

PH0661830

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 31 1978
DATE ENTERED MAR 14 1978

**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

Liberty Building (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Leverette Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 W. Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Medford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

029 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William H. Ferguson

STREET & NUMBER

5200 Pioneer Road

CITY, TOWN

Medford

__ VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97501

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Medford

Oregon

STATE

97501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Liberty Building is a four-story rectangular office structure constructed of red brick,¹ hand-cut local granite,² cast-iron columns, and heavy timber joists and columns. A two-story building measuring 47x140 feet was constructed in 1909. The top two stories were added in 1911.³ The property is located on Main Street in the heart of Medford's central business district.

The Liberty Building was among the early taller office structures erected in the booming commercial center of the Rogue River Valley. Many buildings were constructed about the same period (1909-1915) in the "business blocks" area, and many remain today, although altered in varying degrees. Nearby, on the northeast corner of Grape and Main Streets, stands the Foster Marshall building, recently remodeled with an effort to preserve its original exterior. West of the Liberty Building are the city park, public library, courthouse, city hall, two federal buildings, and the once renowned Hotel Medford--all within a five-block area. East of the building lie the downtown retail blocks, also a mixture of old and new.

The building's solid masonry walls are in good condition and, for the most part, unpainted. Paint on one portion of the east wall is being gently and patiently removed. The north and east walls are supported to the second floor level by cast-iron columns. Fenestration is regular and flat-arched along street fronts. Window openings in the south and west walls are segmental-arched.

The second floor window sills and lintels, and the third floor window sills are connected to form three granite belt courses on the facade and east face. The uppermost belt courses initially served as cornice and parapet wall coping for the original two stories. The lintels and sills at the third and fourth stories are cut to the regular window width, allowing the piers and spandrels to rise, unbroken, to the projecting cornice. The bracketed, pressed metal cornice projects three feet from the wall at roof line, and above the cornice is a final horizontal band of granite coping. A flag-pole, still in place at the northeast corner of the roof, dates from the time the building housed public offices.

For purposes of adaptive re-use, the interior of the building has been substantially gutted, except for the heavy timber floor system. The original double-hung metal window sash has been removed, as have all the lath and plaster wall and ceiling covering.

The floors are supported at the east and west exterior walls and by a central iron I-beam, and 12x12" solid sawn columns near the center of the building. The I-beam supports 3x16" joists at the second floor and a 2x6" central bearing wall supports 2x16" joists at the third and fourth floors. The upper stories have a similar floor plan and a central open stairway. To conform with building code requirements, the stairway will be removed and replaced by two new fireproof stair towers at the west wall. Also removed was the original 1911 Otis elevator. It, too, will be replaced at the north stair tower with a 1977 Otis. Three skylight openings at the second and third stairs were floored over in conformance with the fire code. Those at the fourth floor have been retained. Ground floor uses have varied over the years and have included a dress shop, bakery, insurance office, hardware store, grill and bank. The iron bars installed in the southwest corner of the ground floor remain intact.

All work completed and that which is underway has been aimed at accomplishing two things: improvement of structural and code elements to insure efficiency and public safety; and preservation of the building's exterior, with historical detail intact.

see continuation sheet

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank C. Clark, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Liberty Building, built in 1909 and enlarged in 1911, is significant to Medford and the Rogue River Valley as one of the rare examples of up-to-date Commercial Style erected in Southern Oregon in the first decade of the century. The building was designed by prominent local architect Frank C. Clark, designer of the multi-storied Medford Hotel. The building is outstanding in its setting not only because of its exceptional height of four stories; its workmanship and structural integrity are notable, too.

The architect's design, an adaptation of the Commercial Style, readily accommodated two-phased construction. Frank Clark had arrived in the metropolis of the Rogue Valley a year prior to taking on the project, and he remained the area's only professional architect until 1936. During that time, he also designed the well-known Hotel Medford, the old city hall, and many large "Colonial" residences among the orchards of the area. Among his many clients was the Bear Creek Corporation (Harry and David fruit packers).¹

Between 1911 and 1969, the Liberty Building housed many city, county and federal offices, including those of the mayor, district attorney, Rogue River National Forest, US Weather Bureau, and federal fruit inspectors; the probation board and Welfare Commission. Additionally, various retailers, insurance agents and bankers occupied the ground floor. Doctors, dentists and even Standard Oil of California filled the remainder of the building's space.²

The third and fourth floors were condemned in 1973. Building safety codes required modifications regarding fire exits and the out-moded heating system (sawdust boiler). Despite the building's code problems, the rehabilitation of one of Medford's primary landmarks has evoked considerable interest and support on the part of the community. The construction materials and the quality of workmanship also contribute to the building's significance. The "Jacksonville brick" and granite, obtained locally, and the locally-milled lumber reflect Medford's growing independence of other manufacturing centers in this period.³ Still the second tallest building in downtown Medford (only the Hotel Medford is taller), the Liberty Building has long been associated with local and federal governmental operations. With its interior renovated for modern office use, it will once again function as an important part of the community's building stock.

¹ Interview with Arthur W. Glockler, Sr., June 1977.
 Interview with Robert J. Keeney, Medford architect, September 1977.

² Polk's Medford Directory.

³ Medford Mail Tribune articles 1908-1909.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Campbell, Mary Ann. "Leverette Building Example of Restoration of Old Sound Structures,"
 Medford Mail Tribune (June 5, 1977), 14A.

Articles of Incorporation of the Garnett-Corey Building Company, 1911.

Polk's Medford and Jackson County Directories, 1908-1909, 1911, 1912, 1930-1931, 1937,
 1942-1943, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1964, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50x140' (7,000 sq. ft.) less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	5 0 9 3 7 0	4 6 8 5 ^{6 5 0} 3 9 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 and 2, Block 54, original plat of Medford.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William H. Snyder, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

Starlite Development, Inc.

DATE

September 20, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 W. Main Street #6

TELEPHONE

503/773-8471

CITY OR TOWN

Medford

STATE

Oregon 97501

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

James G. Falbot

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 20, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

W. H. Snyder, Jr.
Charles H. ...

DATE

3-14-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 3-6-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

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- ¹ The red brick used in the building is known locally as "Jacksonville sand brick" because of its extensive use there, and also as "Tolo brick" for the small town situated between Medford and Gold Hill, where the brick was fired with oil, giving it the distinctive texture and color by which it can be identified. (Interview with Robert Keeney).
- ² The granite comes from the local hills of the Rogue River Valley and was noted for its quality in Portland and San Francisco markets. (Early Mail Tribune newspaper accounts, 1908-1909).
- ³ Early Mail Tribune account of planned building, 1909. Interview with Arthur W. Glocker, boiler-tender at the Liberty Building. Incorporation document, Garnett-Covey Building Company.