

# DAYTON HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY

ASSESSOR MAP NUMBER: 4-3-17 DA TAX LOT NUMBER: 6900

PLAT NAME: Original Town of Dayton LOT: Part of 219 BLOCK: NA

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 308 Ferry Street

CURRENT OWNER: Irma Webster

9765 SE Webster Road, Dayton, OR

ORIGINAL OWNER: Unknown Contributing: 1

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE: Commercial Style YEAR BUILT: c.1910

HISTORIC NAME: Oregon Mutual Merchant Fire Insurance Assn. Office HISTORIC USE: Insurance Office

CURRENT NAME: Dayton Post Office CURRENT USE: Vacant

CONDITION: Good ALTERATIONS: Minor

PHOTOGRAPH ROLL-FRAME: 4-30 INTERVIEWEE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOURCE NUMBER: 12 RECORDER: Rees DATE: 9-27-84

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THEME: Architecture & Commerce

The Dayton Post Office faces northwest onto Ferry Street between 3rd and 4th Streets, at the center of Dayton's commercial mainstreet. The building is sited on the front and side property lines and extends to just less than half of the depth of the lot. A flag pole and mailbox are located in front of the building in the sidewalk area.

Less than one acre.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Dayton Post Office is a one story, rectangular brick building with an asymmetrical two bay front facade. The front facade is detailed with three pilasters and an ornamental cornice of corbelled brick in a "T" pattern and "on point". The transom windows which extend across both bays have been covered over with plywood. In the south bay, there is a large fixed, wood sash window and, in the north entrance bay, a wood frame door with a large glass panel flanked by side lights. An ornamental wood and metal canopy is suspended on metal chains over the entrance. The building has been painted a terracotta red. The building measures 19.5' x 60'.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Dayton Post Office, built after the fire of 1906, is identified as an insurance office on the 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The 1910 U.S. Census and 1911 City Directory identify O.B. Rippey as president, B. L. Barry as secretary and Samuel Stuckey as treasurer of the Oregon Mutual Merchant Fire Insurance Assn., the only insurance office in Dayton at that time. O. B. Rippey is also associated with the Opera House (Resource #10) where his general merchandise store was located on the first floor in 1908. Samuel Stuckey is associated with the Commercial Club-Stuckey Building (Resource #13), constructed in 1911. All three buildings are within the same block and of brick masonry construction. The designer and builder of the Dayton Post Office Building are unknown but it is speculated that Morris Cain and Samuel Hoffman may have been the builders as they are the only local brick masons listed in the city directories from 1903 through 1910. In about 1915, it appears that the building became the Dayton Post Office. Appointed by President McKinley in 1897, August Detmering was postmaster until 1914. In conjunction with the post office Mr. Detmering ran a confectionery business. After the coming of the Wilson Administration, on September 30, 1914, Clark Foster was officially appointed postmaster and held that position until December 22, 1921 when Major G. Miller replaced him. It is assumed that Foster moved the post office to its existing location as the insurance company was no longer in business in 1915 and Detmering continued to run a confectionery and grocery at the former post office location.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

This building is noteworthy for its refined brick detailing along the front facade, and ornamental pilasters. The building was constructed to house the first fire insurance company in Dayton, and between 1915 and 1985 was occupied by the Dayton Post Office.

## SOURCES: Criterion c.

.Special Lewis and Clark Edition, Dayton Herald, May 13, 1905.

."August Detmering Likes Yamhill Best--Moved Here in 1888", Newspaper Article from Dayton File, Yamhill County Museum.

.Official Log of Yamhill County Postmasters, Yamhill County, Oregon.

.United States Census, Yamhill County, Dayton, 1910.

."1911 Dayton Business Directory" from Some Dayton Chapters in Oregon History, 1955, p. 17.

.Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Gazeteer and Business Directory, R.L. Polk, 1903-4, 1905-6, 1907-8, 1909-10, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1917-18, 1919-20.

.Polk's Yamhill County City Directory and Tax List, R.L. Polk Co., 1912-13.

.Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Dayton, Oregon, 1912, Sheet #3.

