



## Engine Company No. 8 Firehouse

### ADDRESS

646-650 Forest Avenue (  
alternate address is 543-547 Deering Avenue)

### DATES

C. 1916

### ARCHITECT

unknown

### STYLE

Italianate

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Owned by Albion L. Chapman in 1924, this flatiron building at 650 Forest Avenue in Woodford's Corner was constructed in approximately 1916; the architect is not known. This block should not be confused with the Chapman Building at 447 Congress on the peninsula, often referred to as the Time & Temperature Building. That structure was designed by Herbert W. Rhodes was the tallest building in Portland at 12 stories when it was constructed in 1924.

Albion L. Chapman and his partner George Wyman were local to Woodford's Corner, and had an apothecary at 552-554 Deering Avenue on the corner of Forest and Deering Avenues in 1900. The Chapman Block on Forest Avenue is a three story brick flatiron structure with stacked bay windows on the second and third levels its façade, which project over the recessed entryway (Fig. 1). These bay windows are ornamented with decorative panels constructed of wood. A thick cornice is of cast stone with a parapet surround at its flat roof. The building complements the earlier flatiron block built across the street at 643-651 Forest Avenue for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in its use of the Italianate style, but is more modest in scale. The pairing of the Chapman and Odd Fellows Blocks forms a gateway when entering Portland along Forest Avenue from the north.

The Chapman Block has housed a variety of occupants. In 1926, a milliner named Alberta L. Stickney and the Deering Loan and Building Association both operated from the Chapman Block's office spaces. Nearly ten years later the building's resident businesses had expanded to include a beauty shop, physician and dentist

offices, a real estate and insurance agency, and a music teacher. Virginia Sweetser taught music in this building for at least ten years until 1936.

The Chapman Block also accommodated several eateries over the years, a function it shares with the Modernist structure located across the busy Woodford's Corner intersection at 660 Forest Avenue. This building housed the former Valle's Sandwich Shop from 1964 to 1966 and remained an integral part of the region's food service industry in its capacity as the Valle corporate headquarters until 2000. In the 1970s, Woodford's Tavern occupied space within the Chapman Block; today, the building accommodates the Bayou Kitchen restaurant.

In 1967, the upper floors of the Chapman Block changed use from office space to apartments and interior alterations were necessary. Bayou Kitchen expanded into space previously occupied by a tattoo parlor in 2011, which required significant interior remodeling.



Figure 1.