

DATA SHEET

PH0698911

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 7 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Benton County State Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON The Madison Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 155 S. W. Madison Avenue

CITY, TOWN Corvallis VICINITY OF First

STATE Oregon CODE 41 COUNTY Benton CODE 003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Coburn L. Grabenhorst Jr. & Geoffrey L. Grabenhorst

STREET & NUMBER 198 Liberty Street, S. E.

CITY, TOWN Salem VICINITY OF Oregon STATE 97301

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Benton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 120 N. W. 4th

CITY, TOWN Corvallis Oregon STATE 97330

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State of Oregon Park and Recreation Branch

CITY, TOWN Salem Oregon STATE 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benton County State Bank Building occupies the northeast corner of the intersection of SW Second Street and SW Madison Avenue. It is built to the property line on all sides and thus backs up to the alley on the east side and adjoins a one-story building on the north. The building has exterior measurements of approximately 57.2 feet of width and approximately 100.75 feet of depth. This site is in the heart of the historic river-oriented downtown business district and is still a part of the retail trade and commerce area. Madison Avenue is the "gateway" to Oregon State University and the main east-west commercial street in the city. The avenue is also the focus of community redevelopment plans. Recently new trees were planted, curbs were lowered at corners, flower baskets attached to corner traffic posts, and bicycle racks installed. Private enterprise and the Madison Avenue Task Force are the prime movers in the revitalization of this area.

The two-story brick building in the Richardsonian tradition has rock-cut stone trim (including widow sills and keystones) and buff-colored pressed brick facing on the street facades. Fenestration is regular, with windows of the ground story revealed under large round-arched openings, and trabeated second story openings. The tops of the street facades are finished with a wrap-around corbelled arcade and plain, shallow parapet above a cornice molding. Belt courses define first and second story lines. The most distinctive feature of the straightforward building is its rounded, projecting corner bay in which the bank entrance was originally located, flanked by polished granite columns resting on pedestals at either side of bowed steps of concrete. At the outside end of either street elevation, ground story shops had conventional fronts with entrances recessed at the center of display windows. On the four-bay-wide Second Street face, the central entry originally leading to upstairs offices is marked by a classical entablature with balustrade carried by consoles. It is now the main entrance to the ground story, the staircase having been removed ca. 1957. Another, less importantly trimmed side entrance to the original banking space located in the seven-bay facade fronting Madison Avenue, was filled in with brick by 1950.

The building has undergone a number of changes over the years, most of them resulting from reorganization of ground story space. Revision of the main banking entrance is perhaps the most apparent alteration to the exterior. Jack Porter, former vice-president of Benton County State Bank states that it had been the style of banks in San Francisco to have steps to a main front entrance and Benton County National Bank had followed the style. Between 1920 and 1925, however, the steps were removed as an obstacle to older customers. At the same time, the ground floor was lowered with the resulting loss of basement openings. Shop spaces were incorporated into expanded ground floor banking facilities by 1950.

In 1976, at the time of its acquisition by the present owners, the building had only two entrances, one in the corner bay, and a small side door on the Madison Avenue side next to the alley. A night deposit vault had been installed in the former entry on Second Street, and the remainder of the opening was filled with cement and brick. All the 9' x 10' Roman windows on the main floor were obscured by square awnings. The windows on the second level were hidden by corrugated metal and masonite panels installed on the exterior. The brick exterior had been painted grey and trimmed in white. The main floor interior was one large,

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fairly modernized room. The upstairs contained numerous vacant offices, but was accessible only by one small staircase off the mezzanine which ran across the east wall of the building. The rooms had been altered, hallways added, doorways changed and added, staircases and skylights removed. A defunct steam heating system and defunct gas lighting system existed. The lighting system had been changed several times.

The new owners removed the awnings and panels from all windows and cleaned the exterior to reveal the original buff brick and quarry stone. The night deposit vault was removed from the Second Street entrance, and this entrance became the new main entry to the first floor. The corner bay entry became a window used as a solarium. The new window is an insert, rather than an irreversible installation, however. Various sections of the main floor were elevated to the original height of the banking area. The side entrance on Madison Avenue became the main access to the offices located on the second floor. The end bays of either facade were redesigned to continue the pattern of Roman-arched windows. An elevator in the Madison Avenue lobby space insures rentability of second level offices. Two staircases were installed according to code, on the east and west walls. They do not obstruct the design of the building. Ground level alley windows had to be closed, as did second level north windows. (State Appeals Board upheld the closure). The second story hallway was restored with wainscoting and molding. All hallway office doors are original, and most contain glass. In several instances, the new Uniform Building Code required wire glass to be installed where glass replacement was needed. Three original skylights were once again made functional. Existing lavatories were modernized, ceilings dropped to allow space for a new heating system, air conditioning and drop-in lighting. Where such a ceiling would obstruct decorative ceiling molding, that ceiling area was left intact. Lighting fixtures close in style to some broken ones found in the building were installed in two rooms and part of the common area. A coffee area, complete with old newel post was created in otherwise unusable space beside the second floor elevator. This rehabilitation of the former Benton County State Bank received a first place honor during the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce Civic Beautification Awards Banquet in 1978.

The building presently is home for "The Night Deposit" Restaurant, which leases the entire ground floor and mezzanine. Second floor offices are leased to a realtor and a software computer firm.

Modernistic brass doors obtained from the original U. S. Bank of Springfield (Oregon) building are now the main doors to "The Night Deposit". A circular shield with intertwined, gold leafed initials of the Benton County State Bank used on the Madison Avenue facade is a facsimile of the historic Benton County State Bank logo-gram. Large, cast metal plaques reading "Benton County State Bank, established 1907" were originally banded to the granite columns of the corner bay, and they have been returned to the building for decorative use. Blank stock certificates are displayed in "The Night Deposit" Restaurant. These were stored in the attic by the attorney who handled the bankruptcy cases for the respective corporate businesses.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benton County State Bank, a two-story building of brick masonry with stone trim in a simplified Richardsonian vein, is significant to Corvallis and Benton County, in part, because it has had the longest banking life of any structure in the county. It was in continuous use for its original purpose from opening day on July 25, 1907 to its closure as a banking house in 1957. It had been known as the Benton County National Bank, Benton County State Bank, First Corvallis Bank; Corvallis Branch, First National Bank of Oregon, and Citizens Bank of Corvallis. The history of the building is bound up in the growth period of local and statewide banking interests. The bank replaced the ruins of a burned saloon building and its construction was intended to inhibit fires and reflect the permanency of banking institutions. It was the bank chosen to illustrate its kind in a 1912 promotional publication designed to attract more settlement in Benton County.

Archie J. Johnson, president and builder of the Benton County State Bank, was the scion of an Oregon pioneer family, a native of Marion County. The Benton County Republican carried an advertisement for the new bank in its August 8, 1907 issue describing it as "the hustling bank of Corvallis". Besides banking, Johnson was active in an array of commercial interests, including agriculture, stock raising (goats, short horn, Hereford and Jersey cattle, and Hampshire Down Sheep), real-estate, general merchandising, city planning, wool and mohair buying and milling and lumber.

Johnson was a national bank examiner for the northwest district, which encompassed Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. He had been mayor and councilman of Scio, Oregon and a councilman and mayor of Corvallis 1906-1907. He served as State senator from Benton County from 1894 to 1924 and was noted for the "Johnson Good Roads" bill. For two years he was president of the Corvallis Commercial Club. He was chairman of Benton County's War Council and chaired all war drives. As a consequence, the Benton County State Bank Building became the center of war bond drives during the First and Second World Wars.

Lester G. Oehler, Federal Bankruptcy Judge, located his office in the bank building during the 1950s. In addition, several other locally prominent attorneys made the second floor of the Benton County State Bank Building their headquarters. These included McFadden, later a county judge, Arthur Clark, Karl Huston, John D. Thomas, and C. C. Carlson. The list is said to read like a who's who of the legal profession in Benton County.

Other businesses to occupy the building included a drug store, a shoe repair shop, barber shop, and turkish baths, which were operated in the basement.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation page

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0
ZONE	

4	7	9	4	6	0
EASTING					

4	9	3	4	2	6	0
NORTHING						

B

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 12 and the southerly 7.2 feet of Lot 11, Block 5, Original town of Marysville (now Corvallis) Benton County, Oregon in Sec. 35, T. 11S., R. 5E., W.M.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wallace Carl Weltzin

ORGANIZATION

Horner Museum, Oregon State University

DATE
September 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE
(503) 754-2951

CITY OR TOWN

Corvallis

STATE
Oregon 97330

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

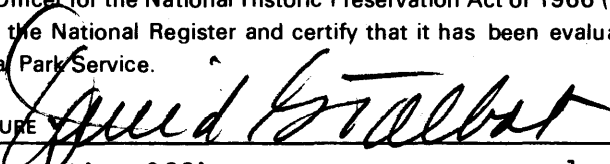
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

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

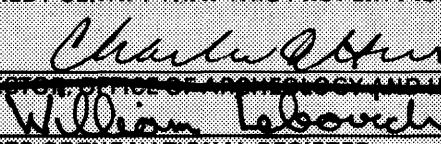


TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 26, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: 
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3-7-79
 ENGINEER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE March 6, 1979

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The following account of banking developments in Benton County was given ca. 1957 by Jack Porter, former vice-president Benton County State Bank.

"Job and Hamilton formed the first bank known in Corvallis in 1886, without benefit of State or Federal regulation. It was located on the southwest corner of Second and Madison Streets, at the present site of the United States National Bank. This first bank operated on an 'overdraft' loan style. All loans were heavily dependent upon the success of the Central of Oregon Railroad, which at that time was active in a Corvallis to Toledo right-of-way. This bank was very loosely organized and would not be tolerated in today's banking patterns.

Mr. M. S. Woodcock, a general store operator in Monroe, established a second bank in Corvallis in 1887. Mr. Woodcock chose the name Benton County Bank, and located it at the southwest corner of Second and Jefferson Streets, the present location of Birks Appliance Store. The bank was capitalized at \$50,000, with Walter Pete, a Eugene banker, moving here to become cashier. As Woodcock operated this bank, he also maintained interest in the Corvallis Gazette, a newspaper, and a general store, with Mr. Baldwin of Portland.

Business proved prosperous for Benton County Bank and in 1890, Mr. Woodcock, with Walter Pete as cashier, obtained a national charter for the bank. At the same time, the Job and Hamilton bank failed, and Woodcock assumed their Second and Madison Street location. Incidentally, Job and Hamilton's bank failure was due to a country-wide panic and depression. Depositors of Job and Hamilton suffered heavy losses.

The Willamette Valley Bank was formed in 1897 by Messrs. Leese and Scarth with \$10,000 capital. Initial deposits approached \$100,000, and the bank was located in what is today the Julian Hotel. This was a privately held bank, and stock ownership remained in Leese and Scarth's hands.

The Benton County National Bank was next on the scene. Formed in 1907, with Mr. A. J. Johnson, a recent national bank examiner, serving as president. Shortly after the formation, this bank attained \$113,000 of deposit in their location at Second and Madison Streets. This northeast corner site remained active until 1957. This bank was formed in the days of double liability, meaning stockholders would be held liable for losses of the bank beyond their capital stock holdings. Loans in this era were tied closely to local economy and suffered tremendous fluctuation.

Thomas Whitehorn, with Victor Moses and A. A. Schramm, formed the Corvallis State Bank in 1913. This bank represented well-named founders, and its reputation for stability was county-wide. This was in a banking era in which gold and silver were used as payment. These banks even had off-street parking, in the form of livery stables, located close by each banking office. These livery stables were at the present site of the Shell station on Second and Jefferson, the present side of the Oregon State and Whiteside Theaters.

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Benton County National Bank, for reasons known only to the organization, reformed from a national charter to a state charter to the name Benton County State Bank in 1910. Mr. J. L. Gault assumed the role of cashier, and the bank continued to serve local needs.

Each of the afore-mentioned banks, with the exception of Job and Hamilton, weathered the recession of the early 1920s and early 1930s, and provided very amply for the financial requests at local level. At this time, deposits in First National Bank were \$1,600,000, the Benton County State Bank \$1,100,000, and the Corvallis State Bank at \$600,000.

The Corvallis State Bank was purchased by The First National Bank of Corvallis in 1930. This merger made the First National Bank of Corvallis larger than its sole competitor, The Benton County State Bank. Both banks continued to show a steady growth through increases of logging activity and farm production benefiting the Benton and Linn County area. These were times of steady population increase and general development.

In December, 1940, the First National Bank of Corvallis was purchased by The United States National Bank of Portland. This purchase came after long negotiation with both banks involved. This change ended the Woodcock family banking activity which was first established in Corvallis in 1887.

The Benton County State Bank remained the only independent bank in Corvallis until 1946, when it was purchased by The First National Bank of Portland. It remained an affiliated bank of The First National until 1950, when its name changed to First Corvallis Bank. Later, the complete change resulted in the name common today, Corvallis Branch, The First National Bank of Oregon.

In late 1957 when The Corvallis Branch, The First National Bank of Portland, moved into its new building at 3rd and Monroe Streets, its old building served as some degree of incentive for a local group to form a new independent bank. This was to be known as Citizens Bank of Corvallis. This newly formed independent bank showed moderate growth and filled a need comprised of people demanding independent banking for some reason or another.

Today, the three banks of Corvallis enjoy increased business levels month for month. All banks provide complete banking service to all people of the community. Each of the banks are a firm part of the community."

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PAGE 1

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- Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1903), pages 1537-9. Biog. note on Archie J. Johnson.
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- Corvallis City Directory 1934 (Maxon Business Service, Elks Bldg., Corvallis, Oregon).
- Polk's City of Corvallis Directory (Seattle, 1955).
- Interview September 7, 1978 with Jack Porter, vice-president Benton County State Bank and major stockholder.
- Interview September 6, 1978 with Lester G. Oehler, lawyer and judge.
- Photo collection of Oregon State University Library.
- Sanborn and Perris Insurance Atlas Maps of Corvallis 1895, 1912, 1927.