

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NCRS use only

received JUL 28 1982

date received

## 1. Name

historic Farrar Building

and/or common Farrar Building

## 2. Location

street & number 351-373 State Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

## 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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 The Farrar Heirs  
c/o Richard M. Balch

street & number Trust Group  
U.S. National Bank

city, town PO Box 3168  
Portland

N/A vicinity of

state Oregon 97208

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Clerk (Recorder)

street & number Marion County Courthouse

city, town Salem state Oregon 97301

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Farrar Building is situated in the heart of the original business district of Salem, which extended two or three blocks in each cardinal compass direction along Commercial and State Streets. It is the last one story brick structure on its block, and one of the few dating from the early years of the 20th century remaining in downtown Salem. While the immediate area has been revitalized somewhat in recent years by rehabilitation work undertaken with private capital and by construction of publicly financed parking structures, the momentum for a possible Commercial-State Street Historic District has been slowed, if not stopped short by a series of losses due to fire and public improvements which resulted in the erosion of the scope of the potential district. A recent public improvement which has enhanced the historic central business district is that of alley-way beautification. The alley bordering the west side of the Farrar Building has been resurfaced with unit pavers and is spanned by metal pipe arches for vines.

The single-story, brick masonry Farrar Building is essentially square in plan, reaching to the lot lines on all sides and measuring approximately 82 x 80 feet. It occupies the west half of Lot 4 of Block 33 of the Original Plat of Salem.

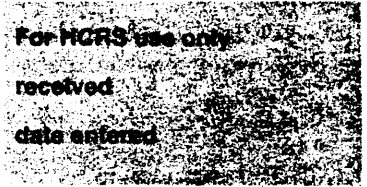
The facade was historically and still is apparently organized into four shop bays of equal width (ca. 20 feet). The third store from the alley end--the space lately occupied by the Smoke Shop and Cafe--was extended to encompass half of the neighboring bay to the east with the result that the easternmost shop space is about 10 feet in width. The shop fronts are traditionally composed, having plate glass display windows with (updated ?) ceramic tile-faced bulkheads, recessed central entrances, and leaded glass transom lights. With the exception of the westernmost store front, which was modified with an offset entrance, they are intact. The tile paving at the entrances of the two easternmost store fronts is intact. The store fronts are sheltered by a flat metal canopy.

The architectural character of the Farrar Building is provided by treatment of the upper wall, which is faced entirely with buff-colored pressed brick. Centered above either pair of shop fronts are two stepped and curvilinear gables with cement coping, the crests of which bear the monogram "F." The four-part division of the lower facade is carried to the upper wall, where four distinct sections are set off by five brick pilasters extending from foundation line to parapet. The building is remarkable for the state of preservation of its exterior overall and, particularly, of its 82-foot long, elaborate galvanized sheet metal cornice assembly. This distinctive feature probably was manufactured locally and consists of three basic elements: an arcade with keystones at each arch and a frieze above, a cornice decorated with blank paterae, and, at each pilaster, pendant posts with stylized, inverted horseshoe cartouches with keystones and consoles. The latter motif, especially, bespeaks the influence of Beaux Arts design.

The alley side of the building has a display window at the street corner of unknown date, and toward the rear of the west elevation are two delivery entrances and two high windows with relieving arches and heavy sills. The face brick of this side wall is red and recently was cleaned by careful washing. There is a narrow private alley along the rear, or north side leading to a back entrance to the third store. The east end of the rear passage way has been closed off by restroom additions.

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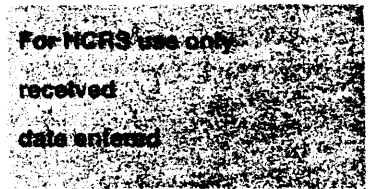
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Leasees of the property owning purchase option are:

Cobrun L. Grabenhorst, Jr.  
Geoffrey L. Grabenhorst  
198 Liberty Street SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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The interiors of the four stores display very little that is obviously old, other than square wooden posts and, in the largest store, a bit of stenciling on a wall where a bar has been removed. The ceilings are high, and in the large store have been covered with firtex. The two westernmost stores appear to have lath and plaster ceilings, and there are, in addition, old hooks and rings on the ceiling of the old meat market on the alley. A few skylights in the largest store are still open. There appear to have been eight in the building, two to a store. They are still visible atop the roof.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1917 **Builder/Architect** Fred A. Legg, Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Farrar Building on the north side of State Street, the main east-west street in the heart of the central business district of Salem, Oregon, was built in 1917 for Elizabeth Farrar and the heirs of her brother, John Fields Farrar, owners of east and west portions, respectively, of the property with its substantial, 82-foot street frontage. The single-story brick masonry building with buff-colored pressed brick facing was designed by Salem architect Fred A. Legg, who had earlier designed the R. P. Boise Building of 1913, a National Register property located one block west on State Street. Both buildings are distinctive features in the only unbroken sequence of late 19th and early 20th century buildings extending as far as two blocks anywhere in the downtown core. With its pair of monogrammed, stepped and curvilinear gables and its wholly intact galvanized sheet metal cornice assembly including an arcade and stylized pendant post corner ornaments, the Farrar Building embodies the characteristics of Beaux Arts eclecticism. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association with the social and commercial life of the capital city since the period of the First World War. The building is noteworthy locally for housing the Central Cigar Store and its successor, the Smoke Shop and Cafe--establishments which functioned first as a social outlet for area businessmen and later as an unofficial hiring hall for farm workers and casual laborers. It is significant locally as the only commercial building now standing in Salem which is directly associated with an important early entrepreneurial family including English emigre John Farrar, who acquired the land in 1879, and his sons Squire Farrar, an officer of the historic Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and State Legislator, and Salem grocer John Fields Farrar, whose heirs joined in the development of the property in 1917.

In 1879 the land now occupied by the Farrar Building was acquired by John Farrar (1810-1891). His heirs built the existing building, and their descendants currently own it. John Farrar was a Yorkshire man trained in the woolen mills of Bradford. He brought his family to Lowell, Massachusetts in 1848, where he worked in the woolen industry. He appears to have come to Salem in 1863, although he is said to have come in 1870, and he worked in the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company mill. This mill on the Willamette River--the first of its kind on the West Coast--operated from 1857 to 1875, when it burned. What type of work John or his son, Squire Farrar, may have done in Salem's first woolen mill has not been determined.

The elder Farrar acquired real estate which he left to his three children, Squire, Elizabeth and John. Squire and John Fields Farrar were Salem grocers from 1870 to 1892. Squire became vice-president of Salem's Thomas Kay Woolen Mill Company when it was founded in 1889. In 1900, after the death of his mother, Squire deeded his interest in the commercial property on State Street to his sister, Elizabeth, who thus acquired the eastern 40 feet, and to his brother, John F. Farrar, who thus acquired the western 42½ feet. It was Elizabeth and the heirs of John F. Farrar who built the Farrar Building on the property in 1917, and the heirs of John F. Farrar still hold the property, although a purchase option has been acquired by the current leasees.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Marion County Deeds, and Union Title Company indexes to deeds and mortgages.  
Oregon Statesman, Jan. 1, 1918, article on building permits, p. 1, and F. A. Legg, p. 2.  
R. L. Polk, Salem and Marion County Directories, 1910 to 1979.  
Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, Salem Directories, 1919-1926.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (82.5' x 82.5')

Quadrangle name Salem West, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	0	4	9	7	0	1	5	4	9	7	6	1	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Farrar Building occupies the West half of Lot 4, Block 33, of the Original Plat of Salem, in Marion County, Oregon.

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 David C. Duniway

organization N/A

date December 2, 1981

street & number 1365 John Street South

telephone (503) 581-2338

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 21, 1982

For HCRC use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

8/20/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Agriculture

The Smoke Shop at 363 State served as an unofficial hiring hall for farm labor. As was reported on its last day of operation in July, 1981, "early that morning - along about 6 o'clock - the fellows who wanted to work that day had had their coffee and lounged along the curb outside until local farmers arrived to pick them up for a day in the fields." Squire Farrar, son of John Farrar, original Farrar family member to own the property, became a hop broker in the 1890s, an important occupation in the Mid-Willamette Valley until prohibition.

Architecture

Fred A. Legg (1869-1941), the architect, was born in Portland of a pioneer family, attended Willamette University and studied in Philadelphia. He began his architectural career in the office of Walter D. Pugh, Salem, in 1902, and established his own offices in Salem and Portland in 1906. The Portland office was discontinued in 1916 and reopened in 1922, with his son Kenneth Legge [variant spelling] in charge. He designed the Garfield School in Salem in 1909, now on the National Register, and Englewood, Highland and Richmond Schools in Salem, as well as the Camas High School in Washington. He also designed the Douglas C. Minto bungalow of 1922 in Salem which has been entered into the National Register. His commercial buildings include the R. P. Boise Building of 1913, also in the National Register, the Murphey Block, now gone, the Willis, Roth and Buren Buildings--all in Salem, and the Ainsworth Building in Portland. Seventeen sets of his plans are in the State Archives and were the basis for buildings at the State School for the Deaf, Fairview Home for the Mentally Retarded, the State Fair, and so on.

Commerce

Each store in the Farrar building has contributed to the economic life of the city.

The store at 351 State Street on the west side of the building, was occupied through 1964 by the Midget Market, a retail meat market established by S. Levy, who operated a market in a wooden building on the site at 371 State prior to construction of the Farrar Building. Perhaps it is significant that John H. Farrar was a meat cutter at the Cross Market in the 1890s. From 1968 to 1970, the store was occupied by Bob's News Stand and then the Reading Fair Book Store, operated by Robert Pattison, a controversial figure at the time. It was then John Ford's News Stand, run by John F. Lewis in 1971 and 1972. Since 1979, the store has been occupied by Elegant Junk, a store selling collectables.

The store at 357 State Street was for years a shoe store: the Cohen Shoe Company, 1921 through 1924; the Kafeteria Shoe Store, 1926 through 1934; the Style Arch Shoe Company, 1935 through 1947; and the Mercon Shoe Company in 1949--all operated by Harry Cohen or Mollie R. Cohen. From 1956 through 1966, it was the Shoe Box, operated by Jerry and Maurice Blum. From 1962 to 1972 Lady Godiva Dress Making Boutique occupied the store, and since 1973 it has been occupied by the Paperback Exchange for used paper back books.

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The store at 363 State Street was originally the Central Cigar Store, operated by C. B. Shaw and O. N. Hoppes, sometimes listed as the United Cigar Store. From 1930 until July 1981 it was the Smoke Shop, also listed as the Salem Smoke Shop and Cafe. George C. Hull was the initial proprietor through 1941. In 1945 and 1947 there were several owners: LeRoy Gard, Ellis E. Cooley, Glen F. Powers, and A. T. Peters. From 1949 through 1963, Cleston C. Hoxie was proprietor, for the first year with J. H. Wallong. Finally, in 1964 Walt Cline, Jr. took over the operation. It not only provided cigars, but food and drink was served at a long double counter, and at the back were billiards and card tables.

The store at 371 State Street was the barber shop of A. Louis Tumbleson from 1928 to 1938. The space was later incorporated by what became the Smoke Shop.

The space at 373 State Street was originally occupied by the Postal Telegraph Cable Company office through 1942, with Thomas C. Waters as manager in 1921 and Wallace B. Wilmot the final manager. In 1945 this half store was occupied by Jary's Florist; in 1947 by Mode O'Day Women's Fashions; from 1949 to 1959 it was Newland Jewelers, operated by Mrs. Marie T. Newland; and from 1960 through 1966 it was W. M. Ostby's Jeweler's Repair. It was vacant in 1966 and 1968, and from 1969 to 1979 a series of barber shops with shoe shine stands occupied the store.

#### Communications

The Postal Telegraph Cable Company, which occupied the space at 373 State from 1918 through 1942, was part of the great communications network that brought news to Salem from all parts of the world. The Western Union eventually won the battle for a monopoly, only to lose to radio, television, and computer communications.

#### Government

Squire Farrar, son of the original owner of the property and himself a holder of the property until deeding his interest to his brother and sister, served in the State Senate in 1903 and 1905. He became Salem Post Master in 1906. John Hatch Farrar, son of John Fields Farrar and one of the heirs responsible for construction of the Farrar Building, also became Post Master in 1922. He had served for several years as Assistant Post Master, and thus came up through the ranks.

S. Levy of the Midget Market was a member of the Boxing Commission.

#### Other

The historic social role of the Central Cigar Store and its successor, the Salem Smoke Shop and Cafe, once housed in the Farrar Building is of special significance. At first, the establishment was patronized by local business men seeking cigars, billiards, and card games. After 1930, it became a meeting place for farm workers and other transient laborers in the Salem area. At the Smoke Shop, they might be hired for a day's work, and those who were homeless left their bundles in a corner



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of the shop. In later years, proprietor Walt Cline, serving as a kind of banker, cashed the Social Security and Welfare checks of his patrons. His place became a community institution. The proximity of the Bligh Hotel located a block to the east on State Street (no longer standing) was a factor in the development of the Smoke Shop as an unofficial hiring hall, because the Bligh was a popular stopping place for transient workers following the Second World War.

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FARRAR FAMILY

Waite, E. M., Salem Directory, 1871, 1874 (J. Henry Brown compiler).

Marion County Probate Records

John Farrar, Case 1264, Reel 36.

John F. Farrar, Case 2354, Reel 74.

Elizabeth E. Farrar, Case 7452, Reel 192.

Oregon Statesman

March 11, 1891, obituary, John Farrar

October 1, 1904, p. 4, col. 2, obituary, John F. Farrar

November 19, 1929, p. 8, obituary, Elizabeth Emma Farrar.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Chemeketa Chapter, IOOF Cemetery records,  
Vol. 4, p. 34. John Farrar, etc. (State Library).

Gaston, Joseph

Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912 . . . Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing  
Company, Vol. 3, p. 927-928. Squire Farrar.

Jones, Alfred C., file on the Hatch family, including Abigail Hatch Farrar.

FRED A. LEGG (VARIANT SPELLING, LEGGE)

Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners, Applications for Registration No. 56,  
Fred A. Legg, received July 22, 1919 (State Archives).

Oregon Statesman

January 1, 1918, p. 2

January 1, 1914, p. 26.

January 1, 1916, sec. 4, p. 4, illustrated article.

November 4, 1941, obituary.

Oregon State Archives. Indexed references to State Plan Files.

Polk, R. L., Salem Directories, 1905 and 1907.

National Register Inventory-Nomination Forms (Oregon State Historic Preservation Office).

Boise (R. P.) Building, Salem

Garfield School, Salem

Minto (John and Douglas C.) Houses, Salem

SMOKE SHOP

Oregon Statesman

July 18, 1981, editorial

July 29, 1981, Bledsoe, Gloria. "The End, After 18 Years, Salem Smoke Shop Breathes  
its Last," Sec. B, p. 1.

Inverviews: Marjorie Kay Huntington, Walter Socolofsky, November, 1981.