

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Coos
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 21 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Marshfield Sun Printing Plant

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1049 North Front Street Oregon 4th Congressional District

CITY OR TOWN: Coos Bay Representative John Dellenback

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Coos CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify)

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No

Unoccupied at present. Museum use planned.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: William A. Luse (Owner notified of proposed nomination 1-15-73.)

STREET AND NUMBER: 487 North 4th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Coos Bay STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Coos County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Coquille STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marshfield Sun Building is located near the harbor at the intersection of North Front and Fir Streets in downtown Coos Bay. It is a plain frame two-story commercial structure essentially rectangular in plan measuring 26 by 40 feet. The southeast corner is truncated in response to a diagonal property line.

The building is supported by 4 by 4-inch wooden piers and braces and, on the west end, by concrete blocks. A brick flue with corbelled cap on the north side of the flat roof served a pot-bellied stove. The two-bay facade has a bracketed cornice, two openings with double-hung sash windows at the second story, and a bay window and off-center entry on the ground story. Fenestration of the first story is augmented by a generous transom extending across the full width of the facade, about 14 feet. Exterior walls are covered with drop siding and finished with plain corner boards. The building has neither electrical wiring or plumbing.

The building retains the atmosphere of the turn of the century. On the unfinished interior walls of the print shop comprising the ground story are handbills and posters, including an endorsement of Louis J. Simpson's candidacy for Governor (1918) and an advertisement for Gow Why's Chinese Grocery. The last issue of the paper published in 1944 still rests in chaises on the marble-top composition tables near the presses. Late Victorian office furniture and machinery in working condition in situ include a couch, stools, bookcases, a Washington Hand Press, proof press, Chandler and Price paper cutter, perforator, composition tables, type; and a Chandler and Price job press used for pamphlets, legal briefs, court dockets, handbills, posters and stationery. Following are excerpts from Stephen Dow Beckham's typescript "The Marshfield Sun,"

"The Washington Hand Press used to print the newspaper is probably the only complete press of its kind in Oregon. It has a large gold gilt eagle emblazoned above its wooden handle, muslin-covered battens or frames that hang from the ceiling, and inking rollers."

"Along the south side of the print shop are 14 ranks of type drawers, with 12 drawers in a rank. Two other ranks stand on the north side of the building, making a total of 192 drawers of nineteenth century type faces. The face includes wooden type letters up to four inches tall, italics, and dozens of points of dozens of faces. Since Jesse Luse also performed job print work, the type includes many ornaments, including flowers, stylized decorations and borders."

The current owner of the property is the son of Jesse Luse, the Sun's editor and publisher. The objective of the owner and local citizens headed by members of the regional Press Club is to develop the plant as a working museum of period printing technology.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

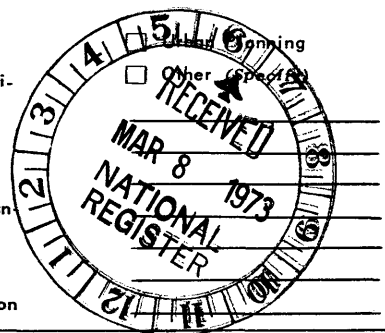
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895-1944

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Coos Bay, a deep water port and the farthest west of Oregon's port towns, was known as Marshfield from its inception in the middle 1850s until 1945. Shortly after the turn of the century local lumber interests promoted channel dredging and other harbor improvements. Silt removed from the bay was used to build up shore-front property. Today the port handles one of the largest volumes of lumber export traffic anywhere in the world.

The ensemble of the building and original equipment and machinery used in printing the Marshfield Sun is an unusual resource in Oregon. The plant is capable of demonstrating an entire historic process.

Following are passages from Stephen Dow Beckham's typescript, "The Marshfield Sun."

"The Marshfield Sun was published weekly in Coos Bay [then known as Marshfield/ from February 12, 1891, until June 19, 1944. Unique among Oregon newspapers, this publication had only one editor during its entire history. Also, it was the last handset newspaper in Oregon.

Jesse Luse, editor and publisher of the Sun, was the grandson of Henry Heaton Luse, one of the earliest white settlers on Coos Bay. H. H. Luse journeyed overland to Oregon from Ohio in 1852. After building a mill in the gold mines at Yreka, California, he located at Empire City where he became by 1856 one of the earliest lumbermen on the coast of Oregon. His ships and lumber were in competition with those of Captain Asa M. Simpson whose interests were headquartered at Old Town on Coos Bay.

Henry Luse's son, William Luse, was a sawmill operator, rancher, and Marshfield attorney. On November 24, 1890, with his law partner Major J. M. Siglin, Luse issued a prospectus for the Sun. Intending to inaugurate an independent newspaper, they hired Jesse Luse to edit their venture. He quickly shifted toward political alignments and in 1892 endorsed General James A. Weaver for the presidency on the People's Party ticket. Further populist affiliations came in 1896 when Luse supported William Jennings Bryan's bid for the executive office.

The Sun was originally printed in the 'office in Webster's New Brick Building, opposite the Bank,' but by 1895 had located at the north end of Front Street in the two story building that it occupies today. The building was built as Jesse Luse's print shop and offices and has had no other use during the past eight decades.

The files of the Sun are virtually complete. They contain a matchless history of nearly six decades of life on the southern Oregon coast. Ship wrecks, sporting news, deaths of pioneers, harbor development, ship building, lumbering, fires - these are all covered in detail in the Sun. For 54 years this newspaper carried on its masthead a view of the Coos Bay waterfront with the sun setting over the western hills."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beckham, Stephen Dow, "The Marshfield Sun," August 20, 1972. Three-page mimeographed typescript. Dr. Beckham is a member of the History Department of Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, and a native of Coos Bay.

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1956), 62.

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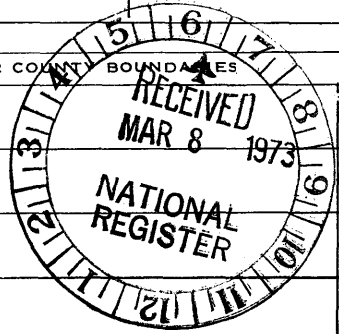
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 22 ' 27 "	124 ° 12 ' 41 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .07 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elisabeth Walton, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: February 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

✓ Name Raymond Bolduan

Title Administrator of Highways

✓ Date FEB 27 1973

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

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/21/73

ATTEST:

W. Bradford Ford
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/20/73