

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG - 1 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Springfield General Hospital

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 846 F Street N/A not for publication

city, town Springfield N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Lane code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Allen L. and Agnes A. Cross

street & number 1095 Madrona Avenue South

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97302

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Deed Records, County Clerk's Office

street & number Lane County Courthouse

city, town Eugene state Oregon 97401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Springfield General Hospital occupies a double lot at 846 F Street in a residential neighborhood near the downtown core of Springfield, Oregon. Built in 1914, the two-story building is of wood frame construction with shiplap siding on a full concrete basement. Rectangular in plan and measuring roughly 38x56 feet, it is oriented longitudinally on its lot, facing south onto F Street. The ridge of the gable roof follows the main axis. The first building in Springfield to be especially designed for medical care, the hospital has a straightforward, utilitarian air which nonetheless displays characteristics of the Bungalow style in its overhanging eaves on exposed rafter ends and outsized, triangular brackets supporting either gable end. Small, cross-axial gables with trussed projecting eaves are centered in either side elevation. The most distinctive feature of the building is the double piazza, or two-story veranda with solid railings on the front elevation. Porches and open galleries were traditional features of health care facilities around the turn of the century.

The old hospital building is essentially unaltered, though certain additions and alterations were made at the time it was converted to apartment house use in 1944. An historic view of 1921 shows that a small, 6x16-foot second story addition over the small, shed-roofed rear porch dates from about 1920. An outside stair was inserted in the veranda, presumably in the 1940s, in response to fire and life safety code requirements, but it is constructed of wood and has a railing with square balusters which are of appropriate scale, and it is not particularly obtrusive. There is an outside stair on the rear elevation also.

The main floor is supported by an 8"x 8" post and beam system on an 8"x 10" grid. The roof is constructed with low pitched intersecting gables with simple decorative exposed collar ties. The siding is shiplap, the roof covering is asbestos shingles, and the foundation is concrete, enclosing a full basement. As has been mentioned, the main feature of the building is a full-width two-story front porch supported by 8"x 8" posts 8' on center with closed rails. The double porch, a special amenity of the period, is finished with tongue-and-groove decking on the floors and ceilings.

The interior is arranged on a central, longitudinal corridor plan. The corridors are 6 feet wide, 40 feet long, and have ceilings 10 feet in height. Originally, they were finished with lath and plaster, which has been covered with modern birch paneling. Interior stairs connect the main floor to basement and upper story. Floors are finished with 3-inch tongue-and-groove Douglas fir throughout. The floors are well preserved and with modest effort can be put into excellent condition. The interior stairway is of solid Douglas fir. The walls and ceilings in all of the apartment suites are lath and plaster. Windows are double-hung with one-over-one lights and have wood sashes and trim. The fourteen hallway doors are wood panel doors and have much of the original hardware.

As has been mentioned, the original hospital rooms were remodeled as apartments in about 1944. The exterior stairways are believed to date from that time. There are four apartment suites on either floor, each having a living room, bath, kitchen, and one bedroom. The full basement remains unfinished with an exposed wood structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1914 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Springfield General Hospital, built in Springfield, Oregon in 1914, is a two-story, wood frame structure on a full concrete basement. With its distinctive, two-story front veranda and its overhanging eaves on exposed rafter ends, it displays stylistic characteristics common to Bungalow architecture. It is, in fact, located in a working class residential neighborhood in which bungalows predominate and thus provide an appropriate context. The building is the oldest hospital building standing in Springfield, and is among the few frame hospital buildings antedating 1920 remaining in western Oregon which have been identified to date. It served the community significantly during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

The old hospital served its original purpose 14 years. It was an important health care facility for the modest but expanding local population which had reached 2,500 by 1910. Springfield was bustling with lumber mill activity. After its closure in 1928, the hospital was vacant during much of the Depression and was acquired by Lane County through default on taxes. In 1944 the property was sold by the County and converted to apartment use. Most of the minor additions and alterations date from that time. The building is being rehabilitated by its current owners to continue its housing function. It was declared a City of Springfield Historical Landmark by action of the City Council on April 18, 1983.

Springfield General Hospital meets National Register criteria "a", "b" and "c". It is locally significant as the oldest standing hospital building in Springfield. The city's first building designed and constructed especially for hospital use, it is representative of a period when porches and open galleries were traditional features of institutional health-care architecture. It is significant, also, as the primary site associated with Dr. William H. Pollard (1877-1961), a graduate of the Oregon Medical School at Willamette University who practiced in Springfield from 1909 to 1949 and took part in community affairs as street commissioner, city councilman, city health officer, and mayor (1936-1940). As was typical of small community hospitals in an earlier day, the staff of Springfield General consisted of a matron-manager-cook and the nurses. Attending physicians came from private practices which they maintained on the outside. In addition to Dr. Pollard, who was the mainstay of the physician group, several other doctors attended patients at the hospital during the historic period, 1914-1928.

The first hospital in Springfield was Springfield Private Hospital, a two-story converted dwelling which no longer stands. Located on Main Street, it had become a boarding house at the time the Springfield General Hospital was opened in 1914.

Dr. William Howard Pollard, born in Tigardville, Oregon in 1877, is listed in Who's Who in Oregon, 1948-1949. He was graduated from the Oregon Medical School at Willamette University in Salem, and served his internship at the Willamette Sanatorium. He was in general practice in Marcola, in Lane County, Oregon, from 1907-1909, and in Springfield from 1909 to 1949. He also served as a United States Army surgeon during the First World War. Dr. Pollard was an influential member of the community, serving as street commissioner (1931-1932), city councilman (1933-1936), and mayor of Springfield (1936-1940). He was the city health officer (1922-1937) and a member of the World Service Commission (1932-1936). He was

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active in the historic Ebbert Memorial Church (Methodist), built in 1916, and was an Oregon delegate to the Methodist Episcopal Conferences in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1924 and Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1932. He served on the local school board for five terms and as its president in 1927. His home in Springfield was located on A Street and his office was at 506 Main Street. His son, W. T. Pollard, also a physician, practiced in Junction City, and his grandson, Dr. W. R. Pollard, practiced in Texas. Dr. William H. Pollard died in 1961.

Other physicians associated with Springfield General Hospital were Dr. William Carlton Rebhan and Dr. R. P. Mortensen. Dr. Rebhan practiced in Springfield from 1918 to 1933. A highly respected surgeon, he was raised in Brownsville, Oregon, studied in Chicago and at the Mayo Clinic, and, upon his arrival in Springfield, served the employees of the Fisher Mill. His office was on Main Street and his home on 5th Street. Rebhan also was a staff member of Mercy Hospital and Pacific Christian Hospital in Eugene. His wife, Olive Rebhan, recalls that he often traveled to areas outlying Springfield, as was the practice of the day. Dr. R. P. Mortensen worked with his patients at the city's second hospital in the 1920s and is believed to have moved to Medford at the outset of the Great Depression.

Chief matrons and managers of Springfield General Hospital were Hazel Adrian and Jessie Grimes. It is recorded that Hazel Adrian paid the property taxes in 1916 and 1918, and Jessie Grimes paid them in 1925. Among the nurses were Bertha Rouse and Ella Boesen, and Marie Platt worked for a time as a cook. Ella Boesen, who worked as a private duty nurse for a short time in 1921, remembers Mrs. Grimes as the matron who managed the hospital, hired the nurses and did the cooking. Crystal Fogle, Springfield historian, recalls that a particularly trying time for the hospital staff was the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918. During the outbreak, doctors worked unceasingly with the help of nurses, some of them recently trained to deal with the crisis.

Other illnesses, such as smallpox, diphtheria, polio, and whooping cough, posed a continuing health threat to the community. Diagnostic equipment and antibiotics to prevent infection were as yet unknown. Hospitals in this period generally cared only for the seriously ill and maternity cases. Much routine medical care was provided in the home.

It is not known precisely when the Springfield General Hospital closed its doors, but its property taxes were last paid in 1928. The building is remembered to have remained vacant several years during the Great Depression. It was acquired by Lane County through default on taxes. On March 24, 1944 the building was sold by the County to A. L. Hoffman and Virda A. Hoffman, who commenced operating the building as an apartment house, a use which it has fulfilled to the present day. Springfield was without a hospital from 1928 until McKenzie-Willamette Hospital was opened in 1955. In the interim, Springfield residents received hospital care in nearby Eugene, the Lane County seat.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Eugene East, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

7	1	0
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 Zone

4	9	1	8	9	1	5	1	0
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 Easting

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification The old Springfield General Hospital occupies Lots 17 and 18 in Block 104 of Washburne's Subdivision of the Springfield Investment and Power Company's Addition to the town of Springfield, Lane County, Oregon. The property is otherwise described as Tax Lot 11900.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Agnes A. Cross

organization N/A date January 1, 1983

street & number 1095 Madrona Avenue South telephone (503) 362-1692

city or town Salem state Oregon 97302

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

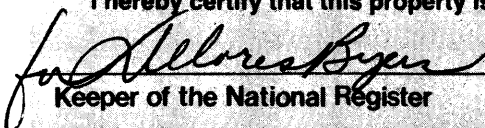
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 13, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/1/83

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Lane County Clerk and Assessor Deeds and Records, Lane County Courthouse, Eugene, Oregon.
Who's Who in Oregon 1948-1949, page 450.

Oregon Blue Book, 1931-1932, page 147; 1935-1936, page 74.

"The Horse and Buggy Days," Pulse Beat, McKenzie-Willamette Memorial Hospital,
January, 1980.

Personal Interviews

Crystal Fogle, Springfield historian, interviewed December, 1982.

Edith Laxton, Springfield historian, interviewed December, 1982.

Edna Platt, Springfield teacher, interviewed December, 1982.

Margaret King, Springfield pharmacist, interviewed December, 1982.

June Pollard Steen, Junction City, daughter of Dr. W. H. Pollard, interviewed
December, 1982.

Olive Rebhan, Eugene, wife of Dr. W. C. Rebhan, interviewed December, 1982.

Mrs. W. K. Miles, Springfield, sister-in-law to Margaret Miles, daughter of
Dr. Mortensen, interviewed December, 1982.

Ella Boesen, Eugene nurse, lived with the Pollard family, interviewed,
January, 1983.

Jessie O'Brien, Springfield nurse, interviewed January, 1983.