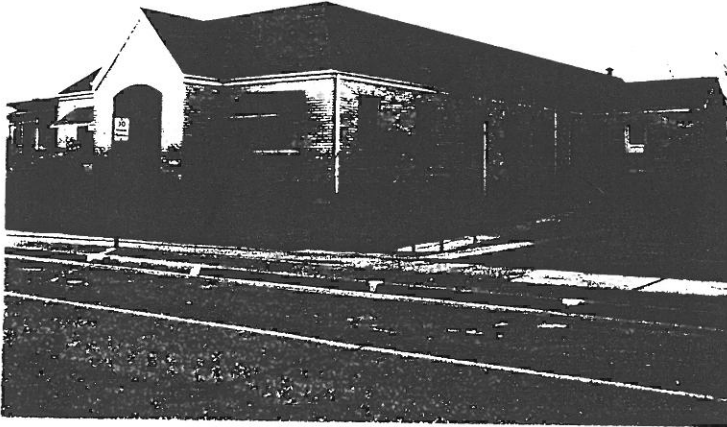


STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310



County Linn  
Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
(Common) Lebanon Public Library  
(Historic) Lebanon Central Hospital  
Address 626 Second Street  
Present Owner City of Lebanon  
Address 626 Second Street  
Original Use Hospital  
Date of Construction 1936  
Map Reference Number 58

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Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Lebanon Public Library is a one-story building with a rectangular floor plan and a truncated hip roof. The eaves and verges are flush with the beige brick walls. The front stairs rise to an enclosed porch with a segmental arch and a gable roof. Paired entry doors have full height lights in a second segmental arch. On each side of the entry porch there are large, fixed, single-light windows with louvered metal awnings and brick sills. On the left, above the stucco base, there is a cornerstone engraved with "LEBANON CENTRAL HOSPITAL." In the gable end above the entry there is a small shield with the medical insignia.

The north elevation contains eight, one/one, double-hung windows. There is a short north wing near the rear that has a gable roof, door to the basement in the north wall, and a single light door that opens to a handicap ramp. At the rear of the building there is a porch with a flat roof and double doors with large single lights. To the north there is a single double-hung window, and to the south there are a pair with a louvered metal awning. The south elevation is unfenestrated and has one/one, double-hung windows, singly and combined in twos and threes.

(continued)

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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

The Lebanon Public Library building was first built as a hospital to replace one in the Scroggin House, located on the lot to the north. The new hospital building replaced a grade school built on the site in 1876.

In 1919, Drs. Joel Booth, W. A. Barrendiek, Bruce Miller, N. E. Irvine and Lee Wood had purchased the Scroggin House. In the mid-thirties Dr. Ralph Herron, who had begun his practice in Brownsville, joined the group. In 1936, they erected the new 24-bed hospital with the Scroggin House thereafter serving as an annex. Also identified with the Lebanon Central Hospital were Mary and Marth Schuler, two sisters and registered nurses. They came to Lebanon after attending the Portland Sanitarian School of Nursing, and took over the hospital's management--from caring for emergency patients to keeping the hospital cow.

During the growth period of the 1940's Lebanon's population tripled and the hospital, 11 years after it had been built, was too small. It was overcrowded and condemned as a fire hazard. In 1948 the Mennonite Church accepted management of the facility while a fund drive was put together with the help of attorney Laurence Morley as general chairman, John Nyland, a Lebanon Lumberman, and Max Theker, president of Cascade Plywood Corporation. Dr. Booth was a deciding force as president of the hospital board for many years. He promoted both hospital constructions as well as being a city mayor, state senator, National Guard commander and spearheading various other community projects. The new Lebanon Community Hospital was dedicated July 20, 1952.

The Lebanon Central Hospital building was next occupied by the city library. The library was founded in 1910 by the Women's Civil Club as a privately supported service. Mrs. J. C. Booth was the first president. The W.C.T.U. members serving as librarians included Mrs. C. H. St. John, Mrs. A. C. Lewis and Mrs. W. G. Amos. The library was supported by donations and monthly teas until 1916, when Mrs. A. W. Blackburn as president developed the idea of selling shares at one dollar each. A Library Association was then set up with Rev. W. A. Elkins, Dr. J. G. Gill, Mrs. Alice Stucker, Mrs. W. C. DePew and Mrs. Byron Millsap on the Board of Directors. The library first occupied a room in the Donaca Building. There were a number of locations, including a space provided free of charge in the city hall rented from Messrs. Bach, Mayers and Garland, before the library moved into the Lebanon Central Hospital in 1952.

### Sources Consulted

- 1 "History of the City Library," Lebanon Express. January 24, 1923.
- 2 Interview with Frank Groves. April 26, 1984.
- 3 Irvine, Jim. "1919...Lebanon has always had good physicians...and citizens concerned about good care," Lebanon Express. July 1, 1976.
- 4 "Local School History Given in Two Addresses," Lebanon Express. March 26, 1930.

