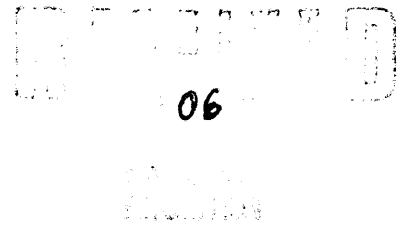


132

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name First Bank of Vale other names/site number Burgess Building

2. Location

street & number 148 Main Street South city, town Vale state Oregon code OR county Malheur code 045 zip code 97918

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1.

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 [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: January 10, 1992. State or Federal agency and bureau: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

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: [X] 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:)

Entered in the National Register

[Signature: Melissa Byers] 3/5/92

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Financial institution

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Richardsonian Romanesque

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

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walls sandstone

---

roof asphalt, built-up

---

other 

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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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This is a two story sandstone building, 22 feet wide by 40 feet long. Built in 1901, it is entirely native stone with no brickwork except the chimneys. This reflects an early period in Vale, for most of the native stone buildings of the period are demolished, altered, or abandoned. Buildings of 1906 on used local bricks in addition to stone. The architectural style is Richardsonian Romanesque, and the main builder and architect was probably one of the Hope brothers, Milton G. or Isaiah W., early settlers and business men. Three stone buildings are directly attributed to the Hope brothers: A stone residence, a stone store, and the stone First Bank. All are still in use.

Although constructed in less that three months, the workmanship and materials are quite good. The building was used for a bank for less than seven years, before being sold back to the Hope Bros. when the 1907 Drexel Hotel and Bank was built.

At this present date, the facade of the building is essentially unchanged except for work before 1906, replacing store front 4-pane windows with plate glass, and the side exterior stair was removed. Other extensive remodeling was done before 1906, but only minor changes since then. The interior has suffered water damage and poorly carried out remodeling. A 60 foot cinderblock addition was added in the rear in 1980.

The current owner, the writer, is working to make the property relatively presentable and usable, and registered as a National Register site, as directed in purchase agreements with the County.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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The First Bank of Vale faces West on Main Street which is the original Oregon Trail route. It is a two-story, twenty-two by forty foot stone building made entirely of native sandstone with the exception of four brick chimneys. The exterior mortar is a lime and sand mix. The exterior wall construction is sixteen inches thick.

The West facing exterior front facade features twelve distinct Richardsonian details, referenced in a list titled "Romanesque Details" accompanied with photos. The stereo-typic bank facade features two large first story plate-glass arched windows connected visually by running decorative stone work. The first floor windows and large windowed front door all have transoms including two with segmented stained glass lunettes. All the facade openings stress the massive and deep set Romanesque style as exemplified by the single sandstone ledge twelve inches by fourteen inches by six feet under the front, first story windows.

The second story front facade features two transomed sash windows with granite lintels and Richardsonian arches. The facade is capped by off-set sandstone blocks which visually lead to the building center. The building is crowned with a rare and unique pinnacle made up of a pedestal and ball design. The entire facade consists of rectangular dressed sandstone left with rock facing.

The South side of the First Bank of Vale is essentially unaltered with the exception of the removal of an original external staircase and the alteration of an original doorway to a window. The south side consists of uncoursed, random-sized rubble fill with dressed facings and granite lintels.

The North side of the First Bank of Vale is partially obscured to the second story level by an adjacent structure. The second story has two four foot by eight foot steel framed, twenty-four pane windows that are probably not original. The North side consists of uncoursed, random-sized rubble fill with dressed facings.

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 East-facing rear of the First Bank of Vale is obscured to the second story by a cinder block, twenty-two by sixty foot addition built in 1980. An original exterior door now opens into the addition and an original five foot by seven foot exterior opening that features a seven foot granite lintel has been closed by the cinder block construction. This filling may be the result of the fracture and repair of the lintel with bolted segments of railroad iron. The second story has an original window which has been cemented closed. An original exterior doorway which now opens onto the roof of the addition, indicates the prior existence of another exterior stairway. The rear wall consists of uncoursed, random-sized rubble fill with dressed facings.

The original flat roofing is indeterminable. However, it currently consists of rolled-felt and asphalt. The stepped walls continue two to three feet above the roof.

The original flooring has since been obscured by a concrete slab poured prior to 1980.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

## HISTORIC AND PRESENT APPEARANCE

**FACADE:** As can be seen by included photos the original front of the building is essentially unchanged from completion of the bank.

1. The store front windows were changed from 4 pane to plate glass before 1906.
2. The exterior side stairs were removed probably when the next door brick building was built before 1906

**ORIGINAL INTERIOR:** I have little information on the interior. If the building had 6 wood stoves, (as indicated by the openings; four original chimneys ,two of which operated two stoves,) the layout might be something like:

**First floor:** Three rooms: (1) main floor, 22'X27' ft (2) vault, 6'X12' and (3) freight/rear entrance /storage room, 14'X12.5 ft.

**Second floor:** I believe had: (4 & 5) two long office rooms, 11'X 28' each orientated to the front arched windows looking over the street, and (6 & 7) a rear second story entrance and room 14' X 12' and room, 8' X 12'. The second story had a side exterior stair and a rear exterior stairway.

I think that the interior was remodeled extensively at an early date such as 1906, the first change in ownership and building function, and much crowding of the building took place. The removal of the exterior stairway would have been necessary at an early date. The distinctive corner blocks can be used perhaps to determine this **FIRST REMODEL** layout.

### FIRST REMODEL

**First floor:** As stated, the side stairwas was removed, and a interior stair was created near the entrance by cutting 8-15" joists; supporting them with a new wall. This created a entrance room of 5' X 6' that both the entrance door and a 4' stair door swing into. The stairway corridor is 5' wide by 22 feet long. The main store room became the size of 16.5 by 27. This remodel must of been oportune for the installation of electrical wiring and plumbing, and the removal of the outhouses formerly under the exterior stair. Accordingly, a bathroom was installed underneath the new interior stair, and also some sort of washroom in the rear storage room, and running up of sewer pipe to the second floor. The rear storage room wall was redone to include a 6-pane opaque window for lighting from the front room. At this time or before the 5-foot freight entrance granite lintel cracked and was braced by a span of railroad rail.

**Second floor:** a bathroom, 8' X 12' was installed in the rear south room. A wall was made or moved to make walking room from leaving the stairway, making a 12' X 18' living room.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

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## SECOND REMODEL

I suggest that further remodeling took place when use of the building for family apartments began, perhaps in the 1930's, or as late as 1940's. The building changed hands so much after the 40's I suspect no alterations were made until the 1970's and '80s  
First floor: At this time or before the rear 5-foot freight entrance was plastered over.

### Second floor:

The upper offices were closed into square rooms, 11' X 11', perhaps for bedrooms. The rear storage room became a kitchen, 18' X 12', with a formed concrete chimney. Two 4 by 8 foot metal and glass pane windows were cut into the north wall. The rear window in the second story bath was concreted over.

## THIRD REMODEL:

As I suggested, no further remodeling may have taken place until the late '70s

First floor: The ceiling of the main store front was lowered by nailing 2X8's directly into the stone walls and interior wall. This lowering bisected the arched windows, so some arching molding was removed and the ceiling met in mid-pane. The glass was painted over in the upper segments.

### Second story:

A fire at some time charred the second story joists. These damaged joists were braced and doubled, and the ceiling lowered on the side opposite the stairway, again with the disconcerting effect of ending mid-pane of the arched second story window.

## FOURTH REMODEL

Efforts by Fred Burgess to make the building into a museum included pouring a cement floor into the main store room and the rear storage room. He attached fence mesh to the windows for security. He built a 60 foot cinderblock addition to the rear of the building, with a cement floor, and cinder blocked closed the 5 foot freight entrance.

## FIFTH REMODEL

Residential use included substantial removal previous remodeling, but did not proceed very far, leaving much debris and a leaking roof, and abandonment.

**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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1901  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1901  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hope Brothers, Milton and Isaiah  
\_\_\_\_\_

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



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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 0.06 acres Vale East, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	1
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4	8	0	8	5	0
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4	8	6	9	6	4	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 29, Township 18S, Range 45E, Willamette Meridian, in Malheur County, Oregon and is legally described as the North 28.75 feet of Lot 3, Block 24, Original Plat of Vale. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 1200 at said location.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area, measuring 28.75 x 94 feet, encompasses the entire urban tax lot occupied by the First Bank of Vale from 1901 onward.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Steven Reynolds  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 15, 1991  
street & number 236 Glenn Street telephone (503) 473-3278  
city or town Vale state Oregon zip code 97918

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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## SUMMARY

The First Bank of Vale, located on the east side of Main Street near the major street intersection in the historic trading center of Vale on the Malheur River in the central Snake River basin area of eastern Oregon, was built entirely of native sandstone in 1901. It is significant in the context of Vale's period of greatest commercial upbuilding, 1895 to 1907.

The two-story building has a footprint of 22 x 40 feet, and its minor frontage is on Main Street. Together with larger commercial buildings of brick and sandstone anchoring the four corners of the intersection of Main and A Streets, the First Bank of Vale makes up a cohesive grouping at the hub of the community that became established on the route of the Oregon Trail. The buildings are related visually by their common materials and stylistic character based on Italianate and Romanesque traditions. As the most intact and clear-cut example of vernacular architecture based on the Richardsonian Romanesque style, the bank meets National Register Criterion C and lends a degree of character to the streetscape that exceeds its compact proportions.

Briefly characterized, the main volume is constructed of random-range dressed sandstone over rubble on secondary elevations, and the street elevation is faced with rock-cut masonry and bold trim elements that are hallmarks of the Romanesque style. The built-up roof is screened by a parapet wall that is finished straight on the facade, with a coping course and a central triangular crest with ball finial. Facade openings are symmetrically arranged and consist of two tall Roman-arched windows on the second story and a three-part arcade on the ground story that is composed as a doorway (at the south end) and an adjoining pair of storefront windows all linked by Romanesque archivolts and rock-faced voussoirs with stylized lobular ornament pendant from the imposts. All window openings are trimmed with massive rock-faced lug sills. Wooden window and door assemblies incorporate either round-headed toplights or fan lights. Ground story windows are fixed-pane plate glass. Second story double-hung sash have one-over-one lights. Brick chimneys that vented heating stoves are intact, except for their flared caps, two each inside the parapets of side elevations.

**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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The building was modified at an early date, about 1906, when the outside stairway to the second story that was on the south elevation was removed and a stair hall was added inside the front entry. At the same time, divided storefront windows were replaced by the existing plate glass. Despite a succession of modifications in later years that do not qualify as historic alterations, original trim elements and finishes do survive on the interior, particularly in the upstairs office spaces. Window and door trim is good, standard millwork of the day, characterized by channeled, or beaded frames with ornamented corner blocks. In 1980 the building footprint was extended 60 feet to the rear lot line by a single-story cinder block addition that has a garage bay on the alley.

The masonry work, attributed to the Hope Brothers, Milton and Isaiah, is of superior quality, and the bank building is one of three stone buildings in Vale attributed to the local masons to date.

The banking institution that raised the building in 1901 was the first of its kind to commence operation in a building of permanent construction. Its incorporators had an important role in financing the Vale Hotel, also known as the Drexel Hotel, the pivotal three-story building of 1908 on the opposite side of Main Street which has been listed in the National Register. The First Bank of Vale was an enduring institution that outlasted and subsumed its rival, the First National Bank.

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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Vale was the first permanent settlement on the Oregon Trail in Malheur County. Anchored by the construction of the Stone House in 1872, and its subsequent expansion, the community began to burgeon with commerce. A frame blacksmith and stable shop was constructed shortly after the Stone House to service stage-coach and wagon traffic. The Hope Brothers Mercantile was constructed in 1893. The Bank, a necessity for business development, was built in 1901. These early buildings defined the downtown core and were constructed within a block proximity of one another facing on the Oregon Trail.

The Rineharts, who built the Stone House, had come to Malheur County from the Willamette Valley, to supply fresh beef to the booming mining towns of Eastern Oregon and Southwestern Idaho. The influx of cattle established an industry which exists today and required the support of banking. And, in 1901, the First Bank of Vale was constructed to service the rural community growth and commerce development of Vale.

Elwood C. Clark, the first Clerk, established the Wool Growers Association as the sheep industry encroached upon the cattlemen. Massive land grabs followed with the establishment of huge holding companies like the Pacific Land and Stock Company headquartered in Winnemucca, Nevada, and stretching beyond the boundaries of several states. The First Bank of Vale served as a catalyst and necessary step in the subsequent growth of Vale and led to its establishment as the Malheur County seat.

The entrepreneur Hope Brothers, were responsible for the subsequent construction of at least two additional stone buildings in Vale. The \$100 with which they began their business holdings, stimulated the growth of Vale's downtown on the Oregon Trail which today includes the Drexel Hotel and Stone House, both National Historic Buildings.

The sandstone which was used for the construction of the Stone House, Drexel Hotel, and First Bank of Vale, was shipped to Caldwell and Payette for the construction of early buildings in these communities. This same stone was used, for the construction in Vale of the Natatorium, Courthouse, and School House, all of which have since been demolished.

As the transportation system developed, another bank followed in the community, the rival First National Bank built in 1907. Until that time, however, commercial activity centered around the two-story sandstone First Bank of Vale.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

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The history of Vale as a town and city begins with Louis B. Rinehart's completion of the stone hotel in 1872, now known as the Historic Old Stone House. A store was added next to the stone hotel in 1883, a post office in 1884.

The town of Vale was started on the homestead lands of Rinehart, Charles R. Eldredge homestead of 1883, the Hope claims of 1882, and Holland and L. J. Hadley additions. Vale was designated county seat in 1887, and fierce competition to secure permanent status spurred growth between Vale and Ontario. Two elections and the donation of \$10,000 (topping Ontario's pledge of \$8,000) for the building of a county courthouse led to the construction of a dressed sandstone courthouse in Vale, completed in 1902.

Between the beginning and completion of this courthouse the stone First Bank of Vale was built and occupied.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

NATIVE STONE BUILDINGS

The native stone buildings built before 1906 used rough dressed stone blocks quarried east of town (see article VALE BUILDING STONE,

These building with two exceptions (Hope Bros Store 1893) and Fell's Saloon, 1902) generally included arched doorways and windows. (See Richardson Romanesque architectural style-1880 to 1900)

ALL NATIVE STONE CONSTRUCTION	present situation
Old Stone House	1872 restoration
Hope Bros stone store	1893 used as fire hall
Hope Bros stone residence	189- private residence
stone schoolhouses	1895 demolished
natorium	1900 demolished
First Bank of Vale	1901 private residence
Fell's Saloon	1902 abandoned
second courthouse	1902 demolished
Christian Church	1907 not used

The stone and brick buildings of 1906-14 also featured a seemingly standard arching formula.

The early stone buildings of Vale, after the Stone House (1872); Hope Bros Store (1893); the Natatorium (destroyed by fire), the original school house, the second courthouse, (both demolished) and First Bank of Vale were all built around 1900. The First Christian Church not in the historic district, is also a dressed stone building.

Hotel Drexel, IOOF Hall, (Golden Slipper), and First National Bank, were built around 1907. Many other downtown buildings are old but covered with up-dated materials.

Only two structures in Vale have been protected by historical registry. The Old Stone House is nearly restored, but the other, Hotel Drexel, has been abandoned by the City of Vale after a failed restoration project, and probably be demolished. The local Land Use Plan listes over 10 structures, including 2 houses. The stone residence built by M.G Hope is signicant also.

The First Bank of Vale is within the proposed historic district on Main St. On the block facing the Bank of Vale are three structure similar in style and age. All are owned by the city, and have slim prospects of restoration or even resale. Within a few years the First Bank of Vale will probably be the second oldest building remaining, given the trend of demolishing instead of restoration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

From the MALHEUR BOOSTER, Sept 1 1908  
VALE BUILDING STONE

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The Best in the West is Found Within One Mile of this City  
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The native Stone at Vale is recognized as the best in this part of the country, and Mr. Begg, the proprietor of the quarries here, states it is the best he has ever had anything to do with. He stated he had never been in a place where there was obtainable, three different grades and colors of sandstone for building purposes. He has taken up three different quarries. One has 100 acres in it, and is buff stone of a harder composition than the general run of soft sandstone, and is of dark buff. This he used in the finishing work of the Odd Fellows building, making the top three links from it, and the top trimmings. His other claims are 40 acres each of deeded land. One of these is a hard stone, which he uses for foundation work. It is very light sandstone of fine composites and will withstand almost any amount of pressure. It is impervious to moisture, and makes an excellent base for the lighter weight stone. The other 40 acre tract is the regular stone he uses in the construction of his buildings. When we were talking with him, he said "I come here unheralded, and with a gunny sack on my back. I tramped the hills around Vale for several weeks, hunting just what I wanted, and I found it in the three claims I located, all of which are worth big money when opened up for work. I have built five building in Vale using this stone, and put up the Y.M.C.A building in Payette, the Washington School House, and the Union Block in Caldwell, besides shipping to three different contractors in Caldwell for other big buildings there. I expect to get the stone contract for the new Nyssa School House, which has been let by contract to Harding & Williams of Caldwell. I also built the Sevey building, one of Caldwell's fine stone buildings. I am going to Portland, Seattle and Tacoma this coming week, and shall interview the stone contractors there, while down. This stone will sell at a premium over any Pacific Coast stone of which I am acquainted, and I expect to have it on the market in proper shape. I just finished a sandstone monument for William Grant, at Beulah, it stands 5 feet 8 inches high, and is one of the finest sandstone monuments I have ever seen. I used the white sandstone from my quarry, that which you saw a sample of a few days ago, and it worked up better than one would expect. People around here would not buy it of course, generally they would prefer to have me ship it out to the tombstone manufactories, and then have it shipped back later as tombstones. I have shipped two car loads of this stone to Caldwell Monument works, and have other orders which I expect to fill as soon as I can get at them. My supply of this stone is unlimited, and it works up in better shape than any stone I have ever worked. The base stone is hard and works down almost as smooth as granite and for a sandstone is the very best. I have not located any of the red stone but have confined my locations entirely to the buff. It will take \$50,000 to develop these quarries and install the necessary machinery. We will develop these quarries as soon as possible. In the mean time we are shipping out considerable stone."

The beauty of these quarries is the accessibility to market, being less than one mile from Vale and not a mile apart.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

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FROM THE VALE DEMOCRAT-1901  
-----

July 20, 1901

THE VALE BANK

BANK BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED AS SOON  
AS WORKMEN CAN BE SECURED

By August 8th the First National Bank of Vale will be numbered among the financial institutions of the country. As heretofore announced it will be located in the North end of Hope Bros store until its own building is ready to be occupied. Just when that will be depends upon the stone masons.

Mr Hope has been in correspondence will several good men but they are so busy just now they cannot come to Vale.

However, a first class man at Weiser has promised to come and work and the new building will begin as soon as he soes. It is proposed to have the work thoroughly done, and none but the most experiencd me will be employed. The building is to located just opposite the general merchandise store of the Hope Brothers.

At a recent meeting of the stockholders of the bank the following officers were elected: President, J.L. Cole, V.P. M. G. Hope. Directors: J. L. Cole, M.G. Hope, F O'Neill, Thomas Turnbull, William Quinn.

President is J. L Cole, V.P is M G Hope, Directos F. O'Neill, Thomas Turnbull, William Quinn.

-----  
Aug 3 1901

"M.G Hope has returned wednsday from a business trip to Portland. While away he secured the services of a stone mason and a carpenter who are expected to be here Monday to begin work on the new Bank building. These skilled workmen, if they like the town, will probably be induced to locate their famlies here."

-----  
OF LOCAL INTEREST  
-----

Aug 17 1901,

"First Bank of Vale opened last monday. The new institution has met with a most flattering reception from the businessmen of Vale and vicinity. Deposits so far have greatly exceeded expectations. The bank will remain in its present quarters until its own building is ready for it, which will be some time this fall."

-----  
Sept 14, 1901

"Bennie Richards got his leg badly jammed on wednsday evening. He was hauling rock for the new bank building, and was accidently caught between two large pieces. He will be laid up for some time."

-----  
Nov 2 1901

The stone work on the bank is complete and the plasterers will soon start to work. The contractors hope to have it ready for occupancy in a couple of weeks

-----  
Nov. 23, 1901

The Bank building is practically complete and will probably be occupied during the coming week.

-----  
Nov 30 1901

The new building of the First Bank of Vale was occupied saturday by that institution. The building is quite neat and is a credit to our little city.



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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FIRST BANK OF VALE  
VALE OREGON

Commenced business in 1901.  
Individual worth of Stock holders \$1,000,000.  
92 per cent of stock held by Malheur county people.

WE HAVE

paid up Capital of \$25,000  
Undivided profits of \$18,000  
Strongest List of Stock holders and Directors in Malheur  
county

IT

pays interest on time deposits  
Carries Burglar Insurance  
Is an exponent of conservatism, combined with enterprise.

DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS

J.L. Cole, President; T.W Halliday, Vice President  
Elmer A. Clark, Cashier; J.S. Edwards, Tom Turnbull,  
Fred Gillerman, A. K Steunenber,  
O.W Porter, S.M Molthan, Lillie Fell, Pearl E. Edwards,  
F.M Ricker, J.A. Newton, Emily L. Cole.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9

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The men and women associated with the Bank as founders and boardmembers were first generation settlers, who succeeded in prospering as individuals, developing homesteads in isolated and hostile conditions, but also as cooperating businessmen and civic leaders. They arrived here by wagon and had a European city built by the time the railroads reached them.

These people were responsible for a number of public buildings and businesses. Size and location notwithstanding, they retained Vale's status as county seat by funding a stone courthouse through private investors and winning three county elections to name the permanent county seat.

This local pioneer bank bested the later rival bank in a race to build new headquarters, resulting in the First Bank's partial financing of the the 3-story Drexel Hotel and Bank to counter the National Bank's two story building. The Hotel succeeded and later the First Bank moved again, buying out the rival bank and becoming the U.S National Bank.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

J. L. COLE, JOSHUA L. COLE- b. Ripley County, Indiana, Mar. 29, 1832. Emigrated west in 1860, moving to Willowcreek after 1868. He was one of the first settlers of the area. He prospered with cattle, orchards, beekeeping and alfalfa. He sold his ranch in 1901 and helped start the First Bank of Vale, serving as president and manager. Settled Willowcreek, helped finance first stone courthouse. He promoted the railroad.

T. W. HALLIDAY- Former frontier sheriff, vice president, First Bank

M. G. HOPE- MILTON G. HOPE, b. Aug. 31, 1859, Vernon County, Wisconsin. Life-long business partner with his brother ISAIAH, (I.W. Hope) HOPE BROS. Both settled separate homesteads in 1882, and started merchandise store in 1885-87. They prospered from a hundred dollar investment. The stone store still stands, now is Vale Fire Hall. Both men were prosperous land owners and businessmen, and helped found the First Bank of Vale, helped finance first stone courthouse. Milton served as Vice-President. They owned land later known as Hope Hot Springs. Milton Hope died Jan 29, 1927

FRANK O'NEILL- b. in Ireland, May 10, 1846. Emigrated to America in 1870. Homesteaded in the stock business in Willowcreek in 1882. Lived near what became called O'Neill Hot Springs, a stage stop, where a mysterious attack and murder occurred in the frontier isolation. Mr. O'Neill later married a woman injured in the incident. He was a stockholder and director of the First Bank of Vale

ELWOOD C CLARK- Clerk, came from Corvallis for the job. He helped start the Wool Growers Association.

WILLIAM QUINN- b. in Ireland, Dec 18, 1837. Arrived in America at age of 12. He became engaged in mining operations in Malheur area in 1865, buying a stock ranch in the 1880's. County Assessor. Stockholder and board member of First Bank.

R.A. LOCKETT- ROBERT A. LOCKETT, b. Nov. 29 1838, Henderson County, Kentucky. Emigrated west after being discharged from the Confederate Army. Eventually settled in Willowcreek in 1879. As a Representative from Baker County in the State legislature, he wrote the bill that created Malheur County from territory included in Baker County. Later became Judge and Justice of the Peace. Stockholder and boardmember of First Bank.

J. C. KELLY, JOSEPH C. KELLY, B. Jan 3 1870, Idaho City, Idaho. His family moved to Willowcreek in 1877. He opened a successful saddle and harness store in Vale 1898, and branch store in Ontario. He was elected county treasurer twice. Stockholder and boardmember of First Bank.

C A THOMAS- Came to Vale area in the 1890's, was deputy sheriff. He became a realtor and may have ran a store and offices in the First Bank of Vale after 1909 to 1911.

BEN W. MULKEY- b. Missouri, Mar. 22, 1874. Came to Malheur county in 1899, worked as clerk and county clerk, in 1920 bought and operated the Malheur Title and Abstract. Owned First Bank 1933-40.

**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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OTHER DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

(1), (2), (3),: are about the opening of a rival bank in Vale in 1906-07. The rival aspect of Vale banking led to greater efforts by the First Bank of Vale, such as the building of a 3 story bank and hotel, out-doing the First National Bank's two story building.

(4),(5), announce the success of the First Bank in maneuvering to receive U.S. Bank status, which later led to the buying out and closure of the rival First National Bank.

(6),(7), give information on the size of the new bank and hotel, and the assurance and competence that accompanied its building. Apparently wholly financed by the First Bank, a very solid financial operation.

(8) appearing next to one of the article about the begining of the rival bank, this article announces the ambitions of the First Bank to build new quarters. The original plan of two stories was expanded to a three story bank and hotel, probably by a collaboration of another planned building aspiration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

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(1) The Oregon Oriano Dec 1 , 1906

A NEW BANK  
To be established  
Land Purchased

F.P. Dunnaway, formerly cashier of a 1st National Bank in Texas and a party of Caldwell were here this week preparing to open a bank here. Local capital they state will be interested with them in this enterprise. Ex Gov Morrison of Idaho is understood to be one of the promoters of the enterprise. They stated they would erect a building of brick 50 by 100 on the Hamilton lots which they purchased a few days ago. We wish to state that every big enterprise of this sort cannot help but work towards a greater and better prosperity for Prosperous Vale.

(2) Oregon Oriano, Dec. 26, 1906

FIRST NATIONAL  
ORGANIZED LAST WEEK

The new bank was organized the latter part of the week. The stockholders were called together and the officers were elected. The capital stock is placed a \$25,000.00 and the bank will go by the name First National Bank of Vale. The board of directors elected are Ex Gov Morrison of Idaho, I.F.S. Diven and J. P. Dunaway of Vale, S.D. Simpson, cashier Western National of Caldwell, A.L. Wallace, cashier Nyssa State Bank, W.D. Graft of Jordan Valley.

The new officers are Ex Gov Morrison, President, J.E. Lawrence, V. President, and J.P. Dunaway, Cashier

The new bank will open up for business as soon as they get their books and safe for the east, which they expect in about two weeks

(3) Oregon Oriano, Feb 13, 1907

THE NEW BANK  
OPENED MONDAY FOR BUSINESS

The First National Bank opened its doors Monday in its temporary quarters in the Kelly building. Mr. Dunaway is their cashier and J. L. Lawrence is the V. President. They will begin work on a bank home of their own in a very short time, the plans and specifications are now in the hands of their architect and as soon as the weather permits they will put up a first class brick structure. They have purchased the lots formerly owned by Ed Hamilton on the corner of A and Court Sts. The new bank will receive a good patronage from the people.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

(4) Oriano Jan 25, 1908

A US NATIONAL BANK  
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A bill has been introduced for a U S National Bank with a capital stock of \$100,000.00. 3/5 of the shares are to be purchased by the U.S. Treasury. The money is to be raised by the sale of bonds. 2/5 of the shares are to be offered to the National Banks of the U.S. to be paid in gold coin. Branches are to be established in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Boston, Denver, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Portland, and Salt Lake City

(5) Oregon Oriano, Oct 2, 1909

UNITED STATES  
NATIONAL BANK  
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The First Bank of Vale, after nine years of successful banking and past the stage of experimental venture has been converted to the United States National Bank with a capital surplus of \$100,000.00. This being the largest capital stock and surplus of any bank in southeastern Oregon

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The bank is managed by the formerly same officers and directors as was formerly the First Bank of Vale.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J L Cole, T W Halliday, L J Hadley, Fred Gellerman, Elwood L Clark, W J Douglas, J R Weaver.

Its officers are at your service and we request you to call at the office of the bank and consult with them regarding your business affairs.

STATE DEPOSITORY

Pays 5 per cent on time deposit

YOU NEED OUR ASSISTANCE  
AND WE NEED YOURS

U.S. NATIONAL BANK

VALE, OREGON

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

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(6) Oriano Aug 10, 1907

NEW BANK AND HOTEL  
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First Bank of Vale Has Advertised for Bids for a New 3 Story Brick and Stone Home  
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This new building is to be 74 by 94 feet, the first story to be of native gray and buff stone, the second and third storys to be of Boise sand and lime pressed brick. The corner is to be occupied by the First Bank of Vale and to be 25 by 30 feet facing east. The bank is to be in an oak finish. The hotel office will be 25 by 30, dining room 30 by 30, kitchen 25 by 30, barber shop 15 by 25, 2 offices 20 by 25 all composing the lower story. The second and third storys ar to be 54 sleeping rooms, parlor and 10 bathrooms. The building is to be heated with natural hot water. Estimated cost when completed is 30,000.00  
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(7) Oriano Aug 24, 1907

THE NEW BANK  
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Not Let by Contract but by Days Labor

The First Bank of Vale will commence their new brick and stone building at once. The bids were opened Monday and were as follows, Harding and Williams, Caldwell, \$33,433, Joe Gasrein, Caldwell, \$38,950, Jim Casing, Payette, \$34,000. The directors of the bank at their meeting decided to reject all bids and architect H W Bond has been hired to take charge. The work will mostly be done by local people. It will mean work for all the idle people in Vale for the whole of the winter. The bank expects to have the 3 story building completed inside of 6 months  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15 (8) Orvino Feb 13 1907

MORE BUILDING

The First Bank of Vale shows  
up well

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The Directors of the First Bank of Vale held a meeting at the bank Saturday. These present were T.W. Halliday, J.S. Edwards, Fred Gellerman, A.K. Steuneber and E.A. Clark. J.L. Cole was in California and Tom Turnbull could not be present from Cord.

The meeting was one of the best ever held and means much to Vale as a future city. Owing to their greatly increased business in this city and vicinity, the directors decided to increase the paid up capital from \$25,000 to \$50,000, which with their large surplus and undivided profits makes it as strong a financial institution as any bank in this part of Oregon. The Directors having faith in the future development and growth of this city and country, and feeling that their present banking quarters were not adequate for their present needs, decided to erect a bank building large and commodious enough for some years to come. This building will be of native stone and brick, and plans and specifications have been ordered. It will be a two story building, 50 by 94, built on the lot purchased by the bank two years ago on the S.E. corner of Main and A streets. The bank will occupy the corner room which will be 25 by 50 feet. There will be one large store room joining on the south facing main street, and one facing A street, just back of the banking rooms.

The second story will be used for offices. The building when completed will represent an outlay of from \$15,000 to \$17,000. It will be modern in every respect, with plate glass windows throughout, and heated by steam.

The first Bank of Vale has been doing fine work for the development of Vale and the new building is but one of the many evidences of the leading place it holds in the development of this part of Eastern Oregon. Let the good work go on.



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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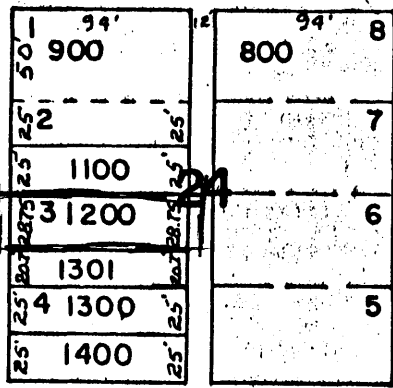
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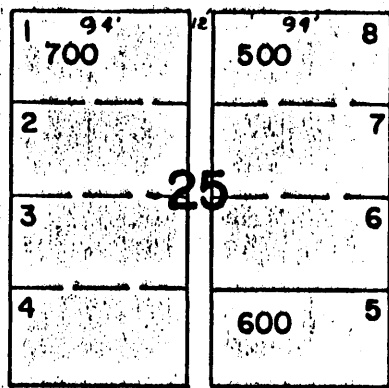
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The Vale Democrat, weekly newspaper, 1901-1902

Letter from Leonard "doc" Cole, grandson of J.L. Cole

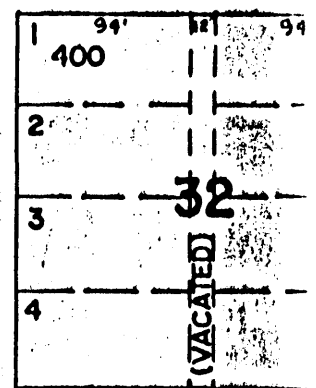
80' STREET



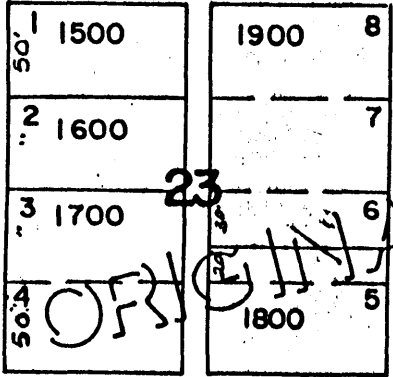
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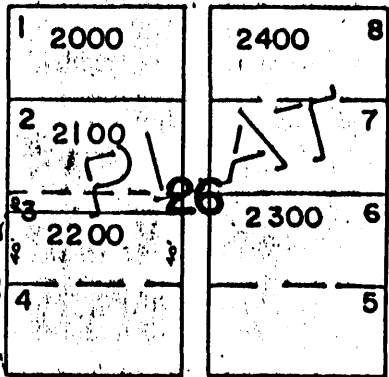
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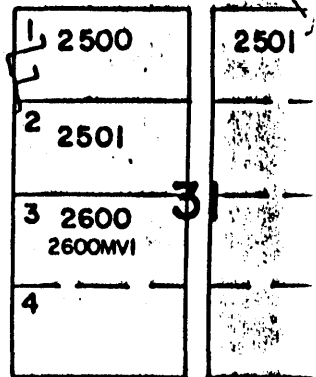
60' B



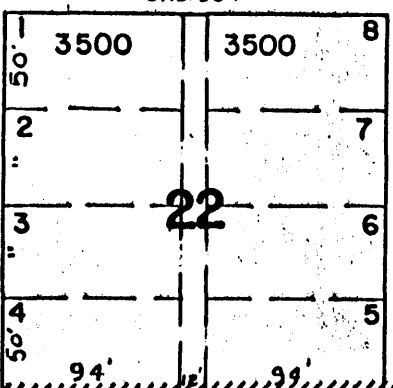
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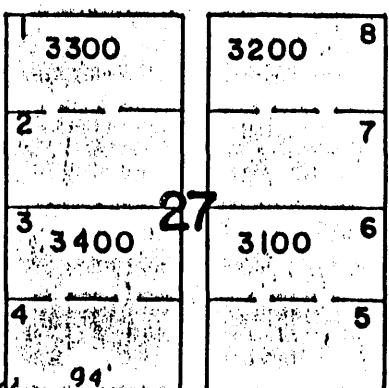
STREET



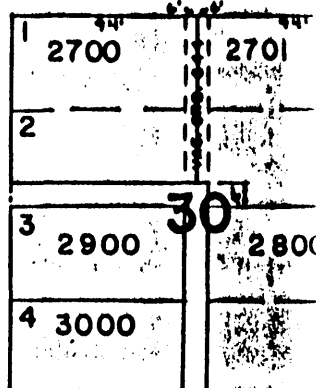
60' C



LONGFELLOW

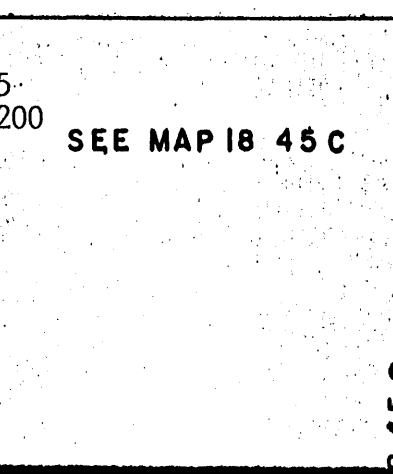


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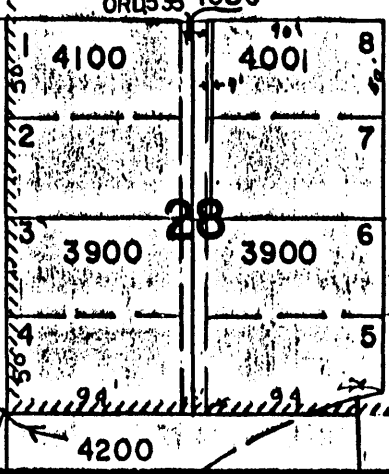


MAIN

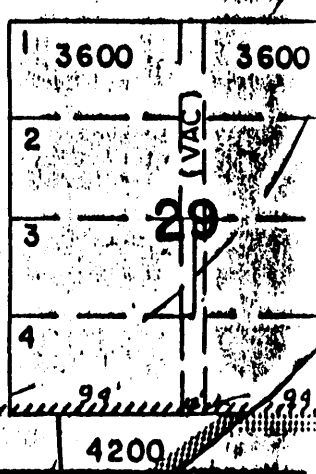
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STREET



STREET



MAP #04815 tax lot #1200

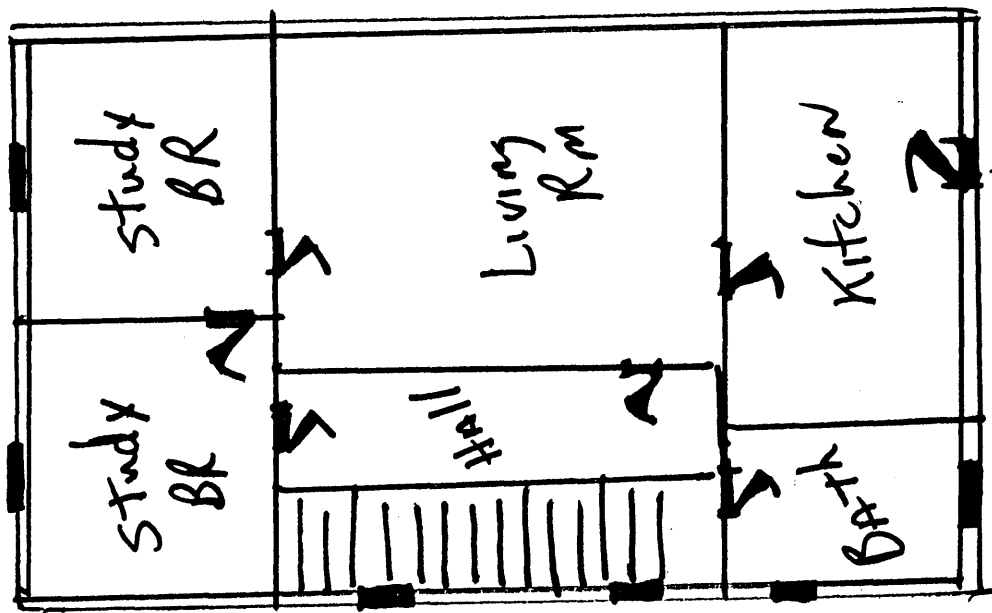
SEE MAP 18 45 C

GLENN

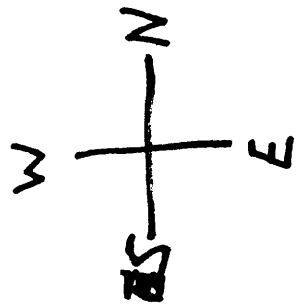
B 45 C

# Present DAY LAYOUT

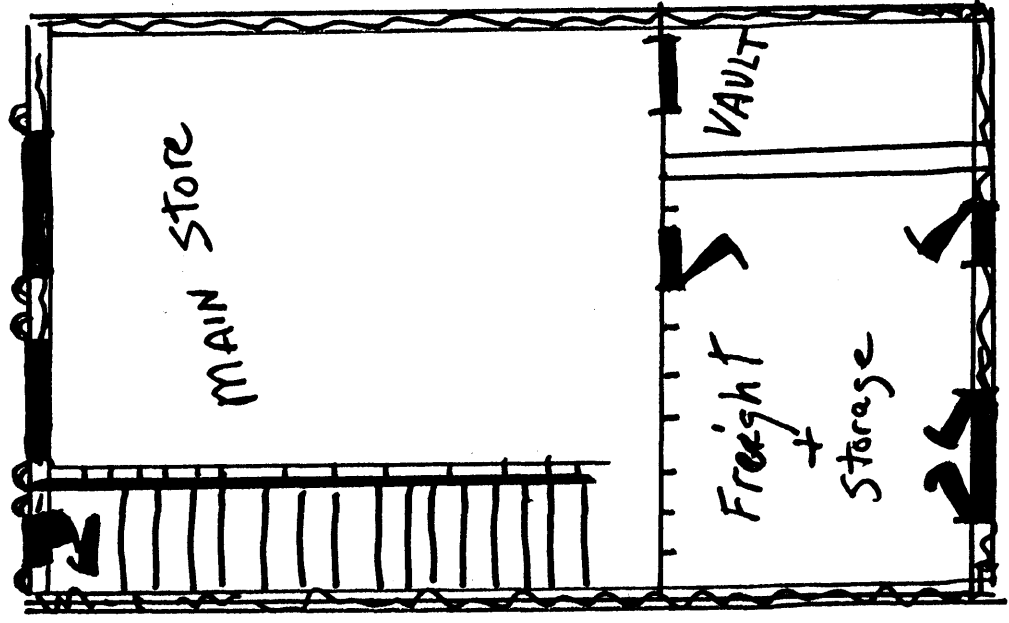
Second Floor



Second Floor



First Floor



First Floor

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

PHOTO 1

DESCRIPTION: Photo of face and south side of First Bank, showing unchanged facade and original outside stairs since removed.

PHOTOGRAPHER: unknown

DATE: before 1906, probably 1902 soon after building was completed

ORIGINAL: news negative at Malheur Enterprise news office. Original unknown, possible Humphrey collection.

PERSPECTIVE: From across street, Hope Bros store.

Photo details that the upstairs windows were originally sash and frame. That would make the only changes in windows the change from store front 4-pane to plate glass before 1906. Outside stairs were removed before 1906 when next door brick building was built. Probably outhouses under stairs would account for very soft soil there.

Building was used for original bank until hotel and bank building was completed in 1906-7.

FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon

PHOTO 2 & 2a

DESCRIPTION: two copies of a postcard, "freight for the interior" also faintly inscribed "loads of casing, Vale Oregon". Probably loads of sewer casing, see wagon loads"

PHOTOGRAPHER: unknown

DATE: after 1906, no later than 1911. See date of water and sewer installation in period newspapers

ORIGINAL: at Malheur Enterprise news office, ZaDean Auyer.

PERSPECTIVE: Photographed from second story of Hotel Drexel

Four pane store front windows have been replaced by plate glass. Small awning has two iron supports on top, propped from below by rods to center of spiral carvings. Thomas Liquor Co. was in business as late as 1911, the upstairs was probably used as his office, (see photo 5, interior of Thomas's office). Electricity has been installed, possible meter box or ? underneath business sign. Harvey's store is two business down, later business sign Harvey's is on First Bank building. Harvey (S.J) owned the building from 1912 to 1918.

"A VALE STREET SCENE about 1906 or 07. The brick building where Harvey's grocery was located was built in 1906. The three buildings now house an apartment used by Erb and Blankinship as an office, the Vale liquor store and finally the Masonic Hall. The High Brothers livery is across C Street and is now occupied by Butler and Looney law office. The scene gives some idea about the amount of freight that was moved from Vale and some idea about the condition of the streets and amount of mud." Malheur Enterprise.

**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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**FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon**

**PHOTO 3**

**DESCRIPTION:** view of town, detail: rear of First bank of Vale, showing windows, doorways, possible two outside stairways.  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** unknown  
**DATE:** "this photo appeared in a 1906 newspaper"  
**ORIGINAL:** newsprint negative at Malheur Enterprise news office, possible original there also  
**PERSPECTIVE:** above town on Rinehart Butte

**FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon**

**PHOTO 4**

**DESCRIPTION:** Copy of postcard, heavy snowfall of 1913.  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** unknown  
**DATE:** December 25, 1913, Christmas day  
**ORIGINAL:** at Malheur Enterprise news office, ZaDean Auyer.  
**PERSPECTIVE:** from the intersection near Hope Bros store. Photo shows Harvey's grocery is using First bank building, although Thomas Liquor is still on windows.

"Mother Nature took care of the snow removal in the early days of Vale. This scene was Christmas 1913 according to the message on the back. The street is Main looking north".

**PHOTO 5**

**FIRST BANK OF VALE**

Vale, Malheur County, Oregon

**DESCRIPTION:** interior: "Office of C.A. Thomas Co. Vale" copy of news photo Caldwell, Idaho, newspaper feature of Vale, 1909. "THE LAST FRONTIER OF THE LAST WEST"  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Caldwell paper should say.  
**DATE:** Sat, Oct 16, 1909  
**ORIGINAL:** at Malheur Enterprise news office, ZaDean Auyer, or see The Caldwell Tribune, or Jack Pearson, Idaho Free Press, or Vale Chamber of Commerce.  
**PERSPECTIVE:** interior of second floor, First Bank building.

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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FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon

PHOTO 6

DESCRIPTION: present day photo similar to photo 1 and 4

PHOTOGRAPHER: owner, Steven Reynolds

DATE: June 1991

ORIGINAL: owner, Steven Reynolds

PERSPECTIVE: From corner near Hope Bros Store, (Vale Fire Hall)

FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon

PHOTO 7

DESCRIPTION: present day photo similar to photo 2 & 2a

PHOTOGRAPHER: owner, Steven Reynolds

DATE: June 1991

ORIGINAL: owner, Steven Reynolds

PERSPECTIVE: From third story of Hotel Drexel.

FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon

PHOTO 8

DESCRIPTION: present day photo, rear of building has an addition built by Howard Cockeram, under ownership of Fred Burgess.

PHOTOGRAPHER: owner, Steven Reynolds

DATE: June 1991

ORIGINAL: owner, Steven Reynolds

PERSPECTIVE: from the rear vacant alley looking west.

FIRST BANK OF VALE  
Vale, Malheur County, Oregon

PHOTO 9

DESCRIPTION: present day photographs.

PHOTOGRAPHER: owner, Steven Reynolds

DATE: June 1991

ORIGINAL: owner, Steven Reynolds

PERSPECTIVE: Directly in front of building.

PHOTO 10 - Close view of west front taken from Photo No. 9.

DETAILS

PHOTO 11 - Side elevation window opening.

PHOTO 12 - Parapet crest.

PHOTO 13 - Pendant ornament, west front.