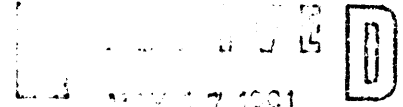


80.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, E. L., Building  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 213-215 Oak Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Hood River N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97031

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official *James Hamrick* Date April 23, 1991  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper *for* Date of Action 6/19/91

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: financial institutionCommerce/Trade: specialty storeCommerce/Trade: business, professionalHealth Care: clinicDomestic: multiple dwelling

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: financial institutionCommerce/Trade: specialty store

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---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th CenturyAmerican Movements: Commercial Style

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---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickstuccoroof asphaltother cornice: wood

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---

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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ONE: SUMMARY

The E.L. Smith Building was built to be used as a commercial and a residential building by a prominent Hood River pioneer, Ezra Leonard Smith. The first floor had two spaces, the corner and the center store. The corner space housed the First National Bank, of which E.L. Smith was the vice-president. The building was originally known as the First National Bank Building, however, when the present First National Bank Building was built in 1910, the E.L. Smith Building name came into common use. The center store was a grocery store owned by J.E. Rand, and the upstairs rooms were both apartments and professional offices (both medical and law), Room 1 serving as E.L. Smith's office until his death in 1921.

The basic organization of the E.L. Smith building's exterior reflects the 20th Century American Commercial movement as seen in the strong examples of horizontal and vertical elements of the two public facades and in the window proportions (see Photo 6). Secondly, the decorative wood sculptured corbel courses on the front and west side facades and subtle pilasters connect a dramatic cornice line with recessed brick facia giving examples of a vernacular motif (see Photos 13-15). The oriel windows, which still exist on the west side elevation add a Victorian flavor to the upstairs apartments (see Photos 11-15). The combination of Victorian residential and early 20th Century commercial styles effect a warmth uncommon in downtown commercial district buildings. There is an historic addition to the south side of the building, in which is currently housed the law firm of Jaques and Phillips.

The E.L. Smith Building was constructed in the fall of 1904 by Frederick and Arnold Contractors. The original bid was set at \$8,500.00, and the total cost of the building was \$10,000.00. The architect was Oscar L. Stranahan, another pioneer of Hood River, and a good friend of Mr. Smith's. The brick was provided by the A.T. Zeek Co., and the gravel from the excavation was used to "pave" all of the streets of the downtown area. The gravel and labor was provided as a service to Hood River by Mr. Smith. The building was completed by the 15th of October, and the J.E. Rand Store (see exhibit #6) and the First National Bank were first open for business on October 27th, 1904.

The general condition of the building is excellent. The foundation is sturdy, the walls and floors sound. There has been no noticeable settling. The building has not been moved or substantially altered, although minor modifications have occurred throughout the building's life. The two story building has had minor historic exterior changes to storefront door and window openings. The changes that have been made are subtle and the architectural integrity of the brick facia windows remain in their original condition. Storefront signage was added on the surface of the brick facia; alterations, however, if necessary, are reversible.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

The original, first floor center store is now occupied by Hood River Stationers. The corner store is now occupied by Freedom Federal Savings and Loan. Jaques and Phillips law offices occupy the south portion of the first floor, half in the historic addition. The second floor offices and apartments remain empty at this time. The rear section of the second floor (upstairs of the historic addition) is used by the Law office for legal records storage.

**TWO: SITE**

The E.L. Smith building is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Oak and Third Streets (213-215 Oak Street, T3N R10E S25, Map #3N 1025DC, Tax Lot 4300) in Hood River, Oregon. This intersection currently lies in the heart of the financial district of town, flush with the public right-of-way, which is the former path of the Historic Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway (U.S. 30). The building rests among several other historically significant buildings of the same era, such as, the Paris Fair Building (1906), the Keir Building (1905), and the Hall Building (1909), which served as the central commercial district for turn-of-the-century Hood River. The Eliot Building (1909), and the First National Bank Building (1910) complete a trilogy of financial institution buildings on three of the four corners of Third and Oak Streets. The city of Hood River, Oregon is located in the basin of the Columbia River Gorge, accessed by Interstate 84 running east and west paralleling the Columbia River, and reachable by Oregon Highway 35 running north and south through the Cascades.

**THREE: BASIC SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS, NUMBER OF STORIES**

The E.L. Smith Building is a two story rectangular brick structure, measuring 50 feet wide along Oak Street, by 100 feet long along Third Street. The ground floor level is consistent for 75 feet and steps up to accommodate the rise in elevation on the south side. The sidewalk on the north side (Oak Street) of the building slopes slightly upward to the west, and escalates more dramatically on Third Street to the south. There is a basement under the south side of the building measuring 50 by 49 feet. The second floor is approximately 14 feet above the retail floor and the roof deck is about 16 feet above the second floor. The height of the roof increases by around 5 feet to the south to accommodate the incline of Third Street.

**FOUR: BASIC STRUCTURAL DETAILS**

The perimeter wall foundations of the E.L. Smith building are a cast-in-place concrete as is the basement. The interior foundation system consists of four rows of concrete pier blocks, resting on the basement floor, with wood joists up the floor structure. The foundation and support systems for the first and second floor are assessed to be in excellent condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   3  

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The walls of the building are constructed of a layered building brick supporting interior walls of wood framing and lathe and sand plaster. The second floor remains in its original state with skylights, oriel windows, wood decor, wainscoat and door jambs. The flooring is fir which has never been finished and is in excellent condition. The floor joists are on 12 inch centers for longevity. The original plans for the building cannot be located, so other supporting documentation is not available. The interior of the retail and public space is plastered and exposed brick wall. The exterior of the building is brick with accented inlayed brickset over all windows.

**FIVE: SALIENT FEATURES OF THE EXTERIOR**

The front facade of the building is faced primarily with brown colored brick, with lighter brown wood window panes and trim. There are brick arches over all windows, and a stone lintel over the center store's entrance. There is decorative inlayed brickwork effectively dividing the two commercial spaces and the windows above visually, just under the corbelling. Decorative corbel courses span the cornice, and run the perimeter of the second story. The corbel line is of handcrafted wood; gothic style with leafset engraving. Full height corner pilasters drive skyward into the cornice decorated with bold supporting horizontal brackets (see Photo 16). This facade is divided into distinct sections marked by arched window lines. The second story front fascia shows evidence of oriel windows that were removed around 1935 for unknown reasons. However, despite this alteration, the original arched brick windows on all three details remain unscathed. The original windows, one-over-one, double hung with wood sashes, were retained and placed in the same positions when the oriels were removed. The oriel windows on the west fascia remain in their original condition. The exterior brick is in good condition and the building's original coloration remains unchanged.

**SIX: SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONS**

Prior to 1910 there was an addition to the E.L. Smith building on the south fascia. The structure is similar to the construction of the original Smith building in most respects, however it is lacking most of the detail evident on the original Smith building. This addition currently houses half of the Jaques and Phillips law firm, the upstairs providing storage for the firm. The upstairs storage area accesses the residential rooms in the original structure through a passageway in the brick firewall. The Smith addition historically provided a second entrance and storage to the grocery store in the center rooms. Since 1910 it has been divided into commercial space and used as law offices.

**SEVEN: SALIENT FEATURES OF THE INTERIOR**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4

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The first floor of the building has been adapted to the current commercial uses abovementioned. Distinctive decoration is minimal as utility and function are the priority in these commercial spaces. Some exposed brick walls are noted in the law office for their aesthetic qualities (see Photos 24-25).

The second floor of this building features 12 foot expanded ceilings, generous room sizes and skylights throughout most of the twelve rooms (see Photo 22). There is an abundance of distinctive trim in its original excellent condition, and the use of elaborate detail work on the doors and hallways is prevalent (see Photos 19-21). Almost all of the upstairs doors have the original decorative transoms and crowns in perfect condition. The oriel windows give the interior of two rooms an expansive demeanor and contribute to a feeling of aloofness from the busy district of commerce below. The original fir floors and wood trim give an overall warm Victorian feel to the rooms. Historic photographs provide evidence that there has been little or no change in the condition of the upper floor. Trim, floors, and decor all have remained the same over the years. From the front facia window a view of the Columbia River is unobstructed by any other buildings, and the west facing windows offer a beautiful view of the mountains and sunset.

**EIGHT: ORIGINAL INTERNAL SPATIAL ORGANIZATION AND ALTERATIONS**

The spatial organization of the E.L. Smith Building's interior has remained the same throughout the building's existence. All the original room divisions and walls remain in good condition on both the first and second floors. The only alteration to the interior was the removal of the three north facing oriel windows. These windows were removed in approximately 1935, for unknown reasons. However, the large rooms with the windows installed in the oriels' stead still retain the airy atmosphere once accomplished by the oriel windows. The commercial uses of the first floor metamorphosed from a bank and a grocery store, to the public library, to a restaurant, back to a bank (current), and now a stationery store where the original grocery store was. Upstairs housed both doctors' and lawyers' offices, as well as some of their residences. The use of the upstairs remained the same until around 1950. The upstairs space is currently unoccupied, yet in its original state.

The E.L. Smith Building is a distinctive and historically significant cultural resource. Architecturally, it retains both character and old world charm. Its integrity gravitates with the association of the development of our community's vitality and livelihood. As the third oldest commercial building in Hood River, it fortifies the efforts and accomplishments of Hood River's governing fathers.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce  
Health/Medicine  
Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1904  
1904-1921  
1904-1921  
1904-1921

Significant Dates

1904  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1904-1906  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stranahan, Oscar L., architect  
Frederick & Arnold, Contractors

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 0.11 acres Hood River, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	0
6	1
5	8
2	0

5	0
6	2
5	6
0	

Zone Easting Northing

B 



Zone Easting Northing

C 



D 



See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 25, Township 3N, Range 10E, Willamette Meridian, in Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon. It is legally described as Lot 4, Block E, First West Addition, and is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 4300 at said location.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary is equal to the footprint of the historic building and is the lot purchased by E. L. Smith in 1904 for the purpose of constructing the building.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kimberly Quirk, Darin Gardner  
 organization N/A date December 1, 1990  
 street & number PO Box 1444 telephone (503) 386-5572  
 city or town Hood River state Oregon zip code 97031



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

The two-story Commercial-style building of brick masonry that occupies the southeast corner of the intersection of Oak and Third Streets in downtown Hood River, Oregon was built in 1904 for a public-spirited businessman, Ezra L. Smith, one of the town's incorporators and its leading early upbuilder. The design was provided by local architect Oscar Stranahan. It is locally significant as a distinctive commercial building, the third oldest of its type in the Hood River County seat, and a property long associated with noteworthy professional services. The Smith Building meets National Register Criteria A and C in the categories of architecture, commerce, medicine and social history.

The building measures 50 x 125-feet in ground plan and presents its major frontage upslope, along Third Street, to include a plainly, but compatibly-finished historic addition of 25 feet at the south end. Exterior elevations are organized informally, with the structural division of two longitudinal ground story spaces marked on the principal, Oak Street facade by a continuous pilaster strip that meets a corbelled string course at the building's entablature. Corner pilasters, on the other hand, extend to the top of the wall, where a thin wood cornice is supported by acanthus leaf modillions. Where the cornice projects additionally over corner pilasters at the building front, it is supported by carved console brackets. The frieze is decorated with a delicate raised garland motif.

The building's primary visual interest is derived from generous window openings with segmental arch heads that are finished with radiating brick voussoirs and fitted with paired, double-hung wood sash on the side street elevation and three-part Chicago-School assemblies on the front. In about 1935 the three oriel windows of the upper Oak Street facade were removed, and the window assemblies re-installed in the openings. Upper story oriels remain in place on the secondary facade, in the southernmost two bays of the original volume. Ground story store fronts on both elevations have been altered as the commercial spaces have been adapted for new uses. The building's ground story interior has been comprehensively remodeled. However, on the second story, offices and living units are well-preserved, arranged round a central, longitudinal circulation corridor, which retains its original fir flooring, vertical tongue and groove wainscot, plaster walls and ceiling, door casings, and transomed, multi-paneled doors. Offices and apartment spaces display complete historic finishes, including entablature window surrounds, picture moldings and plain mop boards.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

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Upon its opening in 1904, the building was better known as the First National Bank. The bank formed by E. L. Smith and his brother-in-law, F. S. Stanley, occupied the ground story space at the street corner until a new bank was built nearby in 1910. The successive commercial and professional occupants of the building were dominated by the medical and legal fields and included an early female physician and surgeon, Dr. Mary Johnson, who was an inspiration to the pathfinding nurse/abortionist Ruth Barnett, who resided with her family in the building as a young girl. In addition to its colorful history overall, a major association is that of the investor, E. L. Smith. Smith maintained his office in the building to the time of his death in 1921, and it was from this quarter that he pursued innumerable projects and activities for the benefit of the city.

Ezra L. Smith (1837-1921), a native of Vermont, came to the West Coast in 1861, immediately following his marriage, and became a miner in California. He served in the California Legislature briefly before settling in Olympia, Washington in 1867. During the nine years he spent in Olympia, he was Secretary and once the Acting Governor of Washington Territory. As a territorial officer, he carried out responsibility for the boundary survey between Washington and Idaho to the Canadian border. It was in Olympia that Smith first entered the banking business. He relocated to Oregon's Hood River Valley in 1876 to take up farming. Over the years, Smith helped pioneer the local orchard industry and was instrumental in formation of rural school, library and park developments. He was one of the incorporators of the town of Hood River and served as its first mayor. He also served in the Oregon Legislature. The grounds of the Smith residence, at Smith's direction, became a park for the public library after his death. Because Smith's residence still stands, the commercial building is not being nominated under Criterion B.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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**ONE: INTRODUCTION**

The E.L. Smith Building is one of the most notable buildings in the city of Hood River for both architectural and historical reasons. Built in 1904 for the Honorable Ezra L. Smith, the Smith Building is the third oldest commercial structure in Hood River, and is a fine example of early 20th Century commercial architecture combined with an early Victorian residential style of architecture. It is the only commercial building in Hood River to include both the architectural features of Victorian apartments upstairs (including oriel windows on the elevations), and the classic commercial bank building style popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Smith Building is a prominent two story brown brick building located on the corner of Third and Oak Streets in Hood River, Oregon. It is placed in the center of the main commercial and financial district of Hood River, and lies on the original path of the Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway (U.S. 30). Throughout the history of the building, its associations with the events and lives of very colorful historic figures have earned it a prestigious reputation. The first and foremost individual to be mentioned is E.L. Smith, pioneer of Hood River, and citizen extraordinaire. Mr. Smith came to Hood River in 1876, bringing with him the experience of having served on both the California and Oregon legislatures, and was the Secretary of State and acting Governor of the Washington Territory. During his residence in Hood River, Mr. Smith earned himself the titles "Mr. Hood River", "Hood River's Grand Old Man", and "Hood River" Smith, by completely dedicating himself to the development of Hood River.

When the E.L. Smith building was erected, it had two downstairs commercial spaces and a series of offices and apartments upstairs. The First National Bank and the J.E. Rand Grocery Store were the first occupants of the downstairs, and the upstairs served as the offices of two doctors and a dentist. One of the doctors, Mrs. Mary Johnson, Physician and Surgeon, practiced in the building between 1904 and 1906, and was one of the first female doctors of her time. Other early occupants of the building include Ruth Barnett, abortionist who practiced between the years of 1920 until her death in 1969, and Mr. Harry Gross, Jewish immigrant from Russia, who built

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

his cash and carry grocery store from nothing and earned himself the title of "Hood River's First Millionaire" in the 1920's.

The cultural history surrounding the E.L. Smith building is extremely rich and instrumental in the development of the Hood River city proper and valley. There are many stories surrounding the building, both the personal histories of the occupants, and the use of the building itself. Another such notable event in the history of the E.L. Smith Building was its use as the Hood River Public Library for three years until the construction of the new library could be accomplished.

The nominated building is eligible under the National Register Criteria A and C, for the notable architecture, events connected with the building, and its association with citizens prominent in the development of the culture of Hood River.

**TWO: EZRA LEONARD SMITH (1837-1921)**

Settling in the valley in 1876, Ezra Leonard Smith (see Photos 2-5) was one of the first settlers of the Hood River area. Mr. Smith was extremely active in governmental affairs and claims much of the responsibility for the development of Hood River. His interest and knowledge in politics, culture, education, and horticulture helped him to enrich and develop the Hood River community earning him recognition as "Hood River's Grand Old Man"<sup>1</sup> and "Mr. Hood River."<sup>2</sup> To others he was known as "Hood River" Smith or simply "Governor", due to his service as Governor of the Washington Territory.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Smith, the only son of Ezra Smith and Avis Barker Smith, was born at Craftsbury, Orleans Co., Vermont, on the 17th of September 1837. After the death of his mother in 1847 and of his father in 1849 Ezra Smith lived under the guardianship of Lyndal French at Glover, Vermont, where he attended first the public school and later the Orleans Liberal Institute, of which Professor Isaac A. Parker was principal.

In 1858, Professor Parker was appointed Professor of Ancient languages at Lombard College, located at Galesburg, Illinois. In company with Professor Parker young Smith went to Galesburg and entered Lombard College in the fall of 1858. There he met Georgiana Slocum also a student of Lombard. A three year college association of Ezra Smith and Georgiana Slocum

<sup>1</sup>Hood River Historical Society, History of Hood River County, Vol. II, p. 121.

<sup>2</sup>Ruth Guppy, Interview, November 16, 1990.

<sup>3</sup>Guppy, Ruth, "Over the Picket Fence", Hood River News, Nov. 30, 1967.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

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eventuated in their marriage on March 4, 1861, at Woodstock, Illinois. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Smith went to New York City, where they took passage for California, via the Isthmus of Panama. After forty days of travel, they reached San Francisco and proceeded to Georgetown, Eldorado County, California, where they made their first home in April, 1861. It was in California that, as a miner, Mr. Smith began the active part he always took in public affairs.<sup>4</sup>

Associating himself with the political party of Lincoln, he was elected to and served through the California legislature of 1864 and 1865, and was a proud member of the joint special committee which took the initial step for the organization of the University of California.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Smith, in 1867, took his family to Olympia, Washington, where he had been appointed to serve as Secretary of Washington Territory (and for a time, was the acting governor of the Washington Territory). The family resided at Olympia for nine years.<sup>6</sup> It was during this time, about 1872, that Mr. Smith met George P. Crowell. Mr. Crowell had applied for a job as chainman on Mr. Smith's crew. Mr. Crowell surprised Mr. Smith with his diligent work and became one of Mr. Smith's most prized workers. The following story illustrates the friendship which was established between the two men, leading to the eventual business arrangement of Mr. Crowell running Mr. Smith's grocery store later in Hood River:

"One of Mr. Smith's surveys began at Lewiston, Idaho, extended north to the British line, locating the boundary between Idaho and Washington. They were delayed in getting started, disappointed [because they could get no help] from the Indians, their provisions, with the exception of flour, were running low, winter was fast approaching and their course lay through the high altitudes of the Rocky Mountains. The men became dissatisfied and talked of mutiny.

"To go back for more supplies meant financial ruin for Mr. Smith, as he would be unable to complete his survey in the specified time; in this dilemma he called a meeting and asked for the support of his men in putting the survey through.

"The manner in which the matter was decided is told in verse by Mr. Smith and is herewith inserted:

"Dedicated to George P. Crowell by E.L. Smith

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<sup>4</sup>Coon, History of the Early Pioneer Families of Hood River, OR, p. 183.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid, p. 182.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

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Boundary Survey

"Sisters and brothers please listen to me  
To a story of eighteen seventy three  
To how we ran the boundary survey  
In the mountains north of Pend'O'Reille  
Where the Clearwater River joins the Snake,  
Firmly we planted the initial stake.  
Then climbed the bluff to the upland plain  
Which stretches north to the river Spokane,  
And there alas, we said goodbye  
To prairies fair and summer sky.

"Through forests and swamps our course now lay  
And autumn had come with a shortened day;  
So we hastened, ever on towards the Polar Star,  
Nor rivers, nor mountains, could our strong hearts bar.  
Never man toiled harder, and all went well  
Till we came to the land of Kalispell,  
To the land of the Indian renegade,  
Who laughs at the laws by white man made.  
Where Nature is savage as well as man,  
And who travels there takes life in hand.

"Higher and higher the mountains rose,  
Colder and colder the North wind blows,  
Still we toil on toward the British line,  
For our goal is latitude forty nine.  
August, September, October had passed  
November had come with a winter blast;  
But a chill more dread o'er our spirits grew,  
Just as we passed Lake Kaniksu,  
For no food was left but a little flour,  
To give us strength in that trying hour.

"And fear seized hold of the strongest men  
And they talked of their homes, again and again

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7

And some said "further we must not go  
Through the awful mountains of Idaho".  
And they hung their heads when the leader said  
"Men, you have followed where I have led,  
For the British Line will you still try?"  
And a single voice answered Aye, Aye, Aye, Aye.  
And then spake another, brave Crowell  
"I'll follow him, boys, to the brink of hell.  
He has more at stake than we single men  
A family and home." And they cried out, "Amen".

"That line was reached by the half starved band,  
And the stoutest heart was the little man  
Who, when danger and death were drawing nigh,  
Still cheerily sang out Aye, Aye, Aye, Aye."<sup>7</sup>

Mr. Crowell in effect became E.L. Smith's right hand man. Later, in 1881, Mr. Crowell came to Hood River and found employment as a clerk in Mr. Smith's Grocery store. When Mr. Smith sold out, Mr. Crowell invested his earnings in the saw mill business, but unfortunately, the business did not work out. Therefore he went back to clerking, and a few years later bought the stock of A.S. Blowers, and went on to be a successful businessman.<sup>8</sup>

The business of banking, in which Mr. Smith was engaged after completing his term as Territorial Secretary, proved detrimental to his health so by the advice of his physicians he moved to Hood River, where he purchased a farm which had its north boundary near Cascade Street (U.S. 30) and its south on Belmont Road and included the present site of the Frankton School. Just west of where the Frankton school house now stands was the first Hood River home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Here they brought their family of five daughters on March 1, 1876.

The first permanent settlers in the Hood River valley were the Nathaniel Coe family who filed a donation land claim in 1854 on land now included in the City of Hood River. The William Jenkins family and Denson family were soon also to file donation land claims. Thus began the settlement of the Hood River valley. The first school was built in 1863. In 1867 a road from The Dalles to the Hood River community was completed. In 1875, a group known as the Pacific Colony migrated to the area. By 1880, there were 17 families living in the valley, the Smith family

<sup>7</sup>Coon, History of the Early Pioneer Families of Hood River, OR., p. 335-336.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid, p. 336.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

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being the thirteenth family to settle there.<sup>9</sup>

Shortly after arriving in Hood River, Mr. Smith established a general merchandise store, at what is now the junction of the Belmont and Frankton Streets. In 1882 this store was moved to the newly located town of Hood River and for many years was under the able management of George P. Crowell.<sup>10</sup>

In 1879, the first school building in Hood River was becoming very dilapidated and school funds were not available to provide a new one, so the Educational Association was formed with stockholders contributing. E.L. Smith was one of the heaviest stockholders. The new building was erected on land donated by Mr. Smith, and he became one of the three school directors.<sup>11</sup>

In 1880, Mr. Smith was the leader of the expedition which set out to find Lost Lake. The following account tells of how Lost Lake was named:

". . . It was expected that there would be no difficulty in locating the lake, but when they traveled to the spot where it was supposed to be, and it was not there, some queries arose and one man said, "We must be lost". "Oh, no," said Mr. Smith, "We are not lost, we know exactly where we are, it is like the Indian, he was not lost it was the wigwam that was lost. We are not lost, it is the lake that is lost." They then pushed on a little further south and there lay the lake before them like a beautiful mirror, reflecting the evergreen forests surrounding it like a frame with old Mt. Hood in the background. The name given in jest has remained and it is still Lost Lake."<sup>12</sup>

Except for the few years, 1883 to 1886, during which time Mr. Smith served as registrar of the land office at The Dalles, the family had made their continuous home in Hood River. It was during the residence at The Dalles, November 1883, that George and Roy Slocum, orphaned sons of Mrs. Smith's brother, became members of this family.

In 1886, Mr. Smith built his family home on the block at 6th and State streets (see Exhibit #1). Much of this land was later donated by Mr. Smith for the construction of the new Hood River Library and Public Park (see below).

Mr. Smith, always active in local government affairs, has several times been honored by

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<sup>9</sup>Hood River County Chamber of Commerce, "Historical Sketch of Hood River County".

<sup>10</sup>Coon, History of the Early Pioneer Families of Hood River, OR., p. 182.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid, "Early Events," p.11-12.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid, p. 20.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9

the Electorate of his state. In 1889, while representing Wasco County in the Legislature, he was elected speaker of the house; and again in the presidential campaign of 1896, he was chosen a member of the electoral college which cast the state vote for President McKinley.

The Hood River Townsite Company was incorporated in February of 1890, of which E.L. Smith was one of the primary incorporators.<sup>13</sup> The townsite of Hood River was platted in 1881, but not incorporated until 1894. At this time, Mr. Smith and the Company donated some land on the northeast corner of 3rd and Oak to the Hood River Glacier, the newly formed newspaper (see Exhibit #2). The first Hood River newspaper was published in 1889 by George Prathor. Mr. Smith became the first Mayor of the newly incorporated city and held that position until 1893.

Mr. Smith started the first commercial orchard shortly after 1876, and was largely responsible for the booming success of the fruit industry in this valley<sup>14</sup> (See Exhibit #3). He was the President of the State Board of Horticulture (1905) and his intuition and advice led to the development of the Hood River Fruit Growers' Union of 1893 (the predecessor of all cooperatives in the Pacific Northwest), the Hood River Apple Growers Union of 1903, and finally, to the organization of the Apple Growers' Association of 1913. Soon after he was elected president of the Northwest Fruit Grower's Association.

In 1904, Mr. Smith's new brick bank building was built (see Exhibit #4)<sup>15</sup>. The building served as Mr. Smith's office until his death in 1921. The building was bid at \$8,500.00 by Frederick and Arnold Contractors, due to be completed by the first of October. The actual cost of the building was \$10,000, completed on the 15th of October and ready for business on the 27th of October. It was in the corner of this building that Mr. Smith and his brother-in-law, F.S. Stanley established the First National Bank<sup>16</sup>, of which Mr. Smith was the vice-president (1904-1909)<sup>17</sup>. Until 1910, when the new First National Bank Building was built, the E.L. Smith Building was known as the First National Bank Building (see Exhibit #5). In the center store was the new grocery store owned by Mr. J.E. Rand (see Exhibit #6). This was the first of a series of grocery stores which occupied the center store until Mr. Harry Gross's Cash and Carry store gave a new meaning to success in groceries (see Harry Gross story to follow).

A true supporter of cultural arts, Mr. Smith answered the call when an organization set

<sup>13</sup>Ibid, p. 45.

<sup>14</sup>Commercial Club, Hood River, 1908.

<sup>15</sup>Hood River Glacier, May 5, 1904, October 27, 1904.

<sup>16</sup>Hood River National Historic District Nomination, Heritage Associates, 1988.

<sup>17</sup>Hood River Glacier, "First National Bank" advertisements, 1904-1909.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10

forth to begin a library in Hood River. Mr. Smith donated the space in his building for the temporary library in 1911. It remained there until March 16th 1914, when the new library building opened. Mr. Smith donated the land on which the library was built (the land adjacent to his residence), and addressed the community as the guest speaker at the laying of the cornerstone of the new building on October 10, 1913 (see Exhibit #7). It was Mr. Smith's wish that when he died, the remainder of the land surrounding his house be donated to the library as a public park. After his death in 1921, his children complied with his wish and the new park was dedicated to Mrs. Smith in 1955.<sup>18</sup>

Among his other notable accomplishments, Mr. Smith was one of the founders and first president of the Home Telephone Company, was a stockholder in The Valley Improvement Company, was a member of the Royal Arch Masons #27, was the Historian of the Hood River County Historical Society and Museum (see Exhibit #8), and in November 1902, Mr. Smith presented the First Unitarian Society of Hood River a lot on State and Ninth for the new church (see Exhibit #9).

The following poem was composed by Mr. Smith and recited by him on his eighty-first birthday at the Pioneer's annual reunion September 17, 1918.

"Where Rolls the Oregon"

O come! and let us go  
Where garnered waters of an empire flow  
Through chasm dark and deep and vast,  
Cut in the eons of the past,  
A channel of divine decree,  
From Eastern plain to Western sea.

On yonder height now let us stand,  
And look abroad on wonder-land;  
See those broad volcanic cones,  
Which lift their heads to frigid zones,  
While lesser heights in forest green  
Add wondrous beauty to the scene.

See the sunlights, as they play

<sup>18</sup>Hood River Historical Society, History of Hood River County, Vol. I, p. 120-121.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

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From early dawn to close of day,  
With changing hues for every hour  
On tree and shrub and blooming flower.

Look westward, a mountain chain  
Some mighty force hath rent in twain;  
Through this rift a river glides  
To mingle with old ocean's tides,  
And to this place from every land  
Shall ever come a pilgrim band.

Amazed, they look, and then exclaim,  
"God's wonderland! Blest be His name!"  
The Romans built the Appian Way  
To lead their conquering legions o'er;  
They built for war, which we abhor,  
We built for Him whom we adore.

Praise be to those who wrought,  
And praise to those who planned,  
Who graded down the rocky cliffs,  
And all their canyons spanned,  
That all the world might view  
The glories of Columbia's land."<sup>19</sup>

This portion of the minutes from the Pioneers' Meeting of 1918 are comments following the poetry reading, and the consequent standing ovation:

"The love that the pioneers of Hood River county display, for the valley's Grand Old Man is truly touching. There is scarcely an early family of the now famed fruit valley that does not remember the day that Mr. Smith assisted them at a time of great need, either financially or by the cheering spirit of his encouragement.

"The younger generation was privileged to learn of some of these noble traits at Monday's meeting and tears welled in the eyes of many. Telling of some of the early day experiences, Mr. Odell said: "I am telling you this today for the first time I have ever made it public. It is one of those things we hold sacred, not to be spoken of often." In his response Mr. Smith recited the poem telling of the angel Abou Ben Ahmed, and declared that it was his wish that he, too, would

<sup>19</sup>From the minutes of the Hood River Pioneers, September 17, 1918.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12

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be recorded as loving his fellow man."<sup>20</sup>

Mr. E.L. Smith died in his home on January 22, 1921, at the age of 84, a well accomplished, exemplary citizen (see exhibit #10).

**THREE: THE E.L. SMITH BUILDING:**

Downtown Hood River has a high concentration of historic resources dating from 1893 to the 1930's. The downtown buildings reflect the prosperity of the fruit industry after the turn of the century both in the commercial and the warehouse buildings. The larger commercial buildings are located along Oak Street extending from Front Street to the east and Fifth Street to the west. The majority of these buildings have had alterations to the first story storefront, but the upper stories remain intact retaining the historic scale and feeling of the prosperous downtown financial district. The buildings north of Oak Street along Cascade Street are a mix of smaller scale commercial buildings and service oriented or warehouse buildings. The buildings south of Oak Street on State Street from Front to Sixth Streets are a combination of public and residential buildings, and smaller scale commercial buildings.

The earliest commercial building in the downtown area was the Paris Fair Annex (311 Oak), built in 1893. Other buildings built during the peak of the fruit industry era were the Masonic Temple, 1901 (212 Second Street); the Davidson Building, 1905 (214 Cascade Street); the Keir Building, 1905 (209-211 Oak Street); the I.O.O.F. Building, 1906 (315 Oak Street), the Hall Building, 1909 (201-201 Oak Street); the Eliot Building, 1909 (116 Oak Street); the Mount Hood Hotel Annex, 1910 (104-108 Oak Street); the First National Bank Building, 1910 (304 Oak Street, see Photo # 21); the Sprout Building, 1911 (112 Oak Street); and the Yasui Brothers Mercantile Building, ca. 1915 (12 Oak Street). The E.L. Smith Building (1904) is located at 213-215 Oak Street and is the third oldest commercial building in Hood River. The public buildings in the downtown area are the Post Office, the City Hall, the Court House, and the County Library. These buildings span in date from 1913 to 1954. The railroad depot is located just north of Cascade Street at Second Street. The close proximity of the depot to the downtown area denotes the importance of transportation to the commercial and fruit industries of early Hood River.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Heritage Associates, The Hood River National Historic District Nomination, 1988, "Downtown Observations".

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 13

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The E.L. Smith Building itself is a two-story brick structure, built in the classic 20th Century commercial style of architecture. Decorative features include stone lintel, brick arches over windows, projecting cornice with decorative brackets, corbelling under cornice, oriel windows on west side. The striking Victorian flavor to the architecture on the elevation, and in the interior decor add an unusual aspect to the otherwise utilitarian commercial style. This is the only building of its type in Hood River, and the Victorian elements give the downtown streetscape a feeling of warmth. There are two other bank buildings in the downtown area, the U.S. Bank Building (301 Oak Street) which is a striking building of Egyptian architecture, and the First National Bank Building which is a typical early 20th Century Commercial style structure (see Photo #21/25).

The organization of the Smith building's exterior reflects the 20th Century American Commercial movement exemplified by the strong horizontal and vertical elements of the public façades, and in the window proportions (see Photos #6 and #7/25). Secondly, the decorative wood sculptured corbel courses on the front and west side façades and subtle pilasters connect a dramatic cornice line with recessed brick fascia giving examples of a vernacular motif (see Photos #13-16/25).

The front façade of the building is faced primarily with brown colored brick, with lighter brown wood window panes and trim. There are brick arches over all windows, and a stone lintel over the center store's entrance. There is decorative inlaid brickwork effectively dividing the two commercial spaces and the windows above visually, just under the corbelling. Decorative corbel courses span the cornice, and run the perimeter of the second story. The corbel line is of handcrafted wood; gothic style with leafset engraving. Full height corner pilasters drive skyward into the cornice decorated with bold supporting horizontal brackets (see Photo #16/25). This façade is divided into distinct sections marked by arched window lines. The oriel windows on the west side remain in their original condition. The exterior brick is in good condition and the building's original coloration remains unchanged.

The oriel windows, which still exist on the west side elevation add a Victorian flavor to the upstairs apartments (see Photos #11-15/25). The interior upstairs was designed with a decided Victorian influence. The present undisturbed condition of the interior is nearly identical to its original condition except for the thick layer of dust from being unoccupied for nearly fifty years. All the original fir flooring is intact and undamaged. The floors have been covered with a layer of linoleum, however no adhesive was used in its application. Approximately 90% of the interior trim remains in its original condition with its original stain (please compare Photos #3 and #21/25). The entire upstairs retains the original "5-panel" wood doors with windows and transoms above, topped with crowns (see Photos #17 and #18/25). The windows are also crowned (Photo #21/25). Lining all upstairs rooms is decorative trim on upper walls and baseboards (see Photos

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 14

#3, #17, and #21/25), and the hallways boast the original fir wainscoat in excellent condition (see Photos #18 and #23/25). The 12-foot vaulted ceilings, abundant skylights and large windows give a bright, spacious feel to the rooms. Six out of ten of the rooms have large skylights (two more could be reopened), and there are three more in the hallway. The two rooms on the west side with the oriel windows maintain a lovely Victorian charm. The window seats are the original fir as is the floor, and the rooms are very large, spacious, and bright. The interiors of the oriels are amply trimmed, as are the rest of the windows. The overall feel of the upstairs is a comfortable aloofness from the busy district of commerce below. It is just this combination of commercial utilitarianism of the lower level and the distinctive Victorian flavor to the upper level which gives the Smith building its particular charm and appeal. No other building in Hood River can offer that combination.

Three oriel windows from the north elevation of the Smith Building were removed (ca. 1935), the bulkheads were altered to the Roman brick (no date established), and there have been some storefront window alterations (prior to 1930). Most of the alterations were accomplished during the early '30's, and the building maintains its original architectural integrity. The storefront alterations occurred prior to 1930 (see Photograph #1/25, where alterations have already taken place). The original brick archways over the original storefront door and windows still exist, however. The storefront alterations are reversible, although historic.

The following lists indicate the tenants of the upstairs rooms and downstairs commercial areas throughout the history of the E.L. Smith Building. The typical use of all the space has not been seriously altered, and currently the use of the building mirrors that of its original use. There is a proposed renovation to the E.L. Smith Building, which would rehabilitate the upstairs rooms and utilize them as apartments. The proposed renovation would attempt to emulate the style of decor and feeling that the rooms originally possessed.

**•Upstairs**

- \*Dr. W.T. Rowley; Physician 1904-1905
- \*Mrs. Mary Johnson, M.D.; Physician & Surgeon 1904-1906 (office & residence)
- \*Dr. A.F. Rowley, D.M.D.; Dentist 1904
- \*Mr. Smith's Office: Room 1; 1904-1921
- \*Dr. Edgington; Physician 1905-1911
- \*Ruth Barnett: Residence; 1905-1908
- \*Dr. Dutro; Physician 1906-1914 (office & residence)
- \*Dr. H.P.W. Pineo, D.D.S.; Dentist 1906-1917

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 15

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- \*Mr. E.H. Hartwig; Attorney 1907-1909, 1917-1922
- \*Dr. C.W. Edmonds; Ear, Eyes, Nose & Throat Specialist; 1908
- \*Dr. Abraham; Physician 1911-1913
- \*Dr. John W. Sifton, Physician & Surgeon; 1917-1920
- \*Dr. Carolyn Underhill, Dentist; 1918-1922
- \*Dr. F.W. Jones, Chiropracter; 1921
- \*H.J. Frederick, Contractor; 1921-1923
- \*Dr. L.R. Alexander, D.M.D.; 1922-1929
- \*Dr. N. Plyler, Chiropracter; 1926-1933
- \*Dr. Thurston Laraway, Physician & Surgeon; 1932-1933
- \*W.S. Finney, Insurance; 1932-1933
- \*Dr. C.E. Hardwick, M.D.; 1933-?
- \*Dr. Homer Ireland: ?-1945
- \*Dr. Lester L. Murphy, Dentist; 1933-195?
  
- Center Store
  - \*J.E. Rand Store: October 27th 1904-1906
  - \*Spot Cash Grocery (Wood & Smith Bros.): 1906-October 8, 1908
  - \*Wood & Huggins Grocery: 1908-1910
  - \*Wood's Grocery: 1911-1917
  - \*Mr. Harry Gross Secondhand Store: 1918-1920
  - \*Mr. Harry Gross Cash and Carry: 1921-1931
  - \*Mr. Eby Cash and Carry/Food Store: 1931-1947
  - \*Hickey's Grocery: 1948-1950
  - \*Coast to Coast Hardware: 1950-1973
  - \*Hood River Stationers: 1973-1990
  
- Corner Rooms
  - \*First National Bank: 1904-1910
  - \*Library : Sept. 13, 1912- Mar. 16, 1914
  - \*Drugstore: 1914-1919
  - \*Bradley's Printing: 1920-24
  - \*The Guide Restaurant: 1925-1950
  - \*Columbia Photo: 1950-1969
  - \*Freedom Federal Bank (variety of names): 1969-1990
  
- South Rooms (see Exhibits 13 and 14)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 16

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- \*John Baker, Attorney; 1910-1941
- \*Baker & King Law Offices; 1941-1944
- \*Baker & Parker Law Offices; 1944-1955 (with Ken Abraham)
- \*Parker & Abraham Law Offices; 1955-1971
- \*Parker, Abraham & Bell Law Offices; 1971-1976
- \*Parker, Abraham, Bell & Bowe; 1976-1980
- \*Parker, Abraham, Bowe & Jaques; 1980-1981
- \*Parker, Abraham, Bowe, Jaques & Blakely; 1981
- \*Parker, Abraham, Bowe & Jaques; 1981-1983
- \*Parker, Bowe, Blakely & Phillips; 1983-1986
- \*Parker, Bowe, Jaques, Blakely & Phillips; 1986-87
- \*Jaques & Sharp; 1987-1990

**FOUR: HARRY L. GROSS**

Starting in about 1928 the E.L. Smith Building began undergoing an identity change. The people of Hood River began calling the building the Harry Gross Building. They had a good reason. Harry Gross was a Jewish immigrant from Russia. When he and his family arrived here in Hood River shortly after World War I, they had no money. Mr. Gross started his successful business by collecting people's garbage and selling it to those that needed parts and scrap. In a way, Mr. Gross was one of the first real recycling activists.

Mr. Gross soon began operating his business out of a horse and buggy which he drove up and down Oak Street with his wares. In 1918, he conducted weekly auctions of his wares, which proved to be very successful. His advertisements in the Hood River Glacier boldly proclaim that ". . . one man's trash is another man's treasure!"

By 1919, Mr. Gross had opened up a secondhand furniture and supply store in the E.L. Smith Building's center store. As the store progressed, it became a grocery store, which was entirely cash only. At the time, "cash and carry" stores were unusual, and most people purchased goods on account and had them delivered. Mr. Gross's Cash and Carry, as it soon came to be known, was one of the first of its kind, and proved to be a timely success.

In 1930 Mr. Harry Gross was known as "Hood River's First Millionaire", self-taught, and brought up from the street (see Exhibit #11). Mr. Gross maintained his store until the early 1930's, then retired, selling out to "Doc" Eby.<sup>22</sup>



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

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### FIVE: DR. MARY JOHNSON AND RUTH BARNETT

Dr. Mary Johnson was a physician and surgeon who had her practice and her residence in the E.L. Smith Building beginning with its opening in 1904, and ending in 1906.<sup>23</sup> There is not much history of the doctor, but she was known to be quite a successful physician, and extremely unusual being a female in her profession for that time period.

Dr. Johnson did effect one particular individual who grew to be an extremely successful and controversial individual. That person was Ruth Barnett. Ruth Barnett lived in the upstairs apartments with her family during the time that Dr. Johnson lived and practiced in the building. Ruth was impressed by the female doctor, and later in life when her own medical profession began, she remembered the woman doctor who influenced her.<sup>24</sup>

Ruth Barnett was born in Hood River in 1892. She lived in the E.L. Smith Building between 1905 and 1908.<sup>25</sup> Her father was a grocer in the store downstairs, and her family lived upstairs. In 1908 Ruth turned sixteen and became pregnant. As a small town girl, and in Hood River as well, naturally she didn't know what to do. Fortunately for Ruth, her father decided to move to Portland. Within a couple of months Ruth was living in the big city and was exposed to enough different kinds of people to discover how to obtain an abortion. The pains she experienced as a young girl motivated her to help other girls and women in her situation, thus in 1919 or 1920 after several years working as a nurse, Ruth Barnett began her own practice as an abortionist. She continued her practice for 50 years until her arrest and shortly after, her death in 1969.

Ruth Barnett fought desperately to offer to women an alternative to pregnancy. Ruth was working in a time when women were fighting for their independence and individuality, and she strongly supported the freedom of choice. Ruth Barnett was an exceedingly controversial character in Portland, yet successfully operated her practice for nearly 50 years, performing thousands of abortions without a single death. When she was finally arrested she was 74 years old, riddled with cancer, and still strongly supporting the abortion option. She served two jail sentences before her death from cancer in 1969.

### SIX: CURRENT OWNERS

<sup>22</sup>Kenneth Abraham interview, October 18th, 1990.

<sup>23</sup>Hood River Glacier, advertisements, 1904-1906.

<sup>24</sup>Barnett, They Weep on my Doorstep, 1969.

<sup>25</sup>Kenneth Abraham, interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 18

The current owners of the E.L. Smith Building are Ken and Leah Abraham. Ken Abraham is the son of Dr. Abraham who had his medical practice in the building between 1911-1913. Dr. Abraham was quite a prominent physician of his time, and was the first physician in this area to be elected to the American College of Surgeons.<sup>26</sup>

Dr. Abraham's son, Ken, has been a very prominent man about Hood River in his own respect. Ken Abraham began practicing law in the E.L. Smith Building shortly after World War II. His legal career was extensive, serving as the District Attorney for Hood River County between 1950 and 1960, and at one time or another almost all the public bodies in the county. Ken was the attorney for the Port of Hood River between 1950 and 1981, and was instrumental in many Port developments including the purchase of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge (see Exhibit #12). Ken Abraham retired from his practice in 1982, and is currently living in Portland.

## LIST OF EXHIBITS:

1. The E.L. Smith Residence, Hood River News, (date unknown)
2. Original location of the Hood River Glacier Building, History of Hood River County, Vol. II.
3. "Ezra Would Object", Hood River News, "Over the Picket Fence", Nov. 30, 1967.
4. "E.L. Smith Talks of his New Brick", Hood River Glacier, May 5, 1904.
5. The First National Bank Building, from a postcard, ca. 1905-1910.
6. "Rand's Fine New Store Building", Hood River Glacier, Oct. 27, 1904.
7. "Hood River County's Library", History of Hood River County, Vol. II, p. 121.
8. "Dedication. . .", History of Hood River County, Vol. II, p.6.
9. "The First Unitarian Society of Hood River", History of the Early Pioneer Families of Hood River, Oregon, (date unknown), p.30-31.
10. E.L. Smith Obituary/"E.L. Smith Named the News", Hood River News, Jan. 28, 1921.
11. "Friend of Harry? . . .", Hood River News, July 1929.
12. Kenneth Abraham and Family biography, History of Hood River County, Vol. I, p. 95.

<sup>26</sup>Hood River Historical Society, History of Hood River County, Vol. I, p. 95.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 19

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13. Parker, Abraham, Bowe, Jaques & Blakely advertisement, History of Hood River County, Vol. I, p. 488.
14. Parker, Bowe, Blakely, & Phillips advertisement, History of Hood River County, Vol. II, p. 487.
15. Ezra Leonard Smith biography, History of Hood River County, Vol. II.
16. "Hood River as I Have Known It", Eph Winans, Hood River News, April 14, 1950.
17. Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties; Hood River County, S. Donovan, 1988.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   1  

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Abraham, Kenneth, Attorney, Interviews, Sept. 15th, Oct. 30th, Nov. 10th, 1990.

Barnett, Ruth, They Weep on my Doorstep, Halo Publishers, 1969.

Bielemeyer, Pam, Former owner of Columbia Photo, Telephone interview, Nov. 16th, 1990.

Coon, Mrs. T.R., History of the Early Pioneer Families of Hood River, Oregon, unpublished,  
ca. 1945.

Guppy, Ruth, Historian, Telephone interview, November 16th, 1990.

"Historical Sketch of Hood River County", Hood River County Chamber of Commerce,  
unpublished, no date.

History of Hood River County, Vol.I, Hood River Historical Society, 1982.

History of Hood River County, Vol.II, Hood River Historical Society, 1987.

Hood River, Commercial Club, unpublished, 1908.

Hood River County Museum, Hood River, Oregon, Biographical, Subject, and Photographic  
Vertical Files.

Hood River Glacier, 1904-1918; 5 May 1904, 27 October 1904.

Hood River National Historic District Nomination, Heritage Associates, 1988.

Hood River News, 1919-1923, 1929, 1930, 1933; 30 November 1967.

Hood River Pioneers Meeting 1918, Minutes, September 17, 1918.

State of Oregon Inventory of Historical Sites and Buildings of Hood River County, Oregon,  
1976.

Wilson, Henrietta, Telephone interview, November 15th, 1990.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

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COMMON INFORMATION

- 1) E.L. SMITH Building
- 2) Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Darin Gardner, except 1 of 25, 2 of 25, 3 of 25, 4 of 25, and 5 of 25.
- 4) Date of photos: November 1990, except 1 of 25, 2 of 25, 3 of 25, 4 of 25, and 5 of 25
- 5) Negatives: Darin Gardner, 4190 Baldwin Cr., Mt. Hood, Or.

PHOTO LIST

- 3) Photographer: Unknown
- 4) Date: 1930
- 5) Hood River Museum Photographic Vertical Files.
- 6) Looking west down Oak Street. A view of a public gathering centered around the E.L. Smith building positioned at the left center of the photograph.
- 7) 1 of 25
  
- 3) Photographer: Unknown
- 4) Date: 1914-1919
- 5) Hood River Museum Photographic Vertical Files.
- 6) Looking west on the sidewalk of Oak Street, Ezra Leonard Smith (E.L. Smith) standing in front of his building (E.L. Smith building)
- 7) 2 of 25
  
- 3) Photographer: Unknown
- 4) Date: 1914
- 5) Hood River Museum
- 6) Looking south inside the E.L. Smith building; second floor. E.L. Smith seated in his office with an associate.
- 7) 3 of 25

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 2

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- 3) Photographer Unknown
- 4) Date: 1915
- 5) Hood River Museum
- 6) Looking east, E.L. Smith pictured on the sun porch of his residence in Hood River ,OR.
- 7) 4 of 25
  
- 3) Photographer: Unknown
- 4) Date: 1910?
- 5) Hood River Museum
- 6) Looking north; Ezra Leonard Smith pictured with two children outside his residence.
- 7) 5 of 25
  
- 6) Looking south east at the south (front) and east (side) of the E.L. Smith building. Oak Street and 3rd Street visible.
- 7) 6 of 25
  
- 6) South facade (front).
- 7) 7 of 25
  
- 6) South facade (front).
- 7) 8 of 25
  
- 6) Looking north east at the east facade and north facade.
- 7) 9 of 25
  
- 6) Looking northwest at the north facade and west facade
- 7) 10 of 25
  
- 6) Detail of east facade, oriel window, one of two on this building. Detail of corbel courses on cornice.
- 7) 11 of 25

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 3

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- 6) Detail of east facade; corbel line with leafset carved details. Brick inlaid arched windows, and recessed brick facia.
- 7) 12 of 25
  
- 6) Detail of east facade; oriel windows, corbel line and brick recessed facia.
- 7) 13 of 25
  
- 6) Detail of east facade; oriel window, one of two, corbel detail showing handcrafted Gothic influence.
- 7) 14 of 25
  
- 6) Detail of east facade; oriel window and corbel details.
- 7) 15 of 25
  
- 6) Detail of south facade; corbel courses and facia detail.
- 7) 16 of 25
  
- 6) Second floor living space, now vacant. View looking northeast toward hallway. Detailing of wood trim evidence of Victorian influenced design.
- 7) 17 of 25
  
- 6) Second floor hallway showing detail of general restroom facilities, wainscoat wood paneling is evident throughout the hallways of the second floor.
- 7) 18 of 25
  
- 6) Second floor room looking northwest through an original window frame and pane.
- 7) 19 of 25
  
- 6) Second floor looking into hallway from a north view bedroom.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

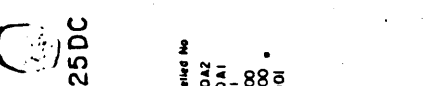
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 4

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- 7) 20 of 25
- 6) Second floor looking northwest through original window frame; First National Bank Building is seen through the window to the N.W.
- 7) 21 of 25
- 6) Second floor detail of one of six skylights still remain. This skylight is located in the central hallway assessing all apartments.
- 7) 22 of 25
- 6) Second floor hallway looking south shows doorways to apartments. Skylight (22 of 25) is directly overhead.
- 7) 23 of 25
- 6) Main floor as shown in Federal Savings and Loan. This is retail space and remains consistent with original intent of use.
- 7) 24 of 25
- 6) Main floor as show in Hood River Stationers. This is retail space and remains consistent with original intent of use.
- 7) 25 of 25





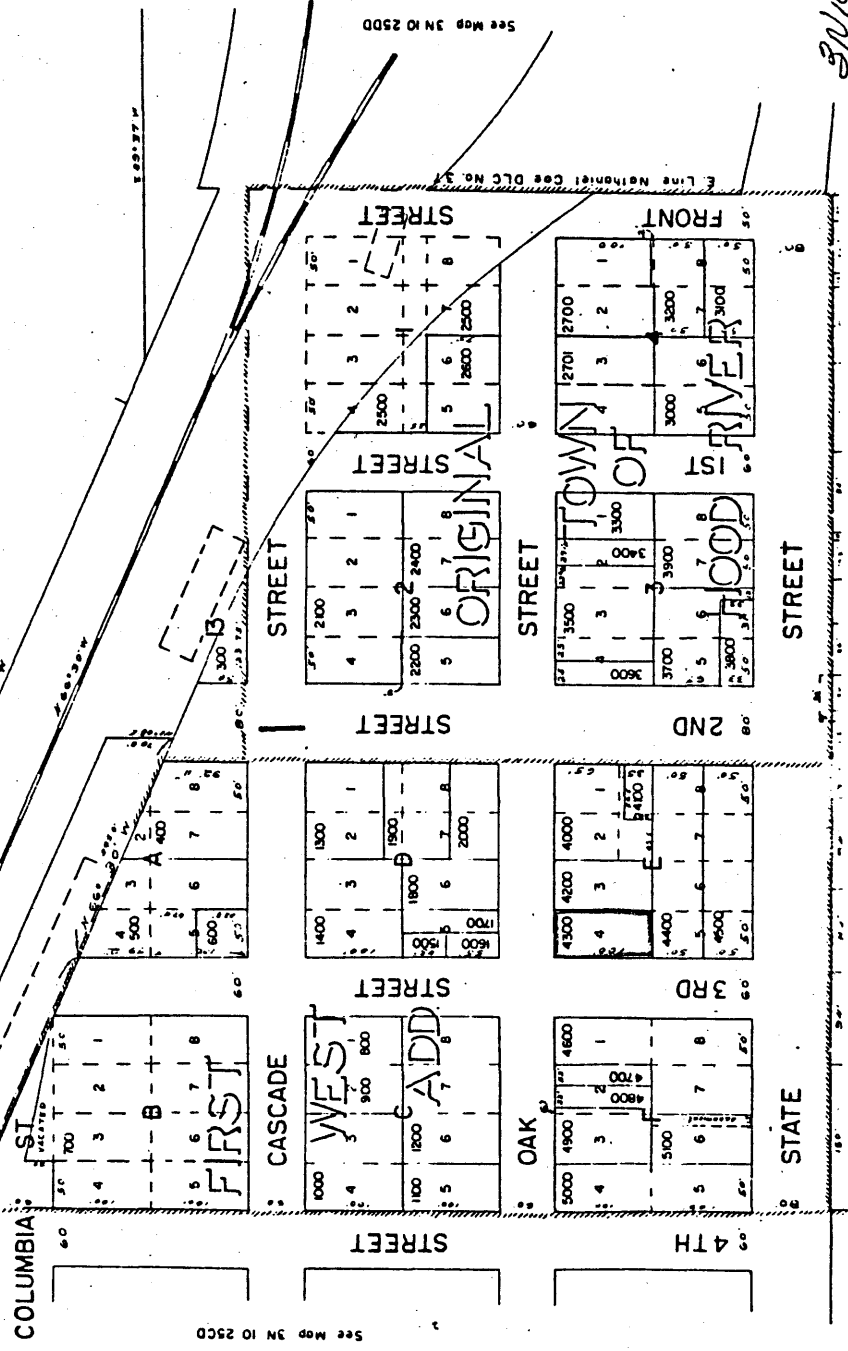
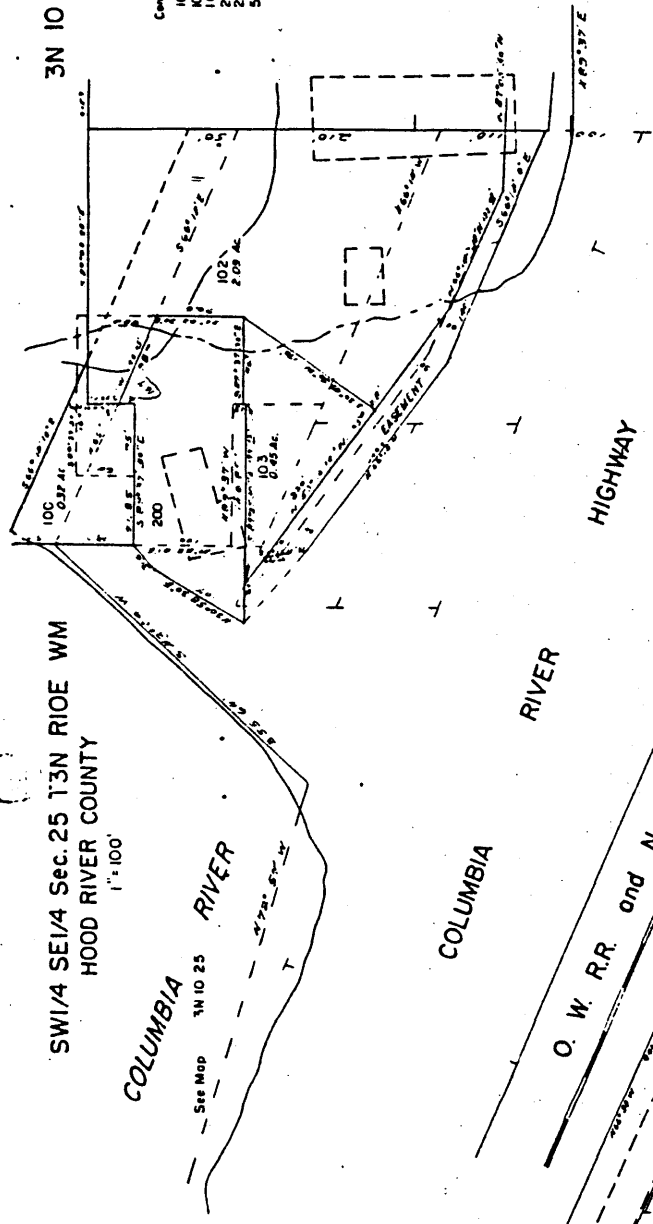
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KILOMETER

SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 25 T3N R10E WM  
HOOD RIVER COUNTY  
1" = 100'

3N 10 25DC

Canceled No  
10042  
10041  
101  
2800  
2900  
5901



See Map 3N 10 25DC

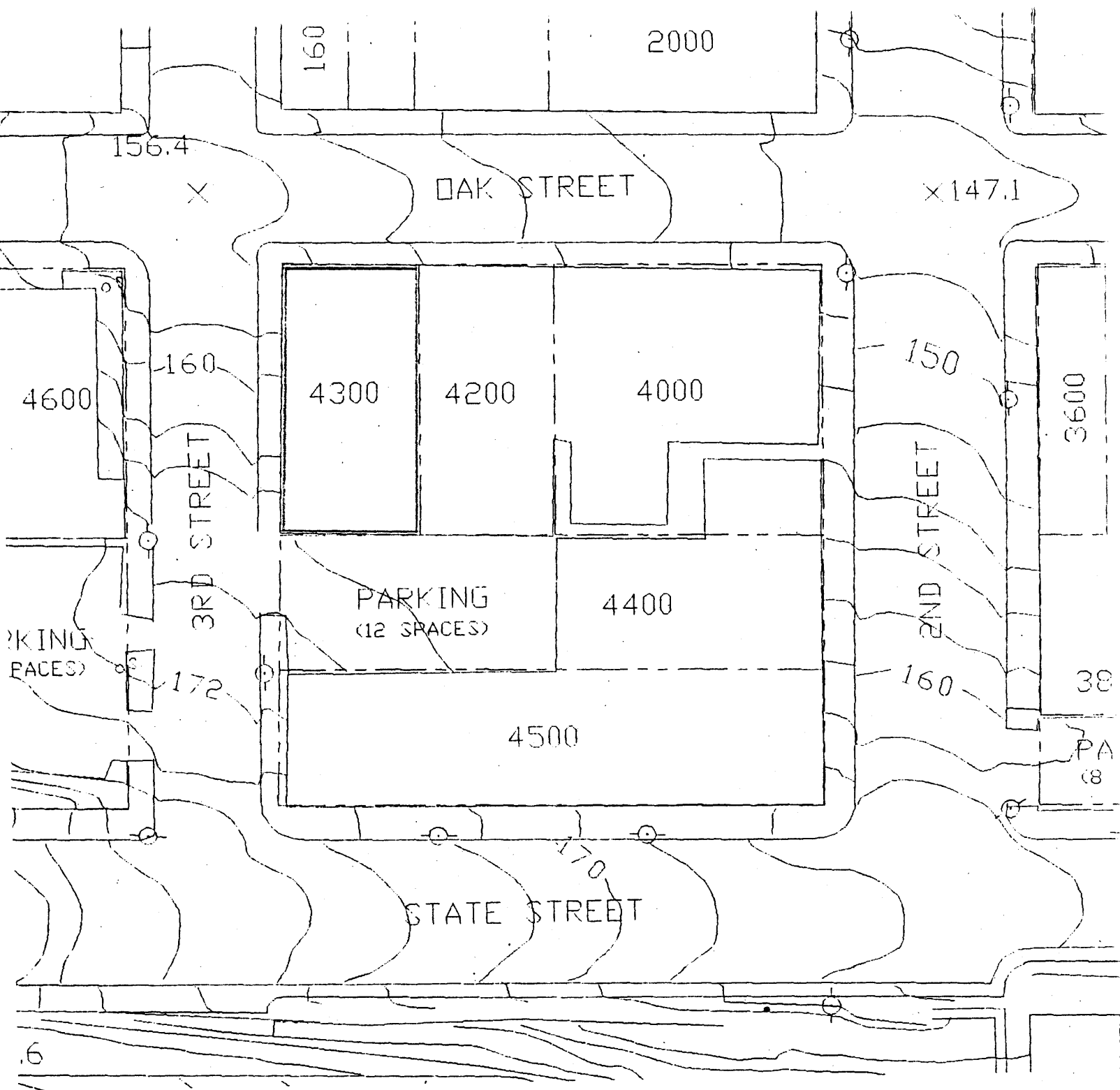
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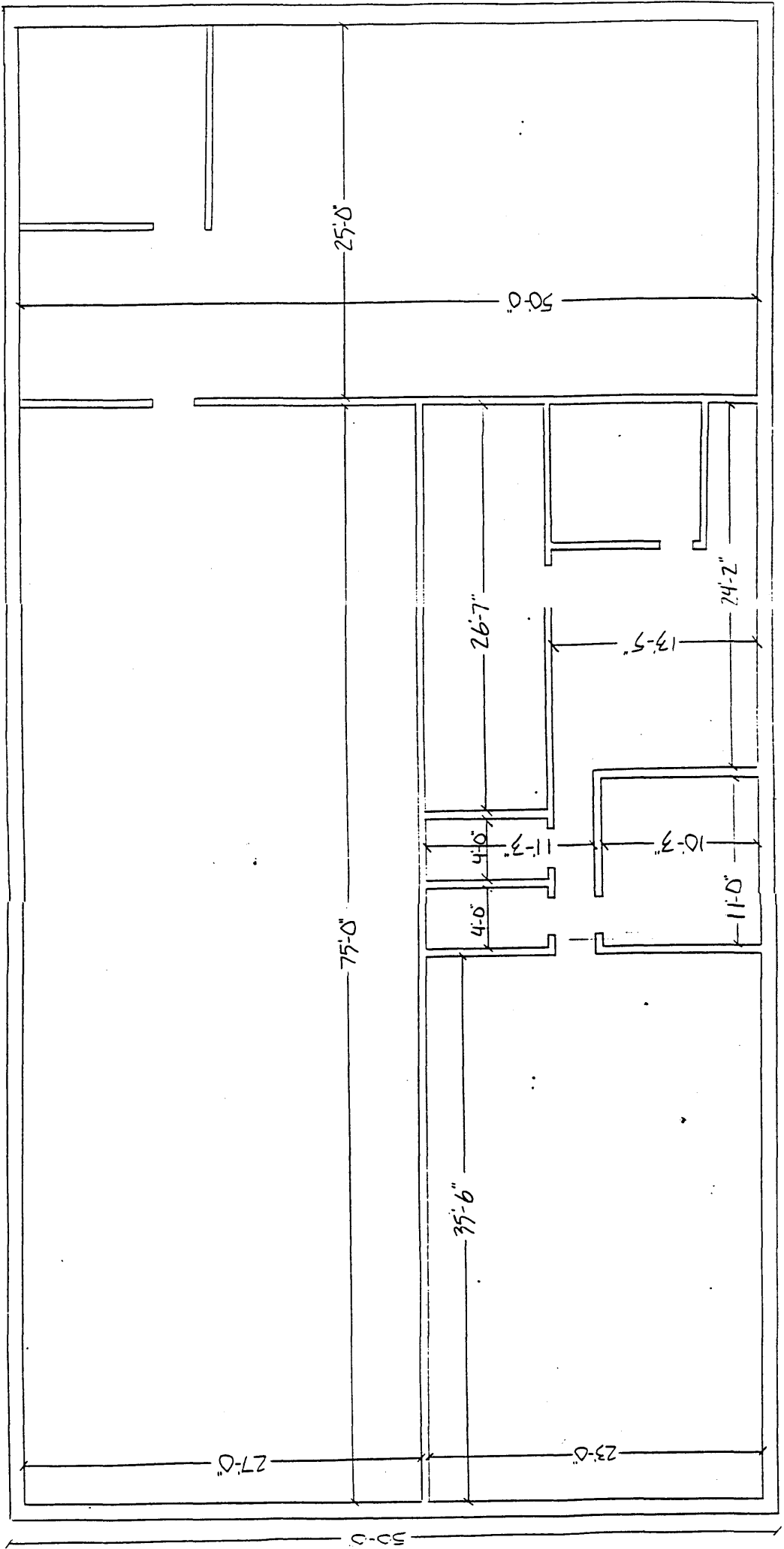
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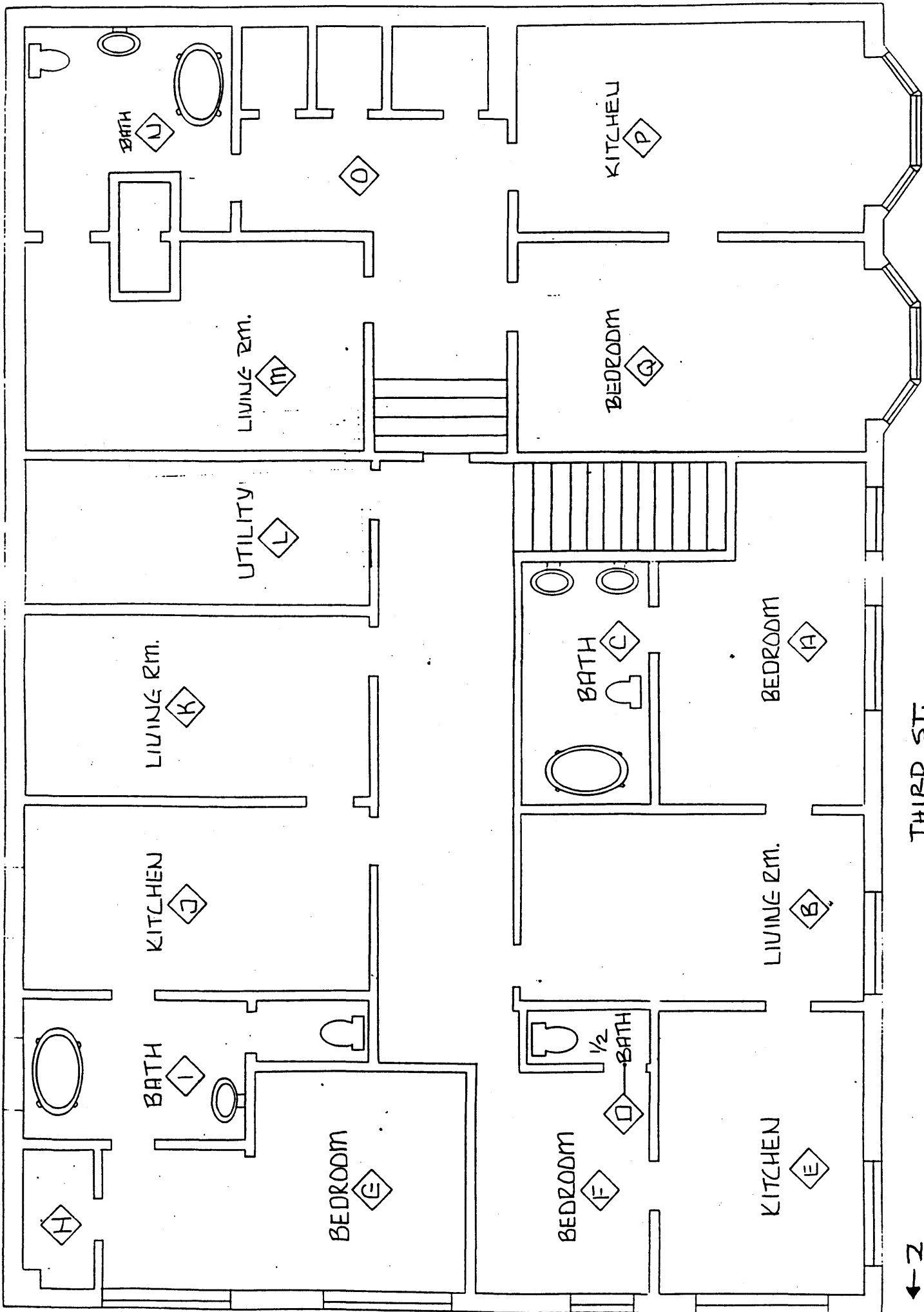


North ↑

The E.L. Smith Building, Tax Lot #4300



FIRST FLOOR E.L. SMITH BUILDING  
 THIRD ST. & OAK ST. HOOD RIVER, OR



THIRD ST.

←-2

E.L. Smith Building, elevation floor plan.

Few wooden buildings in Hood River have survived the start of the city proper in 1881 and the years of slow growth which followed.

One of the oldest, the 85-year-old Smith home, still stands at Sixth and State streets. It is safe to say that it will last longer than many frame houses built 75 years later.

After the Honorable Ezra L. Smith built his home in 1886, it stood for a long time in

Ezra Smith, choice of home site typified the family wisdom

# Ezra Smith Home Built in 1886

magnificent splendor and semi-isolation on its crest of land, the "only large house in town." At that time, the business area clustered in an approximate two-block location between First and Second streets on Cascade and Oak. It consisted of the original Mount Hood hotel, three frame store buildings, George Prather's barbershop and the post office on the present site of Fisher's Pharmacy, a livery stable, a blacksmithy and the railroad depot.

Eleven small houses had been erected near the stores. The first schoolhouse in town, built in 1883 where the county courthouse stands today, was just down "State road" from the Smith's.

Ezra Smith's choice of a home site typified the canny wisdom which made him more responsible for Hood River's orderly and successful development, both in town and valley, than any other man.

Over the years he became known as "Mr. Hood River himself". His leadership influenced the Valley from his arrival in 1876 until his death in 1921.

When he built the house in 1886, Smith needed a large one. He had a wife and four daughters, two orphaned nephews, George and Roy Slocum, and his mother-in-law.

In the "mansion on the hill", as it was long called, all four daughters were married. In it ~~Mr. Smith~~ **Mrs. Smith entertained graciously. To it came farmers and businessmen seeking Smith's advice.**

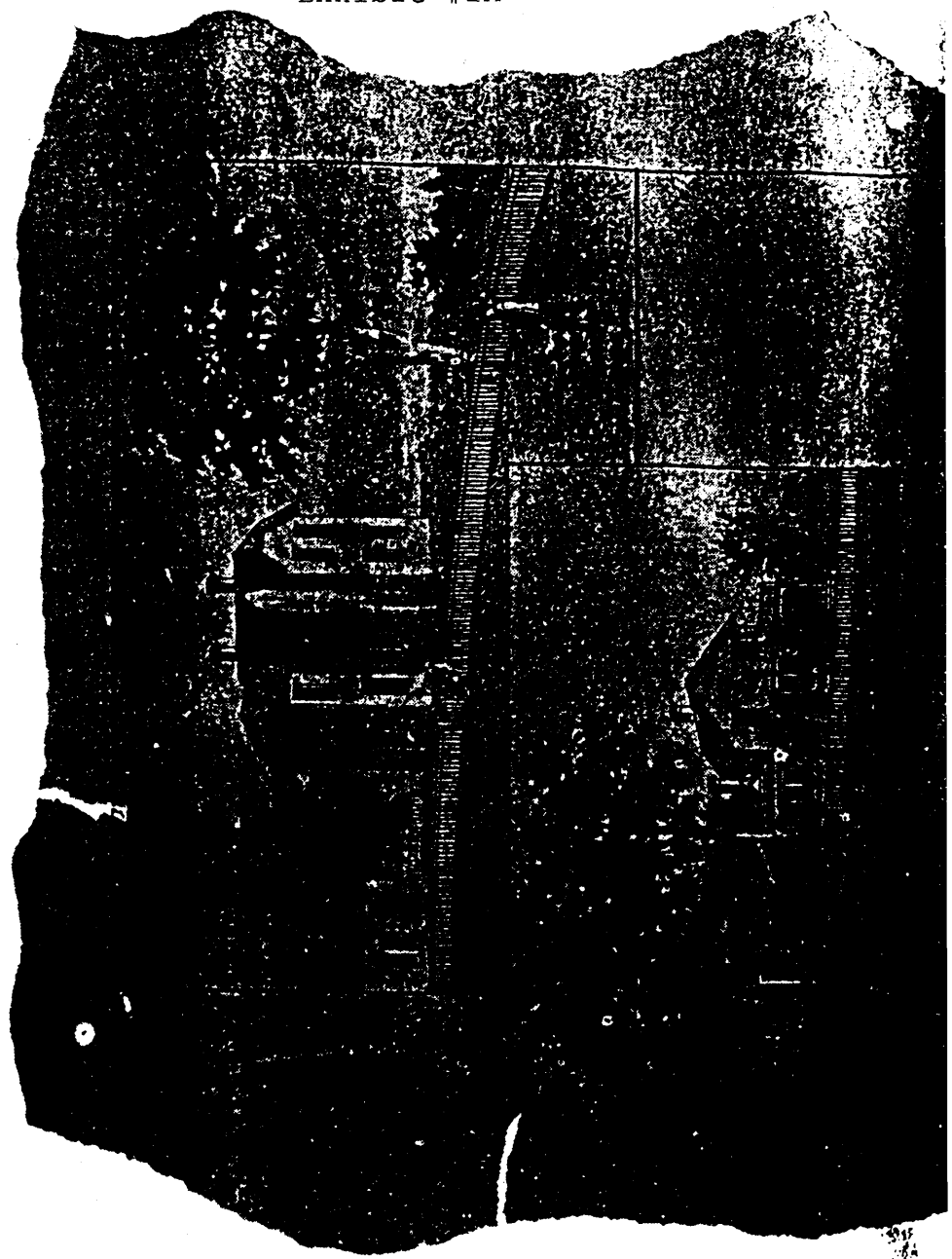


Exhibit #1A

included the most prominent figures of the day, for the Hon. Mr. Smith's voice was a powerful one in state politics, in Oregon agricultural development, in Hood River city administration, banking, utilities and other fields. He owned one of the early commercial orchards in the Valley, on Dethman Ridge, and one of the first stores.

The title "Honorable" accrued from his prior positions as California legislator, later as secretary of the Washington Territory, and in 1889 as Wasco county representative and speaker of the Oregon House at one time. He headed the respected and influential Oregon State Board of Horticulture in its early years.

Today it takes a little study to discover the original lines of the old home, still intact. Their dignity is there, despite numerous alterations since 1928, and neglect in the past two years.

The entrance on State street is much as it has always been except for the addition of the southwest wing as a chapel. Some of the high, narrow windows are still visible.

Part of the veranda across the north, where the Smiths enjoyed pleasant evenings viewing the sweep of the Gorge, remains as it was.

Inside are reminders of the old days: the beautiful carved newel post at the bottom of the stairway . . . the handsome fireplace in the large entry hall which, by opening sliding doors, became a part of the "parlor".

By the standards of their day, the Smiths' home was elegantly furnished. An old photograph of the parlor shows a rich carpet, handsome chandelier and kerosene lamps, highly polished furniture and brass accessories. And the piano which had come to Hood River with the family in 1876.

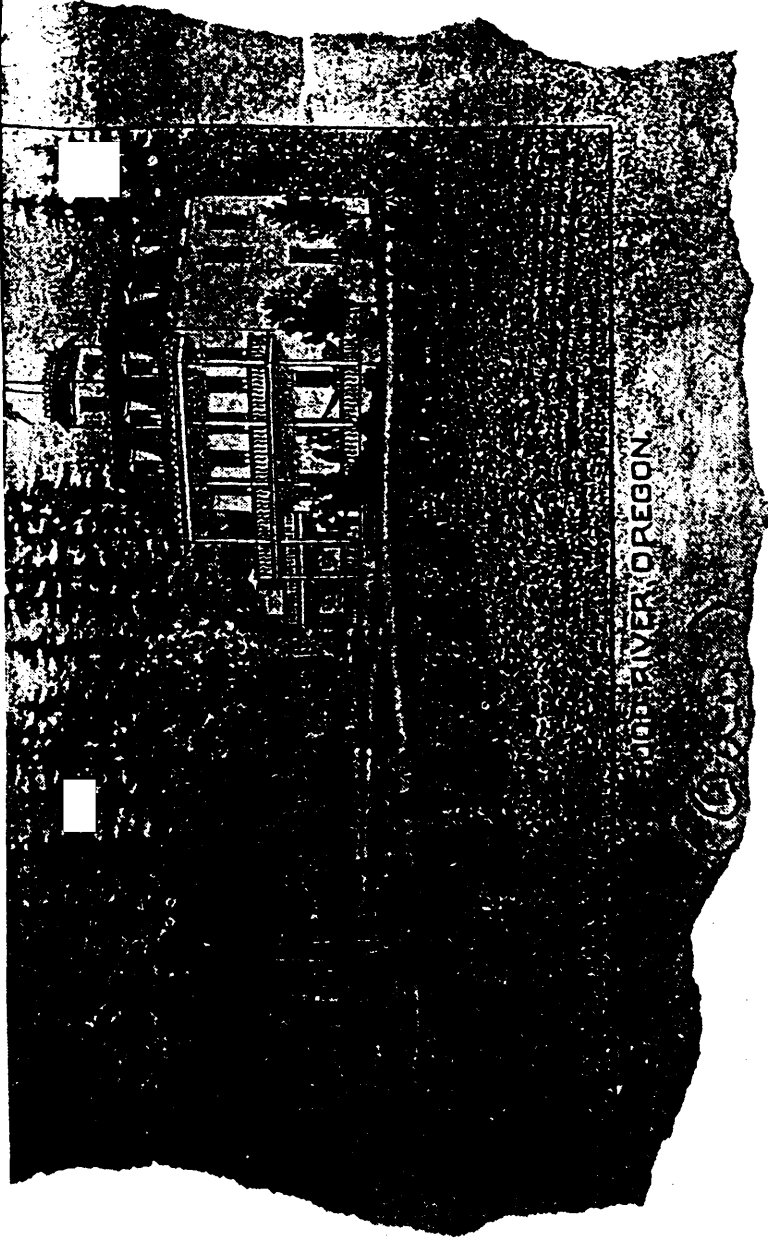
Over all, a sense of stability and substance prevails in the structure even today, a feeling of solid foundation and sturdy frame.

C. C. Anderson purchased the property for a mortuary in 1928, after it had been permitted to run down following Ezra Smith's death in 1921.

Anderson planned to tear down the home, but changed his mind and renovated it, instead.

The chapel was added and the space overhead converted into living quarters for the Andersons and their son, Clifford.

After Roy and Tressa Edwards came in 1942,



### Smith Home (top) One of Three Early Hood River Residences

they remodelled further, adding refinements to both the mortuary and the apartments. A modern office went in on the east end of the building.

In 1968 a new Anderson Funeral Home on Belmont road was built to solve an acute parking problem and the Smith house went to an out-of-town owner.

He offered the building to the public at a price far lower than his investment in it, with the hope that it might be made into a community center and museum.

The offer was turned down. The mansion on the hill today stands threadbare and unkempt, occupied by a few "housekeeping" tenants.

Landscaping so carefully tended over the years, involving a large area between Oak and

State streets which had always been a city beauty spot, is in a state of complete neglect.

The for sale sign on the structure is a sad commentary on the passage of time.

As Mrs. Edwards said, "Older people in Hood River were sorry to see the mortuary moved away from the Smith home, and so were we. They felt that having final services there was most appropriate, in a familiar building they all knew and loved. For them and their families it was like being home."

Still remaining as a memorial to the Smiths is the park north of the county library, donated by their heirs and called the Georgiana Smith park. In 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Smith had donated the land upon which the library itself stands.



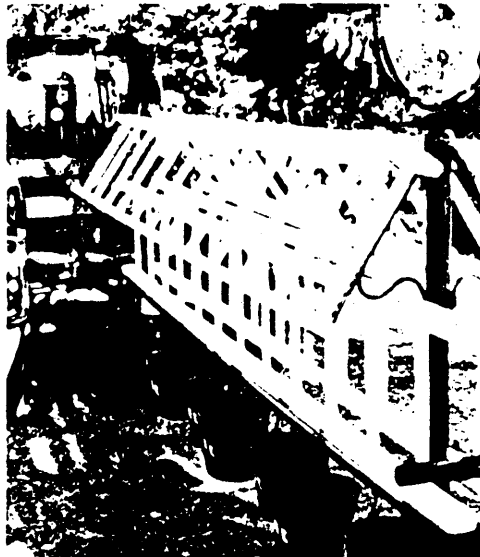
Editor Samuel Blythe traveling first class.

Union, and in those days political feeling ran high. It was deemed necessary that we should have as an emblem of the Union to fly to the breeze. My father was commissioned to see about getting a flag. So the trip to The Dalles was made and material purchased, costing \$20, and sewed together on a very wonderful piece of mechanism — a sewing machine, one of the first on the coast. The work of sewing the stripes together and binding the same, cost \$10 more with putting on the stars, which was done by the ladies of our neighborhood. The flag was a beauty then, and is still so. The colors are as bright as the day they floated out on the breeze nearly 42 years ago. Thirty-two persons all told participated in the celebration.

The day came near ending in tragedy. A certain young man, whom I will not name, was unwise enough to drink a cold-water toast to the Southern Confederacy. A stone thrown into a hornet's nest would aptly illustrate the situation in that little gathering. In an instant, it is needless to say, that young man realized what he had done and none too soon, and was only too glad to take off his hat before old Glory and swear allegiance to the Union. The trees still bear the marks of where the bower



The reason it is called Oak Street today.



Early Fire Engine.

was built, and where our flag pole was raised. The flag is now in the hands of the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

Thursday, April 29, 1909

### ATE THE DYNAMITE

Mr. J.A. Davidson, who is clearing his land bought of Mrs. M. Sue Adams, took home nine sticks of dynamite Thursday. Taking them out of his buggy at the barn, he laid them down in what he considered a safe place. His four-year-old colt came along and unobserved, ate every stick of the dynamite. Dynamite at ten cents a stick is rather expensive horse feed even if grain feed is thirty-five dollars a ton. Mr. Davidson will keep the horse quiet for a few days so that he may not get warmed up and he thinks there will be no danger of an explosion. Submitted by George F. and T.I. Marlor

"Where rolls the Oregon and hears no sound  
Save his own dashings — yet the dead are  
there!"

from  
"Thanatopsis" — William Cullen Bryant

## LEGEND OF THE LAVA WAR BONNET ROCK THE BLUFF ABOVE BINGEN



The bluff overlooking Bingen.

"Talking Coyote" changed 2 Indian rocks — 1 near the bridge — the other headdress he threw up on the bluff; from Hood River when their canoe engulfed with salmon below Cascade and they asked "Talking Coyote" for Coyote had changed himself to a man Indians thought Coyote was just an animal not powerful and this angered Coyote changed them to rocks with his power!

### THE EARLY WRITERS

Magazines proliferated during the past century benefitting budding writers providing increasing markets for their works. Today magazines are suffering as books become most popular. Everyone, it seems, is trying a word processor to produce his masterpiece.

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It's not what you've lost that counts and is important, it's what you have left and how you use it.

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James Addison

Reading is to the mind what walking is to the feet.

## SANDBAR "FLOUR GOLD"

There is gold on many sandbars in the Columbia River — you who boat, swim, or face hunt for artifacts have no doubt seen the glint of tiny evasive flakes called "flour gold," difficult to reclaim because all the sand is encrusted with alkali.

Around 1902 R.J. Holmes, who ran the plant here, and a restaurant man from the land named Hall, rigged up a sluice box on an old sandbar on Wells Island offshore from the city of Hood River.

TWO—Nov. 30, 1967

Hood River News

*Ezra Smith*

OVER THE

# Picket Fence

By RUTH M. GUPRY

## Ezra Would Object

If Ezra Leonard Smith were alive, he'd be protesting with a mighty roar heard around the state, if not the nation, when a syndicated scribbler called his town a "seedy county seat".

The Honorable Smith helped raise this valley. He nourished it economically. He pointed the way to successful fruit-growing. He spread its marvels abroad in influential places until he became known as "Hood River" Smith.

A reminder of the Hon. Mr. Smith is the building at 6th and State streets which was for many years, and until this month, the Anderson Funeral Home. The nucleus of this structure was the home Smith built in March, 1886. It remained the only big house in the "city" for a number of years.

The choice of location, now one of the most advantageous in Hood River with its unobstructed view of the river and mountains, shows the foresight of Smith who, it can be safely said, was one of the most successful men in the Valley's history.

He understood Hood River's peculiar problems -- geographic, topographic, economic and agricultural -- and he knew how to cope with them. His was always the voice of wisdom and those who heeded his advice found themselves better off.

When Smith arrived in 1876 and was deposited from the steamboat on a sandbar west of town with his wife, five daughters, household goods, five crates of chickens and a piano, it was said that the whole valley was there to meet them, the population then consisting of about 12 families.



**SMITH MANSION**  
It Still Stands

This was in all probability the biggest land deal, aside from Donation Land Claims of earlier days, up to that time.

After all, this was "The Honorable" Smith, former teacher, placer miner, surveyor, banker, California legislator and, most recently, secretary and then governor pro-tem of the Washington Territory. (Many here called him "Governor" the rest of his life.)

He had traded a place in Olympia for 480 acres on the west side, land which extended from the foot of the Frankton district up to Belmont road.

## Community Builder

E. L. Smith's civic and business activities here until his death in 1921 at the age of 84 would fill a whole issue of the News.

He served in the Oregon legislature as speaker of the house. He was one of the founders and first presidents of the Home Telephone company. He put up the first two-story business building downtown in 1882 at the corner of 2nd and Oak where the Hall building is now located, having paid Henry Coe \$250 for the entire block.

He was registrar of the land office in The Dalles in the 1880's while residing here and managing his several farms. He helped choose the site of the railroad depot. He was one of the incorporators of Hood River city.

## 'Beulah Land' Error

Mr. Smith's influence on the fruit-growing industry in the Valley cannot be measured. As he said, "I remembered the red-cheeked apples of my native New England and saw no reason why the Hood River Valley should not be a successful orchard district."

His cleared holdings on the west side were in hay, some peaches and cherries. On 30 acres of land on Dethman ridge he saw the best chance to put his theories to work and he started the first commercial orchard there at "Beulah Land", which was a model farm in the 1890s.

"E. L." made one of his rare mistakes at the Dethman ridge farm. Although always successful, the apple orchards contained "every variety under the sun", according to Frank Dethman, who remembers "I could name them row by row because Mr. Smith had me working in that orchard as a boy."

There were 31 varieties of apples, to be exact, and Smith soon realized that this was a drawback to profitable marketing. He reverted to a few good varieties and urged others to do the same.

As representative of the eastern Oregon district on the early Oregon State Board of Horticulture and first president, he also pushed the study of pests and diseases which had been given little attention, regular spray programs and clean orchard practices.

## Advice to Growers

As early as 1889, Smith was saying aloud that Hood River orchardists and strawberry growers would have to band together in some kind of marketing group, preferably a cooperative, so that they would not become pawns of "commission men" from Portland who controlled prices.

His advice led to formation of the Hood River Fruit Growers' Union of 1893, which was the granddaddy of all cooperatives in the Pacific Northwest, then the Hood River Apple Growers Union of 1903 and finally, to the organization of the Apple Growers Association of 1913.

A local paper of 1918 commented on Smith's eighty-first birthday, "He was not the first to come to Hood River, but no one ever loved it more."

Said Frank Dethman, "He was a wonderful man."



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## Hood River Glacier.

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THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1904.

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### E. L. Smith Talks of His New Brick.

Hon. E. L. Smith when interviewed regarding the new brick said: "There is not much to tell about it; there will be a two-story brick erected on the corner, of which the upper story will be made into office rooms and the lower will be offices on the corner and the second room will be used for commercial purposes." Asked if the new national bank would occupy the corner, Mr. Smith replied; "Well, probably," and he began to talk apples and sprays and storage, and by Dr. Harper's method of induction the inquisitive Glacier man learned the fact that while Mr. Smith was incidentally interested in the erection of a new brick that would be an honor to Hood River, he was wholly absorbed in the advancement and perfection of the fruit industry which is, and likely ever will be, the motive force of prosperity in our valley.

Among the many things of interest to fruit growers to which Mr. Smith gave utterance the following quietly drifted into the massive convolutions of gray matter in the reporter's think tank for the benefit of Glacier readers: "Yes, the best time to fight the aphid is before the foliage starts with a winter spray known as the Piper formula, which is: sulphur one pound, lime one pound; slake the lime and add the sulphur and enough water to stir easily. Boil one hour, stirring constantly, then dilute to four gallons. Strain out sediment and spray. For larger amounts keep the same proportions. Of course the time is past to use this spray this season." The reporter suggested that it would be good for the fruit grower to clip this from the Glacier and paste in his hat for reference next winter.

Mr. Smith continued: "For this time of the year, the most effective spray to use for aphid is the following: quassia chips one pound, boil two hours and dilute to four gallons; whale oil soap one pound, thoroughly dissolve in four gallons of water; unite the two and you have eight gallons of the best spray in use. The reporter thought this spray would taste to the aphid something like a decoction of quinine and whisky to a victim of the grip. Mr. Smith said further: "There has been no spray discovered that is superior to arsenite of soda for codlin moth; there are lead sprays which are equally as effective as the arsenite of soda, but more difficult to prepare and apply. There is no use in talking, you cannot save apples from the ravages of the codlin moth which

Exhibit #5



First National Bank, Hood River, Oregon.

The E.L.Smith Building ca. 1910  
Insert from historic postcard, Hood River Museum.

## Hood River Glacier

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1904.

### RAND'S FINE NEW STORE BUILDING

J. E. Rand now occupies his fine new brick store building in the Smith block, corner Third and Oak streets. The task of moving was a big piece of work; likewise the straightening up process in the new quarters. With the usual delay in securing building material from Portland, many of the windows yet lack the glass, and it is not possible to have everything arranged for several days.

This modern new store is the finest in the city. The pressed brick front, large plate glass show windows and the cement walk soon to come combine to make an imposing appearance. The building practically includes two store rooms. Facing Oak street is the dry goods and shoe department, while opening on Third street, south of the rooms to be occupied by the First National bank, is a large grocery department.

Stepping inside, the interior presents a very attractive appearance. The clear white walls, the finely varnished shelves and rows of plate glass counters give the impression of a metropolitan department store. Measurements have been sent East for a cash carrier system to be installed next month.

Everything about the store is segregated in a department by itself, thus affording a much better opportunity for a display of the goods, and making it very convenient in waiting on customers. To the right of the main room is the shoe department. A glance at the well filled shelves shows enough shoes to fill an exclusive shoe store. Further on room is made for men's hats. In the rear is the clothing department and men's furnishings. On the east side are the fine dry goods and women's wear.

Elevated from the Oak street floor is the grocery department, reached by a stairway leading up from the middle of the main room. At the head of the stairs, and to the left, is a well-lighted office room. From here can be obtained a view of any part of the store.

The grocery department is divided

into apartments for crockery, tinware and staple groceries. Large windows give room for the display of green groceries.

Mr. Rand is very much encouraged over the business outlook.



Library built in 1955.

and planted it in the garden. In the fall when it was ripe, Alice and I had to pull it, every bunch and thresh the seed out. We did this with a small homemade flail.

Bert and Will worked in The Dalles for a number of years. They were two fine young men.

Alice was a sweet, pretty girl. She stayed with Mother and Father until the last on the farm. She married Ed Williams, a druggist, who lived only about four years after their marriage. She was left with two children, Edward, the older, was four years — a perfect little man who loved to take care of his Mother and Maxine, who was two years at the time of her Father's death and grew up to be a beautiful, dependable young woman. She married Leonard Nelson, a very worthy man. In the earlier days on the homestead, Alice was sent to Hood River to learn the millinery business, from Mrs. Broadbent, who was established with her daughter, Inez, in the business. After the death of Alice's husband, the Parkdale people gave her the keep of their telephone office, and I think she was there five or six years. I am enclosing a picture of her at this place. She loved flowers.

Alice and I were always together and were playmate sisters. Carrie, being six years my older, was my inspiration girl.

I began life on the homestead, when eleven. I am now in my eighty-eighth year, the only one of the Graham family left living. I resigned my position as teacher of the sixth and seventh grades, in the Hood River School, to marry a young Swiss man, by the name of Christian Bartsch. We have enjoyed a full life and are both well and happy. He is in the ninetieth year.

Love and 'bye to you all. *Grace Graham Bartsch*

The Book Club of Hood River organized in 1927 and is now 60 years old. It was organized by lively Miss Mae Davidson who liked the idea of non-political, non-religious subjects read and reported by women interested in books, current events and general cultural subjects. The group meeting in homes would be necessarily small. An enthusiastic club resulted in charter members, Gloria Garrabrant, Christy Raney, Julie Coe, Ruth Frisbie, Clara Hoover, Bertha Huggins, Rita Hanseon, Mabel Harris, Ida Baker, Lanora Frick, Ruth Burke, Mildred Adams, and Puddy Toutant. Those unable to see well brought someone to stand in for or show something for themselves.

Today after 60 years the group is strong, keeps up on complicated current events, and regularly donates fine books to the Hood River County Library. Book reviews by each member are given every monthly meeting. Today members are Lois Campbell, Leta Gramse, Alberta Kirkwood, Ellen Nance, Mary Howell, Nina Trumball, Veril Beard, Shirley Hunter and Nadine Eccles.

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Going on a journey — and you have no Star?

Marching — and you have no Music?

Learning — and you have no Book?

No Love and you're going to live? A declining drone?

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## HOOD RIVER COUNTY'S LIBRARY — 1955

At the turn of the century, Hood River enjoyed a land boom bringing people of many ethnic groups flocking to the valley. The

influx included many who were used to a gentler culture of the east. Here they found pioneer conditions, hard work, discomfort and no frills. The mountainous terrain on east, south and west made it difficult to travel to Portland for any cultural offering.

Members of the Hood River Womans Club decided in 1908 that they wanted a library, so led by Mrs. George H. Castner, an aggressive club leader firmly petitioned the city council till it agreed to set \$700 for books purchased in 1911.

On September 13, 1912 four months after the group of library-conscious citizens organized, Hood River's first public library opened in the E.L. Smith building on Third street located where the present site of the U.S. National Bank's parking lot. It boasted a librarian, Della F. Northey, and 115 eager applicants for borrowers' cards within the first two opening days.

Mayor E.O. Blanchar, as council leader appointed the first library board: L.H. Huggins, S.O. McLaughlin, Dr. F.C. Brosius, J.P. Lucas, Miss Mary McLoren, niece of explorer Nathaniel Wyeth and Mrs. William L. Stewart, a daughter of the E.L. Smiths.

With sights on a higher goal the Hood River Woman's Club, Mrs. Stewart leading, secured a grant from the Carnegie Foundation by meeting the terms: the community providing land for the library and raising 10% of the \$17,500 granted amount annually as library operating expense. (The Carnegie Foundation had been endowed by Andrew Carnegie, the wealthy steel manufacturer to foster libraries throughout the world.)

Hon. Ezra L. Smith gave his lovely hillside between Oak and State at 5th Street canopied by last survivors of the oak groves covering the original townsite, a choice property. He had served in the California Legislature, also, former secretary of Washington Territory and later had been Wasco County Representative and speaker of the Oregon House.

(In early days he owned one of the largest cultivated farms in the Frankton District, one of the first stores, and the block where his fine home in its architectural beauty reigned over an unbroken view of the Columbia.)

Two months after receiving the grant a contract was let to L.A. Woodward to build a stately red brick building planned by Sutton & Whitney, Portland architects. Two days later Miss Mary McLaren broke the ground.

Laying of the cornerstone took place Oct. 10, 1913 — in less than four months.

At the laying of the cornerstone on October 10, 1913, Truman Butler, chairman of the library building committee, acted as master of ceremonies. He introduced the principal speaker, the Hon. E.L. Smith, as "Hood River's Grand Old Man".

Mr. Smith said of the library, "I wonder if you think of the benefit that will begin from this beautiful October day. The library will be an emblem of the intellectuality of the people of our community. It will be the means of post-graduate work for the students of our high schools.

"I recall a time 50 years ago when a woman sat in a wagon selling ice cream during a Fourth of July celebration. It was my wife, and she was not doing this for her own gain, as many thought, but because she was determined to accumulate a fund for establishing a reading room and library in this county. I am glad that the library is being built on this ground which has, in a way, been consecrated by her life to such a purpose, and I hope that someday the city may acquire the rest of the block and make a city park."

In the cornerstone were placed current issues of the Hood River News, Hood River Glacier and Portland Oregonian, a Woman's Club yearbook for that year, a newly minted penny and a photograph of Miss Ruth McLain, then a library board member, youngest child of a Woman's Club member. The Woman's Club provided part of the furnishings and also planted shrubs and had the land graded.

The circulation during the first year had been 16,857 books, and when the library was moved to the new building March 16, 1914, there were 1,435 registered borrowers. Library stations had been set up at Parkdale, Mount Hood, Odell, Fir, Cascade Locks and Oak Grove.

In 1935 the E.L. Smith heirs gave the remaining lots in the Smith block to the county for library use. Through the sale of the northwest corner of the property to C.C. Anderson, funds were obtained to develop the park then in 1955.

From an early budget of \$2,250 with a book collection of 3,000 and a circulation of 16,857 grew the 43 yr. old library with its \$20,000-a-year budget, its 25,000-volume book collection and a circulation of over 100,000 a year. Best remembered of the librarians who encouraged this growth are Miss Northey, Mrs. Eliza Waite, Mrs. Wilma Koehler, Miss Mary Paul Goodrich and Henry Drennan.

The library was open to the public from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. week days, except Saturdays, when it was open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. During the school year the morning hours are devoted to work with the schools. Children from all the elementary schools in the county came to the main library or a branch several times a year to select their own schoolroom collections and receive instruction in the use and resources of libraries. Through the school loans children read over 32,000 library books during the 1954-55 school year. Not including the children using the school loans, over one-third of the county's population have borrowers' cards.

The reading room provided 75 current magazines of which older issues may be borrowed, and five newspapers. Six sets of encyclopedias and many specialized books were available for room use. Books from the new fiction shelf were borrowed for seven days only to allow more patrons an opportunity to read them while they are new. All other books, including new non-fiction and books from the popular reading row, were loaned for two weeks and then renewed unless previously reserved by another patron. About 400 phonograph records may be borrowed and were circulated 2,000 times that year. Books not available in the local library can be borrowed

# DEDICATION

EXHIBIT #8  
History of Hood River  
County, Vol. I.

## TO THE HOOD RIVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

### HISTORY OF PIONEER HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HOOD RIVER

In the spring of 1907 several of the old timers were visiting on a street corner in Hood River relating their experiences of the past. In their conversation it was suggested that a pioneer association be formed. They decided to call a meeting and invite all those interested in the community to meet at the Chamber of Commerce rooms on July 20, 1907. A notice to that effect was put in both Hood River papers, the *Hood River Glacier* and the *News Letter*.

On July 20, the following were present: David A. Turner, George T. Prather, Ezra L. Smith, Capt. Francis Jackson, Amos Underwood, Frank C. Sherrieb, Thomas R. Coon, George P. Crowell, Christian Dethman, John W. Hinrichs, Peter Kopke, Peter D. Hinrichs, Samuel F. Blythe, William Ehrck, John Leland Henderson, Frank Noble, John Henry Gerdes, and Herbert Judson Ferguson. David A. Turner was appointed chairman and George Prather, secretary. The name chosen was "Pioneer Historical Society of Hood River, Oregon." All people living in Hood River valley and prior to July 4, 1882, be and are qualified members for this organization. The object of this organization shall be to organize an old settlers union and historical society and be a permanent organization.

A committee of three, E.L. Smith, George Crowell, John Leland Henderson was appointed to draft by-laws and object of this soci-

### HOOD RIVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

On July 20, 1907 a group of settlers met to organize the Hood River Pioneer Association with the purpose of promoting an annual old settlers reunion. David Turner was chairman and George Prather was Secretary-Treasurer. Early settlers present were: E.L. Smith, F.M. Jackson, Amos Underwood, T.R. Coon, J.H. Ferguson, George P. Crowell, S.F. Blythe, William Ehrck, J.H. Gerdes, Peter Kopke, Chris Dethman, George T. Prather, P.D. Hinrich, J.L. Henderson, Frank Noble and Frank Sherrieb.

A museum was one of the Hon. E.L. Smith's most ardent desires. The Association adopted as one of its objectives "to collaborate and arrange in permanent form the early history of the settlement of Hood River Valley and the Mid-Columbia section." By 1917 the group was collecting articles in earnest and these and records were stored as there were no funds for display facilities. Several efforts were made to bring this about.

In 1942, Hood River Pioneer Association President, Gladys Hinrich appointed the following permanent committee with "power to act if a place could be found to establish the museum;" Mabel Lage, Chairman, with Joe Horn, John Cooper, Edgar Holman, and Arline Moore. William Gibbons later filled Holman's vacancy.

In 1949 there were three groups interested in



Pioneer Banquet held at the Hood River Hotel, Hood River, Oregon, September 2, 1924.

ty. Meeting adjourned to meet on July 26, 1907 for report of committee on by-laws.

July 27, 1907, Chairman E.L. Smith reported the name and object to be the same as suggested on July 20: Yearly meetings to be held on the first Saturday in October: Officers to be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and Historian. First officers elected were as follows:

*President:* David A. Turner, *Secretary-Treasurer:* George Prather, *Vice President:* F.M. Jackson, *Historian:* Hon. E.L. Smith.

October 3, 1907, first regular meeting. A committee of three were appointed to have charge of the social work. They were Mrs. E.L. Smith, Mrs. A.S. Parker and Mrs. C.

Dethman. A motion was made and carried to change the date of meeting from October to first Saturday in September.

Places of Meetings: Commercial Club Rooms, 1907; Odd Fellows Hall, 1908; K. of P. Hall, 1909; No record of 1910, 1911, 1912; Congregational Church, 1913; Library Hall with Methodist Church Dining Room, 1914, 1915, 1916; Odd Fellows Hall, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920; Mt. Hood Hotel \*Lotus Room, 1921; Guests of the Dalles Historical Society to Organize Pioneers, 1922; Library Hall, 1923-1927; Rockford Grange Hall, 1928-1958; Wy'east High School, 1957, 1958, 1961, 1962. Submitted by Madeline Edwards, President 1981-1982, March 1982.



Association members gather at Twin Oaks Fruit Farm, June 30, 1914.

setting up an historical museum in the county. They were the Hood River Pioneers, The American Legion and the Oregon State

Historical Society. In June of 1949 the Hood River County Historical Society was organized, and affiliated with the Oregon State Historical

## THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HOOD RIVER

Contributed by Mrs. W. M. Stewart.

It was organized under the leadership of Rev. W. G. Eliot, Jr., at the town  
 in April 1902. The first officers of this church were as follows: Mr. T. J.  
 Manning, Pres., Mrs. W. M. Stewart, Soc. or Clerk, Mr. W. P. Friday, Treasurer.  
 Mr. Eliot came to this little company twice a month to preach to them and  
 greeted on these occasions with a goodly number of earnest listeners.

In November 1902, the Society was called to consider matters pertaining to  
 building of a church. Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Smith bought a beautiful lot on  
 the corner of State and Ninth Sts. and presented to the Society for its building

An architect was called from Portland to consider the proper structure for  
 the site. On account of lack of dry material and the approaching winter, it was  
 decided to postpone the work of building until spring, February 1, 1903.

The building committee was composed of Dr. Watt, E. A. Franz, and Mr. F. P.  
 Friday. The church was completed and ready for use in the fall of that year. Mr.  
 Eliot made possible the completion of the church, with a slight indebtedness, by  
 his generous offer of preaching for nine months without remuneration, or allowing  
 his salary to be used for the church indebtedness.

During the Church life, covering fourteen years of service in this community,  
 we have had the following ministers, who have served their people in the Society  
 and Community unselfishly, and certainly broadened and strengthened all who  
 attended their services: Rev. Akin Weil, Rev. O. J. Nelson, Rev. L. A. Baldrige,  
 Rev. John Van Niece Bandy, Rev. Arthur Sargent and Rev. H. A. MacDonald. Dr. T.  
 Eliot and Rev. W. G. Eliot filling in during these years with sermons of won-  
 derful help and inspiration.

We can proudly say that no public undertaking in this community has been  
 accomplished without the help and encouragement of the members of this liberal  
 church faith who have no creed, but whose faith is this: The Fatherhood of God,

Brotherhood of Man, Salvation by Character, The Progress of Mankind upward  
and onward Forever.

Charter Members: F. P. Friday, E. D. Callins, E. J. Boyle, Maud Boyle,

W. H. Abbott, Nettie W. Abbott, E. L. Smith, Georgianna Smith, J. E. Rand, Georg-

anna Rand, J. F. Watt, Jessie B. Watt, W. H. Stewart, Avis M. Stewart, Frank

Chandler, Mary E. Chandler, Anne Conger Smith, C. L. Henderson, Iva Bryant, F. C.

Evant, E. A. Franz, Dora Franz, Lillian Luckey, Mrs. May Atterbury, Alida Shoe-

maker, Mrs. J. H. Shoemaker, Ella P. Jackson, Mary E. Jackson, Henry Hald, Harriet

Hald, James Cuning, Thomas J. Cuning and Herbert Entrican.

HOOD RIVER, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921

## FAMOUS WESTERN PIONEER PASSES

With the passing of Ezra Leonard Smith, whose death occurred at his home on State St. on Saturday last, one of the great figures in the early history of the West, joins the majority of those state builders of other days.

Mr. Smith, who was 83 years of age at the time of his death, had not been about town since last fall, growing infirmity causing him to keep to the house. He became steadily weaker and the end was not unexpected by the sorrowing family.

Mr. Smith was born in Vermont on September 17, 1837, the son of Ezra and Avis Smith, the father being from a very prominent American family.

As a young man he was a spectator at the convention held in Chicago in 1859, at which Abraham Lin-

coln was first nominated for the presidency of the United States.

Mr. Smith was married at Woodstock, Ill., on March 4, 1861, to Georgina Slocum. The couple left for California the same year, and lived for the next six years in the Golden State. Their home was in Eldorado county, where Mr. Smith was interested in mining. In 1865-66 he was a member of the California legislature.

In 1867, Mr. Smith was appointed secretary of Washington territory, upon recommendation of William H. Seward, by President Johnson. A portion of the time he served as secretary, he also acted as governor of this territory, owing to the illness and enforced absence of Governor Marshall Moore.

Mr. Smith, with George A. Barnes, established the first bank in Olympia, under the name of George A. Barnes & Co., and also was a member of the territorial council. After residence of nine years at Olympia, on account of failing health, he relinquished his activities in Olympia.

In 1876, Mr. Smith arrived in Hood River and took up residence at a point about one mile and a half west of where the city now stands, where he engaged in farming and later in the general merchandise business.

In 1883, he was appointed registrar of The Dalles land office, and for a time lived partly at The Dalles. In 1886, when his term of office expired, he returned to Hood River, and had been a continual resident of this city ever since. In 1888 he was elected to the Oregon legislature from Wasco county, and became speaker of the house of representatives. He was three times president of the Columbia River Waterway association, was well known in horticultural circles and had been president of both the State Horticultural society and the state board of Agriculture.

The service was conducted by Rev. W. H. Boddy, but it was left to Dr. Eliot, a friend of 50 years of Mr. Smith, to express sympathy with the

relatives in a glowing tribute to the memory of the deceased man, whom he characterized as "one of nature's noblemen." He dwelt on Mr. Smith's love of nature and his unbounding kindness towards his fellow men and women; his faith in things that were good and his rigid adherence to truth and honesty. Dr. Eliot said that honesty of purpose was one of the great outstanding traits in Mr. Smith's character, and he recalled the fact that, on one occasion, when Mr. Smith was offered the highest post it was possible for a governor to confer, he refused it because in return he would have been called upon to give a pledge which did not coincide with his own views of honesty toward his fellow men. All through his life, his kindness of character made the road easier for his fellow men and women, and the example his entire life offered might well be accepted as a standard of right living and thinking.

### E. L. SMITH NAMED THE NEWS

Event of Nineteen Years Ago is Now Recalled.

An incident in connection with the life of E. L. Smith that is not generally known today is that he was responsible for part of the name which this newspaper bears. When publication of a new newspaper for the county was first mooted, E. L. Smith took great interest in the proposal and when the time came for choosing a name, E. R. Bradley, the editor and other stockholders, decided to leave the name to E. L. Smith, who chose "Hood River News-Letter." Nine years ago, the word "Letter" was abandoned, but The News is still known by its original name to a number of the old-timers here.



E. L. SMITH



## Friend Of Harry Gross--Why Sure!

This story is on our genial traffic officer Geo. Morrison. Came a traveling salesman, in a brand new 8-cylinder car, along Oak street a few days ago, at something over 45 per. Unconscious of the fact that George was tagging along behind on his motorcycle, also at something over 40. An ear-splitting shriek of the siren and the big car and its owner veered into the curb, as George's motorcycle nosed up alongside. "Coming along pretty fast, wasn't you," asked George. "Yes," admitted the stranger, "about 40, I guess." "Nearer 50," said George. "But I had my foot on the brake and could have stopped in a few yards," persisted the culprit. "Well, you can't do that in Hood River," said George, "and I'll take your name anyway." "Gross," said the motorist. "Any relation of Harry Gross?" asked George. "Sure, cousin," said the motorist. "Well," said George, "Harry Gross and I are good friends, so I won't write you up this time. But keep your foot off the accelerator next time you're in Hood River."

(Five minutes later—Big car is parked outside local store—Traveling salesman about to leave to visit local business man. As he steps out of car, wife says: "Honey, who is Harry Gross, anyway?" "Darned if I know," was the reply. "But he must be some punkin in this town.")

**DR. V.R. ABRAHAM, M.D. HIS  
SON KENNETH M. ABRAHAM,  
LAWYER AND DESCENDANTS  
IN HOOD RIVER COUNTY**

Dr. V. R. Abraham was born in Iowa in 1885, raised in Forest Grove - Gaston area of Washington County. He attended schools there and finished at Pacific University in Forest Grove, going from there to the Univ. of Chicago for his medical degree; took his internship in Portland and commenced practice in Hood River County in 1911. He married Maverné Templeton of Forest Grove who graduated from Pacific University and then taught school. They had three children, Virginia, Glen and Kenneth.

Dr. Abraham was with the 12th Division in France in World War I as a Major. He returned to Hood River after the war. He practiced in Hood River until 1929 when he entered semi-retirement and moved to California as a consulting surgeon at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto and later continued his practice in Long Beach, Calif. until his death in 1939.

In Hood River, Ore. he was very active in community affairs serving as 1st Commander of local American Legion Post #22, 2nd president of the Hood River Rotary Club, member of the school board, county health officer, and in the work of the Riverside church.

Professionally he was the first physician in this area to be elected to the American College of Surgeons.

His son Kenneth M. Abraham, a graduate of the Univ. of Oregon and its law school in 1940 returned to Hood River to practice after 1st being with a large firm in Portland and then in the military service for four years, discharged as a Captain.

He practiced law in Hood River until his retirement in 1982 and was a founding partner in the firm of Parker & Abraham known as Parker, Abraham, Bowe & Jacques at the time he left.

His legal career was extensive, serving as District Attorney for Hood River County for 10 years (1950-1960) and at one time or another almost all the public bodies in the county. He was attorney for the Port of Hood River from 1950 to 1981 and as such was a leading partici-

part in the reclaiming of the port industrial area from the Columbia river and the development of industries thereon: H. R. Distillers, Jantzen, Nichols Boat Works, Jensen Lures, Western Power and Clark Door. He led the negotiations that resulted in the development of the Hood River Inn.

The financial base for all of this development was the operation of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge the purchase of which was assigned to him by a Port Commission without any assets. He went back and forth to Chicago and arranged revenue bonds in the amount of \$1,600,000.00 to purchase and rehabilitate the bridge. The bridge prospered and he handled additional bond issues secured by the revenues that was used by the Port in developing its assets along the Columbia River and the Hood River Airport. The bridge was purchased in December, 1950.

As attorney for the Hood River Community Hospital he also served on the board of that organization and as President over a period of 35 years. Under his leadership Dethman Manor, a subsidized home for elderly citizens of Hood River came into being under the administration of the Hood River Hospital. He served on the Board of Governors of the Oregon State Bar for three years and was an active member of the Riverside church, Elks, Rotary, American Legion and other community groups.

He married Leah Puppo in 1942, having met her at the Univ. of Oregon and had three daughters, Janet, Susan and Laurie all graduates of the Univ. of Oregon.



1982 PICTURE — Left to Right: Susan Abraham Bell Age 33 — Daughter; Peter VanZeipel Age 16 Grandson; Shelby K. Bell Age 10 Granddaughter; Janet Abraham Age 38 Daughter; Leah S. Abraham Age 65 Wife; Laurie Abraham Age 24 Daughter; Vayson VanZeipel Age 11 Grandson; Kenneth M. Abraham Age 65 Husband; R Jayson Children of Janet Abraham.

## PARKER, ABRAHAM, BOWE, JAQUES & BLAKELY

The firm was originally founded by John Baker who moved to Hood River from Findley, Ohio, in 1910 and opened offices for the general practice of law. Over the years he was quite successful serving first as a deputy district attorney and then later as district attorney for Hood River County from 1921 until 1941. The office of deputy district attorney and district attorney was a part-time position and exercised in connection with his general practice.

The firm's name changed from John Baker to Baker & King when Ercel King joined the practice and was elected district attorney. Ercel King joined the services in World War II and did not return to practice in Oregon.

After serving in World War II, Vawter Parker and Kenneth M. Abraham came to Hood River and opened law offices. Vawter Parker joined John Baker's office; the firm became known as Baker & Parker. The firm continued as Baker & Parker until 1955 when John Baker retired from active practice. John Baker continued until his death in 1960 at the age of 95 to come to the office regularly. Kenneth M. Abraham, who was born and reared in Hood River, succeeded John Baker in 1955 and the firm became known as Parker & Abraham; he had served as District Attorney from 1951 to 1961.

Thereafter the firm became Parker, Abraham & Bell

when Alan J. Bell joined the firm in 1971. In 1976 Larry S. Bowe, who grew up in Parkdale, Oregon, joined the firm and the firm became known as Parker, Abraham, Bell & Bowe. In 1980 Alan J. Bell left the firm to return to his father's firm in Stayton, Oregon, and Jerry J. Jaques, a Hood River native, joined the firm and it became known as Parker, Abraham, Bowe & Jaques. In 1981 Larry H. Blakely joined the firm and the firm's name was changed to Parker, Abraham, Bowe, Jaques & Blakely.

The firm at one time or the other, commencing with John Baker's career in Hood River, has been attorneys for the County as deputy district attorney, district attorney, attorneys for the Hood River County School District No. 3, Hood River County School District No. 1 and later for the merged city and county school districts, attorney for the City of Cascade Locks, the City of Hood River, Port of Hood River, Port of Cascade Locks, attorneys for the East Fork, Middle Fork and Farmers Irrigation Districts, Crystal Springs Water District, the Odell Rural Sanitary District and numerous other smaller municipal entities.

The major activities for the firm have been in general civil and criminal trial practice, municipal, probate and real estate law.



A STREET



# PARKER, BOWE, BLAKELY & PHILLIPS, P.C.



Front row, L to R: Kenneth Abraham, Vawter Parker, Larry Bowe; Back row, L to R: Jerry Jaques (former partner), Deborah Phillips, Larry Blakely

In 1910, John Baker entered into the general practice of law as a sole practitioner in Hood River. He served as deputy district attorney then as district attorney from 1921 to 1941 on a part-time basis as part of his general practice.

Ercel King joined John Baker to form the firm of Baker and King. Ercel King was elected district attorney while practicing with John Baker. Ercel King subsequently served in World War II and did not return to practice law in Oregon.

After serving in World War II, Vawter Parker came to Hood River and joined John Baker forming the law office of Baker and Parker until 1955 when John Parker retired from active practice. John Baker continued until his death in 1960, at the age of 95, to come to the office regularly.

Kenneth Abraham of Hood River was admitted to the Bar in 1940. After service in World War II, Kenneth Abraham returned to Hood River to practice law. In 1955, Kenneth Abraham joined Vawter Parker and the firm became known as Parker and Abraham. As part of that practice, Kenneth Abraham served as district attorney from 1951 to 1961.

In 1971, Kenneth Abraham's son in law, Alan J. Bell, joined the firm. In 1976, Larry S. Bowe of Parkdale, Oregon, joined the firm which became known as Parker, Abraham, Bell and Bowe. In 1980, Alan J. Bell returned to Stayton, Oregon, to practice law with his father, and Jerry J. Jaques, a Hood River native, joined the firm to form Parker, Abraham, Bowe & Jaques. In 1981, Larry

H. Blakely joined the firm and the firm's name was changed to Parker, Abraham, Bowe, Jaques & Blakely.

In 1983, Vawter Parker celebrated his 50th anniversary in the practice of law. That same year, Deborah Phillips joined the firm and Kenneth Abraham retired from the active practice of law and became "of counsel" to the firm for consultation on matters within his expertise. In January of 1986, the firm became known as Parker, Bowe, Jaques, Blakely & Phillips, P.C. Vawter Parker died in April of 1986. His name has been retained by the firm, in memory of this fine man. Jerry Jaques now has his own practice. In 1987, Parker, Bowe, Blakely and Phillips, P.C. moved to a new location at 216 Cascade Street in Hood River.

The firm at one time or the other, commencing with John Baker's career in Hood River, has been attorneys for the county as deputy district attorney, district attorney, attorneys for the Hood River County School District No. 3, Hood River County School District No. 1 and later for the merged city and county school district, attorney for the City of Cascade Locks, the City of Hood River, Port of Hood River, Port of Cascade Locks, Hood River Memorial Hospital, Farmers Insurance, attorneys for the East Fork, Middle Fork, and Farmers Irrigation Districts, Crystal Springs Water District, and Odell Rural Sanitary District and numerous other smaller municipal entities.

The major activities for the firm have been in general civil and criminal trial practice, municipal probate and real estate law.

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 C. E. Gilbert, Proprietor,  
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 AMERICAN PLAN.  
 New Management. Hotel Newly  
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 All trains stop for passengers. Stage leaves Daily  
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 Has become famous as a Fruit shipping point. A  
 substantial, neat, clean boxes and crates are a  
 necessity in maintaining the present high reputation.  
**The Hood River Box Factory**  
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 Carry the Largest and most complete stock of  
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 In the Town.  
 Sole Agents for MILLER'S SHOES  
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 Agents for Oliver Chilled Plows and

Oregon Legislature and was made speaker of the House of Representatives. He was three times president of the Columbia River Waterway Association: for three years president of the State Horticultural Society, and four years as the president of the State Board of Horticulture.

The later residence of the Smith family, at 6th and State St., occupied the sightly block commanding a magnificent view of the Columbia River and mountain scenery to which he was greatly attached.

Mrs. Georgiana Smith died in Hood River on Dec. 10, 1911. The stores and businesses of Hood River were closed that merchants and business men might pay their last respects. In her memory the family donated to the city of Hood River some park land next to their home and bordered now on the east side by the city library. There is a plaque in her memory on this park land.

Ezra L. Smith, sometimes referred to as "Hood River" Smith, because of his development of the resources of the beautiful Hood River valley, had among his most favored memories his attendance, with a group of fellow students of Lombard University, at the 1860 nominating convention of Abraham Lincoln. He was so great an admirer of Lincoln that he had his wedding postponed until after the inauguration of the President so that he could say that he was married under the administration of Abraham Lincoln.

E.L. Smith died at the age of 84, January 22, 1921 in Hood River.

My Grandmother, Georgiana Smith married James Elmer Rand in Hood River, September 12, 1892. He was the son of Robert and Christina Rand and was born May 16, 1865 in Wisconsin; and died in Hood River May 22, 1923.

They had two children: Everett born October 11, 1892 and died Jan. 29, 1907, in Hood River at the age of 14, as a result of a toboggan accident. The second child was Anna Laura Rand, born May 30, 1896 Hood River. Laura, my Mother, was a graduate of the University of Oregon in Education and Music. She taught in Bend, Oregon where she met my father, Clarence Thomas Terril (born Mar. 23, 1893, Atwood, Illinois). They were married in Portland, Oregon on Feb. 9, 1924 in the grand old Portland, Hotel. They resided in Bend for a number of years.

My Father was a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Law and was a practicing lawyer in the State of Oregon all of his life. He died in Portland, Oregon, January 5, 1974.

My Mother, Laura Rand Terril, had an outstanding contralto singing voice and was called upon a great deal to perform in the Bend and the Salem areas where we lived. She was the director of the Bend and Redmond Glee Clubs and later directed the Salem McDowell Club where we moved in 1937. Laura died on April 9, 1939 in Salem. Her Mother, Georgiana Smith Rand died just one year before, in Salem, on August 18, 1938.

Tom and Laura Terril had two children both born in Bend, Oregon. The first, William Thomas, born November 24, 1924. On March 24, 1950 he married Marion Wright (born Dec. 15, 1927 in Louisville, Kentucky and raised in El Paso, Texas). Tommy spent many years in the sales field and Marion was an executive with the Pacific Northwest Bell Co. They now (1982) are happily retired at Camp Sherman, Oregon.

The second child born to the C.T. Terril family was myself, Sally George Anne, born January 9, 1929. A graduate of the University

of Oregon in Music Education. I taught for two years in the Tillamook, Oregon school system before leaving the area to marry Leonard Hough Greer, (born Aug. 20, 1930, Portland, Oregon) on June 13, 1953 in Portland. He is a graduate of Lewis and Clark College and for many years was a drug store owner and manager.

Our children include: Carolyn Deborah Greer born May 13, 1957 in Seattle, Wash. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon in Education; and was married in Beaverton, Oregon on June 20, 1981 to Michael Eugene Hoshaw (born March 7, 1956 — Broken Bow, Nebraska)

2. Elizabeth Anne Greer born November 3, 1959, died Jan. 29, 1960 in Seattle, Wash.

3. Leonard Hough Greer, Jr., born Oct. 1, 1961, Portland, Oregon. He is interested in sports, particularly baseball and golf. Currently he is continuing his schooling at Eastern Oregon State College. In the manner of his great great Grandfathers, E.L. Smith and Robert Rand, he is a most industrious fellow. Sally Terril Greer

## EZRA LEONARD SMITH

Ezra Leonard Smith, the only son of Ezra Smith and Avis Barker Smith, was born Sept. 17, 1837 in Craftsbury, Vermont. The father came from a prominent American family, the first of whom, Richard Smith, came to Massachusetts in 1630.

He was educated in the Orleans Liberal Institute of Glover, Vermont and at Lombard University of Galesburg, Illinois. On March 4, 1861 he married Georgiana Slocum at Woodstock, Illinois.

After their marriage they took passage on a steamer from New York going through the Isthmus of Panama, reaching California after 40 days. Living first at Georgetown, then San Francisco, California, he engaged in mining then became actively engaged in Republican politics serving in the California legislature in 1864-1865.

They were blessed with one son and five daughters: Jessie born Dec. 17, 1861 (married Dr. J.E. Watt); Avis born Dec. 1, 1864 (married William M. Stewart, Hood River); \*Georgiana, born Jan. 22, 1837 (married James Elmer Rand, Sept. 12, 1892, Hood River); Laura, born Jan. 4, 1869; Irving, born Feb. 10, 1879; and Anne Conger, born July 19, 1873 (married Rev. O.J. Nelson). The last two born in Hood River.

In 1867 Smith was appointed by the recommendation of Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State, to be Territorial Secretary of Washington where he moved his family and resided for nine years at Olympia.

On March 1, 1876 they brought their five little girls to their new home in Hood River where he purchased a farm on Belmont Road. This property includes the site of the present Frankton school.

Always interested in horticulture, E.L. Smith was an active grower of apples, peaches and cherries. He had a general merchandise store as well as farming.

In 1883 he was appointed "register" of the Dalles land office. In 1888 he was elected to the



Ezra Leonard Smith.



Georgianna Slocum Smith.

✓ 14 April 190

# Hood River . . .

## *as I Have Known It*

by EPH WINANS . . . as told to Doug Parker

I would say that Hood River valley was nine-tenths in timber when I came to this region in 1886. At that time, Governor E. L. Smith estimated that there were some 250 people here.

Cutting cordwood for shipment into eastern Oregon was the main pursuit. Farmlands hadn't been cleared to any great extent when I arrived here. I believe that Charles H. Stranahan had the largest farm at the time. He had cleared around 40 acres. Stranahan's place, located about four miles out of town in the Barrett district, raised wheat hay mostly. Stranahan, a very capable man, expanded his holdings in the years that followed. Later he had large wheat holdings in Sherman county. He returned to Hood River to be manager of a milling company's warehouses here. He served in the state legislature for several terms, representing Wasco county, which included this area now known as Hood River county.

In terms of size, probably the next largest holdings in the valley belonged to Gov. E. L. Smith, who had possibly 25 acres of cleared land, also devoted to hay. Also he had a store in the Belmont district, which was moved into town—before I came—and located at the corner of Second and Oak streets. Smith's handsome residence on State street is now the Anderson Funeral home. Smith, one of the most influential and progressive men in Hood River during the early days, was sent to the Oregon Legislature in 1889 and became speaker of the house.

I might make mention of some of

the other farmers in Hood River valley when I first came here. Dr. P. G. Barrett, from whence the Barrett district got its name, was a very learned man who had a hay ranch of some 10 to 12 acres. I don't believe he practiced medicine here, but he was a man of means who enjoyed living amid the beauties of Hood River valley.

Edgar Locke opened up a farm east of Mitchell Point before I came here. He walked track for the O. R. & N. company and cleared up the land during his leisure moments. He was one of the first to go into the pear business, starting around 1896 or 1897, and produced Bartlett's on commercial basis, making good money on this venture. His daughter, Maggie, married W. H. Galligan and is still on the ranch, a picturesque landmark, which was called for a number of years "The Indian Gardens."

The York family was here before I came and lived in the Crapper district. One of the daughters married Bill Crapper. Frank C. Sherrieb, who came here 15 years before I did, lived in the Rockford district. He was a pretty successful farmer, who followed diversified farming, raised fruit and operated a small dairy. His son, Ralph, was a Rockford store owner for a number of years until recently, when he retired. The elder Sherrieb assisted in organizing the first irrigation company, the Water Supply company.

Charles H. Haynes, who came here well before I, owned what is now

(Continued on Page Nine)

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
COUNTY: HOOD RIVER COUNTY**

HIST. NAME: E. L. Smith Building	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1904
COMMON NAME: Freedom Savings./H.R. Stationary	ORIGINAL USE: Commerce/Financial institution
ADDRESS: 213-215 Oak Street	PRESENT USE: Commerce/Financial institution
CITY: Hood River, 97031	ARCHITECT: O.L. Stranahan
OWNER: Leah Abraham, et al	BUILDER: E. L. Smith
735 N.W. Westover Sq., Portland 97210	THEME: Commerce/Distribution of Goods
T/R/S: T3N R10E S25	STYLE: 20th Century Commercial
MAP NO.: 3N 1025DC	TAX LOT: 4300
ADDITION: First West Addition	x BLDG STRUC DIST SITE OBJ
BLOCK: E LOT: 4 QUAD: Hood River	NO. OF STORIES: 2
PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular	BASEMENT: Yes
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete	STRUCTURAL FRAME: Brick
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Flat	PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: One-over-one, double-hung wood sash; fixed pane storefronts
WALL CONSTRUCTION: Brick	EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Brick
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Stone lintel; brick arches over window; projecting cast iron cornice with decorative	OTHER: brackets; corbelling under cornice; oriel windows on west side.
CONDITION: x GOOD FAIR POOR MOVED (DATE)	

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): Three oriel windows from north elevation removed; bulkheads altered to Roman brick; storefront window alteration; some window alterations on first floor historic additions on south elevation.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: None

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES: NA

SETTING: Facing north on the SE corner of Third and Oak streets in commercial area; flush with the public right-of-way. Lot slopes up to the south. Two other bank buildings on SW and NW corners of Third and Oak streets.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Historical and/or architectural importance, dates, events, persons, contexts).  
USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.

The E.L Smith building was constructed in 1904 for a cost of \$10,000. Smith was a business person and investor who owned a lumber company in La Grande, Oregon before relocating his business to Hood River. At that time Smith along with his brother-in-law, F.S. Stanley, and other investors started a bank in Hood River. The First National Bank opened its doors in June 1904, in a building located between First and Second on Oak Street. The bank moved to its new location in the Smith Building shortly after it was constructed in 1904. The bank operated in the building until 1910 when it moved into it's new location on the northwest corner of Third and Oak streets. Several other businesses were located in the building. The 1909 Hood River Glacier states that Bragg Mercantile was located in the central store and boasted of two entrances to the store. The east side entrance was used by the dry goods section and the west side was a grocery store. At the rear of the store was the shoe department. Dr. Dutro and Dr. Abraham were also early occupants of the building. Dr. E.O. Dutro moved to Hood River in in July 1906, and started his practice in the Smith building. The Dutros moved to Odell in 1913, but the doctor continued his practice in Hood River. He saw rural patients in the morning and Hood River patients in the afternoon. Dr. V.R. Abraham started his practice in Hood River in 1911 and maintained his office in the Smith building until his semi-retirement in 1929. Dr. Abraham was very active in community affairs serving as the first commander of the American Legion Post #22. He was also elected the second president of the Hood River Rotary Club. He was also active in the Riverview Church, the school board, and was the county health officer. The building is currently owned by Kenneth Abraham, the son of the doctor, who was a prominent lawyer in Hood River for many years.

SOURCES: Hood River County Museum biography files: interview with Ruth Guppy; The Hood River Glacier, April 15, 1909; 1905, 1909, 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 2, no. 21  
FIELD NO.: 22

RECORDED BY: S. Donovan, N.H.P.A.  
DATE: 4/15/88  
SHPO INVENTORY NO.:

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
COUNTY: HOOD RIVER COUNTY

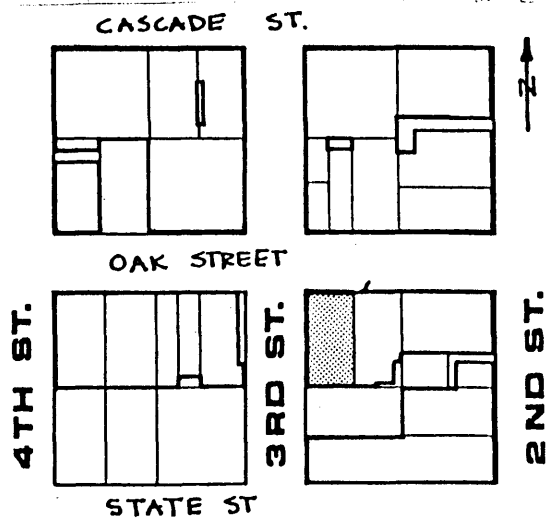
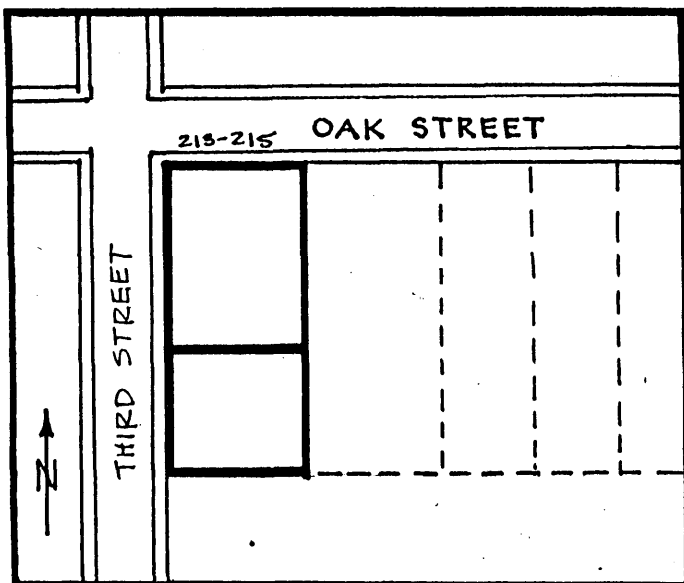
PROPERTY  
NAME: Leah Abraham, et al  
ADDRESS: 213-215 Oak Street  
ASSESSOR ACCT. #:

T/R/S: T3N R10E S25  
MAP NO.: 3N 1025DC  
QUADRANGLE: Hood River



NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 2, no.21

FIELD NO.: 22



GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES: N.H.P.A.

SHPO INVENTORY.: