National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

812

OMB No. 1024-0018

Date of Action

NATIONAL REGISTER

I. Name of Property historic name	Crook County Bank Building			
ther names/site number	Bowman, A. R. Memorial Museu	TTO		
		411		
. Location				
reet & number	246 North Main Street	N/A not for publication		
ty, town	Prineville	N A vicinity		
tate Oregon	code _{OR} county Crook	code 013 zip code 97		
. Classification				
wnership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
private	X building(s)	Contributing Noncontributing		
z public-local		<u>1</u> buildings		
public-State		sites		
public-Federal		structures		
		structures		
lame of related multiple pro	onerty listing.	Number of contributing resources previou		
• •				
N/A		listed in the National Register <u>N/A</u>		
As the designated subhav	the under the National Listaria Drassrution A	at of 1000 an amanded. I have but and if that this		
		Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this		
		Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this cumentation standards for registering properties in		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6		
X nomination reques	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6		
X nomination reques	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro rty \square meets \square does not meet the National I	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet.		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro rty I meets does not meet the National I	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet.		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro rty I meets does not meet the National I	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet.		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserv	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet.		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date zation Office		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date zation Office		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserve d bureau	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date zation Office		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official	cumentation standards for registering properties in ofessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date ration Office Register criteria. See continuation sheet.		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rity I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rity meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination reques National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and . National Park Service hereby, certify that this pro-	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty Imeets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is:	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and In Mational Park Service hereby, certify that this pro- entered in the National F	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register.	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histon In my opinion, the propert Signature of certifying official State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the propert Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and In My Opinion , the propert Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and In My Opinion , the propert Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and In My Opinion , the propert Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and State or Federal agency agency and State or Federal agency agen	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official bureau e Certification operty is: Register.	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histon In my opinion, the propert Signature of certifying official State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the propert Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and In Mational Park Service hereby, certify that this pro- entered in the National F See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the state of the state of the shares of the	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty Imeets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register.	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and National Park Service hereby, certify that this pro- entered in the National F See continuation sheet. determined eligible for th Register. See continua	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserve d bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register.	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and National Park Service hereby, certify that this pro- entered in the National F See continuation sheet. determined eligible for th Register. See continua-	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserve d bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register.	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and State or Federal agency and State or Federal agency and 	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserve d bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register.	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and . National Park Service hereby, certify that this pro- entered in the National F entered in the National F See continuation sheet. determined eligible for th Register. See continua determined not eligible for National Register.	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register. Mcloude the National ation sheet. or the	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		
X nomination request National Register of Histo In my opinion, the proper Signature of certifying officia State or Federal agency and In my opinion, the proper Signature of commenting or State or Federal agency and . National Park Service hereby, certify that this pro- entered in the National F See continuation sheet. determined eligible for th Register. See continua determined not eligible for	st for determination of eligibility meets the doc oric Places and meets the procedural and pro- rty I meets does not meet the National I al Oregon State Historic Preserved bureau rty meets does not meet the National I other official d bureau e Certification operty is: Register. he National ation sheet. or the	cumentation standards for registering properties in offessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 Register criteria. See continuation sheet. April 23, 199: Date Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Date Date Date Date		

Signature of the Keeper

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) Commerce: financial institution Commerce: business Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) Recreation & Culture: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style Chicago Romanesque Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation	stone (basalt)
walls	stone (basalt)
	brick
roof	asphalt, built-up
other	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page ___1

The Crook County Bank, now the A. R. Bowman Memorial Museum, is a detached, two-story, stone building situated on the southeast corner of Highway 26 (West 3rd) and North Main Streets, the central intersection for downtown Prineville. Built in 1911 for the Crook County Bank, the building is one of several in Prine-ville constructed out of basalt quarried from west of Prineville. After the Crook County Bank discontinued operations in 1923, the Bank of Prineville, and then the Prineville National Bank, occupied the building until 1934.

A prominent businessman, A. R. Bowman, purchased the property in 1935 to operate the Central Oregon Title and Loan Co. in the building's main floor, with other offices occupying the second floor. Mr. Bowman also operated an insurance company in the building until shortly before his death, in 1970. In 1971, with minor conversions to the stairway and to the second floor, the Crook County Historical Society, which was founded in 1969, opened the doors as the A. R. Bowman Memorial Museum.

For nearly 80 years this block building has maintained its classical form, imposing strength and beauty from both its exterior view of horizontally laid stone blocks of basalt, and its interior, where beautifully tiled floors, marble counter front, carved mahogany woodwork, and alabaster chandeliers reflect the building's formality. Countless numbers of people have passed through this building's two main doors; one facing 3rd Street and the other facing Main.

With an east/west orientation, the building's rectangular shape measures about 58 feet along its north and south sides, and 30 feet along its east and west ends. The outer walls on the north side and west end are constructed of blocks drafted from dark basalt, each with its exposed surface left rough. It is believed that the stones were cut by the same crew that did the Crook County Courthouse, however their names have not been learned by the preparer of this summary.

The blocks are predominantly rectangular-shaped, laid horizontally in the construction of the buttresses that stand about 22 feet high at the three corners visible to N. Main and 3rd Streets. The north side of the building is divided by three additional buttresses like the corner buttresses, measuring about 51" across the face. Three feet up from the sidewalk level, the buttresses narrow in width slightly, accentuated in their taper by **their batter**.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number __7 Page __2

The west end of the building is divided by one additional buttress of the same dimensions as the others.

The spaces between the buttresses are the bays for the windows and entry-ways. The buttress capitals mark the top of the second-story window-frames. The stone molding is repeated up about four more feet; running around the north and west sides of the building, marking the lower edge of the three and one-half foot high parapet that runs around the south, west and north sides of the building.

The stone-work between the buttresses and in-between the first and second story windows creates interest by the placement of blocks cut with beveled faces. Mortar is used as the bonding material.

In 1976, a hot-built-up-roof was put on the flat roof. At sidewalk level and in-between the posts are storm grates. The foundation is probably quarried stone. The east end and south side of the building are built from bricks bonded with mortar.

There is a sunken furnace room that extends easterly for ten feet from the east wall of the building; its north-south measurement from inside is about fifteen feet. The furnace room is walled with brick and cement and has a sloping metal roof. The floor is cement and contains a sump pump. There are seven steps that lead up out of the furnace room into the store-room that is also located on the east end of the building. The store-room adjoins the furnace room in a covered stairwell that leads from the sidewalk level on the north side, up to the second floor. Until renovation in 1971, this stairwell was the only entrance to the second floor. The store-room and old covered stairwell measure from the outside about twelve feet north and south, by fifteen feet east and west, and fourteen feet high. The storage room is framed with wood, has a wood floor, the siding material used on the storage room is tin, and it has a tin roof. There is a parapet facade along the upper edge of the north outer-wall.

The entry-ways are located near to the corner where the north side and west end meet. The entries have double, wood-framed, beveled-glass doors, and along the sides of the door openings are elongated, beveled glass windows. The doors on the north side were donated by the building that stands to the west, across Main Street, in 1975. The building and its doors were built in 1907, for the First National Bank. The doors on the west end

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page __3

were rebuilt during renovation in 1971. The entry on the north side has a step-up from the sidewalk to the threshold. The step-up that existed on the west end was removed and a slope was built up on the sidewalk to the threshold to accommodate better entry for handicapped visitors.

Two other doorways lead from the building and are located at 1) the north end of the east wall (into the storage room with exit through another door on the north wall of the storage room), and 2) on the second-story, east wall, onto the old covered stair-well. An iron security gate is still in place behind the door leading into the storage room.

The fenestration is regular on the north side and west end of the building. Ground-floor fenestration is divided into large fixed pane glass at the bottom, with hopper-windows opening in units of three above them. Ground-floor window openings roughly measure nine and one-half feet high by eight and one-half feet wide. There are three sets on the north and one on the west. The second-story windows are double-hung sash, with openings that roughly measure five feet high by three and one-half feet wide. There are eight sets on the north and four on the west.

The interior of the Bank Building appears much the same as when first constructed in 1911-12. The fixtures are a combination of marble, bronze and mahogany. The front counter, which is about 7 feet long, runs north and south and corners in an east/west direction and becomes a divider for the teller cages. This ends in a perpendicular divider and entrance to the area marked, "Safety Deposit Vault." Continuing, the opposite side of the east/west divider were the tellers' working spaces, with a long counter and drawers. This again corners to run north and south, with an upper glass panel to view the front area.

The entrance to the area behind the front counter is now used by the Director/Hostess and is protected from public use by a swinging half-door. The former Bank President's office has become the Library. The bank's main floor space was used as: vestibules, lobby, safe deposit area, accounting, and for the Bank President. The vestibules (entries), lobby, and accounting spaces now contain tall built-in display cases with glass fronts and interior lighting.

Not only does the counter and partitions serve to define space, but they are also the more important features aesthetically. The

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page __4

entire front of the counter is of verd antique marble (from Vermont) and Toheen and Alaska marble, surmounted by a solid mahogany top screen with bronze panels, while the partitions forming the director's office are of mahogany, with beautiful panels of etched, art-glass. The mahogany screens and partitions are finished in scroll detail.

Inside, the walls and ceiling are covered with plaster and are painted. From floor to ceiling measures fourteen feet. There are three cross-beams running north and south across the ceiling, and a center-carry-beam bears east and west, forming seven divisions on the ceiling. There is detailed crown molding running around the perimeter of the ceiling. There are six, tasseled chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, featuring gilt and alabaster.

There is a support pillar located near the north-east corner of the main floor, forming a division between the stairway and vault areas. Along the east wall on the main floor is a vault measuring overall about fifteen and one-half feet by ten feet. The steel doors opening into the vault consist of a door with a combination lock followed by a set of double doors, and both are of the heaviest material manufactured during the time of construction. The vault walls are of reinforced concrete, twelve inches thick, contained the bank safe, and was used for the safe deposit boxes. The bank safe was built by the Victor Safe Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio. It measures 24" x 24", with a depth of 21", and has a Yale time lock. It was used by the Prineville National Bank until it closed in 1935. The last time it was checked by a Yale expert was on March 16, 1931. At some point after the bank closed, the vault was divided into two compartments by a sliding wooden door. The front half still contains the safe, deposit boxes and other artifacts, and the second half is used for storage.

The lavatory, located on the main floor, is still using its original toilet and sink. The sink was built for one cold-water faucet, and as such, remains in use today.

At the north end of the vaulted area is a corridor that leads to the outside door through the storage room. Just to the left of this exit from the main floor is a coat-closet that has been built out of mahogany.

National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Section number __7___ Page __5___

Bathroom and vestibules are floored with the original vitreous tile, which is still in excellent condition. Much of this floor has been protected over the years with a covering of battleship linoleum. The main lobby is covered with 8" x 16" fitted marble floor tile. The original counters are faced and topped with gray and verd Vermont marble. All the marble is in very good to excellent condition.

The building's hot-water heating system is still in use today. Gas is used to heat the water in the original cast-iron radiators that are located throughout the building.

The second floor was built originally for offices. There are six rooms, the largest of which measures about twenty-five feet, eight inches, by nineteen feet, eight inches. The floors are clear vertical grain fir and the walls and ceilings are covered in plaster and paint.

In 1971, when the old Bank Building was opened as a museum, only the lower floor was used. There were minimal repairs to the building because no funds were available.

In March 1972, bids were put out for an interior stairway to the second floor to be located at the east end of the north wall, giving entry off its landing to a balcony over the corridor, vaults and lavatory; also for new wiring to be installed downstairs and on the balcony. This remodeling was begun in October, after the museum closed for the winter, and completed before the museum reopened for the 1973 season. The rooms upstairs required only some plaster repairs and paint. The roof and chimney were repaired and the costs were partially covered by the county. Most of the lumber and time was donated. The total disbursements for March 1, 1973, to December 1, 1973, were \$1,688.52.

In 1988, with ever-increasing costs, the need to approach the voters for an increase to keep the museum open became apparent. The second election try was successful and created a substantial base on which to operate and plan for added display rooms and a much needed storage area.

The existing exterior stairway remains unchanged since the State Fire Marshall "okayed" its use as a fire escape in 1971. Now,

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number $\frac{7}{2}$ Page $\frac{6}{2}$

due to changing fire hazard rules, the old, unlighted, metal and wood exterior stairway on the east end of the building can no longer be excused as an exit in case of fire on the second level.

In late December of 1990, the Board of Directors and the County Advisory Board hired a local architect to draw up plans for a proposed addition on the east end of the building to replace the old stairway. This would allow an exit on the east (in addition to the established exits on the street, west and north), a room over the basement for storage, and a larger meeting and display room upstairs. Basic plans include molded stone veneer for visual compatibility on the north and east exterior walls.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this pr	roperty in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria	C D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	CDEFG	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates 1911
	Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder Unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

.

Crook County Journal: August 11, 1910; May 4,	1911; November 30, 1911; January 11, 1912;
January 25, 1912; June 13, 1912.	
Central Oregonian: October 29, 1971; January 25, 1973.	October 30, 1971; January 18, 1973;
	See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 0.07 acres Prineville,	Oregon 1:24000
UTM References	b
A 110 61708440 41907540 1 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	See continuation sheet
_	
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated property is located in Section 5,	
Meridian, in Prineville, Crook County, Oregon.	
said location and is more particularly describe	
west corner of Lot 1 in Block 3 of the First Ad	t 100 fast thoras North 30 fast to the
East 100 feet, thence South 30 feet, thence Wes point of beginning.	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
The nominated area encompasses the urban tax lo	t occupied by the Crook County Bank
Building from 1911 onward.	to occupied by the cross councy bank
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Irene Helms, Director, with Dee Berm	an, Naoma Nelson and Eileen Thompson
organization <u>A. R. Bowman Memorial Museum</u>	date December 7, 1990
street & number 246 North Main Street	telephone (503) 447-3715 state Oregon zin code 97754
city or townPrineville	state <u>Oregon</u> zip code <u>97754</u>

1.00

street & number 246 North Main Street	telephone5
city or townPrineville	state <u>Orego</u>

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ___8 Page __1

The two-story Crook County Bank Building, solidly constructed of quarry-faced native basalt in the Chicago Romanesque style, stands at the southeast corner of Third and Main Streets, the major intersection in downtown Prineville, the government seat of Crook County, Oregon. It was built in 1911 and housed a banking institution that for 22 years, through two reorganizations, served the ranchers and farmers of the surrounding high desert plateau of central Oregon.

The bank building is the larger and, now, the better preserved of two commercial properties that, together with the Crook County Courthouse, make up a small concentration of buildings on Prineville's east-west arterial that is visually distinguished by the common use of rock-cut basalt from a nearby quarry. The building group includes the courthouse of 1909 and the old First National Bank of Prineville, built in 1905 or 1907, which stands opposite the nominated property on the west side of Main Street. The single-story old First National Bank, an example of small-town Beaux Arts Classicism, and the adjoining Foster and Hyde General Store, were listed in the National Register in 1985. They have since been painted to the detriment of the fine masonry work exhibited by the primary building.

The Crook County Bank is notably unaltered as a consequence of its having been taken over by A. R. Bowman for a title and loan company after the bank failed in the Depression. The building was long occupied by Bowman, who in later years maintained an insurance business in it. Following his death in 1970, Bowman's widow and daughters deeded the property to Crook County with a stipulation and reversionary clause to ensure its permanent use as a museum.

The well-preserved bank meets National Register Criterion C as the preeminent example of historic stone masonry commercial architecture in Prineville. It is plain but well-wrought, reflecting the skill of the stone cutters and masons, the same, it is believed, who erected the courthouse two years earlier. While little is known of the identity of those who constructed the building, clearly there is nothing in Prineville to equal the scope of this effort apart from the courthouse.

The two-story rectangular volume has a ground plan of 30 x 58 feet and presents its major frontage along Third Street. The south wall is rubble, and the east end wall is of common brick masonry.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>2</u>

Street elevations of coursed quarry-faced basalt are formally organized with battered pilaster strips, or buttresses setting off the structural bays. Generous ground-story openings are fitted with fixed plate glass and transoms that originally were distinguished by Union Jack grillework later replaced with threepart mullioned top lights. Parts of the double-leaf door assemblies with sidelights and transoms having border lights are original. The entries are located at the Third and Main street corner, one in either facade. Second story openings are paired double-hung windows divided by masonry columns having pulvinated caps in the Romanesque tradition.

The facades are organized vertically in the conventional base, shaft, capital scheme associated with the Chicago School. A flat, built-up roof is masked behind a high, straight parapet. The water table and parapet copings, window sill string courses, buttress caps and cornice all are of dressed stone. Further finesse of detail is displayed at the head of flat-arched ground story openings, each of which is finished with radiating voussoirs and keystone.

The nominated property includes a 12×15 -foot wood-frame storeroom/covered stair on the east end of the building that, before a renovation of 1971, provided the only access to the second story office space.

The ground story interior is replete with its banking fixtures and finish work, including ceramic tile flooring, plaster ceiling with coved cornice, marble counters and bronze teller cages, art glass counter screens, mahogany paneling, and alabaster chandeliers in addition to the vault.

Prineville, though a small city of 5,410 population, is nevertheless a hub of commerce in the Crooked River drainage of central Oregon's high plateau country. The area was first settled in 1868, and Prineville was incorporated in 1880. When Crook County was formed from Wasco County in 1882, Prineville became the county seat. It is still the county's only incorporated population center.

The First National Bank of Prineville, the oldest banking institution in central Oregon, was incorporated in 1887. The original stockholders were leading members of the business

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>3</u>

community. The economic stability of the county between 1890 and 1910 was directly tied to operation of the pioneer bank.

Prineville's fortunes brightened as central Oregon became more accessible to world markets for beef cattle, sheep wool and timber. Completion of the Oregon Trunk Railway through central Oregon between 1908 and 1916 was crucial, and completion of the Ochoco Highway (Route 26), a major east-west route through Prineville, occurred in the same period. It was in this promising climate that the pioneer bank's competitor institution, the Crook County Bank, was organized and raised its building of more imposing height on the opposite side of the town's main intersection.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>4</u>

The Crook County Bank Building is proposed for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "C" as it has the distinction of having retained its essential appearance for "nearly 80 years. The Crook County Bank Building was constructed in 1911 to house the first community owned bank. Although the bank became insolvent during the depression the building remained unchanged. The Crook County Bank building is the only building in Crook County where the interior appears much the same as when first constructed. With its beautiful marble counters, bronze teller cages, etched art-glass, mahogany paneling, and gilt and alabaster chandeliers, one has only to allow their imagination to 'see' the bustle of activity during its heyday...an invaluable gift to us, our youth, and to future generations.

The building operated as a bank for twenty-two years (1912-1934), and was home to A. R. (Judge) Bowman's Title and Loan business for many years (1935-late 1940's). It later became the location for "Judge" Bowman's insurance business for some thirty years (late 40's-late 60's) until ill health forced his retirement, shortly before his death in 1970. Even though today it houses a museum, long-time residents still refer to it as the "Bank Building."

Of course the beauty of the building did not exceed the purpose for which it was built. As a bank, title and loan, and an insurance company, the building has had a long history as a prominent place to conduct business. In 1971, A. R. Bowman's wife, Alta, and daughters, Elaine Broten and Jean Gustavson Clark, deeded the Bowman Building to Crook County with the provision that it be used as a museum. Crook County entered into a contract with the Crook County Historical Society (founded in 1969) to operate and manage the A. R. Bowman Memorial Museum.

The historical importance of the Crook County Bank Building encompasses the building itself as a well-preserved example of its architecture. The fact that it existed to provide a place for Central Oregonians to conduct business, and also in memorial to A. R. (Judge) Bowman; a great contributor to the betterment of the community.

A biographical sketch titled, "About the Man," was written by Pat Dragich for the October 30, 1971 memorial dedication, described

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>5</u>

A. R. Bowman's background...how he came to Prineville in 1910 with a law degree, and two renowned investigative cases under his belt (the Gifford Pinchot Glover coal fraud and the investigation of homestead entries). Once in Prineville, he owned the Crook County Abstract Company, the Central Oregon Title and Loan Company, and also operated an insurance company. Pat Dragich wrote, "The citizens of the community affectionately and respectfully called him "Judge" after he served in the capacity of county magistrate between the years of 1936-1942." The article also highlighted "Judge" Bowman's efforts toward several community projects of note: the Ochoco Irrigation District, the Airport, Highway 26, and the Crooked River Project.

Prineville, though a small city of 5,790 population, is nevertheless a hub of commerce in the Crooked River drainage of Central Oregon's high plateau country. The area was first settled in 1868, and Prineville was incorporated in 1880. When Crook County was formed from Wasco County in 1882, Prineville became the county seat. It is still the county's only incorporated population center.

The Crook County Bank Building's greatest significance under criterion "C" is an essential distinctive component of only three buildings visually related by the common use of rock-cut basalt from the same local quarry. This group, including the Crook County Courthouse (1909) and the old First National Bank of Prineville (1905), gives a distinctive character to Prineville's downtown core. The basalt was hauled by horse and wagon from on top of a rimrock butte, "viewpoint," directly west of Prineville. Today, the Bank Building is one of the few that still stands, and represents a more prosperous time that has not yet returned to the area. It is also a "look into the past" for the children, and where tourists pause and take notice of these grand old buildings.

One of the buildings, the First National Bank of Prineville, was located at the corner of Third and Main Streets. In 1905, the 1887 wooden structure was moved to another location and the new bank was constructed of native basalt. The architecture was carried out in a classical style in the tradition of the American Renaissance. In 1953, the First National Bank opened

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number $\underline{8}$ Page $\underline{6}$

new quarters elsewhere in Prineville, the former bank's interior was converted to retail space, and is now doing business as the Bank Drug Store.

Completing Prineville's ensemble of imposing buildings of native basalt is the Crook County Courthouse, situated two blocks east of the nominated property on Third Street (U.S. 26). The present building was completed in 1909 at a cost of \$48,590.00. It has been declared a Historical Monument and is a beautiful landmark in the City of Prineville.

A news article that appeared in the Crook County Journal, June 13, 1912, regarded the construction of the Crook County Bank Building, "significant in the future growth of the city", and "the building and interior fixtures are the finest in Central Oregon". The interior equipment was considered "finer than anything in any city in the United States that was not on a railroad." Crook County, largely a ranching community, has always been populated by people with a love of natural beauty, like the dark basalt stone-work on the bank building's exterior. When the building was constructed, it wasn't enough to grace the exterior with such beauty; the interior had to impress as well. And so it remains today.





CROOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOWMAN MUSEUM 246 N. MAIN ST. 447-3715 PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754





West

South[.]

