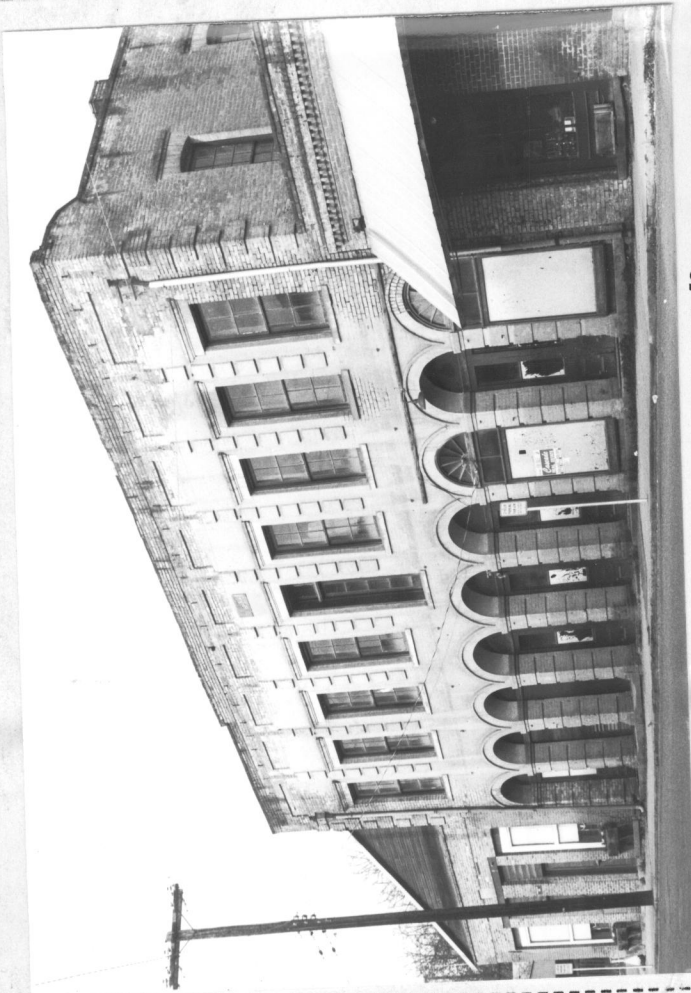


STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

Significance Primary No. 40
County Jackson
Theme _____
Name
(Common) "The Orth Building"
(Historic) The Orth Building
Address 150 South Oregon Street
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530
Present Owner Pellkofer, Ernest M./Pauline
Address 101 Ranch
Oneals, California 34645
Original Use Commercial
Date of Construction 1872



Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Orth Building is a rectangular, brick block (encrusted with a yellowish-gray, plaster-type covering) with two stories above ground on the main east facade and one story above ground on the southwest corner due to the sloping topography in the rear. The building was constructed in 1872 in the commercial Italianate style. Both architect and builder are unknown.

The front (east) elevation is nine bays wide with the second floor openings aligned above the first floor arcaded openings. Each semicircular arch is supported by rusticated piers: seven tympanums are infilled with wood and two with radial pattern fanlights. Many of the doorways are infilled with wood, while a few contain double-leaf doors with two-over-two fixed lights above recessed and molded wooden panels. (Two of the doorways have been converted to single pane display windows that are flush with the wall plane.)

The second floor bays are all square-headed, four-over-four, double hung sash windows (except for the central bay which is a doorway) with sandstone sills and lintels. All openings are separated by rusticated pilaster strips and set below a recessed, rectangular panel.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Gail E.H. Evans Date November 1979

Photographed by Gail E.H. Evans
Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Please refer to footnotes

Please enclose map. Township 37 ^N _S 2 ^E _W Section 32, Block 6, part of lots 3 & 4
Account No. 5600 (32BB)

The north and south (side) elevations are both six bays on the second floor; each bay is a window with a segmental arch capped by a small cornice. The west (rear) facade is six bays on both the first and second floor, although they are not vertically aligned. Both floors have two doors that are one bay from each end. All windows and doors are square-headed with segmental relieving arches and stone sills.

The roof is a slightly sloping gable with the ridge running east and west and hidden behind a parapet. The present unornamented parapet holds a tablet over the central bay with the inscription of "J. ORTH 1872" in relief.

The Orth Building is situated on the west side of South Oregon Street adjoining two, one story brick buildings. The cement sidewalk extends from a sandstone sill to the street curb. The rear ground level drops sharply from the southwest corner toward the north.

Originally the front facade had a second floor, balustraded balcony projecting over the sidewalk from above the first floor arched openings. Heavy brackets on the main facade served as capitals for the pilaster strips and provided decorative ornamentation for the otherwise plain parapet. Very early the main and north and south facades seem to have been painted a light color. The gable roof, rising above the central portion of the main facade, was originally covered with wood shingles.

The Orth Building has most recently been used for the storage and fumigation of flower bulbs. It is at present vacant and in poor condition.

The present two story, brick Orth block was constructed in 1872 for German born butcher John Orth. Orth had arrived in Oregon by 1860¹ and established a butcher shop on the present site of the Orth block by the mid 1860's.¹ Orth, who had a "remarkable business ability and intelligence,"³ was active in social and civic affairs in the town for many years. He served as a city councilman for several years, county treasurer for one term and was active in fraternal organizations.⁴

The Orth site was originally on the perimeter of the early center of business activity in the infant gold mining camp. The Orth block was the location of at least two pioneer frame buildings. The Palmetto Bowling Saloon occupied the southern portion of the Orth Building lot and must have provided weary prospectors with a lively combination of recreation and relaxation. The saloon with "Bowling Alleys attached" was, in November 1853, sold by Henry Miller and John Wintjen to B.N. Dawes and J.S. [P.J.] Ryan.⁵ (Ryan later became one of Jacksonville's most active owners and renters of brick commercial structures.) The Palmetto was soon renamed the New England Bowling Saloon,⁶ and its assemblage of mirrors, tables, benches, lamps, decanters, and stove fell into the possession of Joseph Freidman and Edward Wells in 1853, soon followed by William Gaylord and John Anderson.⁷ Anderson was one of the town's first and longest established general merchandisers.

To the north of the New England Bowling Saloon was the two story, classic revival style Beard House, earlier known as the Holman House and Eagle Brewery (originally owned by J.J. Holman and alleged to have been built in 1852).¹⁰ And somewhere amongst the high spirited atmosphere enveloping these two establishments was an "old hospital building" occupied by the physician's and surgeon's office of first Dr. Daniel Byrne,¹¹ and later, Dr. Overbeck, who dispensed "drugs and chemicals" from the so-called "City Drug Store."¹²

By the summer of 1861, butcher Mathew Ish was making preliminary preparations to construct a brick structure north of and adjacent to Brunner Brothers' brick edifice, where John Orth's Building was to be constructed eleven years later. In July he purchased the lot and the privilege of attaching his proposed brick wall to Brunner's on the south.¹³ His plans never materialized, however, and two years later John Orth bought Ish's lot and butcher shop.¹⁴ By 1865 Orth had also purchased the lot just north of Ish's lot.¹⁵

John Orth completed his assemblage of parcels in 1872 when he purchased the "old City Brewery" (formerly the Beard House, Holman House and Eagle Brewery) from James Cluggage,¹⁶ who had retained ownership of this lot that was within his donation land claim. Six months later as Orth was razing the old city landmark to make way for his modern two story brick, the Democratic Times newspaper woefully eulogized the occurrence and commented that the "Old City Brewery" building had been "devoted to almost every purpose except that of printing a newspaper and serving God."¹⁷

It was Orth's intention to erect a two story brick and stone structure that embraced all the land between the two, one story brick buildings to the north and south (the Haines Brothers' and the Brunner Brothers' edifices) and to be comprised of a basement. [ground floor] with two store rooms and meat market and a hall on the second floor.¹⁸ In July the cornerstone was laid¹⁹ and by November 1872 construction was nearly completed.²⁰

E. Jacobs was one of the first to bid for space in the building. He advertised for sale an assortment of "fancy goods, clothing, liquors, tobacco, crockery, etc." "Hides and Produce" were willingly taken in exchange.²¹ Soon after the opening of the Orth Building, Dr. S.F. Chapin rented the upper floor for a private hospital that could accommodate up to eight patients.²² The Democratic Times office²³ and William Hoffman "Esquire" both established their offices in Orth's new brick building.

By 1874 the upper floor had been converted to the Farmer's Hotel.²⁵ A.C. Jones and H.K. Hanna, attorneys,²⁶ had offices on the second floor while E.C. Brooks operated his drug store in 1877, below.²⁷ B. Rostal advertised a most unusual professional hair-cutting shop where he promised to give "careful treatment of fractures and external diseases." In addition he displayed "all kinds of birds stuffed in most natural shapes."²⁸ A butcher shop, presumably John Orth's, continued to occupy space on the ground level into the 1890's.

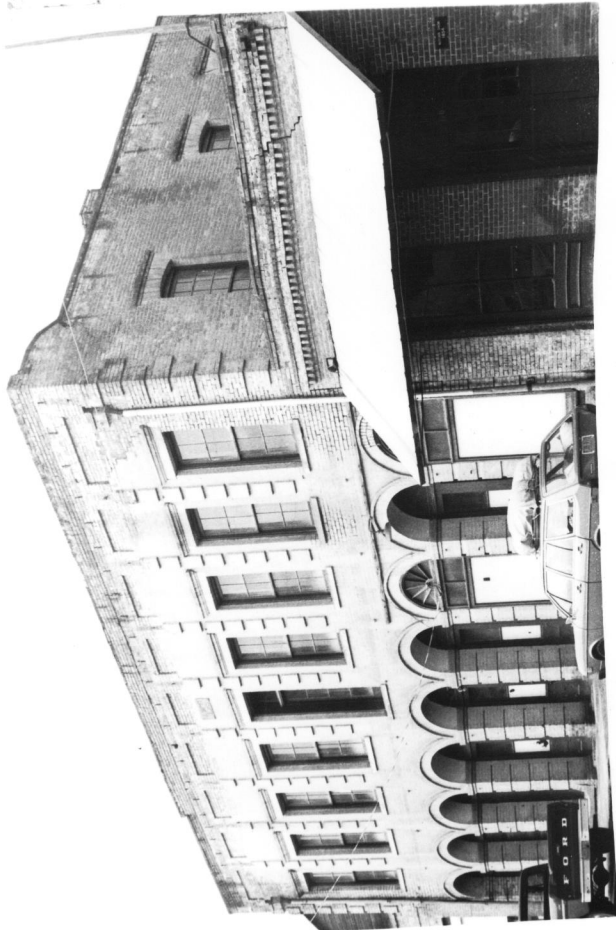
Although Orth's building was threatened by fire on three occasions (1874, 1886 and 1888) the greatest damage ever suffered was in 1888, when the fire originating on the northwest corner of California and Oregon burned off a portion of the roof.³⁰

FOOTNOTES

1. Jackson County Census, 1860.
2. The Oregon Sentinel, May 13, 1865.
3. Chapman, Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon, Chicago, Ill., Chapman Publishing Co., 1904, p. 683.
4. Ibid., p. 683.
5. Jackson County Deeds, November 20, 1853. (Christopher Owens)
6. Ibid., December 2, 1853. (Marshall Lango)
7. Ibid., January 20, 1854. (Christopher Owens)

3. Kuchel and Dressel, "Jacksonville, Jackson County Oregon, Oregon T.erritory," 1856.
9. Table Rock Sentinel, October 25, 1856. (Marshall Lango)
10. The Democratic Times, June 22, 1872.
11. Jacksonville Herald, October 10, 1857. (Marshall Lango)
12. The Oregon Sentinel, June 1, 1861. (Marshall Lango)
13. Jackson County Deeds, July 12, 1861. (Christopher Owens)
14. Ibid., September 18, 1863. (Christopher Owens)
15. Ibid., March 20, 1865. (Christopher Owens)
16. Ibid., February 2, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
- The Democratic Times, January 27, 1872. (Marshall Lango)
17. Ibid., June 22, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
18. Ibid., July 6, 1872. (Marshall Lango)
19. Ibid., July 20, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
20. Ibid., November 9, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
21. Ibid., November 9, 1872. (Christopher Owens)
22. Ibid., February 1, 1873. (Marshall Lango)
23. Ibid., July 19, 1873. (Marshall Lango)
24. Ibid., July 26, 1873. (Marshall Lango)
25. Ibid., July 7, 1874.
26. Ibid., July 26, 1878. (Christopher Owens)
27. The Oregon Sentinel, January 3, 1877. (Marshall Lango)
28. The Democratic Times, July 26, 1878. (Christopher Owens)
29. Jacksonville, Sanborn Map and Insurance Co., 1884, 1888 (corrected to 1890), 1892, 1898.
30. The Democratic Times, September 13, 1888.

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310



County Jackson
 Theme 6-D, 10-A
 Name (Common) Orth (John) Building
 (Historic) (same)
 Address 150 South Oregon
Jacksonville, Oregon
 Present Owner _____
 Address _____
 Original Use Commercial
 Date of Construction 1872

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The John Orth Building is a large, two story, brick building which stands on the west side of South Oregon Street in Jacksonville. This building has arch bays with deeply recessed double entry doors on the first floor of its front (east) elevation. The second story has nine bays which are square at the top above the nine arch bays on the first floor. Each of these bays contains a four-over-four, double hung sash window except the center bay which contains a door with a transom pane. The building has a brick facade at the roof level.

John Orth was born May 14, 1834, in Bavaria, Germany. He emigrated to the U.S. at the age of 18 and learned the trade of butchering in Cincinnati, Ohio. He came to Oregon via Panama in 1856. In 1857 he settled in Jacksonville and worked in the town as a butcher until his death in 1890. Orth served on the city council and as county treasurer. He married Ellen Hill who died in 1896. The Orths had nine children.

For more information on the architecture and history of this structure see the forthcoming publication:

continue on back if necessary

(over)

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 Aug. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Sources Consulted:

enclose map Township 37^N2^E Section 32 Historic Jacksonville Oregon. n.p.: U.S. National Bank, [1976].

(over)

see p. 95 Jacksonville survey 1979, Vol. 1

Ross, Marion D. and Christopher Owens. "An Area Study of Jacksonville, Oregon: The Commercial District and the Churches and Courthouse."

For a photograph of this building see photo #12 in the HABS files taken 2-5 August 1971 by Jack E. Boucher. This photograph is on file in the Southern Oregon Historical Museum in Jacksonville, Oregon.

Sources:

"John Orth." Walling, A. G. History of Southern Oregon. Portland, Ore.: A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 506.

"John Stephen Orth." Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1904, pp. 683-684.