building's roof is flat with a parapet. Its material is asphalt.

The current roofline has a plain cornice running along the primary facades. When originally built, the roofline's four sides were sans cornice. Beneath the roofline, again running along the primary facades, three faint horizontal bands, etched into the stucco can be seen. They are spaced equal between the

roofline and ornamental keystones at the head of each second floor window. An earlier photo shows the original facade with pronounced bands and no keystones.

The second elevation primary fenestration consist of eleven modern double pane windows fitted into original locations; equally spaced along the two primary facades. The wood lug sills are original. When built, the windows were one-over-one, double-hung with wood sash. The decorative marble keystone is new.

The primary (west) facade has four bays, (two bays each on either side of the main doorway leading up to the second floor apartments). The two inside bays are wider than the others. Pilasters separate the bays. The pilasters are stucco covered brick columns atop concrete bases. The primary (south) facade has two bays with like pilaster elements.

First elevation has four or five part large display windows spanning the width of each of the first-story bays of the primary facades. (Two of the bay's entryway doors replace some windows) Above each large window are smaller windows. The two configurations are separated by fixed awnings that run along the primary facades. Of the two doorway entrances, the one located in the far south bay is recessed. The other, in the far north bay is flush with the facade. The buildings main doorway entrance accesses stairs leading up to the second floor apartments. It is fitted with double security doors. The location is original.

Exterior alterations to this building have been minor. In 2001, after the fire, windows were updated; a doorway in the primary southeast bay was replaced with windows to match other bays. The stucco was redone and awnings were added. Interior alterations are more extensive in order to meet current codes and standards. However, the original intent and similar layout has been maintained.

The structure is typical of a Commercial Streetcar Style building popular from 1900-1920. It is located in what has been identified by the Esther Short Subarea and Redevelopment Plan of 1998 as the Lower Main Street Historic District, a district bounded by Evergreen Blvd., W, 5th Street, Broadway and Washington Streets.

The return of Streetcar Commercial style building can be seen in many cities as they focus on implementing various forms of public streetcar transportation. The new VINE bus system in Vancouver follows the path that the Sedgwick family believed the future back in 1913. Residents, businesses and developers can expect more new forms of this style building to mingle with wonderfully preserved historic ones for years to come.

Clark County Heritage Register Continuation Sheet -

PROPERTYNAME:
SEDGWICKBUILDING\MURRAY'S CORNER
801 WASHINGTON STREET
VANCOUVER,
CLARK COUNTY, WA

Section number 7 11 Pages

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

SUMMARY: This building originally housed boarding rooms known as the Star Hotel. There were nine units and a shared bathroom on the second floor. Street level businesses included a grocery, cafe, and the Sedgwick Sanatorium. It was owned by CS Sedgwick and his daughter, Dr. Isabel Sedgwick. At this time the Architect and builder is unknown.

This building remained in-tacked for ninety-one years except for minor changes to street level interiors. The buildings full size basement was poured in place concrete. Large timber beams supported the street level floor and Hidden red brick was used in constructing the building's walls. The interior was lath and plaster throughout.

In 2000, a fire started on the first floor level and caused extensive damage to the interior on both floors. When rebuilt, the original concept was maintained. Upstairs, eight studio apartments were built with hardwood floors, high ceilings with skylights, individual bathroom and kitchen, and individual HVAC. At street level, an established restaurant, Tommy O's Ahoha Cafe, was lured to relocate into half the first floor space. It was built to the specifications of the restaurant owner. The basement added individual apartment storage and a second prep kitchen for the restaurant. The exterior maintained it's historic integrity in most part. The original entries and windows location were kept, as were the sills.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Sedgwick Building at the northwest corner of Washington street and West 8th street in Vancouver, Washington was erected around 1910 by Cyrus W. Sedgwick and his daughter, Dr. Isabel Sedgwick. The two-story brick building with a full basement was constructed to provide business and retail at street level and boarding rooms on the second. (a)

The Sedgwick family consisted of father, Cyrus W, mother. Lydia A and daughter, Isabelle. (she became a prominent doctor in the Portland-Vancouver area) They arrived in Clarke County in the fall of 1878. (b) Cyrus prospered in his farming interests. His holdings included a valuable 80-acre tract eight miles east of city center on the Salacci and Fisher Landing road. The land was mostly timber when Cyrus homesteaded it. He directed his energy into clearing forty acres, making improvements and equipping the farm with all modern improvements and accessories, constructing fencing and developing the land into one of the most valuable properties in the district of the time. He owned property in Vancouver proper. In 1910, he partnered with with his daughter to build a business block (Sedgwick Building). The family went on to own numerous properties and homes, first in Clarke County and then Portland, Oregon. Their realty resources made them a substantial annual income. Early 1900 Timberland Notice records show members of the family obtaining timberlands thought the area. (c)

Dr. Isabelle Sedgwick was born in 1874 in California. She and her family moved to Clarke County in 1878. She went through public schools in the area before attending Forest Grove Academy and Willamette University. Subsequently she became a student in the medical department of the University of Oregon and later studied in Chicago, where she took postgraduate courses. (d)

In 1904, Dr. Sedgwick operated out of the Sedgwick Sanatorium at 114 W 8th street in Vancouver where she established a Women's Department. Her father served on the board. (e) In June of 1914, she was elected Third Vice President of the Alumni Association of the Medical Department, University of Oregon. (f)

As a physician, her main practice was in Vancouver but she served communities throughout the region, including regular visits to Lake County, Oregon. (g).

In April of 1913, the well-know practicing physician and surgeon asked Vancouver Council for rights to operate a streetcar line franchise from Washington street to Thirteenth street, then to Kaufman avenue to Thirty-ninth street. The request may

have required a \$5000 forfeit bond. It is unknown if this business venture came to fruition. (h) One of Sedgwick's other business opportunities included attempting to market the mineral spring water and mud from one of her properties. (i)

Dr. Sedgwick moved to Portland, Oregon around 1920. She lived there with her parents until her untimely death in 1924. While living there, the doctor was under investigation for causing the death of a Mrs. White as a result of an unlawful operation. On Dec 29, 1923, a coroner's jury exonerated Dr. Sedgwick from responsibility, but the District Attorney said his office would continue the investigation. (j) On June 27, 1924, Dr. Isabel Sedgwick was found dead in her office by her nurse. The cause was a fatal overdose of Chloroform. The coroner determined the death to be accidental and no inquest held. The doctor was said to have been a user of the drug and that she took the overdose in an attempt to woo sleep. Her nurse, Mrs. Fessler, opened the office and found the physician with a napkin over her face. By the dead woman's side was found an empty two ounce bottle. In the waste bin beside the couch were found eight similar empty bottles. The investigation failed to find any evidence of suicidal intent. Sedgwick was 50 years old. (k)

While the building was owned by the Sedgwick's (1909-1913), the Star Hotel occupied the second floor. There were nine one room spaces and a shared bathroom. The lower shops included a grocery store, pool hall, telephone office and Dr. Sedgwick's Sanatorium. (l)

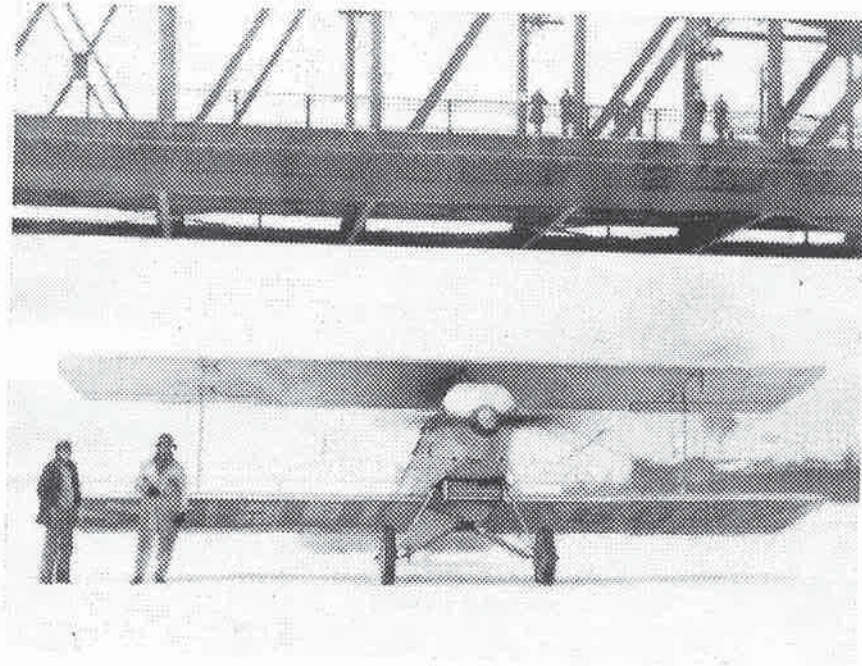
The Sedgwick Building was sold to Portland businessman, R.V. Jones in December of 1913 for about \$40,000 and some wheat land in Eastern Oregon. (m) At the time, Jones served as president of the Western Trust Company of Portland. He and the company were major players in regional timber sales, railroad transportation and local real estate. (n) He was also instrumental to Vancouver's economy and the nations needs during World War I. Jones was an officer with the Columbia River Shipbuilding Company that started on April 3, 1917. Other officers included L. B. Menefee, a lumber magnate, and A. L. Miller, an attorney from Vancouver.

The shipyard, located under the interstate bridge, committed to building four slipways at once; the launches would allow for simultaneous construction of vessels. Surveyors began immediately and laborers a week later. The lumber for the ships came from three Menefee mills in the region. It was floated along river ways and

hauled by railcars. While the slipways were built, machinery and equipment was being delivered. Vancouver men were hired to do the work. (o)
The shipbuilding industry advanced rapidly in order to meet Pacific Ocean shipping needs that were impacted because of the war. A Dec 6, 1917 Oregonian newspaper article reported that 10 big ships were to be built and a great plant was to be constructed on the Columbia river. The plant was to employ 3000 to 4000 men. It was to be the fourth active large steel shipbuilding plant in the area. The announcement was made after contracts for ten 9500 ton steel ships were awarded to the G.M. Standifer Construction Company. Cost for the construction was \$16,500,000 aggregate and was to be the largest in the vicinity. R.V. Jones was an officer in the company along with G. M. Standifer and Menefee. (p)

Over the years, the building was home to various businesses. From 1914 through 2000, they included Arthur Calder's Insurance, The Pastime Club, Bakke-Davis Auto Parts, Preston's Bike Repair and Locksmith, Merrifield and Anderson Real Estate, Clark County Land Company, Olson Electric, Silsby Finance, Zanlo Medicine Manufacturing, Emmitt Nathan Shades, Murray's Lunch Counter, Andre Leon Barber, Murray's Tavern, Cooksey's Tavern, Jomar Key Shop, Blacksmith Custom Furniture, Comfort Interiors, Zeke's Tavern and, the the Cornerstone Gallery. (q)

MODERN DAY PERSONS OF INTEREST: In 1960, Glenn Murray bought the Sedgwick Building. At the time, he owned and operated Murray's Tavern in one of the spaces. He had been running the business since 1946. The tavern had first been a cafe that would open up early and stay open late. The cafe was owned by his dad, Clarence. There were plenty of shift workers in the area and boarding room/apartment tenants were regulars diners. Clarence lived and worked around the area most of his life. He ran Murray's Garage at the northwest corner of the block. He had an air taxi service office next to the garage. The service could be chartered for human or cargo transport. He flew out of Pearson Field at the end of Reserve street. Clarence is famous for having flown under the Interstate bridge and landing on the frozen Columbia River in the winter of 1930. (r) He and his son, Glenn, are seen in a photo published by the Columbian newspaper, standing on the ice next to his plane with the bridge in the back ground. (s)



Columbian Newspaper 1930

Glenn Murray was a hard working athletic man who met his wife Jean while working the lunch counter at his dad's cafe. He went off to California to join the Air Force during the war, upon returning, he continued to work at the family cafe. He also worked for the city in the maintenance department. He provided a good life for his wife and two boys, Gerry and Larry. He encouraged and supported their athletic interests and education. In 1960, he told the family that he no longer wanted to pay rent for the business space and was looking into purchasing the Sedgwick building. After much thought and calculations he made an offer and that year bought the building. He continued to work at the tavern. Every morning (except Sunday - because of laws prohibiting alcohol being sold that day) Glenn would make sure the coffee was ready for the Lucky Lager brewery workers coming off the graveyard shift. He was also open for the swing shift workers that headed in from Vancouver Plywood. Murray's Tavern was a place to relax, socialize and keep up on things happening in downtown. Glenn kept working at the tavern until 1970, when he sold it to his friend Jerry Cooksey, who named it after himself, but kept the atmosphere the same. Eventually Cooksey's became Zeke's. The tavern, by any name, operated in the same location until 2000. (t)

Glenn continued to manage his building after leaving the tavern business. There weren't many changes however. The boarding rooms were much the same as when originally built, nine rooms and one shared bath. The lower level rent was inexpensive and home to a number of tenants over the years. Murray would allow minor change made to the interior when needed. Because the original sidewalk water-powered freight elevator no longer worked, the basement became little more than a place to store miscellaneous outdated items and refuse. (u)

Eventually, Glenn became ill. Oversight of the building was carried out by his wife and son Gerry. Glenn died in 1997. (t)

Before becoming ill, Glenn rented business space to local teenager Dean Irvin. Irvin was 18 years old in 1973, he was looking for an inexpensive storefront to sell his custom made furniture and a workshop to produce it in. Glenn was unsure of Irvin's ability to conduct business in such a way that the \$125 per month rent could be paid. He told Irvin the place was his if his father co-signed for him. He did. Irvin opened up the 'Blacksmith' handmade custom furniture store immediately. He had his showroom and a massive workshop. (u)

The space needed a lot of work. The large street level windows provided great visibility, but they were dirty and in some cases painted over on both inside and out. The fir floors were mucky and stained from the occasional flooding that occurred when the bathtub above his space overflowed. The flooding damaged the ceiling and lath and plaster walls too. Irvin spent many hours scraping and scrubbing, clearing and repairing, building walls and displays, installing new lighting, refinishing the floor and most importantly; having the plumbing repaired. He was in the space for the long haul. It was his first store. (u)

In 1968, five years before opening 'Blacksmith', Irvin had a job at Vancouver Furniture in downtown at 11th and Broadway. He did odd jobs and cleaned up, eventually learning about displays; building and installing them. His skills led to other jobs around town. Besides Vancouver Furniture, he was hired by Hadley's Department store and American Music to decorate storefront windows. Meier and Frank, in downtown Portland, hired him full time to work in their display department. He went to Vancouver High School, worked full time, and was building his own furniture; all in his teens. (u)

Irvin's custom furniture began as the disposable type. He would use scrap wood and heavy-duty cardboard tubing fastened together to form tables, shelves, chairs, and benches. He said, "When you were done with it, you didn't have to worry about moving it. You could throw it away or burn it." (u)

He also began accumulating his tools; a collection of handsaws, sanders, and chisels, as well as a table saw, joiner and band saw. He wanted to create more substantial pieces, so he graduated to hard woods, which he salvaged from shipping containers and pallets. He made friends with Ludwig Neff of the Columbia Machinery Works (CMW) family. Ludwig told Dean that there was always plenty of quality steel in the CMW scrap pile. Dean was able to buy all he needed for a reasonable price. (u)

When he moved into the store at 8th and Washington he began to set-up the basement workshop. He immediately realized the water-powered freight elevator was broke. So, he had fixed it. (u)

Dean would build furniture he liked and display it upstairs. He would receive commissions from people who would tell others who wanted more substantial pieces, like beds and bookshelves. He would build, deliver and install them. People would ask him about other items and services. They would ask, 'Do you do counters, windows coverings, flooring, etc.?' Irvin said he'd look into it.

Irvin said, "I went back to the shop and started making calls to suppliers. Some wouldn't sell wholesale to me, but some would. I started buying drapes, wallpaper, laminates, kitchen and bathroom countertops, carpeting for living rooms and bedrooms. When it came, I'd deliver it, install it and make sure that were happy." (u)

That 'complete service and satisfaction guaranteed' policy, along with Irvin's creative design skills and charming personality made an impact around town. He assessed the changes happening to his business and realized the 'Blacksmith' did not represent all services provided. In 1977, he established his new business, 'Comfort Interiors'. The showroom went from displaying custom handmade furniture to showcase for any and all types of surface decorations. Irvin was so busy with phone calls, deliveries and installs, he asked a friendly retired man living at Smith Tower to watch the store and talk to customers while he was out. Irvin's mom began to work there and reliable sub-contractors were hired to help with installations. Dean finally hired a high-school girl looking for part-time work, Tammy Gladson helped with vendors and

suppliers, to track payments and invoices, filing, worked with customers, and scheduled jobs. After graduating high school, Gladson went to work full-time and has been with Irvin ever since. (u)

In addition to hiring employees and sub-contractors, Irvin expanded the store. He rented the space next to his in the same building and doubled his showroom area. He now had impressive street level visibility on a major downtown corner. (u)

Business grew rapidly as a result of Irvin reputation for fair prices, high quality goods and great service. He also used practical and persuasive advertising methods he had learned while working at Vancouver Furniture; newspaper ads done right meant many walk-in and phone calls. Irvin kept an extensive list of customers and contact information, whether they had purchased for him or not. If he learned of a new style or a new product that someone might like, he would make sure to contact them. By 1986, Custom Interiors had three stores and a mobile unit. Irvin decided to consolidate and refocus. He closed his original store at 8th & Washington. "Leaving the location was strictly a business decision." Irvin said. I grew up in and around downtown. I loved the area, but the customers were outside of there. We had a store in Hazel Dell and one Mill Plain and E. 105th Street. We put our energy and focus into them." (u)

Another fourteen years past. Irvin's business was booming. He had started two other businesses as well. The Drapery, was a direct spinoff from the interior business. It manufactured window coverings of all types. It would sell directly to Custom Interiors as well as the competition. The other business was one that took a completely different direction. Irvin had started to buy investment properties. His focus was on downtown properties that he considered treasures. Some buildings brought back memories, some needed saved, others were practical. (u)

During 2000, Irvin was considering getting out of the interiors business. He looked into the company's value and contemplated marketing it. The phone rang. (u)

Irvin said, "Every year we donated materials, service, sometime a whole room installation to SWIFT (Southwest Washington Independent Funding Thrust), a nonprofit organization servicing Vancouver and beyond. It was a great charity and we liked supporting it." While on the phone with SWIFT, the conversation came around to discussing the annual donation. "I was asked what I'd donate, and I don't

know why, but I said what about a business? What about a whole business?" Irvin said. The idea he blurted out turned into a real gift donation. SWIFT figured a way to auction it off via eBay and Irvin was excited about giving back to the community. The night of the annual action was a big deal. (u)

The Columbian reported,

About 700 people attended Saturday's auction, held at Doubletree Hotel Jantzen Beach. Irvin's donation was a surprise announcement during the live auction...

Standing ovation greets introduction of Irvin

... Irvin delivered the news on a brief videotaped message, saying simply, "To celebrate SWIFT's 25th anniversary, I'm donating my company for SWIFT. A gift for the community."

Following the announcement, Cundy introduced Irvin and his wife, Susan Courtney, to the crowd. Everyone instantly rose from chairs with applause. (v)

eBay For Charity reported,

In April 2000, SWIFT (Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust) a nonprofit organization in Vancouver, Washington, received it's largest ever donation: an entire company! Local businessman Dean Irvin donated his Comfort Interiors decorating business, explaining, "I spent my whole career making people comfortable in their homes. Now I want to make our community comfortable too."

With the help of the marketing firm Ten Angry Pit Bulls, SWIFT's executive director Pam Cundy put the business on eBay.

Proceeds from the sale have started an endowment fund, providing grants for public art, flower baskets, benches and other community projects in historic Vancouver Washington. (w)

Vancouver community leader and businesswoman Victoria Bradford now owns and operates Custom Interiors. She moved the business back to downtown. It's now located one block away from Irvin's original location. (x)

Custom Interiors growth, move, sale and return to Vancouver were part of Irvin's desire to eventually buy the building at 8th and Washington. He said, "Originally

moving out of the building was based on business and I didn't connect with the significance of it all. Then one day I ran into Gerry Murray. While we were talking, I said, 'If you ever think about selling, give me first shot at it.' He wasn't interested and that's where it ended." (u)

Gerry Murray had taken over managing the building when his father became ill, and owner when he died in 1997. Three years later, on June 5, 2000, a fire devastated the structure. The three-alarm blaze started in a lower level art gallery and extended throughout. The other business on the ground floor, Zeke's Tavern, was destroyed, as were the apartments above. A firefighter said it would take a lot of work to make the building inhabitable again.

The owner, Murray, was insured, but since the building had not been upgraded in 90 years, the settlement was not be enough to rebuild it to modern codes and standards. Murray and his family had to make a decision; whether to tear it down or put additional funds into rebuilding it. They decided to rebuild.

Murray hired architect, David Hardister to draw up plans that would keep the exterior as true to original as possible, while turning the interior into modern inviting spaces. By late 2001, the building now known as "Murray's Corner" opened for business and occupancy. The eight new second floor apartments had hardwood floors, raised ceilings, kitchens and bathrooms skylights, individual HVAC, cable and internet. The building also provided a laundry room. The studio apartments appealed to live/work individuals that wanted an urban lifestyle. The street level commercial spaces were made to order. Murray wooed the popular and successful Tommy O's Aloha restaurant from its location in the Vancouver Marketplace, two blocks away. The upgrades were first rate and the result award winning. (y) (z) (aa) (ab)

Each year, Clark County's Community Development department awards projects for their innovative approach to architectural design, community enhancement, historic preservation, public facilities, and sustainable development. The prestigious award was presented to Murray in 2002. Other winners over the years include Esther Short Commons, Ray Hickey Hospice House, Firstenburg Community Center, Al Angelo Building, Downtown Vancouver Community Library, and Summit Grove Lodge. (ac)

While out walking again in early 2016, Irvin bumped into Murray. Irvin mentioned he was still interested in the building. This time, Murray said he was considering it. The rest is history. (u)

On April 27, 2016, Irvin bought the building that he had started his first business in. The business that led to his desire to protect and preserve historic buildings in downtown Vancouver. The Sedgwick Building had begun as a vision of Vancouver's growth in the early 1900's. It survived periods of development as well as depression. It survived a terrible fire and the threat of demolition due to expensive reconstruction. It is a wonderful example of turn of the century working class architecture that now inspires modern day Streetcar Buildings in every major city in America. The style all but disappeared with the advent of the automobile. Ironically, now because scores of cars fill our cities, and the direction towards public transportation, Streetcar buildings are making a comeback.

- (a) Polk Vancouver City Directory 1909 pg 132, 259
- (b) Portland, Oregon, its history and builders VIII by Joseph Gaston S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911
- (c) Gazette Times Heppner, Or. Sept 23 1915
- (d) Portland, Oregon, its history and builders VIII by Joseph Gaston S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911
- (e) Polk Vancouver City Directory 1904 pg 33
- (f) NW Medicine July 1913 pg 205
- (g) Lake County Examiner Lakeview, Lake County, Or. July 24 1902
- (h) Oregonian April 8 1913 Woman Seeks Franchise
- (i) Oregonian Jan 27 1924 Wonderful Opportunity
- (j) Oregonian Dec 30 1923 Operation Investigated
- (k) Oregonian Jun 28 1924 Dr. Sedgwick is Dead
- (l) Sanborn 1911 Insurance Map, Vancouver, WA
- (m) Oregonian Dec 21 1913 Sedgwick Building Sold to R V Jones
- (n) Oregonian January 1 1910 Western Oregon Trust AD
- (o) Oregonian April 22 1917 Two Ships Ordered New Yard
- (p) Oregonian Dec 6 1917 Portland Firm To Build 10 Big Ships Great Plant
- (q) Polk Vancouver City Directories & Clark County Phonebooks 1914-2005
- (r) Interview of Gerry and Larry Murray (sons of Glenn) May 2016

- (s) Columbian 1937 PHOTO
- (t) Polk Vancouver City Directories & Clark County Phonebooks 1914-2005
- (u) Interview of Dean Irvin Sep 2016
- (v) Columbian Apr 23 2000 Businessman Donates Company
- (w) eBay Charity Public Pelease
- (x) Columbian Jun 6 2000 \$100,000 worth of Comfort
- (y) Columbian Jun 5 2000 Blaze at Downtown Building
- (z) Oregonian Jun 6 2000 Fire Rages Thru Gallery
- (aa) Columbian Oct 24 2001 Building Gets New Life
- (ab) Columbian Jan 6 2003 Tommy O's Relocates
- (ac) Clark County List of Community Pride Winners