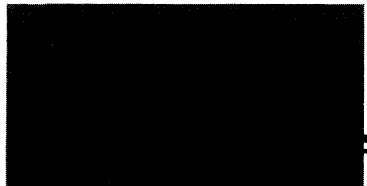


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



82

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

1. Name

historic Bank of Echo Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 230 West Main N/A not for publication

city, town Echo N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Umatilla code 059

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Echo Historical Museum Inc.

street & number PO Box 205

city, town Echo vicinity of state Oregon 97826

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Umatilla County Courthouse

street & number 216 SE 4th

city, town Pendleton state Oregon 97801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bank of Echo Building occupies a 50 x 100 foot lot at the southwest corner of Main and Bonanza Streets, a major intersection in the small Umatilla County agricultural community of Echo. It is a two-story brick masonry building measuring 30 x 65 feet on concrete foundation and basement. Oriented north to south, its major frontage is along Bonanza Street. Clearly the most sophisticated building on Main Street, the bank was designed in the 20th century Roman Classical style by Pendleton architect Raymond W. Hatch. The two street facades are faced with buff-colored brick and trimmed with terra cotta. The most distinctive feature is the prostyle in antis principal facade presented to the Main Street which incorporates colossal engaged columns with palmate capitals. The bank's immediate setting is a commercial zone in which none of the business buildings exceeds two stories in height; in fact, most are single story buildings. The bank lot is enhanced by a row of black walnut trees planted in the parking strip along Bonanza Street. Echo's city hall is situated on the corner lot behind the bank. The east half of the adjoining lot to the west, site of the predecessor Bank of Echo, is empty and is being modestly landscaped as a pocket park under Echo Historical Museum auspices by garden clubs of the district.

The building's street facades of three and five bays, respectively, are simply but handsomely organized and detailed, with fenestration recessed from the main wall plane and set off by pilasters rising to a height of 23 feet from a continuous 3-foot ground course of brick with a terra cotta base. Pilaster bases and capitals are of terra cotta. Tall ground story window openings have round-arched top lights crowned by terra cotta keystones. Above inset spandrel panels are straight-topped double-hung windows and a full classical entablature extending nine feet from architrave to parapet. The cornice, including continuous dentil course and egg and dart ornament, is of terra cotta. The parapet above the cornice, essentially unadorned, has a continuous band of patterned brickwork at the base and is terminated with terra cotta coping.

On the principal facade, the central entrance bay is set off by two colossal engaged columns of terra cotta with palmate capitals. The entrance has a terra cotta architrave with hooded lintel carried by curvilinear brackets. The top light is filled with the geometric grillework which is a hallmark of Beaux Arts design tradition. Beveled plate glass panels are used in the double leaf door. Three small rectangular lights crown the doorway hood. Incised letters spelling "Bank" and "The Bank of Echo" decorate terra cotta panels in the doorway architrave and the facade entablature, respectively. The rear and west elevations are blind, or nearly blind, and unadorned.

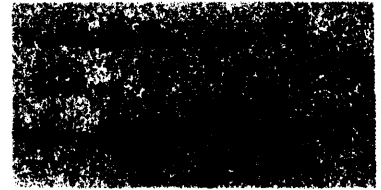
Interior spatial organization remains as designed and carried out 1920-1921. The basement houses the heating plant, a coal-fired furnace and boiler for steam radiators. The boiler and fuel rooms are in the front corners of the building. Storage and vault spaces make up the rest of the basement.

The lofty ground story contains a central entrance vestibule opening into the marble-floored public lobby. A restroom and consultation room are in the corner spaces on either side of the vestibule. Teller's and bookkeeper's counters are directly opposite the entrance. The cashier's counter and office lines the east wall. A safe deposit lobby off the southwest corner of the main lobby gives access to the safe deposit and book vaults in the rear. In the southeast corner of the building is a stairway leading from the basement to the balcony which extends across the rear 14 feet of the banking room. An entrance in the southernmost bay of the east elevation gives access to the stairway

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vestibule from Bonanza Street.

It is in the public space of the banking room that the most elaborate finish work is found. Flooring, island check desk, bases and counters are marble. Brass grilles and a mahogany post and entablature system complete the service counters. The uprights are embellished with paired pilasters with carved capitals. A plaster cornice encircles the entire ground story ceiling. The balcony railing as well as baseboards and wainscoting in the work spaces seen by the public are of mahogany. Fir baseboards and wainscoting are found elsewhere. Upper walls are plastered throughout.

The second story is partitioned into five office spaces along the east wall and are connected by a corridor and reception room along the west wall. The stairway and a toilet room are in the southwest corner of the second story. Initially, the second story was used as a dentist's office and apartment.

Refurbishing carried out by the Echo Historical Museum group to date includes careful washing of the exterior, roof repair, replastering of the water-damaged ground story ceiling, repainting the ground story interior, and upgrading of electrical wiring and mechanical systems. All original electrical fixtures and other features of the banking room were scrupulously retained.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1920-1921 **Builder/Architect** Raymond W. Hatch, architect
Parker and Banfield, general contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The building which housed the Bank of Echo at the southwest corner of Main and Bonanza Streets in the small Umatilla County agricultural community of Echo was designed in the tradition of Beaux Arts Classicism by Pendleton architect Raymond W. Hatch. It was opened for use in 1921. The two-story brick building is faced with buff-colored brick on its two street facades, and while it measures only 30 x 65 feet, it is the most imposing edifice on Main Street owing to the sophistication of its terra cotta trim and dignified prostyle in antis principal facade incorporating colossal engaged columns with palmate capitals. Enhancing the bank's stateliness in its surroundings is the remarkable fact that its period interior, replete with marble lobby floor and counters, mahogany woodwork, brass grillework, and plaster cornices, is completely intact, having never been remodeled or stripped of its fixtures. The Bank of Echo, therefore, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with a banking enterprise of vital importance to local ranchers for over 25 years.

Echo lies 20 miles west of Pendleton, the Umatilla County seat. The meadowed section of the Umatilla River Valley in Oregon's High Columbia Plateau in which the town is situated was noteworthy in the early history of the county. Oregon Trail immigrants passed through the area beginning in the 1840s, and it was here that an Indian agency was established in 1851 to serve the Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla tribes. When the Umatilla Agency was burned during the Yakima Indian War in 1855, Major Mark A. Chinn of the First Oregon Mounted Rifles was sent to construct a fortified post at the site. Named for the wife of Major Chinn's superior, Major Granville O. Haller, Fort Henrietta was on the west side of the Umatilla River, opposite the townsite of Echo which was to be founded in 1881 by James H. Koontz (1830-1912). Koontz, a native of Ohio, had come to Oregon in 1862 and had settled the following year on the Columbia River at Umatilla Landing, where his daughter, Echo, the namesake of the future townsite, was born. Soon after the founding of Echo townsite, the main street was lined with businesses, and a school and churches--both Catholic and Protestant--were built. In 1883, with the completion of the Umatilla Valley section of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company east-west through-state line, later taken over by Union Pacific, Echo began its heyday as a wool and wheat shipping point. The community's fortune was tied directly to the golden age of rail transport in Eastern Oregon. At the turn of the century, Echo was thriving with a population of 250.

There are several general stores, hotels, a saloon, churches, the warehouses of the O. R. & N. Company and the Henrietta Flour Mills, owned by J. H. Koontz. An important county bridge spans the Umatilla at Echo and several extensive irrigation ditches near the town distribute the water of the Umatilla River over the broad and fertile valley, greatly increasing its productiveness. Heavy crops of alfalfa, considerable fruit and other products of the soil are raised at and about Echo, while numerous stock farms, where high-grade horses, cattle and sheep are bred, abound.¹

¹William Parsons, An Illustrated History of Umatilla County....., W. H. Leaver, 1902, page 198. Echo's current population is 500.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- McArthur, Lewis A., Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1965), 202.
 Corning, Howard McKinley, Ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), 88.
 Parsons, William, An Illustrated History of Umatilla County ... (W. H. Lever, 1902), 198.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Echo, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 4 and the east 25 feet of Lot 3, Block 3, Original Plat of Echo, Umatilla County, Oregon. Map reference 3N29 16BD. Lot 4 (Tax Lot 6500) measures 50 x 100 feet and is the lot on which the existing bank stands. The east half of Lot 3 (Tax Lot 6400) is the site of the

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cy Sun

organization Echo Historical Museum date November 24, 1980

street & number PO Box 205 telephone (503) 376-2137

city or town Echo state Oregon 97826

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date February 5, 1982

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/15/82

Keeper of the National Register 

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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The Bank of Echo was incorporated by local ranchers at the height of community prospects, in 1905. The initial bank building stood on the adjoining lot to the west of that on which the existing bank is situated. In 1920 plans for a new building were drawn by Raymond W. Hatch of Pendleton. The new building was opened for use in 1921 at a total cost of \$58,142, and the bank prospered for another decade. In 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression, the incorporators closed the bank, still solvent with a capitalization of \$50,000. For a time thereafter, the building was used as a cash exchange and, later, was an insurance office, but it has stood empty most of the intervening years. In 1980 it was acquired by local rancher Joseph C. Andrews and donated to the Echo Historical Museum, Inc., a group which had cleaned the building and opened it to the public during the Bicentennial era (1976-77). Since gaining the title to the property, the non-profit organization has refurbished the building, resumed its museum operation and supervised development of the adjoining empty lot, site of the original Bank of Echo, as a pocket park for museum visitors and others.

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Interviews: Mrs. Bennie Lee Tolar, Mrs. Elaine M. Ottum, Echo, Oregon, November 1980.

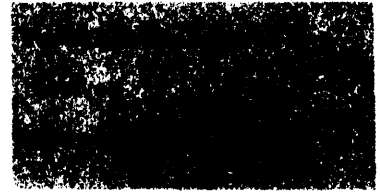
Corporation Records of The Bank of Echo

Original Architectural Drawings by Raymond W. Hatch

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original Bank of Echo (no longer standing) and is maintained as a pocket park by the Echo Historical Museum.