NO CASE FILE,
BUTNOT
APPROVAD

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

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County Josephine					
Theme Historic Building and Site					
Name (Historic) First National Bank Building					
(Common) Hamilton Building					
Address 208 N.W. Sixth Street					
Grants Pass, OR 97526					
Present Owner Bill C. Hamilton					
Address 1815 W. Jones Ck. Rd. Grants Pass					
Original Use Bank					
Date of Construction 1891					

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The First National Bank of Southern Oregon, in Grants Pass, Oregon was organized in November, 1889, and moved into its present structure in early 1891. It was the first banking institution established in Grants Pass and a very much needed asset for the community. The First National Bank Building was the most "looked at" building in the area for its outstanding architecture.

R.A. Booth and H.C. Kinney, both prominent members of the community, founded the operation and pooled funds to invest in the institution and its structure. The two story rectangular edifice combines Romanesque and Renaissance architectural styles of the late 1800's. The second story is highlighted with wood-framed arched, semi-arched, and rectangular windows. The lower story was enhanced with rectangular stone-framed windows and two towers when it was constructed in 1891.

Although the First National Bank Building has been altered some from its original design on the first story, the second story is still original. It is a rare architectural example in this one hundred year old community.

continue on back if necessary

It is a rare architectural example in		continue	on back	<u>if necess</u>
	3-15-85			

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Sephine County Historical Society - Josephine County Assessor's Office - Ints Pass Courier - Grants Pass "The Golden Years 1884-1984" by Percy T. Booth Personal Interviews N E

Please enclose map. Township 36 (S) 5 (W) Section 17

CITY OF GRANTS PASS, OREGON SURVEY OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

COUNTY: JOSEPHINE

HISTORIC NAME: 1st Natl Bank of So Or

ADDRESS: 208-212 NW 6TH ST

OWNER: HAMILTON, BILL C & SYLVIA

MAILADD: 208 NW 6TH ST

CITYST: GRANTS PASS, OR ZIP: 97526

CONTRACT:

TWN: 36 RNG: 05 SEC: 17

TAXLOT[S]: 18200

ADDITION: Original Town Site BLOCK: 41 LOT: S. por. 21-24

MAP: 23

ZONE: CBD

COMMON NAME: Hamilton Bldg

YR BUILT: 1890

ORIG. USE: Commerce; Financial

PRESENT USE: Commerce; Retail

ARCHITECT: BUILDER:

STYLE: Commerical

RESOURCE TYPE: BUILDING THEME: 6a

CONDITION: Good

PLAN TYPE: Rectangular FDATION MATERIALS: Brick

ROOF FORM: Flat, single slope

WALL CONST: Brick

NO. OF STORIES: 2 BASEMENT: Unknown

ROOF MATS.: Asphalt; Rolled STRUC. FRAME: Bearing Masonry

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Fixed metal [1st], 1/1 dbl-hung wood w/arched tops

[2nd] EXTERIOR SURFACE: Stucco

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Elaborate metal cornice, stringcourse, corner entry

OTHER: 2nd floor office access at extreme N.

EXT. ALTERATION & ADDNS: Corner tower removed, stucco cladding.

1-story bldg or addn. to rear (west)

LANDSCAPE FEATURES: None

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

SETTING: NW corner of NW 6th and F Streets in central commercial core.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Please See Attached Continuation Sheet on Historic Significance

ROLL #: 3 FRAME[S]: 05a

DATE: May 2, 1992 RANKING: PRIMARY

RECORDED BY: KRAMER/CHAPPEL, HP CONSULTANTS GP SURVEY #: 60

SHPO NO: 439

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC: First Natl Bank

of S. Oregon

ADDRESS: 208 NW Sixth St

COMMON: Hamilton Bldg.

T/R/S: 36/5/17, TL 18200

The First National Bank of Southern Oregon was organized in Grants Pass in 1889 with J.C. Campbell as president, H.C. Kinney as vice-president, and R.A. Booth as cashier. Before the bank's charter was granted, the name "Rogue River National Bank of Grants Pass" was chosen, but the organizers of the bank voted in favor of the name "First National Bank" instead.

The monumental building, constructed in 1890, occupies the former site of the Bagley House hotel. As Percy Booth recalled in his book, Grants Pass the Golden Years, the "massive two story structure, its exterior covered with metal plates cast to resemble chipped stone blocks, was the town's most impressive building. . . . topped with a huge clock tower, the stationary hands of its three clocks visible for blocks, pointing to the hour of eighteen minutes to four." A 1926 remodeling removed the clock tower, and the building was expanded to the north. Prior to occupying this building, the First National Bank conducted business from an office in the old Opera House (no longer extant) across Sixth Street.

The pioneer organizers and board of directors included some of the most renown citizens of Grants Pass: H.B. Miller, Dr. W.F. Kremer, Arthur Conklin, T.P. Judson, and Dr. F.W. Van Dyke. These men and others helped create a history of conservative management at the bank and supported progressive thought within the Grants Pass community. During the bank's early years, most of the city's business meetings, such as the board of trade and other civic organizations, were held in the First National Bank building. The bank also contributed the first five acres of land and a bandstand for the Riverside Park on the Roque River.

The First National Bank closed in 1962, and Bi-Rite Pharmacy commenced business in the building. In 1984, a renovation and rehabilitation was conducted by the owner of the building under the guidance of the Main Street Program and the Oregon Downtown Development Association.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Booth, Percy T. <u>Grants Pass the Golden Years, 1884-1984</u>. Grants Pass: Grants Pass Centennial Commission, 1984.

Grants Pass Daily Courier, 22 May 1931.

Hines, Rev. H.K. An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1893.

Josephine County Historical Society. Clippings file, "Banks." Grants Pass, Ore.

. A History of Josephine County, Oregon. Grants Pass: Josephine County Historical Society, 1988.

CITY OF GRANTS PASS, OREGON SURVEY OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC NAME: 1st Natl Bank of So Or

ADDRESS: 208-212 NW 6TH ST

TWN: 36 RNG: 05 SEC: 17 COMMON NAME: Hamilton Bldg

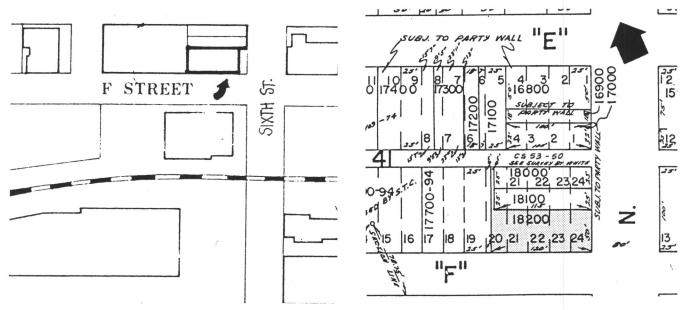
BLOCK: 41 LOT: S. por. 21-24

TAXLOT[S]: 18200



ROLL #: 3

FRAME[S]: 05a



GRAPHIC SOURCES: City of Grants Pass Topo, Josephine Cty Assessor Plat

DATE: May 2, 1992

RANKING: PRIMARY

RECORDED BY: KRAMER/CHAPPEL, HP CONSULTANTS

GP SURVEY #: 60

SHPO NO: 439

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

sections		
Bank Building		
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vicinity of	congressional district	
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Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	X commercial educational entertainment government industrial	_ museum _ park _ private residence _ religious _ scientific _ transportation _ other:
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	Bank Building ng Sixth Street vicinity of e vicinity of accessible yes: restricted X_ yes: unrestricted X_ yes: unrestricted no rty es Creek Road vicinity of al Description phine County County in Existing p.Assoc. has this property	Bank Building Sixth Street

7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two story First National Bank Building in Grants Pass, Oregon was constructed for use as a commercial bank building, as there was not yet a banking operation available to the public. Construction was completed approximately early 1981. The architect is unknown.

The rectangular edifice combines Romanesque and Renaissance architectural styles of the late 1800's and early 1900's. It is significant for its excellent craftsmanship and detailing. The building remains structurally sound and only the lower level has been changed. The rectangular windows have been covered with a stucco finish, creating a solid wall. The upper level remains the same, with the exception of the removal of the two towers in 1926. The lower level of the First National Bank Building was used as a bank until 1964, when the pharmacy located three buildings north, moved into the structure and the interior bank structure was removed to create a retail business.

Located in Township 36 South, Range 5 West, Section 17, the First National Bank Building stands on Block 41 and occupies Tax Lot 18200, plots 20-24. The building occupies the southeast corner of Sixth and F Streets and is surrounded on the north and west side by other businesses. The immediate neighborhood includes the United States Post Office, civic offices and retail establishments. First Interstate Bank, the original bank which occupied the building, although the name and ownership has been changed since 1890, is located directly across the street. There are many different architectural styles in the surrounding blocks, although there are none quite as significantly styled as this.

The building is rectangular and its dimensions are $120 \times 50 \times 32$ feet. Plots 21--24 were the original size of the building. The west wall of the original building was opened and plot 20 was an added addition in later years and is one story in height. The remaining structure is two, high-ceiling stories. The ground level has 6000 square feet and the second story has 4800 square feet. There are at the present time nine offices in the upper story.

The building was originally constructed of brick walls about two feet thick, with its exterior covered with metal plates cast to resemble chipped stone blocks on the lower level and a plaster finish on the upper level. Reinforced concrete was used for a thick, slab foundation. The upper story is highlighted by a combination of wood-framed arched, semi-arched and rectangular windows on the east and south elevation. The lower story was enhanced with rectangular stone-framed windows. Individual awnings were later placed on the windows. The two stories are separated by string courses at two levels of the building marking distinct horizontal divisions. The upper string course is pronounced to include a decorative frieze and cornice. The flat roof is highlighted with a balustrade projecting approximately two feet above the roof level. The facade was flanked with two towers; one on the

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southeast corner, a distinctive clock tower with three non-working faces, corner buttresses, and pyramidal roof. The other tower on the south wall had a pyramidal roof with ornamental detailing. Both towers extend down to rectangular windows on the upper level. The original entrance was located on the southeast corner with side arched openings and a center pillar. Three steps went up to the interior level of the bank. The south wall had three entries into the building; two double doors entering at bank level and one an open stairwell for the upper offices.

On January 1, 1926, construction began to enlarge the original structure. With the purchase of the adjoining retail establishment, the building doubled in size from 25 feet to 50 feet. One double door and the arched stairwell to the upper level was removed on the south elevation, adding rectangular windows in their place. The corner entrance was sealed, the arches retained, and rectangular windows inserted. The new arched entrance was then placed at mid-point on the east elevation and the upper level stairwell opened up on the far north side of the east wall. Efforts were made to retain the same architectural style, although the east elevation was surfaced with a stucco finish.

The original spacial arrangement of the First National Bank is unknown as there is no evidence as such. The only interior photograph available is dated 1938. It can be assumed that the arrangement was similar at the original size as it was when it was remodeled in 1926. The interior of the first and second floor has very high ceilings. These ceilings today have been lowered with recessed lights for the pharmacy and upper offices. The front corner entry steps were marble, stepping up to a marble slab floor. The south and east walls were enhanced with the wood-framed windows extending to ceiling height on both levels. Although the windows on the lower south elevation have since been covered, the original framework and glass are still intact. The west end of the interior housed offices for the bank and the vault. The Observer, a local newspaper, announced on December 3, 1894:

"The First National Bank of Southern Oregon placed in their vault last Saturday a safe that is absolutely burglar proof. It is spherical in form and made of manganese steel so hard that a drill will not touch it."

An additional safe deposit vault was added next to the original vault in the new addition in 1926. The north interior wall was wainscoted about four feet high with marble. All remaining walls were of plaster finish. The east interior was the lobby. The central area of the bank was surrounded along its edges with customer counters and cages. They were constructed of marble sides approximately four feet high and had marble countertops. The seven cages extended approximately three feet above counter height and were framed with wood molding. There was a central support that was surrounded by a marble-top counter to aid the customer when filling out necessary banking documents.

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The spacial arrangement of the second story offices in the building have remained the same. The interior walls have been covered with paneling where wallpaper once was. The high walls were outlined with wood molding approximately two feet from the ceiling. There are four skylights that have been lost due to the drop ceiling, but still remain intact, although covered by the solid roof. An elevator was installed in 1956 to bring the building up to code. Other changes have occurred to conform with fire and safety standards.

Another remodeling took place in 1964 when the pharmacy, which now occupies the building, moved in. The lower level windows on the south elevation were covered with suspended steel mesh and plastered. The level of the interior floor had been raised in the bank and, at this time, was lowered to sidewalk level. The vaults were removed and the adjoining establishment at the west end of the building was added for additional retail space. In October, 1983 two offices were added above plot 20, which are connected to the upper level with a stairwell. In August, 1984 exterior renovation was completed under the direction of Architect Brian Scott of Portland, Oregon. The building was painted sand color and the trim on the windows painted in contrasting rust and blue colors to maintain the historic quality and enhance the structural design of the building. A fabric awning was installed on the windows on the east and south elevation.

Although the structure has changed from its original design on the first story, the second story is still original and has an air of history. The uniqueness of this architecture is rare to Grants Pass.

8. Significance

1600–1699 1700–1799 _X 1800–1899	1 1		science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1891	Builder/Architect Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rogue River National Bank of Grants Pass, Oregon was the name chosen when the First National Bank of Southern Oregon was organized on September 7, 1889, but was changed so that the name under which the bank was chartered on November 7, 1889 was "The First National Bank of Southern Oregon, of Grants Pass, Oregon". It was the first banking institution established in Grants Pass and a very much needed asset for the community. The bank building was the most "looked at" building in the area for its outstanding architecture.

R.A. Booth and H.C. Kinney were the founders of the banking operation and very highly respected citizens. The Booth family came from England and had settled as a very wealthy family in the Roseburg, Oregon area. Upon R.A. Booth, Sr.'s retirement, they came to Grants Pass and his two sons invested in banking, hotels, mining interests and boarding houses. The first son, Robert A. Booth took to the banking business. The Kinney family was also a very prominent family in Grants Pass. Kinney later owned the Opera House and other commercial businesses. Both families have had streets in Grants Pass named after them. Booth and Kinney pooled funds to invest in The First National Bank of Southern Oregon.

The bank actually began its operation on January 2, 1890. A location in the old Opera House block located directly across the street was the place where the bank first began its operation. About one year later, in 1891 upon completion of construction, the bank moved into its present location across the street, only a few steps north of the train depot. The Bagley House, one of the best regulated hotels in Oregon was originally located on the site where the First National Bank Building now lies. It was moved to Sixth and D Streets to become a part of the Western Hotel, making way for the unique two story structure. The late 1800's brought about a tremendous building boom, developing the north Grants Pass area surrounding the bank. Much of the area was developed by the Booth and the Kinney families.

Business began with R.A. Booth as cashier and he continued as cashier until he was elected President, a position he held until July 1, 1906. H.C. Kinney, one-time mayor of Grants Pass, was appointed director and Vice-President and J.C. Campbell was President and subsequently Vice-President. Capital value in the year 1889 was valued at \$25,000. By the year 1898, the capital value had doubled to \$50,000.

The structure is distinctively located on a street which was the main thoroughfare of the North Pacific Highway system connecting the inland route of the west coast. The bank building was located in the heart of town, just north of the railroad tracks. This area was primarily used for commercial purposes. United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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During the early years after the banks organization, most of the town business meetings were held in the directors room of the First National Bank Building. Among the many contributions to the community was the first four acres of the Riverside Park given to the city in 1907. Riverside Park is still the largest and most beautiful of all city parks in the Grants Pass area. The bank also gave the bandstand to the park in July, 1920. It's reason for their interest in the bandstand were not wholly because of its increasing use by the public, but mainly because the park itself had resulted from their gift of the first four acres.

By 1924, the capital of the banking operation had again doubled, and was valued at \$100,000. The motto, "Save with us. The habit grows", was used throughout the first years in newspaper advertising by the First National Bank of Southern Oregon. It was common practice to let the public know the worth of their banking institution; that their funds were being put to good use to develop the surrounding community. The bank was known to be one of the few banks in the United States to have a gold dust window for its patrons.

1926 brought about another short building boom bringing about economic and social advancement for Grants Pass. The Redwood Highway was being built to establish a direct route to the Oregon Coast via main street through Grants Pass. On January 1, 1926, the First National Bank of Southern Oregon announced they would be expanding their floor space to twice its original size. The bank originally possessed twenty-five feet of property on the corner of Sixth and F Streets. They added an additional twenty-five feet of building when they purchased the adjoining Coron-Booth Hardware store, also owned by the Booth family. Remodeling, at a cost of approximately \$35,000, of the store and bank took place the same year with the removal of the towers and adding an additional north room. The old clock tower was removed on March 5, 1926. The stationery hands of the three faces on the old clock tower were preset at eighteen minutes to four. became popular that time stopped the very hour and minute of President Lincoln's last heartbeat. On Friday, March 12, 1926, the Grants Pass Courier announced:

"The First National Bank Thursday occupied its new quarters for the first time, the task of moving into the recently completed portion of their building having been accomplished Wednesday. Next morning the bank officials were conducting business from the new cages, the transfer having been accomplished with no inconvenience to the bank patron.

There still remains some work to be done in the main lobby of the bank, as the portion occupied during the construction period is now occupying the attention of the contractors. The completion of the office rooms of the building was effected several weeks ago."

The upper story of the First National Bank Building has always been used for office space and is still occupied. Tenants have been professionals in the medical, dental and legal field, as well as for those in the public sect.

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On April 1, 1937, the First National Bank of Southern Oregon was bought by the First National Bank of Portland, which was chartered on September 8, 1865. They continued to occupy the building until April 9, 1955, when they moved across the street into a new, modern structure where the old Opera House had been. First National Bank of Portland sold the structure to Ben Dierks shortly after in 1955 and the building continued to be used for banking purposes by Southern Oregon Bank until 1964.

The building would no longer be occupied by a banking institution, but the integrity of the structure will always remain. Clemen's Rexall, later called Bechtel's, which had been north of the bank for many years, was now called Bill & Steve's Pharmacy, owned and operated by pharmacists, Bill C. Hamilton and Steve Bartlett. They moved into the newly remodeled building in November 1964. Bill Hamilton assumed ownership of the building from Ben Dierks in March of 1973.

The Oregon Downtown Development Association, under the direction of Portland architect, Brian Scott, and Grants Pass Towne Center Association has been revitalizing its many downtown structures in Oregon. The renovation of the First National Bank Buildings facade has been awarded Best Project in Oregon at the 1983-84 design conference. The local chapter of the National Quester organization selected the First National Bank Building as one of 22 historically significant structures in Grants Pass to be identified in a walking tour brochure for those interested in the history of our area. This was done in celebration of the Grants Pass Centennial in 1984.

A mayor's advisory committee on historic preservation was established in 1981 to survey and assess historic structures in the Grants Pass community. The Inventory Summary rated the structures as to importance to the neighborhood, architectural interest, historical interest and physical condition. The First National Bank Building had not had its facelift and was recognized as exceptional among many architectural examples in this one hundred year old town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet Page 3

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10. Geographi	cai pata			
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Quadrangle name	and a state of the		Quadrangle scale	
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List all states and counties for	or properties overla	apping state or co	unty boundaries	
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11. Form Prep	areu by			
name/title Mary Jane Pru	dencio			
		o ze	nte March 8, 1985	
organization For Bill C. 1	Hamiliton, Own	er	me March 0, 1903	
street & number 790 Agee 1	Orive	te	lephone (503) 476-	5123
city or town Grants Pass	* N	st	ate Oregon	
12. State Hist	oric Prese	ervation (Officer Certi	fication
The evaluated significance of this	property within the s	state is:		
national	state	local		0
As the designated State Historic	Preservation Officer f	or the National Histo	oric Preservation Act of 196	6 (Public Law 89-
665), I hereby nominate this propaccording to the criteria and proc	erty for inclusion in the	ie National Register ie Heritage Conserva	ation and Recreation Service	evaluateu e.
State Historic Preservation Office	r signature			
State Historic Freservation Office	. Signature			
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For HCRS use only	name is included in the	ha National Pagista		
I hereby certify that this pro	peny is included in t	ne Nauonai Register		
			date	
Keeper of the National Register				
Attest:			date	
Chief of Registration				

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Continuation sheet Major Bibligraphical Refitem number

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Josephine County Historical Society - microfilm & clipping files

Josephine County Assessor's Office - assessments

Grants Pass Courier - Golden Anniversary Edition, April 3, 1935 Diamond Anniversary Edition, April 2, 1960

Advertising - 1889 and 1898 issues

Advertising - 18 July 9, 1920 January 1, 1926 March 5, 1926 March 12, 1926 March 30, 1956 October 20, 1984

The Observer - December 3, 1894

Grants Pass "The Golden Years 1884-1984" by Percy T. Booth

Personal Interviews - Percy T. Booth
Bill C. Hamilton
Anna Schmidt
Al Dymock
Jerry Acklen

Howard Hansen

Identifying American Architecture - John J.-G. Blumenson

