United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic	Milarkey Building	(preferred)		
and/or common	Pendleton Drug Bui	lding		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	203 South Main Str	eet	N	A not for publication
city, town	Pendleton	N/A vicinity of	congressional district	Second
state	Oregon code	41 county	Umatilla	code 059
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name	Elmer Kerns			
street & number	1300 SE Lava Drive			
city, town	Milwaukie	N/A vicinity of	state	Oregon 97222
5. Loca	ntion of Lega	I Descriptio	on	
courthouse, regis street & number	stry of deeds, etc. Umati 216 SE 4th	11a County Court He	ouse	
city, town	Pendleton		state	Oregon 97801
6. Repr	resentation i	n Existing	Surveys	
	e Inventory of Properties	has this pro	perty been determined ele	egible? yesX_ no
date	1982		federalX stat	e county local
depository for su	rvey records State Hi	storic Preservatio	n Office	
city, town	Salem		state	Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	N/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Milarkey Building, located at the southwest corner of Main and Court Streets in Pendleton, Oregon, is a well-preserved example of the brick commercial structures constructed in Eastern Oregon towns during the rapid-growth, railroad and homestead settlement years of the 1880s and 1890s. The two-story rectangular building (26 feet wide by 100 feet long) was erected in 1883-1884 by Thomas Milarkey and is a simple but nicely detailed example of the commercial Italianate Style which was typical in downtown Pendleton from 1885 to 1900. The basic construction includes solid brick exterior bearing walls on basalt rock foundations and wood joist floor and roof systems. The structure today stands altered, but in generally good condition with most of its exterior features intact. It would be possible to restore the building exterior by reconstruction the lower Main Street facade and nine brick chimneys which lined the parapet. Interior spaces and architectural features are generally in fair to poor condition, and rehabilitation is required. Current ground floor tenants include a stockbrokerage firm and an insurance agency. The second floor is currently vacant.

The Milarkey Building is situated in the heart of Pendleton's central business district. Its two story brick construction and simple, yet elegant, detailing reflects the scale and character of the downtown. The structure's 26 foot wide Main Street facade faces east-northeasterly and the 100 foot long Court Street facade faces north-northwesterly. The unusual orientation corresponds with the alignment of the Original Town of Fendleton plat (Photo #1) which responded to the directional flow of the Umatilla River through the valley floor.

The south and west sides of the building are hidden by common walls with adjacent buildings of the same era.

The Main Street facade originally faced the Umatilla County Courthouse Block.* The ground level was a traditional display window storefront with the middle of three bays a recessed entrance. The storefront was carried around the corner onto the Court Street facade approximately eight feet, interrupted only by the solid brick corner column. (Photo #8) Beneath the storefront display windows, wooden bulkheads trimmed with molding accentuated the storefront providing both a solid base for the glazing and an human scale relationship to the large opening. The brick lintel overhead was carried by two cast iron columns located at the outer corners of the recessed entrance.

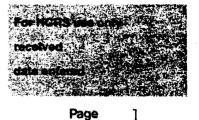
The upper Main Street Facade is divided into three window bays, with divisions between the bays corresponding with the locations of the original cast iron columns below.

The Court Street side has few openings at ground level (Photos #9 & #13) but contains a series of seven windows in the second story that impart a distinctrhythm to the side street facade. The upper story windows are all one-over-one double-hung wooden sash in which the upper sash and brick header form segmental arches which are accentuated by a double-course brick corbelled string course framing the arched window heads in the form of row-lock arch label molding.

*The old courthouse was torn down in the 1950s and the new courthouse was erected several blocks to the east. The original courthouse square is now occupied by commercial development and an unimproved pocket park.

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A double belt course of brick separates the upper and lower stories of the building; the upper belt course accentuates a sill base for the second floor windows, and the lower belt course corresponds with the level of the second floor. Over the storefront, the upper belt course is further accentuated with a brick dentil apron. The brick exterior was painted sometime after 1906 and prior to 1943, probably about 1940.

Item number

7

Historically, large, adjustable striped canvas awnings projected from the storefront, adding scale, color and contrasting pattern to the brick surfaces, not to mention the protection afforded to pedestrians on the board sidewalk (Photo #5) and the control of morning solar gain.

The exterior walls terminate above with panelled parapet walls topped by a corbelled brick cap and separated from the wall below by a corbelled brick cornice accentuated at its lower side by projected brick dentil molding.

Originally, the parapet was crowned with ten chimneys. Only one remains today.

The ground floor interior was originally finished with lath and plaster ceilings, "checkerboard" ceramic tile floor and plaster-over-brick walls decorated at the ceiling with plaster garland ornamentation.

The original drugstore boasted a soda fountain along the south wall (Photo #6), glass showcases along the north wall, and the pharmacy located at the back with storage rooms behind.

Documented alterations at the ground floor include :

c. 1911 Soda Fountain removed, additional showcases installed.

Installation of suspended stock "mezzanines" along north and south walls (Photo #7)

- 1913 Storefront re-built after damaged by vehicle. Cast iron columns replaced by steel pipe. Wooden bulkheads replaced by marble facing. Windows replaced, and Storefront enlarged c.8 ft. on north side. It is also assumed that the brick corner column was removed at this time and replaced by steel pipe columns.
- c. 1920 New fountain and lunch counter installed along north wall. "Stock mezzanines" removed and a new mezzanine level constructed in back of store, above a remodeled pharmacy.

c. 1940 Exterior brick painted (Photo #11)

c. 1958 Fountain removed, suspended ceiling and new lighting installed inside, north storefront reduced to original width and ribbon windows above storefront all removed and replaced with stucco exterior finish. Marble

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2.4

bulkheads replaced with tile, metal canopy erected over storefront, building repainted.

- c. 1964 Carpeting installed in drugstore, large lighted advertising sign installed above canopy on Main Street.
 - 1981 Drugstore remodeled into offices for stockbrokerage firm and insurance agency. Plaster removed from interior brick walls to expose brick, floor carpeted, sheetrock and glass partitions installed separating offices. Advertising sign removed from canopy.

The second floor interior originally was partitioned into offices and meeting rooms with wood stud walls finished with lath and plaster. Other finishes were lath and plaster ceilings and softwood flooring. Access to the second floor is provided by an interior stairway off Court Street at the west end of the structure (serving also the adjacent building to the west) and a common stairway off Main Street located within the adjacent building to the south.

Both stairways are of wood construction with wooden handrails. The south stairway remains in usable condition and retains its turned balusters. The west stairway walls have paneled wainscoting. The condition of the latter stairway is deteriorated.

Little is known of subsequent remodeling and alterations on the second floor. However, at some time the ceiling was lowered throughout most of this floor, the new ceiling being of wood framed ceiling joists with fiber board ceiling panels attached thereto. The existing deteriorated condition of the second floor offices prohibits their use today without rehabilitation.

The basement, originally a crawlspace, was excavated and a concrete floor added about 1920. Bearing for the original rough native basalt foundation (24 inches thick) was maintained by shoring the sides of the excavation with structural clay tile and capping these bulkheads with a concrete shelf. The store foundation and later system for creating a basement is very typical of many commercial buildings in downtown Pendleton. These structures did not originally contain basements due to the threat of flooding from the Umatilla River. A levee was constructed in 1913 along the river to prevent flooding in the downtown. The exterior solid brick walls at the first floor are 17" thick. Above the second floor they are 14" thick. Both faces are laid up in a common bond pattern with lime mortar.

All bricks are common brick, handmade with water struck wooden molds by the old softmud process at the Weston brick plant, approximately 18 miles northeast of Pendleton. Local noncalcareous clays were used by this brickplant that opened in 1879, the natural color of the brick being an orangish-red.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art C commerce c communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
1900 _	communications	industry invention	politics/government	transportation other (specify)

Specific dates 1883 - 1884

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The two-story, brick masonry building at the southwest corner of Main and Court Streets in the central business district of Pendleton, Oregon was built for Thomas Milarkey and completed in 1884. It has the distinction of being one of the oldest brick buildings in the northeastern Oregon metropolis and Umatilla County seats and its brick was manufactured in the nearby town of Weston. Thomas Milarkey hauled freight from Umatilla Landing, on the Columbia River, east through Pendleton and Weston to Elgin in the neighboring Grand Ronde drainage, and he returned to Pendleton with wagon loads of brick from the manufactory at Weston. He is credited with having built the first brick building in Pendleton in 1880, a building which still stands, adjoining the Milarkey Building on the south, and which contains the stairway access to the second story of the Milarkey Building. With its segmental-arched second story openings framed by a continuous brick belt course and architrave molding, its denticulated brick cornice and high parapet once crowned with brick chimneys, the Milarkey Building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the commercial Italianate Style. It was Milarkey's most ambitious project. With its slightly older neighbor, it was joined on Main Street by a series of High Victorian Italianate commercial buildings in the 1890s, some of which had cast iron fronts. Today, however, the Milarkey Building presents one of the least altered historic facades on Main Street. While only one of its chimneys still stands and its ground story store front was altered several times, the building nonetheless conveys its essential character. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, and sufficient integrity of workmanship and materials to meet the criteria of the National Register. It housed one of the town's longest-operating businesses, a drug store, until 1980. Early day lawyers found its second story office space conveniently located across from the courthouse, and the Pendleton Commercial Association. organized in 1893, the forerunner of Pendleton's Chamber of Commerce, held its meetings above the drug store. The building is significant locally for its association with pioneer freighter, merchant and entrepreneur Thomas Milarkey and with the commercial life of the county seat virtually from the time of the town's incorporation (1880). The building was held by a Milarkey descendent as late as 1976. It was acquired by the present owner in 1981, and the ground story was adapted for a stockbroker's and an insurance agent's offices. Rehabilitation of the vacant second story for additional office leasing is planned.

In 1862, pioneer Abram Miller and family filed a 160 acre homestead claim, crossing the Umatilla River, on land that was later to become Pendleton (1). Two years later, Moses Goodwin and family arrived and acquired the land claim from the Millers in a trade for a mule team. Goodwin constructed a cottonwood log home and feedlot about a block south of the river on land that now holds the Milarkey Building. He also constructed a bridge across the River, "Goodwin's Crossing," and Goodwin's Hotel on the south approach to the bridge. The hotel served settlers coming into the Pendleton area on the Oregon Trail.

Soon, other pioneers sought to purchase land at "Goodwin's Crossing", start businesses, and settle down in this frontier settlement.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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C] [E] [G] [D F H		
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On December 18, 1868, the Original Plat of Pendleton, Oregon was filed (2). At that time, Moses and Aura Goodwin retained ownership of the north half of Lot 1, Block 3, of Section 10, T.2N., R.32 E.W.M., the site of the Milarkey Building, along with several other lots within the new town of Pendleton. (Photo #1)

The following year, the first Umatilla County Courthouse was constructed across the street from this property, and the Goodwins sold the balance of their original homestead lots to Millard and Mollie White for the sum of \$2,000 in gold (3). In 1870, White had a wood frame building constructed on Lot 1, Block 3 from which he conducted one of the first general stores in Pendleton. "Millard carried everything from dress goods to hardware, and his store was the favorite of pioneer children because he carried peppermint, horehound and rock candy." (4)

An interesting and puzzling exchange of Lots 1, 11, 12 occured when, on January 3, 1874, Millard White sold these lots to Mary Disosway for the sum of \$60 in gold (5), with no mention being made of the structure on the property. Then on March 16, 1874, Mary Disosway sold these same lots back to Mollie V. White for the sum of \$63.44 (7).

On February 2, 1875 Millard F. White sold to Thomas Milarkey, for the sum of \$270, Lots 1, 10, 11, 12 in Block 3 in the Town of Pendleton (7). Milarkey must have erected the first flagpole in the city, in front of the store, on the SW corner of Main and Court Streets about this time. (8) (Photo #3)

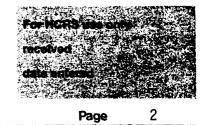
By 1878, Rothchild and Bean were operating the general merchandise store, "one of the leading stores in this part of the country . . . and, "the first telephone in Pendleton was installed in this building" (4). On October 2, Milarkey sold the property to Rothchild and Bean (9) who, in turn, resold the same property to Milarkey on May 16, 1879 (10).

About 1882, the wooden structure was sold and moved from this Court and Main Streets site to the north side of Alta, between Main and Cottonwood, and used as a feed store and chipmill (11).

Thomas Milarkey was a well-known freighter at that time, hauling freight from the Umatilla Landing on the Columbia River through Pendleton to Elgin over Weston Mountain by horse and wagon (11). It was on his return trips from Elgin that it is believed Milarkey began freighting bricks into Pendleton from the Weston brick plant, opened in 1879 (1). It was reported that Thomas Milarkey erected the first brick building in Pendleton in 1880 (12), and evidence indicates that this first brick building is the same brick building housing the Main Street entrance to the second floor of the Milarkey Building because Milarkey acquired a 2-foot-wide strip of property from Main Street west for 80 feet off the north side of Lot 2 of Block 3 and adjoining the south side of Lot 1 of Block 3 on July 30, 1880 from J.W. Flack for \$1.00 plus the stipulation he construct a two-story brick building on Lot 1 80 feet in length with the south wall being constructed on the 2 foot-wide strip of land so as to become a common wall for an adjoining brick building to be erected by J. W. Flack or his heirs at any time they might desire to do so (13). This brick

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building is visible adjacent to the Rothchild and Bean General store in the 1881 Photo #3.

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On October 25, 1880, the City of Pendleton was incorporated. (Photo #2)

The Milarkey Building must have been erected in 1883 and completed in 1884, as tha tax assessment records of 1884 show the first record of a two-story, 26 foot by 100 foot brick building on the north half of Lot 1 (14).

The building was first occupied in 1884 by H. F. Johnson & Co., Druggists, on the ground floor (15). Prescriptions dating from August 1884, which were written on H. F. Johnson & Co. prescription pads, stated the drugstore was opposite the Villard House Hotel, which was on the NE corner of Main and Court Streets. These old prescriptions were pasted in the used 1881 Villard House registers as a way of filing them; several of these old prescription-filled registers were discovered in the basement of the Milarkey Building when Pendleton Drug moved out in 1980 (16).

The first tenants of the second-floor rooms in 1884 included Guyer and Fitzgerald, Attorneys at Law occupying Rooms 2 and 3; and Tustin & Leasure, Attorneys at Law occupying Room 4 (17). These second floor offices overlooked the County Courthouse and Courthouse Square and provided an ideal location for the attorney's offices. Photo #4 shows the building amid a colorful display of local residents sometime before 1890. the

In 1893/Pendleton Commercial Association, which became the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce in 1926, was established. Its meetings were conducted in a room above Johnson's Drug Store. The May 8, 1948 issue of the <u>East Oregonian</u> states "---group first held meetings upstairs in the Milarkey building --- some rooms furnished with comfortable chairs and other facilities---" (18).

In the March 20, 1894 issue of the <u>East Oregonian</u> is an advertisement for H.F. Johnson & Co. Drug Store on the corner of Court & Main (17), so it is known Johnson & Co. occupied the building through this date.

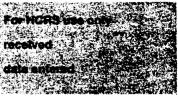
Brock and McComas were the next tenants, presumably in 1901 (19) (20). The name Pendleton Drug was established at that time, as the Rexall Drug Co. files list the earliest franchise given to Pendleton Drug as December 18, 1906. Rexall started issuing franchises in 1903, so the one given Pendleton Drug was one of the first issued, and it continued until 1953 when franchises were no longer issued. (Photos #6, 8 & 9).

Long-time residents remember that Dr. Best, a physician who came to Pendleton in 1903, had an office above the drugstore until he retired. (21)

By 1912 Brock and McComas had moved out and A. J. McAllister and George C. Hill occupied the drugstore. Photo #10 shows a car which had crashed through the storefront in 1913 due to a wild driver who was standing up and yelling "Let 'er buck" as he attempted to negotiate the turn from Court, going west, onto Main Street (22). A picture in the Umatilla County Historical Society collection (23) shows the interior of the

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store in 1918 and lists the names of McAllister and Hill on the back.

Thomas Milarkey died in January 1915, and his daughter Elizabeth Murphy inherited the property. The upstairs offices, at this time, continued to be utilized for professional offices.

In 1919, Mason and John Thompson, who operated another drugstore on the east side of Main Street, took over the Pendleton Drug Store, a Rexall franchise transfer from McAllister and Hill being effective April 12, 1919. The Thompsons operated the store until the business was sold in 1952 to Ray Lee and Dick Glenn.

During the time the Thompsons occupied the drugstore, the upstairs saw a succession of professional businesses among which were: Dr. Hill and Dr. Boyd, dentists; Dr. Hutchinson, an osteopathic doctor; Dr. Ritchey, an optometrist; J. B. Perry, an attorney. A Mr. Saylor had an apartment there after Dr. Best left, and the Knights of Columbus stored some equipment there which was used in their meeting room and gym, which were housed in the upstairs of the building adjacent to the Milarkey Building to the west (rear).

Lee and Glenn sold their interest in Pendleton Drug to J. Wade Stuart in 1964. It was a short time thereafter that the last tenants moved from the upstairs offices and the space was left unoccupied.

In 1976 Elizabeth Murphy died and the property became part of her estate until Elmer C. Kerns purchased it on Sept. 8, 1981 (24), the property having essentially remained in the Milarkey family for 106 years with the Milarkey Building standing on the site for the last 97 years.

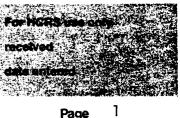
Mr. Stuart sold the drugstore business to Richard Collins in April, 1980. Mr. Collins operated the store for less than a year before moving to another location later in 1980, thus ending the Mialrkey Building's continuous 96 year history of serving Pendleton as a drugstore and center for medical and professional services.

Currently, the ground floor contains remodelled offices for the stockbrokerage firm of Hinkle Northwest, operated by Carter Kerns, and for the Roger Bisnett Insurance Agency.

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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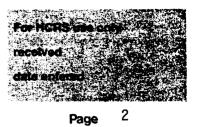


Continuation sheet	ltem number 9	Page 1
(1) - <u>Umatilla County:</u> A Backward Gla published 1981.	ance, compiled by Umatilla	County Historical Society,
(2) - Records of the Umatilla County /	Assessor's Office.	
(3) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Bool</u>	<u>k of Deeds</u> , Vol. A, page 5	97.
(4) - <u>Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers</u> of Pendleton; pages 96, 97.	<u>s</u> , copyright 1937, compile	d by Pioneer Ladies Club
(5) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Bool</u>	k of Deeds, Vol. B, page 5	37.
(6) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Bool</u>	k of Deeds, Vol. B, page 5	73.
(7) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Boo</u> l	k of Deeds, Vol. B, page 7	23.
(8) - <u>East Oregonian</u> October 21, 1969	issue; article titled "Ea	rly Day Businesses".
(9) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Boo</u> l	<u>k of Deeds</u> , Vol. D, page 2	83.
(10) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Book</u>	k of Deeds, Vol. D, page 6	04.
(11) - <u>Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers</u>	s, article by John E. Bean	, pages 67, 68.
(12) - Parsons, William, comp., <u>An Illu</u> Lever, 1902, page 174.	ustrated History of Umatil	<u>la County,</u> W. H.
(13) - Umatilla County Courthouse, <u>Book</u>	k of Deeds, Vol. E, page 4	41.
(14) - Umatilla County Courthouse, Appr	raiser's office, tax recor	ds.
(15) - <u>Oregon, Washington & Idaho Gazet</u> Polk & Co., Publishers, page 855		
(16) - Villard House Register - 1881 - & Co., beginning 8-5-1884 to 10-	containing prescriptions -31-1885; possession of Al	filled by H. F. Johnson an Waldman, Pendleton.
<pre>(17) - Umatilla County Library, Microfi from 1-1-1884.</pre>	ilm of East Oregonian, cop	ies of issues dating
<pre>(18) - Umatilla County Library, file of folder.</pre>	f <u>Pendleton: Associations</u>	; Chamber of Commerce
(19) - <u>Oregon, Washington & Idaho Gazet</u> Umatilla County Library.	tteer & Business Directory	, 1901-02 issue in

(20) - <u>East Oregonian</u> - May 27, 1961 issue contains photo in the End of the Week column by Nolan Skiff of the flood on May 30, 1906 which shows a building identified as the Brock & McComas Co. building at S.W. corner of Main and Court (Pendleton Drug

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Co.); the picture was taken by B	urns Bros.	photographers of Pendleton	n and belonged
to Charles Grittman (deceased).	Mrs. Grit	tman gave it to the <u>East O</u>	regonian.

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- (21) <u>Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers</u>, page 243.
- (22) Umatilla County: A Backward Glance, page 186.
- (23) <u>Umatilla County Historical Society Collection</u> at Umatilla County Library; kept in locked files, key in possession of Jean Stover.
- (24) Umatilla County Courthouse, Microfilm Book of Deeds, Vol. R84, page 693.