

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 9 1986  
date entered NOV 6 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Polk County Bank Number of contributing resources: 1  
and/or common Same Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number 295 East Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Monmouth N/A vicinity of Fifth Congressional District  
state Oregon code 41 county Polk code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Dan Weaver  
street & number PO Box 36  
city, town Independence N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97351

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse  
street & number 850 Main Street  
city, town Dallas state Oregon 97338

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1976  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE  
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Polk County Bank in Monmouth, Oregon is a rare example locally of architecture in the Queen Anne style. The one-story building consists of two distinct sections. The northern half was built in 1896 following a fire which destroyed much of the original bank; the southern half dates from 1889. It is not known who the architect was for either of the buildings. However, the contractors for the 1889 building are believed to have been Jackson and Hutchin, who constructed numerous important buildings in the area including Independence National Bank (1891) in the neighboring town. Brick for the older portion may have come from the brickyard of J. R. Cooper near Independence, who prepared a bid for the project. No documentation was uncovered identifying who actually won the contract. Brick for the 1896 building was supplied by the Newberg Brick and Terra Cotta Company, which later became the Willamina Clay Products Company.

The Bank is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Broad Streets, west of Highway 99W in downtown Monmouth. The area is currently zoned retail-commercial. The domed tower of the building stands out in the neighborhood of one and two-story late 19th Century and post World War II buildings. To the north, across Main Street, are a brick bank and concrete block fast food outlet, both constructed within the last 15 years. To the east, across Broad Street, is a turn-of-the-century brick building which has been re-sided with aluminum, and to the south of subject building is a turn-of-the-century residence. Immediately adjacent on the west are two brick buildings which appear to be approximately contemporaneous with the bank as they exhibit the same general characteristics and corbelled brick ornament.

### Exterior

The Polk County Bank is a one-story rectangular building, measuring 22 x 100 feet in all. It has a polygonal tower bay at the northeast corner. The roof is a typical wood truss system. Exterior walls are brick, as is the foundation. There is no basement.

The recessed formal entrance is in the north elevation fronting Main Street. It is fitted with tall, narrow, double doors with transom. The doors are paneled and glazed. Each has a large single light with smaller colored (red and orange) lights above and below. The lower portion of each door has recessed panels with scalloped trim above. A row of stylized ornament (bosses) projects from the rail between the doors and transom. There are two doors in the east elevation, both of them in the older portion of the building on the south end. The largest of the two doors is a Diocletian opening with bold round arch head, side lights and top lights. The original paneled door has been replaced. The secondary door is paneled and glazed and has a transom. Its wall opening is segmentally arched.

Windows in the north half of the building are tall, narrow, double-hung sash with rock-faced cast stone sills and lintels. Those in the south half are somewhat wider double-hung sash set in segmental arched openings with radiating brick voussoirs.

The corner tower bay is the most salient feature of the building. The hexagonal dome is sheathed in pressed tin and at one time was crowned with a lightning rod.

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over six feet tall. It has a row of tiny, closely-spaced, diagonal brackets and a frieze with a repeating circle and cross decorative motif. Below the frieze are three small, round-headed window openings with fanlights. At one time, the word "BANK" in raised letters occupied the middle spandrel panel inset.

Above the flat roof of the building rises a straight-topped parapet, which steps down to the south end, or original portion. The outer corners of the 1896 construction are marked by strip pilasters which rise above the wall plane as brick flues with corbelled caps.

Decorative brickwork, particularly on the corner bay and parapet of the 1896 building, is elaborate. It consists of more than six different patterns. There is nothing else like it in the Independence-Monmouth area. Brick decoration of the older portion of the building is confined to the label molding over the primary entrance and a variety of corbelled string courses at the parapet.

In addition to the above noted decorative detail, a noteworthy feature is the leaded glass window in the upper sash of the window adjacent to the north, or Main Street entrance. The stained glass pattern reads "Polk County Bank" and is reminiscent of Povey Brothers designs, although there is no documentary evidence that the Povey Studio designed this one. The Povey Brothers, Portland craftsmen, came from a long line of English stained and beveled glass makers. Their extremely fine work is found in buildings throughout the Pacific Northwest. Notable examples are found in the Lloyd Frank Library at Lewis and Clark College and St. Mary's Church in Albany. Embedded glass "jewels" of the kind seen in the bank window are characteristic of their designs.

Structural Modifications, Alterations and Additions

The building is solidly constructed of good materials and appears to be structurally sound. Other than the removal of the lightning rod and replacement of doors noted above, the only significant alterations were filling in a door and window on the south (rear) elevation, removal of one of the three corbelled brick flues and boarding over the main entrance bay on the north elevation.

Interior

The original bank area consists of one large room. The south end of the building has been roughly partitioned into four smaller rooms, presumably for uses associated with the newspaper and/or printer who occupied the building in later years. A mezzanine exists above the south end of the main room. It is reached by a small wooden staircase at the rear of the building. Both are in extremely poor condition. The floor surface in the main room is three-inch boards running north and south the length of the room. There is a large concrete area at the south end of the room which acted as a foundation for the safe. In general, the floor is in fair-to-poor condition, having rotted through in some areas and having been patched with concrete. Wall finish is comprised of a variety of materials, including plaster applied directly over brick. In some places this treatment has been covered with boards. Walls in the mezzanine area are lath and plaster. The plain wood door and trim is all original.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1889, 1896 **Builder/Architect** Jackson and Hutchin, builders of 1889 volume

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Prominently sited at the intersection of Main and Broad Streets in Monmouth, Oregon, the Polk County Bank is a one-story brick building in the Queen Anne style. With its polygonal corner tower bay topped by a tin-clad hexagonal dome, the building is distinctive among the commercial buildings of the historic town center as the singular example of its type and style. The salient, main portion of the building was erected in 1896 following a fire which destroyed most of the original bank building built in 1889. However, the earliest episode of construction is represented in the southerly and subordinate portion of the building. The building meets National Register criterion "c" as a generally well-preserved and exceptional example of Queen Anne style architecture locally. It meets criterion "a" as the headquarters of Monmouth's only banking institution from 1889 to 1922. During the historic period, Polk County Bank played a vital role in community development as it was the financial center for the Christian College at Monmouth, later to become Oregon State Normal School, as well as area farmers and merchants.

Architectural Significance

The Polk County Bank building is the only Queen Anne style commercial building in Monmouth. It also is one of the best preserved of the few commercial structures which remain from the 19th Century. It is a departure from the vernacular Italianate and non-historic buildings which line Main Street. Characteristic elements of the Queen Anne style include the polygonal, domed corner bay, a stained glass window light proclaiming the bank title, variegated brick-work, and rock-faced lintels and sills. It has remained little altered since the time of its reconstruction after fire damage in 1896, except for surface remodeling of a section of the north elevation. Brick flues with corbelled caps are intact.

Historical Significance

In the spring of 1850 a small group of people from Illinois set off on the long difficult journey across the plains to Oregon. Their express purpose was "to establish an institution where men and women alike might be schooled in the fundamental principles of religion."<sup>1</sup> These immigrants were true to their goal and soon after their arrival donated 640 acres on which to build a town and college under the auspices of the Christian Church. A townsite, named Monmouth, was platted in 1855 and money from the sale of lots was used to build the college. Originally called Monmouth College, the name subsequently was changed several times: first to Christian College, later to Oregon State Normal School and Oregon College of Education. At present it is officially known as Western Oregon State College. Since its inception in 1855, the school has been a focal

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Monmouth, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	1	0
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 Zone Easting 

4	8	1	6	7	1	0
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 Northing 

4	9	6	1	5	9	1	2	1	0
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B 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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C 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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D 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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E 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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F 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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G 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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H 

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 Zone Easting 

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 Northing 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The Polk County Bank is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 30, Township 8 South, Range 4 West, Willamette Meridian, in Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon. It is legally described as Tax Lot 11300 in said location. The nominated area, measuring 22.4 x 100 feet, is more particularly described as follows. (continued)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Lou Newberg and Julie M. Koler

organization N/A date March 14, 1986

street & number 887 Monmouth Street telephone (503) 838-3280

city or town Independence state Oregon 97351

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

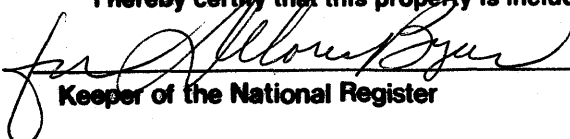
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date October 3, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 11-6-86

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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point for the community. Although the first house and commercial building were built in 1857 and 1856 respectively, and a post office was established as early as 1859, the town did not have a banking facility for almost three decades, relying until that time on institutions in nearby towns.

On September 8, 1888 the following appeared in the Polk County Observer: "Our businessmen have been feeling the need for a bank, and the lack of one has been a great inconvenience. The Board of Improvement has had the matter under consideration since early last spring. President Stanley has made two trips to San Francisco, Portland, and Eugene and arrangements are now complete. The bank will open for business next week." The primary mover behind the bank was David T. Stanley, the industrious president of Christian College from 1881 to 1889. It appears that the forerunner was a private institution owned by Stanley. However, on June 15, 1889 it was incorporated as the Polk County Bank with a total of 500 shares at \$100.00 each. The following week, stockholders met and elected a Board of Directors who subsequently elected the following officials: A. W. Lucas, President Pro-tem; D. T. Stanley, Secretary Pro-tem; D. T. Stanley, President of Bank; J. W. Dawson, Cashier. In the months that followed, the bank rented space in a number of locations around the town while plans were made for construction of a brick bank building. Initially, the site of the bank was to have been on the northwest corner of the Public Square, approximately two blocks west of the present site. It was finally agreed to build on land owned by Stanley and W. H. Parrish on the southwest corner of Main and Broad Streets. One source indicates that this site was chosen because it was further away from the college and in the event of fire the college would be safer. Construction got underway in the spring of 1889 and the bank was open and ready for business by the end of that year.

After his tenure as president of Christian College ended in 1889, David T. Stanley was transferred to Portland, Oregon where he continued to work for the Christian Church. After several months there he was again transferred, this time to California on another assignment for the Church. Thus, Stanley served as president of the Polk County Bank for only a few months before resigning and moving to Portland. The purpose of the Board of Improvement was to erect, construct, equip, buy, sell, rent, lease and maintain buildings in the city of Monmouth for business purposes or otherwise and to buy and sell any land as the same may become necessary or convenient in the interest of promoting the city of Monmouth. Among the incorporators of the improvement company was Frank Lucas, who became a member of the original Board of Directors of the Polk County Bank.

In the early morning hours of September 4, 1896, a fire started in the hardware store of E. H. Catron across Main Street from the bank. Within hours it had consumed the entire block and soon jumped the street destroying much of the bank and several surrounding buildings. With only the bank's foundation and a few feet of wall remaining, plans were soon afoot to reconstruct the building. Three weeks after the fire, the Newberg Graphic reported that President Hawley of the Polk County Bank was in town finalizing plans to purchase 50,000 bricks from

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Jesse Edwards, owner of the Newberg Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company. The new building was constructed within a year. With over \$4,000 in insurance payments, it took on some new features, the most noteworthy being the prominent corner tower.

In 1911 the bank was converted into a National bank and was granted a charter as the First National Bank of Monmouth. By 1922 the institution had outgrown the old building and moved into a newly-constructed building one block west on Main Street.

Ira C. Powell, one of Monmouth's most prominent citizens and a banker of statewide reputation, had been hired by the bank at the time of its incorporation in 1889. His early duties included everything from janitorial and clerical work to loan officer. He served as cashier for a number of years, and by 1915, familiar with every angle of the business, Powell was elected president of the bank, a position he was to hold until 1940. Powell was a charter member of Oregon Banker's Association and chairman of the organizational meeting held in 1905 at the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. He twice served as Mayor of Monmouth and in 1911 served as Polk County representative to the State Legislature.

The significance of Polk County Bank to the community was that it was the only banking institution in the city of Monmouth during the period 1889 to 1922. During this time it played an important role in the development of the community by acting as the financial center for the college as well as the area farming industry. Like Independence National Bank in the neighboring town of Independence, Polk County Bank was notably stable for its duration of 33 years and survived the Panic of 1893 unscathed, partly due to the foresight of a bank employee who stacked coin on the windowsills so that all who passed by on the street could see that the bank was solvent.

Following the bank's move to new quarters, in 1922, the building was purchased by Richard Swenson to become the home of the Monmouth Herald. The paper, founded in 1908 by W. T. Fogle, was first printed in a house on Broad Street. The following year Fogle sold it to D. E. Stiff who was publisher until 1916. The third owner, Richard Swenson, held the paper until his death in 1954, by which time he had willed it to his sons Eric and Irving.

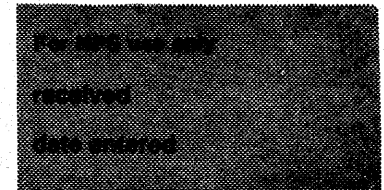
The Swenson brothers published the paper until June, 1969. At that time it was sold to Helen Irvine, owner and publisher of the Independence Enterprise, who then merged the two papers to form the Enterprise - Herald. The newly formed paper moved to a new location and shortly afterward a printing company moved into the old bank building. The current owner bought the property from the Swenson Estate and plans to rehabilitate it, possibly for use as an antique shop and old-fashioned soda fountain.

Footnote

1 The Centennial Story of Monmouth, Oregon 1856-1956, p. 4.

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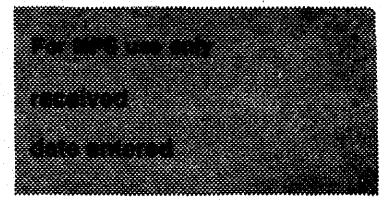
Page 2

1. Scrapbook, Capitol Journal, March 12, 1940.
2. The Centennial Story of Monmouth, Oregon 1856-1956, Pamphlet. Johnson-Siewert, Printers, 1956.
3. Independence Enterprise. January 28, 1910.
4. Independence Enterprise. January 29, 1932.
5. Lang, H.O., History of the Willamette Valley, Portland: Himes and Lang, 1885.
6. The Oregon Statesman. September 5, 1896.
7. Polk County Bank. Historic Photograph, no date. Private collection of Dan Weaver.
8. Polk County Bank Building. Real Estate Appraisal by William C. Barnes. February 27, 1984.
9. Polk County Observer. September 8, 1888.
10. Polk County Observer. October 2, 1896.
11. Powell, Iris. Unrecorded Interviews by Julie M. Koler and Betty Lou Newberg, Monmouth, Oregon. February 11, 1986, February 20, 1986.
12. Powell, Iris. Miscellaneous Clippings - Scrapbook.
13. Sanborn Insurance Maps. 1892, 1902, 1913, 1928.
14. Stump, Lila. Unrecorded Interview by Betty Lou Newberg, Monmouth, Oregon. February 27, 1986.
15. The Sunday Oregonian. November 4, 1904.
16. Polk County Bank. Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings, 1889-1896.
17. Weaver, Dan. Unrecorded Interviews by Julie M. Koler and Betty Lou Newberg, Monmouth, Oregon. February and March 1986.



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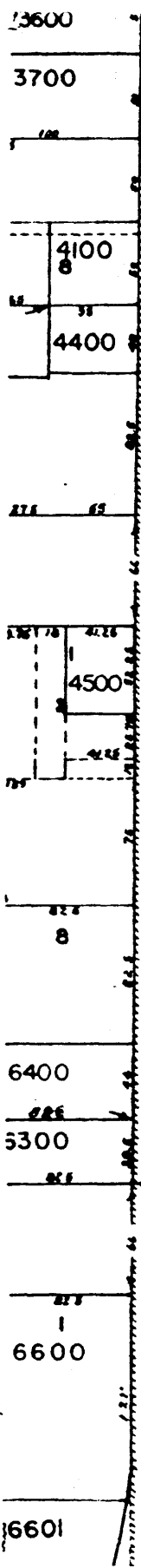


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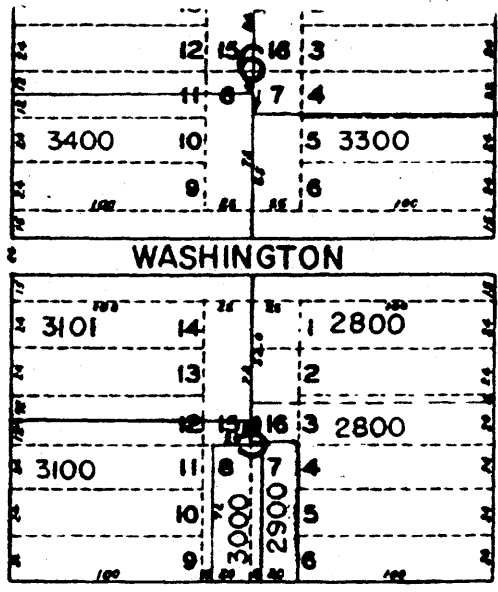
Item number 10

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Beginning at a point which is 227 feet and 8 inches east of the northwest corner of Out Lot numbered 12, in the City of Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon, as shown on the original plat and survey of said town, and running thence east 22 feet and 4 inches; thence south 150 feet; thence west 22 feet and 4 inches; thence north 150 feet to the place of beginning.

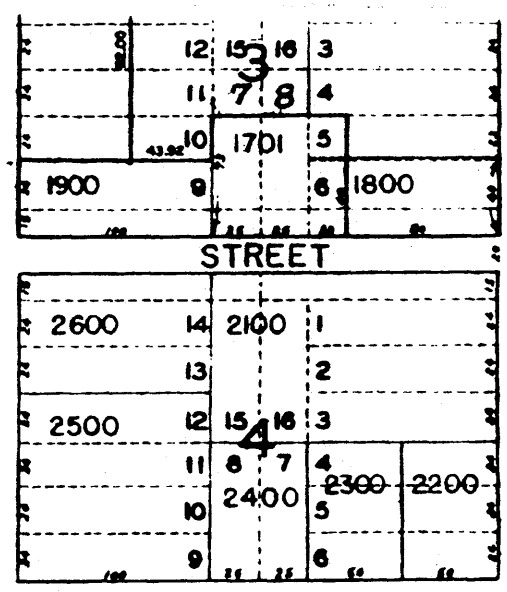


STREET



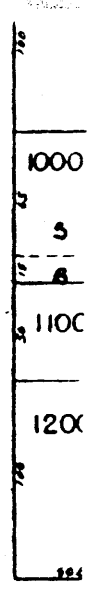
WASHINGTON STREET

STREET

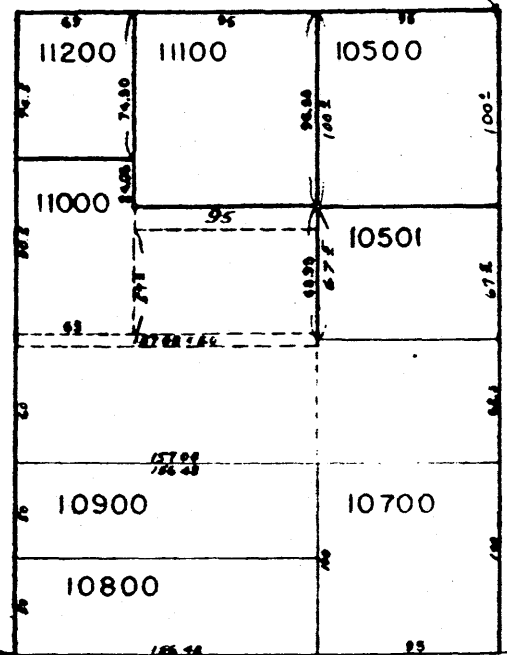
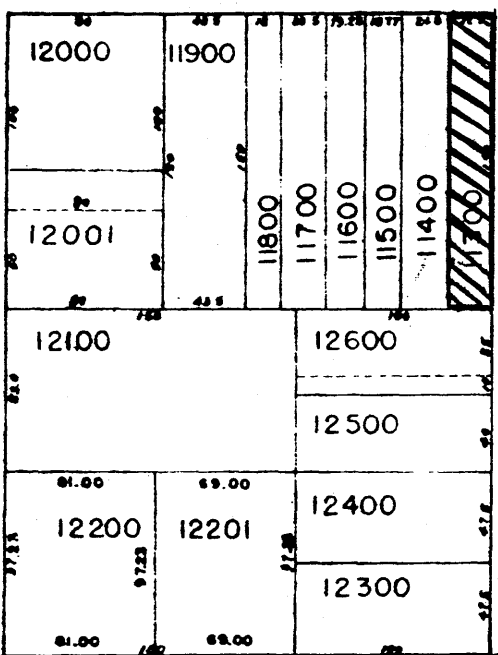


WASHINGTON STREET

STREET

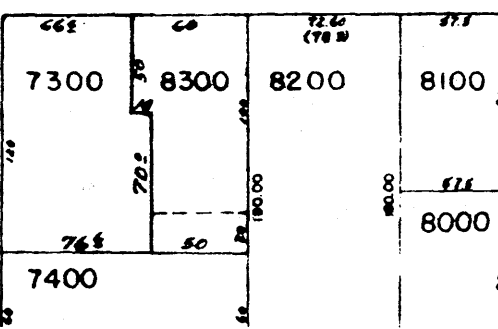


MAIN 13-1



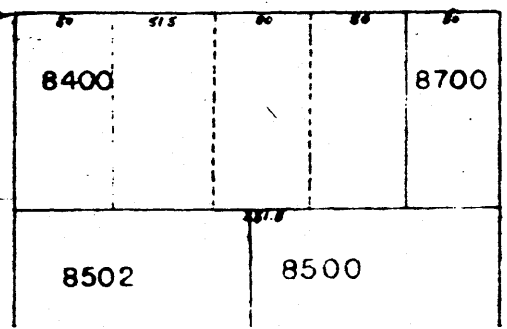
NE. Cor. Out Lot 12

CLAY OUTLOT 12



KNOX

BROAD

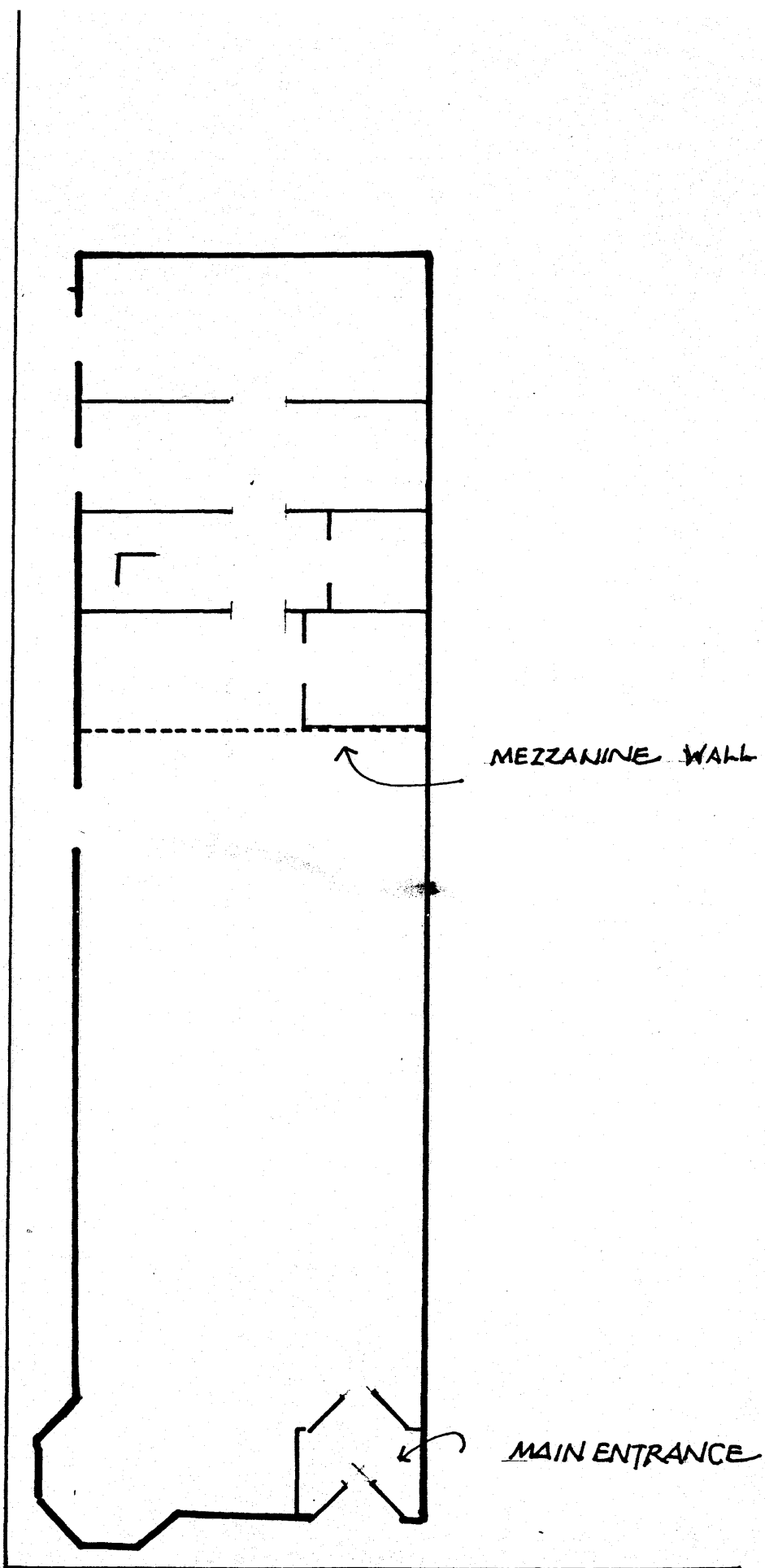


ECOLS

SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SEC. 30 T8S R4 W W M  
POLK COUNTY

SCALE 1" = 100'





↑ South Polk County Bank, Monmouth OR.