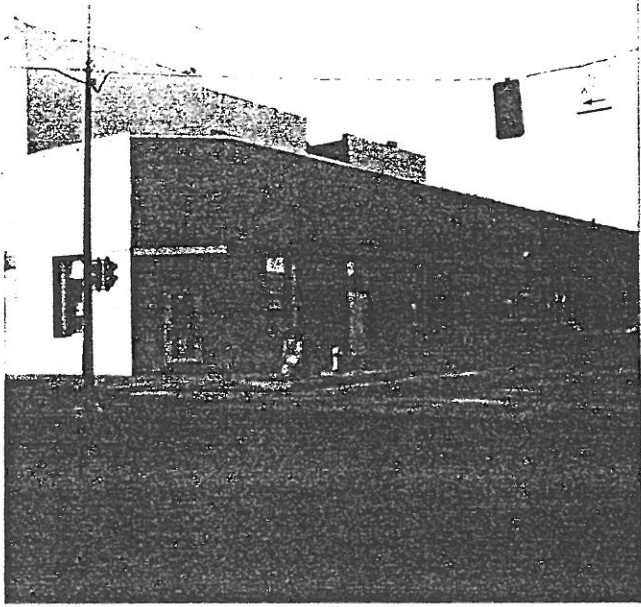


STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310



County Linn

Ranking _____

Name
(Common) Lebanon National Bank

(Historic) Crown Ralston Bank

Address 700 Main Street

Present Owner Dalton Johnson

Address P.O. Box 305

Original Use Bank

Date of Construction 1891

Map Reference Number 82

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Originally this two-story Italianate building was half a block long reaching to the alley. The west half which contained office space and is under different ownership remains unaltered, while the east half containing the lobby has had the facade remodeled. The original facade on the east half was divided into four bays by large pilasters. Each bay contained large, round arch openings with raised moldings and keystone decorations. Moldings on the side of each arch rose up to the frieze and were capped with brackets. Between brackets the frieze had a molding of four-sided pyramidal tile, with dentils below the cornice and above the window arches. The parapet angled back and was divided by vertical moldings which capped the pilasters. This angled surface was clad with fish scale shingles with finials above the pilasters and an iron roof cresting between the finials. Above the main lobby entry on the northeast corner was a triangular parapet with "BANK 1891." On the ground floor the walls now are a flat stucco surface and above the windows sheet metal has been applied. The cornice has been removed but the other decorative details are likely to survive within the walls.

(continued)

Recorded by Heritage Investment Corporation, 813 SW Alder, Portland, OR 97204 (228-0272)
Allen, McMath-Hawkins, Architects, 213 SW Ash, Portland, OR 97204 (228-5154)

Initials _____ Date _____

Sources consulted: see attached.

History

Charles H. Ralston and J. L. Cowan built this building in 1891 and established the first Lebanon bank known as the Cown Ralston Bank, which was later called the Bank of Lebanon with J. W. Cusic also involved. Their business closed during the financial panic of 1893. The building was sold to Dr. J. S. Courtney. The next bank was established here in 1896 by J. P. Scroggin and Washburn. Scroggin was the owner of the Seamore and Scroggin Sawmill and also the father of Ralph Scroggin who became a mayor in the late 1930's and owner of Ralph Scroggin Feed Company. In 1913, First National Bank of Lebanon was opened here by Joel C. Mayers, Steve Bach, Senator Samuel Garland, Powers and George H. Burl.

Mayers was for many years the president. His interest and enthusiasm was a major force in promoting the first of Lebanon's annual strawberry festivals. He was the mayor in 1909 when they began. In 1932 the bank merged with Lebanon National Bank and moved to their newer building on Main Street, where it continues today as a branch of First Interstate Bank.

Sources Consulted

1. "C. H. Ralston, Sr. Is Called to Great Beyond," Lebanon Express. August 27, 1929.
2. Conversation with Jerry May, May 25, 1984.
3. Historic photos from the Photography Emporium.
4. Sue McCraclan, "Fire! Christine Seeke Smith Has Memorabilia of 1891 City Disaster," Lebanon Express. March 4, 1918.
5. Survey questionnaire from James Brady, April 23, 1984.



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