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Schlesinger buys piece of Vancouver skyline

Schlesinger Cos. already has plans to remodel portions of its recent acquisition, the Bank of America Financial Center in downtown Vancouver, Wash.

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THE DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, PORTLAND, OREGON

Generations-old company purchases piece of the Vancouver skyline

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Ever since their great-grandfather opened a clothing store in Portland in 1935, the Schlesinger family has left its mark on real estate in both Portland and Vancouver, Wash.

This week, the Schlesinger Cos. continue a locally owned legacy with the purchase of the Bank of America Financial Center in downtown Vancouver, the largest office building in Vancouver and a dominant piece of its growing skyline.

The locally owned and operated Schlesinger Cos. was an original partner in developing the Bank of America property and plans to renovate the building's lobby, common areas and landscaping.

"I love working with my family," said Josh Schlesinger, business development manager for the company. "We have made a commitment to owning local property." Schlesinger's father, Barry, is a partner with the company.

The building was purchased

from CenturyTel, a communications, high-speed internet and entertainment service.

The improvement project will take place in early 2008, and Portland design firm Ankrom Moisan has been chosen for the project.

A contractor for the project has not been selected but will be hired within the company, Schlesinger said.

The 275,000-square-foot Financial Center is a 10-story, Class A office building whose long-term tenants include a Bank of America branch, Princeton Athletic Club and several law firms.

A delicatessen recently leased space in the building and will open for business early next year.

The three-generation company has built and owned many properties in Vancouver and Portland, including the original J.C. Penny store in downtown Vancouver and the Unitus Building in downtown Portland.

In addition, the company manages the city of Portland's Smart Park garage system.