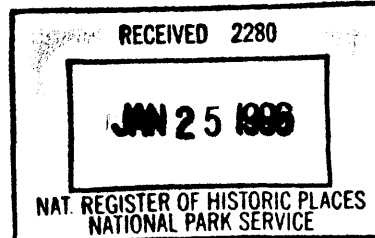


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Medford Central Firehall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 110 E Sixth Street N/A not for publication

city or town Medford N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code 97501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jane Hamish January 5, 1996
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Elson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/23/96

Entered in the National Register

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Fire Station, City Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: business office, cafe/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements: Chicago Style
(Richardsonian Romanesque)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

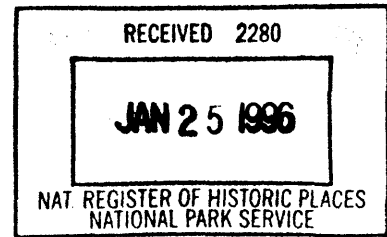
foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt, built-up
other granite - ground story piers

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



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Medford Central Fire Hall

The Medford Central Fire Hall is a 50' x 100' two-story brick volume located at the SE corner of the intersection of North Front and East Sixth streets in downtown Medford, Oregon. It was constructed in two phases, with the original [north] volume completed in 1908 and the matching addition [south] completed in 1921.

LOCATION:

The Medford Central Fire Hall occupies all of lots 5 and 6, in Block 21 of the Original Town Plat of Medford. The property sits on the broad flat plain of the Bear Creek Valley in Township 37 South, Range 1 West, Section 30. Jackson County Assessor's plat 30BC identifies the parcel as Tax Lot 1500. The property has a 50' frontage along North Front and 100' frontage on East Sixth Street. One of downtown Medford's few surviving alleyways that opens onto Main Street spans the rear [east] of the building.

Located in the heart of the commercial core area, the Medford Central Fire Hall is within an area of predominately one and two story masonry buildings ranging in construction date from the 19th century to the 1960s and 1970s. Diagonally opposite Front Street is the 1912 Medford Depot, built for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and now in use by another rail carrier. To the east is the four-story Medford Furniture and Hardware Building, constructed in 1910 and modernized to a Moderne appearance in the late 1940s. The late 19th century Nash Livery and Feed Stable, immediately to the south, has been substantially modernized to its present appearance. Other nearby properties of note include the 1949 J. C. Penneys Building, now occupied by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the 1914-15 Barnum [Grand] Hotel, listed on the National Register in 1984, and the 1915 Medford BPOE Lodge No. 1168, listed on the National Register in 1980.

EXTERIOR:

The brick exterior walls of the original volume of the Medford Central Fire Hall are built of common or running bond in red brick. Elaborate surface detailing includes the corbeled corner tower, which projects out from the main wall plane. The window sill line, between the first and second floors, is defined by a cast-concrete stringcourse, made of approximately 30" wide sections with a ogee profile. These concrete sections rest upon a series of staggered, projecting bricks in header orientation. Unlike a typical dentil feature where the bricks are in vertical line these bricks are offset, creating a vaguely checkerboard type appearance.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 2

Medford Central Fire Hall

A second stringcourse above the three 1/1 wood sash double hung windows ties the bottom of the arches together visually, projecting slightly and continuing around the extrados, or the outside line of the arch. The fields of the arches themselves are undecorated, consisting simply of common brick coursing. A third stringcourse line spans the width of the facade directly above the window arches. The cornice area is highly detailed with projecting bands and a matching cast-concrete stringcourse just below the parapet.

The first floor of the original volume consists of a fixed glass storefront with an angled corner entrance.¹ The original entry door to the second floor, recessed approximately 3' from the sidewalk, is raised above street level. Both sides of this entryway are framed by seven courses of quarry-faced granite, each approximately 12" high and 24" wide. The granite is currently painted a light gray-brown.

The brickwork of the west-facing elevation of the 1921 addition, comprising the southern half of the subject structure, is essentially identical in design to that of the original volume. A matching set of three 1/1 wood sash windows, with stringcourse and arch detailing as described previously form the second floor facade. Cast concrete stringcourse detail matching the original volume is of lesser quality and shows considerably higher weathering than that of the 1908 building. A matching column base of quarry-faced granite is at the extreme southern edge, adjoining the Nash Livery and Feed Stable building.

The first floor of the west-facing elevation consists of two storefronts and the central stairway entrance to the second floor. Beginning from the angled corner entry at the intersection of Sixth and Front streets, fixed metal sash display windows are above a 24" high brick base, continuing to the granite columns that form either side of the recessed second floor entryway. The three-part wooden storefront of the 1921 addition, with wood sash display windows, appears to be original. Six 14" square fixed windows form a transom band above the fixed windows and a wooden inset panel forms the base.² A central entry door is below a larger transom, now covered with a tile panel. A matching sign area, covered in stucco, matches that of the original volume and a non-original wooden cleat spans both elevations, possibly a remnant of a earlier wood-clad facade that present from the 1970s through 1991.

¹ See "Alterations," below.

² See Photograph #12.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 3

Medford Central Fire Hall

The north-facing elevation of the Medford Central Fire Hall, lining East Sixth Street, is also brick. The second floor contains nine window openings. The two westernmost are original 1/1 wood sash and the remaining seven to the rear of the building are aluminum sash replacements, each with three panes. Metal headers and lack of brick detailing differentiate the openings of this elevation from those of the primary facade. There is some indication that a different brick quality also exists between the north- and west-facing elevations as a clear vertical seam is evident just east of the projecting corner tower, a seam which is also visible in historic photographs.³ Use of "face brick" was a common element in period masonry architecture and cost may have been a deciding factor in the use of a lesser material for the north side elevation.

The first floor of the East Sixth Street elevation is divided into four bays, each visually creating a storefront. From the west corner entry, detailed as described above, the next storefront (104 E. Sixth) is a smooth stucco framed area with a beveled panel surround that is vaguely Moderne in appearance. A recessed entry is raised above the sidewalk level and leads to a modern aluminum and glass entry door. The next storefront (110 E. Sixth) is of horizontal wood siding with a tiled surround. Three fixed anodized aluminum sash windows provide daylight. A wooden entry door is flush with the wall, raised up slightly from sidewalk level. To the extreme east edge of this storefront a door-width recessed entry way accesses a separate office, identified as 110A. The third storefront from the west holds two addresses, 112 E. Sixth is a recessed entrance to the second floor and 114 is a first floor retail concern. Detailing of this recessed bay is of split faced concrete block, reminiscent of the cut granite of the facade, with modern aluminum display windows and doors. The final storefront of the elevation (116 E. Sixth) is stucco-clad in a rough texture with mill-finish aluminum sash windows.

The rear of the original volume, facing onto the alley that lines the east of the structure, is original brick on the second floor and a continuation of the stucco surface of the 116 E. Sixth Street facade on the first. Three second floor windows, all replaced aluminum sash matching those of the north-facing elevation, have brick sills. Some evidence of brick patching is present.

The rear of the 1921 addition is of poured in place concrete with evidence of the form boards remaining. Modern concrete block infill occupies much of the first floor, apparently once a large set of doors for automobile or loading access. The upper floor retains three 1/1 wood sash double hung windows, with cast concrete sills. Various

³ See the variation in brick color as shown in Photograph #1, just east of the corner.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 4

Medford Central Fire Hall

surface mounted mechanical systems, including electric, communications and natural gas pipe, are all present on this elevation.

KNOWN ALTERATIONS: EXTERIOR

As designed by local architect John A. McIntosh,⁴ the original volume of the Medford Central Fire Hall stood 25 feet wide and 100 feet deep. The first floor facade, facing west, was dominated by the twin swinging wooden doors that opened onto the garage of the fire department for storage of the hose cart and, after August 1908, the city's first gasoline-powered fire truck. A second entrance, also with paired wooden doors, opened onto East Sixth Street, approximately in the middle of the building and presumably providing access to the city's police department and other municipal offices. The city jail was located in the extreme rear, at the NE corner, where a small window provided some light into the cell area.⁵

As discussed in Section 8, following the removal of the City's offices, the Medford Central Fire Hall was remodeled in 1936 to make it more adaptable for retail rental. It is assumed that prior to that time the original fire doors of the exterior survived. The 1936 remodel replaced the original corner column of cut granite and brick with a metal post and likely involved the installation of a steel beam to create the open glazing of the corner entrance. It is not known to what extent, if any, the remainder of the East Sixth Street elevation was remodeled as a part of the 1936 alteration.

Following the sale of the building from city ownership, additional storefronts were created along East Sixth Street. The various original doors and windows associated with city functions were removed and altered to create the new entryways. Little documentation exists regarding the precise timing of the various changes, however, as late as 1959, according to the *Polk City Directory* for Medford, only two storefronts existed on the East Sixth street elevation.⁶ By 1960 the same source lists four addresses, indicating some remodeling had created the additional entries. Photographs indicate that the "Moderne" stucco exterior of 104 East Sixth existed prior to 1979 and may date to the late 1950s.⁷

⁴ See Section 8, Page 4 for more information on McIntosh.

⁵ See Photographs #1 and #2 for historic views of this facade.

⁶ During this period the corner first floor space retained a North Front address although now it is designated as 110 East Sixth Street.

⁷ See Reid, "Front Street Transportation District," National Register Nomination form, 1979. This district nomination, while not successful, identified the "Central Fire Hall and Annex" as Site #6, ranked as "Primary."

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Medford Central Fire Hall

The horizontal siding at 110 East Sixth dates from April 1988 when Whittle Construction received a City of Medford building permit to "remodel exterior of office."⁸ The alterations to 112 and 114, being the creation of the recessed entryway that accesses the stairwell to the second floor, was undertaken in 1991 as a requirement to provide an additional exit from the second floor. Minor modifications to the North Front entry, essentially the installation of ceramic tile on the entry stoop, also likely date from 1991. Other recent alterations include the reconstruction of the North Front street entryway, including the removal of the wooden lath facade that covered the southern storefront, and the installation of a surface mounted vent necessitated by the opening of the present espresso shop.

INTERIOR:

The first floor of the Medford Central Fire Hall retains little identifiable connection to its original use or presumed historic appearance. Numerous alterations required to convert the basic spaces into a series of post-city hall use, from restaurant and furniture showroom, shoe repair, barber shop, and office space, have resulted in the removal of whatever trim and other detailing that may have been originally a part of the design. In recent years portions of the brick exterior walls have been exposed along both the interior wall that divides the original and addition volumes, as well as the brick of the Nash Livery and Feed Stable building to the south.

Some early appearing trim and other historic features survive on the second floor. These include door and window surrounds in the two front (west-facing) office spaces and wide plain baseboards with half-round moldings. Some original 3-paneled wood and glass doors, with operable wood-sash transoms, also survive. Original trim, plain 6" wide boards with crown moldings and parting bead remain in various other spaces as well. In the large space of the addition, built for use as the city hall chambers, the interior wells of the two large skylights that once lit the council chamber remain although the skylights themselves have been removed. The wells, approximately 36" high, are finished in vertically laid beadboard. A third, slightly smaller, skylight well remains in an adjacent office space and is similarly finished. (See attached floorplan) A few early-appearing electric light fixtures reportedly date from the 1938 and the use of the building by the Civilian Conservation Corps.⁹

⁸ City of Medford Building Permit files.

⁹ Mark Wolfe, "Medford's First City Hall," *Table Rock Sentinel*, Vol. 7, No. 6, (June 1987), 16.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 6

Medford Central Fire Hall

Wall surfaces throughout the second floor are either original lath and plaster or modern sheetrock. Generally the south half of the building, in the 1921 addition, is used as storage space and has not been modernized. The north half of the structure, presently used by a religious group, underwent substantial interior modification relating to the construction of the second exit stairwell, opening onto East Sixth Street, in 1991. Finishes for much of this space are typical modern construction with sheet rock clad partition walls, doors and trim.

SUMMARY:

The Medford Central Fire Hall, constructed more than eighty years ago for use as a Fire Hall and governmental offices and public meeting rooms, retains substantial integrity to its original exterior appearance. Despite a series of first floor alterations that began in 1936 as the structure was converted to post-city hall use, essential elements of the facade, including the central entryway flanked by granite columns and the southernmost wooden storefront, remain. Other first floor alterations, creating a series of storefronts along the East Sixth Street elevation, while inconsistent with the original design, accurately reflect the serial changes made to accommodate a variety of modern uses within the structure. The exposed brick walls and surface detailing of the second floor exterior of the Medford Central Fire Hall remain essentially as built and accurately reflect the building's appearance during its historic period.

The Medford Central Fire Hall retains substantial integrity to its historic design, use of materials, and overall character and effectively and accurately conveys the structure's original appearance. The Medford Central Fire Hall successfully relates the associations which make it significant.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Social History

Period of Significance

1908-1932

Significant Dates

1908

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder Original volume:

McIntosh, John A., Architect

Moyers, A.S., Priddy, G.W., Builders

Clark, Frank C., Architect 1921 Addition

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

City of Medford

Medford Central Firehall

Name of Property

Jackson County, Oregon

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.11 acres

Medford East, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 10 510500 4685890
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George Kramer
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date August 1, 1995
street & number 386 N Laurel telephone 541/482-9504
city or town Ashland state OR zip code 97520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Russell Dale
street & number 585 Allison Street telephone 541/482-2663
city or town Ashland state OR zip code 97520

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1A

**MEDFORD CENTRAL FIRE HALL (1908, 1921)
110 East Sixth Street
Medford, Jackson County, Oregon****COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The historic Central Firehall of 1908 in downtown Medford, Oregon once incorporated police and municipal offices, jail, and briefly, a civic library. The two-story building of brick presents its major frontage of 100 feet on Sixth Street. After it was expanded by an addition in 1921, its principal facade extended 50 feet along Front Street. The site at the southeast corner of the Sixth and Front Street intersection, near the railroad passenger station, had been used by City government since 1898 to house a fire-hose cart and hold a brick jailhouse. The new fire hall of fire-resistant construction was the first building built by the City for integrated administrative purposes. Prior to 1908, the council and chief officials met in rented rooms in a succession of mercantile blocks. The City vacated the building in 1932 and commenced leasing for retail and office use. Not until 1944 was the property released by the municipality. Since the immediate successor to the Central Firehall, a municipal headquarters opened in 1932, no longer stands, the subject property is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of politics/government and social history as the best tangible representation of Medford City administration in the early 20th Century.

The west face of the building, on Front Street, is the only articulated street facade. Though it is an economical small town manifestation to be sure, the facade shows the influence of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, which was fashionable on the West Coast at the turn of the century. Hallmarks of the style emulated here are the ground story piers of rusticated granite and the illusion of Roman arches created by an ogee string course springing into a tripartite blind arcade with radiating archivolt above second story flat-arched windows. Above a corbeled cornice, the parapet face is enriched with short pilaster strips. But the ultimate character-defining feature of the facade is its corbelled watch tower at the street corner which was meant to evoke the defense work of a medieval town. This "barbican" announces the building's civic purpose as fire hall, police department and jail.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2A

The architect of the original 25 x 100-foot volume of 1908 was John A. McIntosh, who briefly had a successful practice in Medford. The south addition of equal cubage erected in 1921 to house city offices and council chamber, was designed with a closely matching facade by long-time leading Rogue River Valley architect Frank C. Clark. The City Hall addition made use of party walls of both the old firehall and the adjacent building on the south, a brick livery stable.

The Front Street facade retains the integrity of its structural bays and the three-part, wood-framed store front of the south addition. In 1936, when the original volume was remodeled for retail purposes, the original corner column of rusticated granite was replaced with a metal post for a beveled storefront entrance. Along Sixth Street, the ground story reflects a history of adaptation, beginning with two storefronts, then, by 1960, as many as four, each with a separate style. Most of the windows in the second story have been replaced with aluminum-framed assemblies, but two original double-hung wood sash remain. The ground story interior of the 1908 volume shows little evidence of its historic functions, but, upstairs, early woodwork is typical. The council chamber in the second story of the 1921 volume is largely intact, including the interior wells, but not the glazing, of historic skylights. Since the 1921 addition was used primarily for storage after the historic period, its interior is in a good state of preservation generally.

The current owner plans an adaptive use rehabilitation of the building. After existing leases are expired, layers of non-historic shop-front material will be removed from the north elevation, for example. The prospective development project, standing in close proximity to the Southern Pacific Railroad Passenger Station at the foot of Fifth Street, is looked on as one of the pivotal projects in revitalization efforts along Front Street in Medford's core area.

It is the State's opinion that the premise of significance under Criterion A for the period 1908 to 1932 is well supported. The building was the headquarters of Medford's government for 24 years, a period which embraced the city's greatest upbuilding and the culminating years of its most dramatic period of growth induced by the boom of the orchard industry. Medford arose, essentially, from the alignment of the Oregon and California Railroad. The town was platted in 1883 and incorporated in 1885. It adopted a mayor-council form of government in 1901, and in 1927, it became the Jackson County seat. This nomination documents the importance of municipal government during the historic period and shows the subject property to have been the center from which much of the city's pre-Second World War infrastructure and some of its important services, its street paving, water system, park system and public library, were organized.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8 Page: 1

Medford Central Fire Hall

The Medford Central Fire Hall, constructed in two phases beginning in 1908, was the first structure owned and built by the City of Medford, Oregon for use as its city hall. Augmented to the south by an addition in 1921, the building remained the home of city government for more than twenty years, a period during which Medford grew into the commercial, financial, and population center of the Rogue River Valley. Retaining substantial integrity to its historic appearance, the Medford Central Fire Hall is significant under Criterion "A" as the best surviving structure associated with the development of Medford's local government during the pre-World War II era.

MEDFORD:

The City of Medford was platted on the western bank of Bear Creek in the flat central plain of the southern arm of the Rogue River Valley in late 1883 and incorporated in February 1885. Having been specifically founded as the primary railroad depot site in the valley, the new community was destined to bypass the long established city of Jacksonville, the county seat. Within a few short decades Medford became not only the major shipping point in the area but also its largest and most influential commercial and financial center.

The railroad first arrived in Medford from the north in 1884 and it was not until late 1887 that the difficult link over the Siskiyou was finished, creating a through line connecting Oregon and California. With that connection the agricultural and timber products of the southern Oregon region found new markets and rapidly developed, expanding Medford's importance as the area's primary shipping point. By the 1890s substantial brick buildings were constructed along the city's main streets, a tangible sign of the city's growing prosperity. In 1891 the Rogue River Valley Railroad to Jacksonville was established, connecting Medford with the county seat and, indirectly to the mining uses that remained active in the western portion of the county. Buoyed by continued development, Medford's population and residential area expanded dramatically, crossing Bear Creek and moving eastward toward the foothills that lined the edge of the valley. "After the Original Town was laid out in 1883, twenty additions were platted for Medford in the eight years from 1887 to 1895.¹ The population of Medford had risen to 1,791 by 1900, almost doubling in number during the last decade of the 19th century.²

¹ Kay Atwood, *Medford, Oregon: Historic Context 1846-1946*. (Medford: Medford Planning Department, 1993), 6.

² Kay Atwood and Marjorie Lutz O'Harra, *Medford — 1885-1985*. (Medford: The Medford Centennial Committee, 1985), 8.

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Section Number: 8 Page: 2

Medford Central Fire Hall

By the middle of the first decade of the 20th century Medford passed Ashland as the largest of the Rogue River Valley's communities and increasingly dominated both the economic and political landscape of southern Oregon. The mid-decade opening of the Pacific and Eastern Railroad to Butte Falls improved access to the huge timber stands east of the city and provided yet another boost to city. By 1910 the phenomenal growth of the valley's apple, pear, and other fruit-bearing tree crops led to a period known as "the Orchard Boom." Population growth was truly explosive, with the Medford approaching 9,000 residents in 1910 — a growth rate of almost 400 percent that made the city the second fastest growing incorporated city in the nation during the 1900-1910 period.³ Physical growth was required to accommodate so many new residents and forty-five individual additions to the city were platted between 1905 and 1909. (*Atwood, 1993:6-7*)

With swollen coffers and the typically "progressive" approach of city government that characterized this period of American history, Medford's leaders undertook a wide variety of municipally funded improvements. Beginning in 1908, having renamed most of the city's streets to reflect the influence of the orchard industry⁴ and succumbed to local pressure to assign street numbers, Medford began a huge street paving program. By 1911, with eighteen miles of paved streets within its borders, Medford boasted of being the "best paved city of its size in the world!" (*MMT, 18-June-1911, 2nd, 1:1-8*) During this same period the city government made other improvements to its infrastructure, including the development of an improved city water supply, local parks, sewer facilities, and street lighting, as well as overseeing the installation of the city's first private electrical and telephone distribution systems. By World War I, Medford had grown from a small 19th century town into a true "city," with all the era's modern systems and services.

In the years immediately following incorporation Medford's government, the Board of Trustees, held its meetings in the personal quarters of the city's elected recorder, changing venues as dictated by the each election.

Then, in 1890, a room was rented from Adkins and Webb, local hardware merchants, and this remained the location of the city councils' meetings until August 1894. At that time, the Board accepted the proposition of Mr. G. H.

³ *Medford Mail Tribune 1-December-1910, 1:1.*

⁴ Streets running east-west within the original town plat were renamed from their original alphabetic designations to reflect various orchard projects. "A" Street became "Apple," "B" Street became Bartlett and so on, up through "Rose" at the western edge of the city. It was also during this period that the "county road" was renamed "Riverside" and 7th Street became "Main." See *Medford Council Minutes 18-January-1908* and *Medford Mail Tribune 20-April-1908, 1:3.*

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Section Number: 8 Page: 3

Medford Central Fire Hall

Haskins to rent the hall in the second story of his general mercantile store at 214 East Main Street for \$42 per year.⁵

Medford's city government, converted from the Board of Trustees to a council-mayor format in 1901, continued to meet in the Haskins Building until early 1906. In February of that year the Council entered into a monthly lease for the "Bradshaw Building" which stood on the north side of Sixth street, between Central and Front. (*Wolfe, 1987:11*) This building was in view of the small "hosecart house" and jail that the city had constructed in 1898, Medford's first city-owned buildings. It was on this site that the city decided to construct its new city hall and fire station.

ARCHITECT AND CONTRACTORS: ORIGINAL VOLUME [NORTH]

In mid-1907, the Medford City Council retained John A. McIntosh to prepare plans "For a fire barn and office rooms for the city officials."⁶ McIntosh, a prominent area architect during the early years of the century, prepared two designs, apparently as a hedge against potential funding issues. On August 14th, 1907 he presented his plans for both a one and two story city hall, constructed of either brick or concrete, to the Medford City Council. The plans were accepted and the Council ordered the City Recorder to advertise the bids in two local papers, with the bid to close at 12:00 noon, 3-September-1907. (*Council, 14-August-1907*)

Upon the bid opening, the two responses were from Mr. Reinhart and Mr. Moyers, bidding \$7970.20 and \$7975 respectively.

These bids were both for the two-story structure, and as the cost exceeded that contemplated by the council, both bids were referred to a special committee consisting of [Council members] Ossenbrugee, Hafer and Barkdull, who will go over them Thursday. The bids for a one story hall were Mayers (*sic*), \$6764.20 and Reinhart, \$7150.⁷

By early October, the Council had re-thought the City Hall issue and ordered the Recorder to again advertise for bids. Through the committee process, almost certainly

⁵ Mark Wolfe, "Medford's First City Hall," *The Table Rock Sentinel*, Vol. 7, No. 6, (June 1987), 10-17. The Adkins building survives at 220 East Main Street, a few doors east of the Haskins Drug Store Building, which also survives. Both buildings have been serially altered to accommodate later commercial uses, typical of Medford's commercial core.

⁶ *Medford City Council Minutes*, 29-July-1907.

⁷ *Medford Daily Tribune*, 11-September-1907, 2:1-2.

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Medford Central Fire Hall

with the involvement of McIntosh, the second advertisement was for a two-story brick structure only. At the same meeting the architect was paid \$60 for his services to date and the bid opening was set for October 10th. Benjamin Collins, City Recorder, published the following "Notice to Contractors;"

Sealed proposals for the erection and completion of a two story pressed brick and granite front fire hall will be received at the office of the city recorder of Medford up to 5 p.m. of October 10th, 1907. Plans and specifications of the work can be seen at the office of J. A. McIntosh, architect, Medford, Oregon. (*Daily, 8-October-1907, 1:5*)

At a special session held in the evening of the October 10th, the two bids, again from Messrs. Reinhart and Moyer, were opened and "...The bid offered by A. S. Moyer being the lowest, it was moved by Hafer and seconded by Trowbridge that the contract for the construction of the city hall and fire barn be awarded to Mr. A. S. Moyer for the sum \$8140.25... said building to be built according to the plans and specifications as drawn by Mr. McIntosh and accepted by the city council." (*Council, 10-September-1907*)

The local press reported the award of the contract for the construction of Medford's first city hall as another sign of the city's prosperity and bright prospects. The following day the council action in awarding the contract for construction of the 25' x 100' brick building was printed on page 1.

Work on this building will be commenced at once and when completed it will be one of the most substantial brick buildings in the city. (*Daily, 11-October-1907, 1:3*)

Moyer subcontracted the brickwork of the new building to prominent local mason, contractor, and brickyard owner, G.W. Priddy. "G. W. Priddy and Co. have the brick work on the new city hall building...Mr. Priddy's bid on the brick and cement work complete is \$4569.50." (*Daily, 15-October-1907, 1:2*)

John A. McIntosh:

The architect of the original volume of the Medford Central Fire Hall was John A. McIntosh. Comparatively little is known regarding McIntosh's training and later life. Born in Oregon in 1879, he was married at age twenty-one and had two children. Arriving first in Ashland and living with his mother and siblings, McIntosh moved to Medford in December 1905 and established his architectural

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Medford Central Fire Hall

practice early the following year. (*Wolfe, 1987:11*)⁸ He lived in a house he likely designed at 156 North Orange, at the time one of Medford's most attractive "Bungalow" blocks. McIntosh was reported as the designer of the D. T. Lawton residence,⁹ and designed a one-story brick building for local real estate investor C. W. Palm. Besides the Medford Central Fire Hall, McIntosh designed at least two other known public structures, both of which still stand. These are the Jacksonville School [now the Cascade Christian School]¹⁰ and the Medford Carnegie Library, the later of which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.¹¹ In 1911, the Medford press reported that McIntosh was in the process of divorcing his wife, Clara.¹² He apparently left southern Oregon shortly thereafter and no additional information regarding McIntosh or his subsequent activities was located.

A. S. Moyer:

The general contractor of the original volume of the Medford Central Fire Hall was Abraham S. Moyer. Born in Indiana in 1879, Moyer was married in 1901 and moved to Oregon sometime after 1903, presumably settling in Medford. Predominately a carpenter specializing in wood-frame residential work, Moyer was active in the booming construction spurred by the city's dramatic growth after 1905. He was reported as the contractor of the David Foote residence (address unknown) and the E. D. Elwood House, (333 South Central), among others.¹³ Following the completion of the Fire Hall, Moyer relocated to Ashland. There, forming a partnership with John Van Natta, he served as the general contractor for Ashland's Carnegie Library, completed in 1912. (*MMT, 23-May-1911, 6:1*) Moyer appears to have left the Rogue Valley by 1915 and no additional information regarding his life was located.

G. W. Priddy:

Given that Moyer was primarily skilled in wood-frame construction, he wisely subcontracted the masonry portion of the Medford Central Fire Hall project to George W. Priddy, one of the most prolific brick masons in southern Oregon.

⁸ See also *Medford Mail*, 8-December-1905, 5:4.

⁹ *Medford Mail*, 23-March-1906, 5:2.

¹⁰ Built in 1907-8 by Charles Veghte, the Jacksonville Schoolhouse was ranked as "Primary" in Gail Evans, *Jacksonville Historic Survey*, 1980, and identified as Site No. 289.

¹¹ See *Jacksonville Post*, 15-September-1907, 5:1 and *Medford Mail Tribune*, 4-June-1911, 2:2.

¹² *Medford Mail Tribune*, 6-September-1911, 2:3.

¹³ *Medford Mail*, 9-February-1906, 5:1 and 6-October-1905, 5:3.

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Born in Kentucky in 1866, it is not clear when the unmarried Priddy first arrived in Oregon. As early as 1892 he was working in the Medford area on the earliest of his many identified projects, a brick addition to the Slover's Drug Store building. (*Mail, 28-October-1892, 3:5*) In 1910, Priddy resided on North Orange, a short distance from architect McIntosh.

Over his long career, Priddy built a large number of the buildings in Medford's commercial core area. These include the Halley Building (1893, 8th and South Central), the Nash Livery Stable addition (1897, N. Front Street), The Medford Bank Building, (1899, demolished), the I. W. Thomas Building (1902, Grape and W. Main), and the John F. White Building (1906, West Main).¹⁴ Among his other projects was a brick city jail, Medford's first city-owned building, constructed in 1898. (*Mail, 22-April-1898, 7:3*) In addition to his extensive contracting business, Priddy was also the owner of the Medford Brick Company, established prior to 1897, assuring a steady supply of materials for the City Hall project.¹⁵

Unlike McIntosh and Moyer, Priddy remained in southern Oregon, continuing to be active in the construction industry. As late as 1942 he was still living in Medford, residing at 718 Bennett Avenue.

CONSTRUCTION: ORIGINAL VOLUME [NORTH]

Following the award of the contract, the construction of the new Medford Central Fire Hall began immediately. The hosecart and brick jail which stood on the site, the latter being the one constructed by Priddy, were both razed by late October 1907.

Material is being placed on the ground for the new city hall and the old jail is being torn down this week. Work will be pushed as rapidly as possible on the new building, which when completed will be a credit to the city. The plans provide for offices for the executive officials, council chamber, police court room, fire house, and a jail. (*Mail, 25-October-1907, 5:3*)

While few citations regarding construction progress could be found in either of Medford's daily papers of the period, in his "State of City" address at the beginning of 1908 Medford Mayor J. F. Reddy reported that;

¹⁴ See *Medford Mail*, 26-May-1893, 12-November-1897, 23-June-1899, and 24-October-1906.

¹⁵ Shortly prior to the construction of the Medford Central Fire Hall, Priddy sold a two-thirds interest in the brick yard to O. D. Nagle and it was reported that the business would dramatically expand production to meet demand. (See *Medford Mail*, 23-August-1907, 5:2)

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The new city hall and fire house *is nearing completion*, and when completed will furnish the city with headquarters at ... less expense than at present, as well as supplying suitable housing for our fire apparatus. (*Daily*, 8-January-1908, 3:3, *emphasis added*)

In early 1908, sporadic reports of the construction progress appear in the local press. The Oregon Granite Company was paid for its work on the facade in January 1908 and in mid-February, the bid of the Panly Jail Building Company of St. Louis was accepted for the cell doors of the new jail. (*Daily*, 12-February-1908, 1:5) Following the completion of the walls, Moyer's crew worked to finish off the interior spaces and the City Council held its first meeting in the new city hall on 1-May-1908. Surprisingly, this event received little notice in the press — both papers apparently consumed by the fractious City Council itself and the huge projects then underway.¹⁶

LIBRARY USE:

In February 1908, as the construction on the new city building was underway, a delegation of members of The Greater Medford Club, a civic booster group, appeared before the City Council.

Mrs. M. L. Alford, E. N. Warner, and W. I. Vawter...were present and requested permission of the Council to use the Council Chamber of the new City Hall for a reading room for the public library, at such times as said room is not in use by the council. After discussion it is **MOVED** by Merrick and seconded by Wortman that their request by granted; motion carried. (*Council*, 25-February-1908)¹⁷

The Medford Library Association had been formed in 1903, using books loaned from Haskins Drug Store. (Atwood & O'Harra, 1985:33) The group presumably merged into the Greater Medford Club project, evidence of the widespread civic support given libraries given by the business and service segments of society during the period. The Greater

¹⁶ Both the press and the Council were preoccupied with the award of the city's electrical power franchise to the Condor Water and Power Company, then in the process of finalizing the hydroelectric facility known as Gold Ray Dam.

¹⁷ While certainly both a laudable and reasonable action on the Council's part, it is interesting to note that Mrs. Alford was married to the Jackson County Sheriff, Mrs. Vawter to the President of the Jackson County Bank, and, perhaps most importantly, Mrs. Warner to the senior member of the Warner, Wortman and Gore Grocery — a firm whose middle partner was Councilman Wortman, who conveniently seconded the required motion.

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Medford Club looked forward to an improved library facility and happily reported on the suitability of the new chamber.

The club went in a body to inspect the council room and all declared it an ideal place for a library, well lighted, ventilated, and centrally located. Shelves will be put in and a librarian is to be employed. (*Mail*, 3-April-1907, 5:3)

Although a substantial improvement over the former library at Haskins Drug Store, the new quarters in the City Council chambers were considered only a temporary solution to Medford's growing library needs. In 1911, the long-sought assistance from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie resulted in a grant for the construction of a new, specialized facility. Medford's Carnegie Library, designed by McIntosh, opened in February 1912 and remains the city's only public library facility today.

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITION [SOUTH]

As Medford continued to expand in size during the Orchard Boom period, some interest in expanding the City Hall was voiced. (*Wolfe*, 1987:14) This need was substantially reduced, first in 1912 with the removal of the library and, more importantly, by the end of 1912-1913 when the Orchard Boom began to wane. Medford lost population during the middle of the decade and city finances were presumably unable to justify any new construction. In 1915, however, with Medford's population still in decline, the idea of expanding city hall was again raised. The Council retained architect Frank Chamberlain Clark to design an addition that would double the size of the original volume.¹⁸ Basically consisting of two walls, the addition was to be an in-fill volume occupying the 25' wide lot to the south, using both the original 1908 volume on the north and the Nash Livery Stable building, on the south, for party walls.¹⁹ The now combined local newspaper, the *Medford Mail Tribune*, was an enthusiastic, if not entirely accurate, supporter of the idea.

When the present city hall was built, Medford had 2500 population, no paved streets, no adequate water system, few municipal improvements, and

¹⁸ Frank Chamberlain Clark was among the most prolific and respected architects in the southern Oregon area for more than 50 years. His many residential and commercial projects, including a number now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, were thoroughly documented in Atwood & Evans, *Frank Chamberlain Clark Inventory*, (SOHS, 1980). The Medford Central Fire Hall is included in that survey as Site # 25. Clark's addition, essentially mimicking the earlier McIntosh design, was ranked as "Minor" within the body of his work

¹⁹ The bearing masonry Nash Livery and Feed Stable was constructed circa 1895. See Kramer, *Medford Downtown Area Survey, Phase I*, 1993-94, Site No. #29.

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no paid fire department...The improvements that are planned are not costly or elaborate, but such as the occasion demands...This modest expenditure for a necessity cannot be called an extravagance, but along progressive lines.

The editor concluded, however, with the more likely justification for the construction;

When times are dull and work is scarce is the proper time for public improvements. The work can be done for less and the city should do its share in providing employment for the idle. (*MMT, 4-June-1915, 4:2-3*)

Upon consideration, the Council determined to put the question of expanding the City Hall before the electorate to vote on the bond issue that would be required to finance the estimated \$8000 expenditure. The *Mail Tribune* was less than pleased with the lack of decisiveness.

The city council dodges the problem of enlarging the city hall by referring it to the people...[the election] will start a score of real estate schemers at work. We shall hear talk to the effect that the city hall is in the wrong place, that we should [build] a "civic center," [or] that an elaborate costly structure should be built...(*MMT 5-June-1915, 4:2-3*)

There appears to have been little support for the expansion project and little published commentary on the election issue was located. Sometime prior to the January 1916 vote, the *Mail Tribune* dramatically reversed its position on the project, and urged defeat of the measure.

While the city perhaps needs more room, it had got along very well in the past year without it...[and] there seems little reason why the city's indebtedness should be increased at this time...Citizens have to cut out the frills in these times and the city employees can follow suit. (*MMT, 10-January-1916, 4:2-3*)

The measure was defeated by a 4 to 1 margin. Five years later, the City Council again determined to expand the city's offices. Expense was still an issue, however, and the project was to be phased to save money. Construction of the addition began in January 1921, apparently using the same plans Frank Clark had prepared earlier. (*Wolfe, 1987:15*)

Work was begun this morning in preparing the foundation of the big addition to the city hall building...When the addition is completed the city hall will have a fifty-foot frontage on Front Street...While the addition will be same height as the present structure, its second floor will not be finished until such time as the council has more funds at its disposal. No walls will have to

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be constructed for the addition, as the wall of the present structure and that of the brick building to the south will be used....The work of construction is being done by day labor with well-known contractor R. I. Stewart (*sic*) as the city's foreman. The new structure will be completed and occupied by spring. (MMT, 25-January-1925)²⁰

The building of the new addition to the city hall is well under way and attracts a small crowd of sightseers all day long. The frame work of the new reinforced concrete 10 ft. by 20 ft. vault was completed this morning and this afternoon the work of pouring the concrete was to be begun. The walls of this vault are to be composed of steel, brick and concrete 20 inches thick. (MMT, 29-January-1921, 2-3)

No specific mention could be located regarding the completion of the addition but it is assumed that the city government expanded into its new quarters by summer 1921. The period of the mid-1920s, particularly the years 1926-1927 were again characterized by dramatic growth in Medford. In 1926, after years of negotiation with the Southern Pacific Railroad, Medford finally secured the ability to open Sixth Street through town, creating only the second direct east-to-west link across the tracks. In anticipation of that event, many new structures were built along West Sixth Street, including the "Panatorium" and the Holly Theater. The Medford Central Fire Hall, opposite the depot, was well-located within the center of Medford's bustling business core.

POST CITY HALL USE: 1932-1944

By the late 1920s, the City of Medford had continued to expand and began considering a new, larger, and more modern city hall. Frank Chamberlain Clark was retained to design an impressive new City Hall to be located at the NW corner of the intersection of Fifth and Central streets.

In less than 10 years [since completing the addition] the city was looking at the possibility of a new building. The amount of the bond issue for the new hall was set at \$60,000 in March 1927. The contract was awarded the following June to R. I. Stuart and Son...(Wolfe, 1987:16)

²⁰ "Well-known contractor Richard I. *Stuart* was responsible for a number of significant structures in the Medford area. Arriving in the valley in shortly after the turn-of-the century to oversee construction of the Medford Natatorium, Stuart was later responsible for both the Fluhrer Bakery Building (National Register of Historic Places) and the Craterian Theater, among others.

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Despite the construction of the new city hall, the Medford Central Fire Hall remained the focus of city government. Following the 1927 election which shifted the Jackson County seat from Jacksonville to Medford, the City had agreed to provide the new facility rent-free to the County government until a new courthouse could be constructed. So, not until the Jackson County Courthouse, at Main and Oakdale, was completed in 1932 could Medford's city offices actually move into the new structure.²¹ The Fifth and Central building remained Medford's City Hall until the construction of the present facility, designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, at the corner of Eighth and Oakdale. Located diagonally opposite the Courthouse and just south of Medford's Carnegie Library, the construction of Medford's present city hall created the "civic center" the *Mail Tribune* had forecast in 1915. Medford's second city hall, at Fifth and Central, was demolished and its site is now a municipal parking lot.

Though vacated by the City in 1932, ownership of the Medford Central Fire Hall was retained. Various public and non-profit entities were apparently given free or low-cost use of the offices. The Salvation Army had been permitted to use the facility at some unknown period prior to May 1933. (*MMT, 17-May-1933, 5:3*) That month the Council granted use of the second floor to the Civilian Conservation Core, who were building a large base camp in the Medford vicinity.²²

In the mid-1930s, the City Council, seeking to improve rental potential for the building, undertook a renovation to the first floor facade to make it more attractive for commercial uses. Prior to this the old city hall had retained the early wooden doors that permitted storage of fire apparatus—hardly appropriate for retail use.

On the recommendation of the building and light committee... the council voted to remodel the first floor corner room of the old city hall at Front and Sixth Streets at a total cost of \$900 of which \$400 would be for materials and \$500 for labor....Mr. Duell, committee member, said the corner space "has been vacant for a long time and might well remain so in its present condition....(*Medford Mail Tribune, 6-May-1936, 1:8*)

It is not clear if the City's remodeling efforts were successful in attracting a new tenant. In 1942, with the construction of the U. S. Army's training facility, Camp White, on the Agate Desert east of Medford, the former city hall building was again offered rent-free for

²¹ Designed by architect John G. Link, the Jackson County Courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

²² See Glen Howell, C. C. C. *Boys Remember*. (Medford: Klocker Printery, 1976).

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governmental usage, serving as a U. S. Army First Aid Station. This was one of the many off-base facilities provided to serve the approximately 40,000 military personnel that swamped Medford's facilities during Camp White's training period.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP: 1944-

In 1944, with the reduction in population at Camp White and the corresponding decline in need for government office space, the City's "land appraisals committee" suggested the sale of the old city hall building. In April, John O. Cupp, a longtime Medford furniture dealer, purchased the structure for \$12,000.²³

The two-story brick building...houses the Furniture Exchange on the first floor and an army prophylactic station on the second...In adopting the ordinance for the sale...the council stipulated that the old fire bell which still hangs in the tower atop the building be returned to the old volunteer firemen who purchased it many years ago when the fire hall was located there. (*MMT, 5-April-1944, 1:4*)²⁴

Cupp's ownership was short-lived and by 1949 the property had been purchased by Hugh L. and Elva M. Woods, apparently as a rental. (JCD 318:413) Polk Directories for the following year show the Southern Oregon Stamp Works occupying the first floor of the addition while the Barneburg and Andrews Furniture (102 East Sixth) and the Busy Bee Cafe (110 East Sixth) occupied the original volume. While unclear, the furniture company likely used the second floor for storage. The stamp company closed by 1953, but the furniture company and cafe remained for most of the decade. In 1956 the Medford Central Fire Hall was purchased by D'Anjou Properties Incorporated, a partnership which included Frank Van Dyke. Van Dyke, a prominent area resident, was trained as an attorney and had served as the Medford-Jackson County Coordinator in planning the community's services as the result of the construction of Camp White. Elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1943, he served as Speaker of the Oregon House in during the 1949-50 session.²⁵ Retiring from public life, his law practice, Van Dyke, Dellenback, and McGoodwin, relocated to 110 East Sixth upon the D'Anjou purchase. The law firm, evolving into Van Dyke, Dellenback, and DuBay, and then to Van Dyke and DuBay following John Dellenback's election to the United State House of Representatives, remained in this space until the late 1970s.

²³ Jackson County Deed Records, 250:535.

²⁴ This fire bell is now located in front of Medford's fire station #4, at 2208 Table Rock Road, north of the city's center.

²⁵ Capitol's Who's Who for Oregon. (Portland: Capitol Publishing Company, 1953), 236.

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Retained by the Van Dyke family, the Medford Central Fire Hall continued to house small retail and office uses. In recent years the corner location was used as a barber shop, various architectural offices were located on the second floor and a shoe repair business occupied the former jail area at the northeast corner of the building. One of the most long-lived tenants of the second floor was the administrative offices of Jacksonville's Britt Music Festival. The present owner purchased the property from the Van Dyke estate in 1994.

SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1908 with an substantial addition completed in 1921, the Medford Central Fire Hall is associated with a variety of prominent contractors in the early history of Medford and two of the region's most influential architects; John A. McIntosh and Frank Chamberlain Clark. The building was the first municipally-owned structure to serve as Medford's City Hall and continued to serve in that role for twenty-four years. As the focus of local government, the Medford Central Fire Hall served the city during a dramatic period of population and economic growth that helped secure Medford's position as the major commercial and governmental center of southern Oregon. During the period, the City Council debated huge public works projects, including an initial program of street paving, the development of the Big Butte Springs water system, a system which continues to provide Medford with abundant water, expansion of the city's parks and the development of the public library. During World War II the Medford Central Fire Hall was used by the U. S. Army as a service facility in association with the construction of Camp White. Following the relocation of city government to the now-demolished 1932 City Hall, the Medford Central Fire Hall was eventually sold and served a variety of private enterprises, most notably the law firm of former Oregon Speaker of the House, Frank Van Dyke and future U. S. Congressman John Dellenback.

As the single best structure representing the early 20th century development of the City of Medford and the modernization program undertaken by its elected officials in the first quarter of the century, the Medford Central Fire Hall holds significant association under Criterion "A" of the National Register of Historic Places. While the first floor of the building shows the evidence of remodeling to meet post-government retail and office use, the second floor remains essentially as constructed, reflecting the building's original appearance and design. The Medford Central Fire Hall accurately relates the historical associations which make it significant and effectively conveys its role in the history of the City of Medford during the early years of the 20th century.

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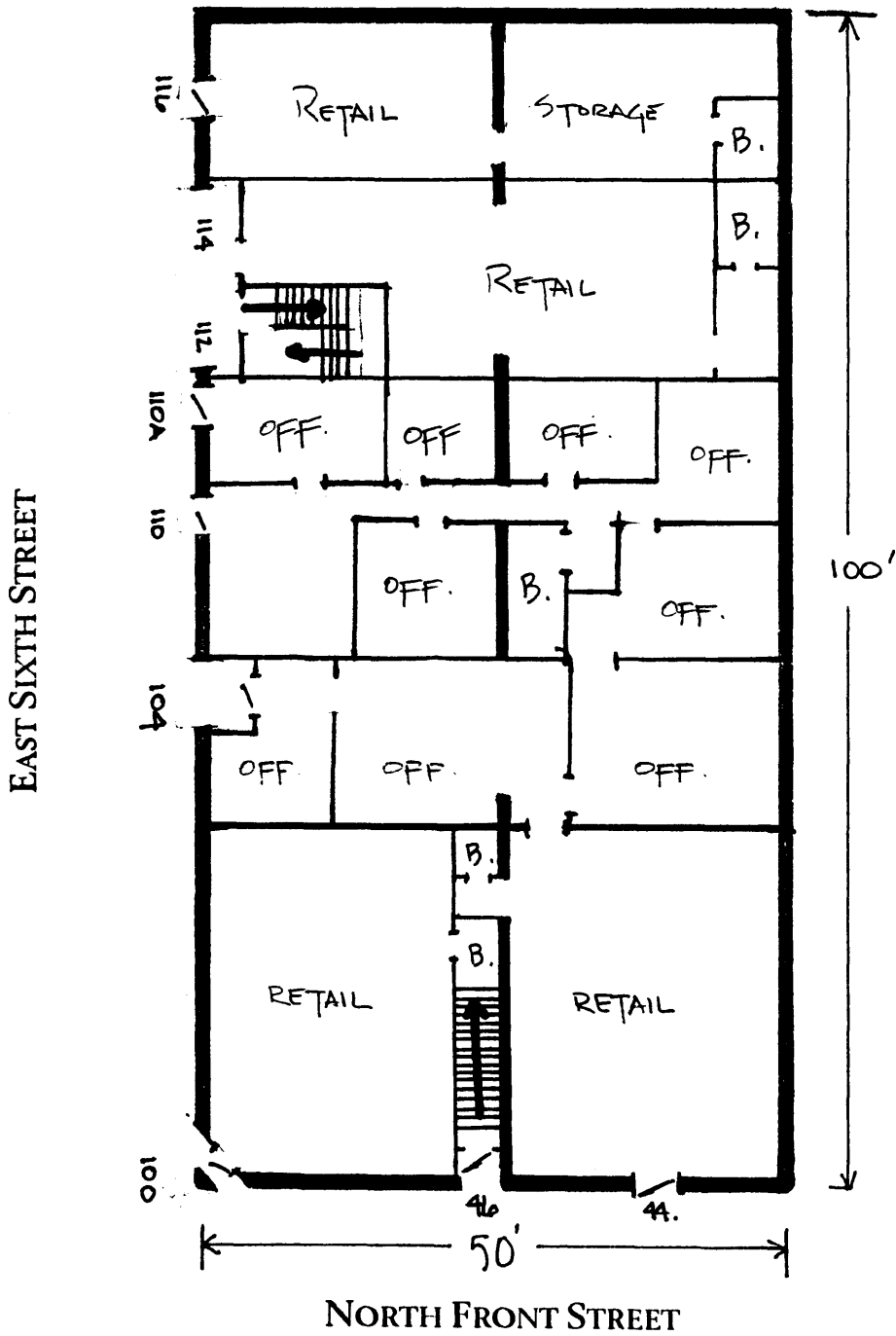
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated parcel consists of all of Lots 5 and 6, Block 22, as shown on Jackson County Assessor's Plat 37S1W30BC as Tax Lot 1500. This rectangular parcel is approximately fifty (50) feet wide and one hundred (100) feet deep, and is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Sixth and North Front streets in the Original Town Plat area of downtown Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. The building contains multiple address designations, including 42 to 46 North Front Street and 100 to 116 East Sixth Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated area includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Medford Central Fire Hall, including both the 1908 original volume and the 1921 addition, as sold by the City of Medford to John O. Cupp in 1944 and described in Jackson County Deed 250:535, filed in April of that year.

PUBLIC ALLEY

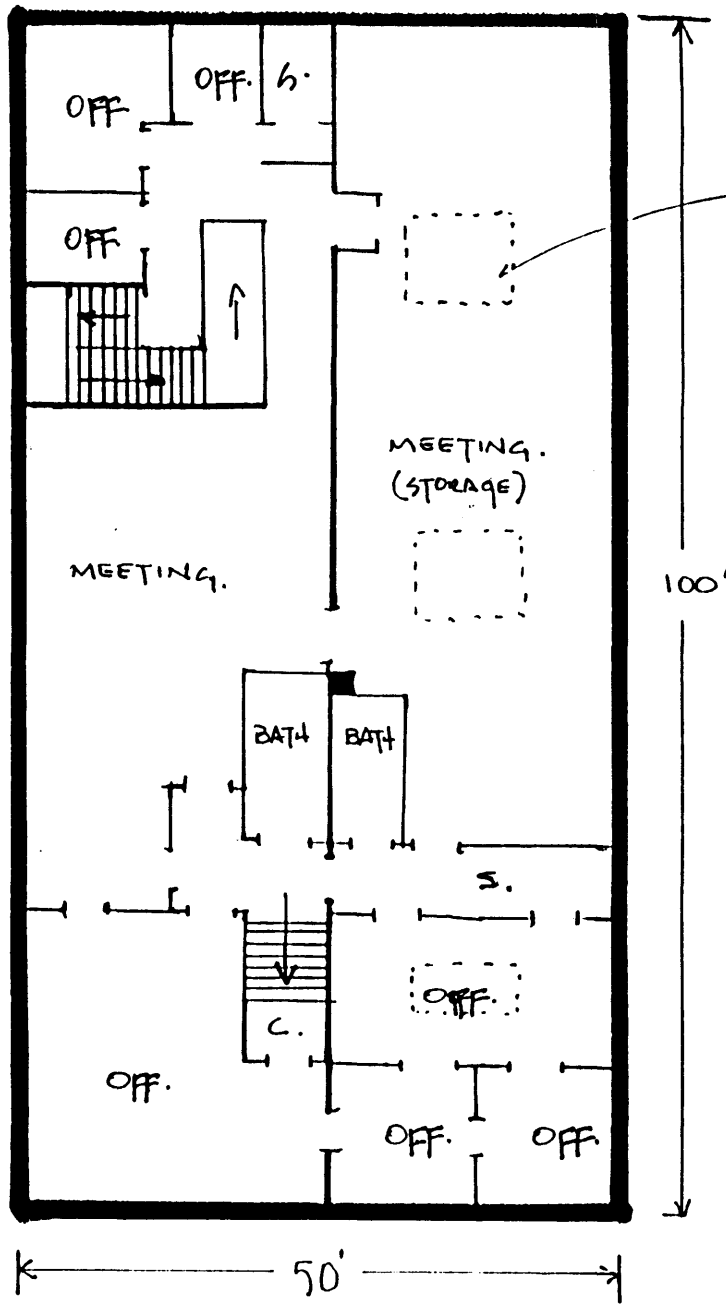


**FIRST [GROUND] FLOOR
SKETCH FLOOR PLAN**
— APPROXIMATE SCALE ONLY —

Medford Central Fire Hall
110 East Sixth Street
Medford Oregon

PUBLIC ALLEY

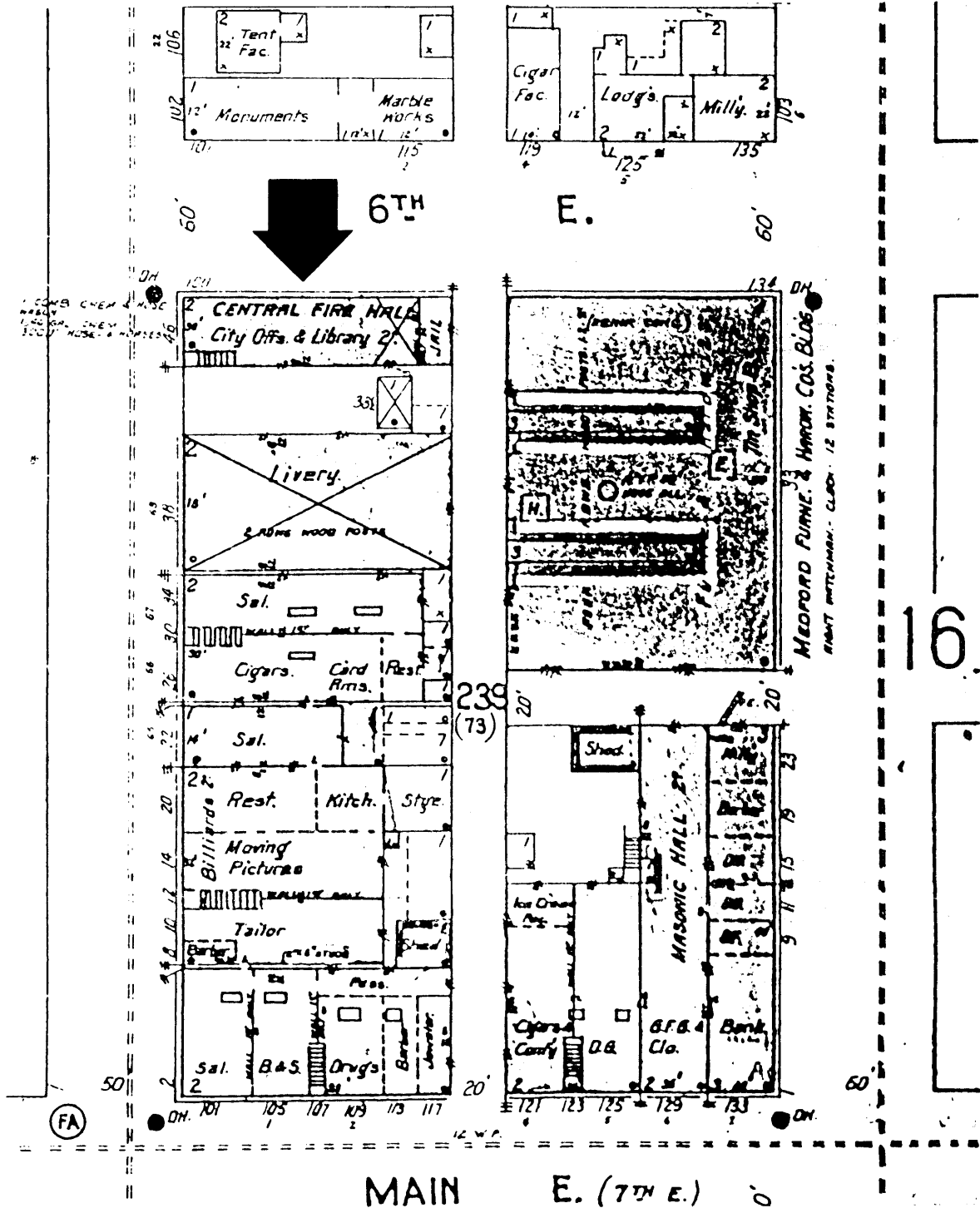
EAST SIXTH STREET



NORTH FRONT STREET

**SECOND [UPPER] FLOOR
SKETCH FLOOR PLAN**
— APPROXIMATE SCALE ONLY —

Medford Central Fire Hall
110 East Sixth Street
Medford Oregon



SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP
 — SHEET 15, 1911 —
 Medford Central Fire Hall
 110 East Sixth Street
 Medford Oregon

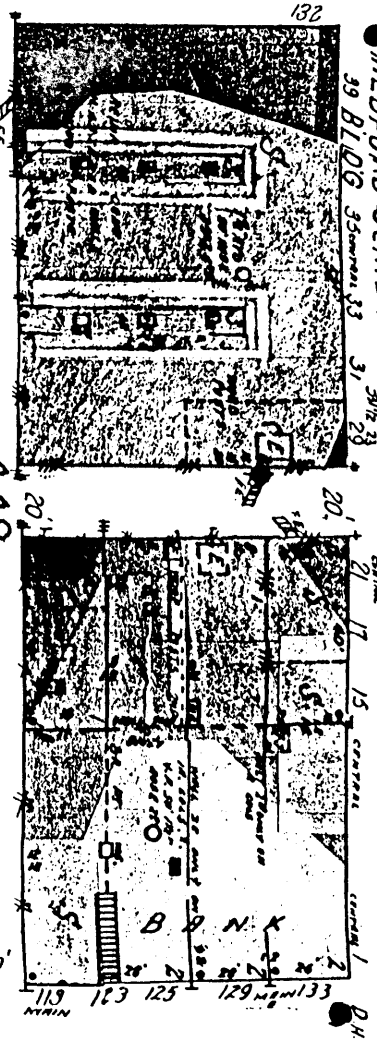
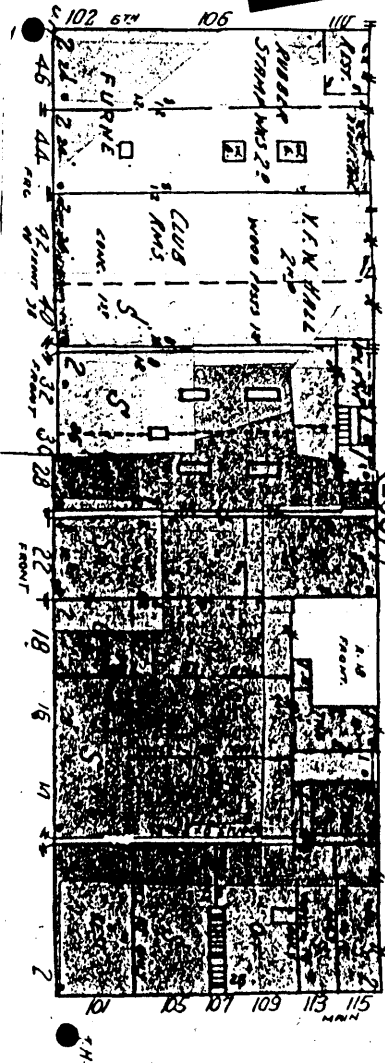
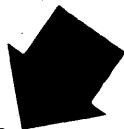
60'

6TH

ST. E. 60 ft. wide

60'

8" W.P.



7TH MEDFORD CENTER

AV. N

39 BLDG 35 MAR 33

31 3 1/2 28

8" W.P.

60'

12'

10" W.P.

80'

----- MAIN E.

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP
 — SHEET 15, 1927, UPDATED 1937 —

Medford Central Fire Hall
 110 East Sixth Street
 Medford Oregon

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Medford Central Fire Hall

1. Historic View: Medford Central Fire Hall, West and North facing elevations with horse drawn fire wagon
Looking: Southeast from intersection of East Sixth and North Front streets
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: circa June 1908
Negative: Southern Oregon Historical Society image #906, used with permission
2. Historic View: Medford Central Fire Hall, West and North facing elevations, "No. 32, Fire Hall and Auto Truck, Medford, Oregon"
Looking: Southeast, across North Front Street
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: circa August 1908
Negative: Southern Oregon Historical Society image #14610, used with permission
3. Historic Interior: Medford Central Fire Hall, Original Volume, First Floor, with fire wagon and horses
Looking: East, from North Front Street Entry
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: circa December 1909
Negative: Terry Skibby Collection, Ashland. Used with permission
4. Historic Interior: Medford Central Fire Hall, Original Volume, Second Floor, Fire Fighters room
Looking: East
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: December 1909
Negative: Terry Skibby Collection, Ashland. Used with permission
5. Current View: West and North facing elevations
Looking: Southeast, from intersection of East Sixth and North Front streets
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [14a]
6. Current View: West facing [primary] elevation
Looking: East, across North Front Street
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [3a]

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Medford Central Fire Hall

7. Current View: North facing elevation
Looking: Southeast, across East Sixth Street
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [12a]
8. Current View: East facing [rear] elevation
Looking: Southwest, across rear paved alley off East Sixth Street
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [22a]
9. Current Detail: West facing elevation, second floor exterior detail
Looking: East
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [27a]
10. Current Detail: Corner turret at NW building corner
Looking: southeast
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer m [17a]
11. Current Detail: Brickwork at West facing [Primary] elevation showing brick seam
between original [left] and addition [right] volumes
Looking: East, from sidewalk
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [18a]
12. Current Detail: Wooden storefront detailing, West facing elevation, 42 North Front
entryway
Looking: East, from sidewalk
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: June 1995
Negative: Collection of the Photographer [20a]