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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Coos Bay National Bank Building
other names/site number Bugge Bank Building

2. Location

street & number 201 Central Avenue
city, town Coos Bay
state Oregon code OR county Coos code 011 zip code 97420

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal
Category of Property: [X] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Date: September 1, 1989

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action: 10/30/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: financial institutionprofessionalspecialty storeHealth Care: medical/businessoffice

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:Neo-Classical (Greek Classical)

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete on pileswalls stuccoed concrete

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roof built up asphaltother wood window sashexterior marble wainscot

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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General Statement

The Coos Bay National Bank Building was constructed in 1923 as a statement of the bank's upward mobility, appreciation to the community for patronage, and also to expand the retail potential for the developing central business district of Coos Bay, Oregon. The board of directors selected the Portland architectural firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel which produced a design in the tradition of Beaux Arts eclecticism which emphasized a Greek Classical theme.

The building remains in serviceable condition in its sixty-fifth year, though some areas of its exterior skin are found wanting repair. Structurally, the building is very sound, but the roofing will need to be replaced soon. The upper floors of the building have been vacant since 1975 and the ground floor is recently vacant.

The new bank building was a key architectural element in the developing downtown core upon its being opened for use in 1924. Its presence reinforced the trend toward multi-story fire resistant masonry and concrete construction begun in 1907 in the Chandler Hotel (a National Register property) across the street, and later in the American Building, First National Bank Building and the Elks Temple (a National Register property) nearby. Together, these buildings became the focal point of the post-war business community. These buildings today are key elements in Coos Bay's redevelopment plans. Restoration and rehabilitation of these buildings and the removal of the existing mall canopies will allow the creation of a streetscape where cars and people can once again mingle and breath life into the core. The Coos Bay National Bank Building is a pivotal building because of its architectural distinction and its prominent corner location in the center of the building group.

Exterior Character-defining Features

The Classical theme of the Coos Bay National Bank is a reflection of the architects' training in the Beaux Arts tradition. Adherents of the Beaux Arts School had the ability to focus on a particular theme and apply it to a particular use or purpose. This purposeful employment of Classicism gave the bank a statement to the community of the institution's stability, permanence, and commitment to excellence. The architects may have been reinforced in their selection of a scheme by notable Classical bank buildings located in Portland near their own offices: the Greek Classical First National Bank (1916) by the Boston firm of Coolidge and Shattuck, and the Roman Classical United States National Bank (1917) by A. E. Doyle, leading Portland architect.

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In the Coos Bay National Bank, the partial rotunda in the Greek Classical Style is the focus of the design. Although the low dome is no longer extant, the rotunda displays a full entablature with the attic story crested with acroteria having anthemion and swag motifs. The large rounded bay is articulated by paired, colossal engaged Ionic columns on plinths defining three bays. The owner has under consideration a plan to restore the dome in a later phase of a restoration/rehabilitation effort.

The main entrance is centered on the rounded corner bay in a Roman-arched opening. In 1956, its pedimented temple front was replaced by a simple rectangular frame covered in marble to match a marble wainscot added at the same time. In the first phase of rehabilitation, it is the owner's intent to remove the marble wainscot and repair the stucco remaining behind this covering to match the original. In a second phase of construction, it is the owner's intent to restore the original entrance and doors using historic photographs to guide the work.

In each of the partial rotunda's three bays, the second story employs tripartite trabeated openings filled with six-over-one double-hung window sash. These windows are further articulated with a nicely proportioned dentil course underscoring the corbelled sills of these windows.

The narrow, 50-foot east elevation features upper and lower floor trabeated openings in a wall which repeats several of the design elements of the partial rotunda in a more restrained fashion. The elevation is framed by two pilasters crowned with the anthemion and swag motif. The ground story windows coincide in height and horizontal division with the Roman-arched windows in the bays of the rotunda. The top part of these windows are devoted to transom ventilators. The second floor windows are identical to those in the entry bays.

The 100-foot north elevation, for the most part, repeats the format of the east elevation, except that the building's length allows four bays between the main pilasters instead of one. The original commercial store entrance under an arcuated transom has been removed. In the first phase of rehabilitation, this lower floor window bay will be configured to resemble the window bay directly to the west, as an entrance in not planned for this location.

The south facade is essentially unadorned. It is a bare board-formed concrete wall with the only relief occurring at the second floor, where a small parapet/roof area extends along the west two thirds of the building. The exterior second floor wall steps back at this point to allow for windows along the upper elevation.

The west facade is a common wall with the Palace Building.

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Interior Finish, Internal Spatial Organizational, and Subsequent Alterations

The floor plan of the bank building measures 50 x 100 feet with the longitudinal axis running east and west, orienting itself to what was once the main thoroughfare through downtown Coos Bay (Marshfield).

In almost all respects, the floor plan remains much the same as when the construction was finished in 1924. The lower floor and mezzanine were divided into two parts: the banking facility and retail space. This division was made north to south behind the pilaster separating the north entrance bay and the bay to the east. This division remains unchanged. The bank used the room in the second floor partial rotunda as an executive office/meeting room which remains intact. This second floor space and the mezzanine was reached by a stair located in the southeast corner of the structure which remains today. The mezzanine space above the retail area was reached by an interior stair which still exists. Access to the west half of the second floor continues to be gained from the exterior via a stairwell which lies adjacent to the west wall of the building. Therefore, the spatial organization of the building remains nearly as it was in 1924 with the exception of the removal of the stair from the second floor that led to the board room under the dome. The original dome flooring, lower wall framing and some of the wall finishes remain in the attic space which, along with the available historic photographs, provide reasonably good templates for restoration of the domed board room space.

The second floor is divided into office spaces in much the same way as it was originally.

The bank's original marble and mahogany finishes were removed in 1956 when the United States National Bank of Oregon purchased the building. Fortunately, the windows have not been altered, and the original sash and trim remains in excellent condition as previously described.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1923-1924  
1924-1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1923-1924  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Tourtellotte and Hummel, architects  
Graham and Aitken, Portland, builders  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one Coos Bay, Oregon 1:24000

**UTM References**

A 

1	1	4	0	1	7	1	0
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4	8	0	2	1	9	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated areas located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 26, Township 25S, Range 13W, Willamette Meridian, in Coos County Oregon. It is legally identified as follows: Lot 1, Block 17, Town of Marshfield as platted by William Hall for E. B. Dean and Co., in the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, together with the North 0.28 feet of Lot 4, Block 17. The property is otherwise described as Tax Lot 7901 at said location.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated area of 5,000 square feet encompasses the entire urban tax lot occupied by the Coos Bay National Bank Building from 1923 onward.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Theresa M. Lundberg with assistance of Crow/Clay and Associates  
 organization N/A date April 1989  
 street & number 337 Daniels Creek Road telephone (503) 267-3054  
 city or town Coos Bay state Oregon zip code 97420

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The Coos Bay National Bank Building was built in 1923-1924 and occupies a prominent location at the southwest corner of the intersection of South Second Street and Central Avenue in the heart of the mall area in downtown Coos Bay, a town originally incorporated as Marshfield, Oregon in 1874.

The bank was designed by the firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel, which maintained an office Portland from 1922 to 1934 and produced a number of the large hotels in Oregon communities during that period. The bank was completed in 1924 and served until 1956 as headquarters of the Coos Bay National Bank. It is a locally distinctive example of historic period design in the Greek Classical style employing a partial rotunda at the street corner which is embellished with colossal engaged columns of the Ionic order. As such, it meets National Register Criterion C. When the bank was acquired by the United States National Bank of Oregon in 1956, alterations were made which somewhat compromised the building's stylistic coherence. The dome was removed, and a dark marble wainscot and entrance frame were added to the exterior. After 1975 the bank was no longer used for its original purpose, and remodeling for retail use resulted on loss of most of the bank's marble and mahogany interior finishes. Nevertheless, the building outwardly conveys the essence of its stylistic character and functional type.

The historic period design was among the earliest supplied from the Portland office of Tourtellotte and Hummel, a noted firm which earlier centered its practice in Boise, Idaho. John E. Tourtellotte (1869-1939) first worked in association with Charles F. Hummel, his partner in the major works of his career, such as the Idaho State Capitol, completed in 1912. In 1922, Tourtellotte opened an office in Portland with Frank A. Hummel, the son of his long-time associate. The Portland office remained open until Hummel's return to Boise in 1934, although Tourtellotte had retired from his practice in 1930. During the 1920s, the Portland firm produced the numerous multi-storied hotels of reinforced concrete which became the leading institutions of their kind in such far-flung Oregon communities as Ashland, North Bend, Grants Pass, Astoria and Baker. Each was an exemplary representative of Beaux Arts eclecticism with Classical, Gothic or Tudor themes predominating. The bank building in Coos Bay ranks among these noteworthy works of the Portland firm during the decade preceding the Great Depression.

The two-story building of stuccoed concrete measures 50 x 100 feet in plan. Its longitudinal axis runs east to west. The main entrance is at the northeast corner, contained in the center bay of a bowed section which, tholos-like, was detailed as a domed rotunda in the Greek Classical style. The partial rotunda, while missing its low dome, displays a handsome full entablature with attic story crested with acroteria having anthemion and swag motifs. In the rotunda section, window openings are tripartite trabeated openings in the second story



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and are fitted with double-hung windows with six-over-one double-hung sash. The colossal engaged columns mark the division of the rotunda's three bays. Also representative of the fine details of the facade are corbelled sills of upper story window banks which are decorated with dentil courses. Ground story openings are Roman-arched in each of the three bays. The entrance originally was distinguished by Baroque pedimented temple front.

In the history of local commerce, the property is significant under National Register Criterion A. It is a prominent illustration of the period of promise and upbuilding between the World Wars during which time the Scandinavian American Bank, founded in 1915, and its successor entity, chartered as a national bank in 1922, played a leading role in the emergence of Coos Bay as a major lumber port of the world. In the Beaux Arts tradition, the Classical theme of the edifice was purposely chosen to suggest timelessness and permanence. Indeed, Coos Bay National Bank was a stabilizing influence in the community when the timber-based economy turned downward in the 1930s. It was the only one of four locally-owned financial institutions to survive the Depression years. It is held by at least one authority to have been "the most successful of the Oregon nationality banks."

One of the bank's original incorporators of 1915 was Reidar Bugge, a Norwegian emigre who carried on as a long-time officer of the bank. Coos County and its seat at Coos Bay, earlier known as Marshfield, was a well-known settlement area for Scandinavian emigrants. The bank's initial title was aimed at attracting a loyal following among the county's large Scandinavian-American population. In 1922, when the bank achieved its national charter, the foreign nationality identity was no longer necessary. A new headquarters building was planned to befit the bank's growth and status. Coos Bay National Bank took over the assets and obligations of its competitor, the American Bank, in 1931. The Bank of Southwestern Oregon went under in 1932, and the First National Bank of Coos Bay was purchased by California banking interests in 1937 and thereafter was operated as a branch bank.

The buildings occupies a pivotal position in the City of Coos Bay's downtown revitalization plan, which contemplates removal of mall canopies partially obscuring the bank's exterior elevations, especially the long north face. The mall canopy is expected to be slated for removal in the near future. The bank's present owners plan to rehabilitate the building, beginning with removal of the marble wainscot and non-historic door frame and restoration of the Classical entrance. Ground story banking and retail space and second story offices spaces and all window openings remain essentially as originally configured.

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SUMMARY

The Coos Bay National Bank Building, constructed in 1923, achieves its significance under National Register Criteria A and C.

The decades between World War I and World War II proved to be an economically volatile period for our entire country. From prosperity to poverty, and every financial state in between, Marshfield was no exception. The Scandinavian-American Bank of Marshfield prudently opened its doors for business during those uncertain World War I years. As the Marshfield area gained an economic foothold in the post-war years, the bank was also able to progress. Through improved transportation arteries, followed by increased production, and market growth, Marshfield's economic present as well as future looked prosperous. To symbolize this economic triumph, the Coos Bay National Bank Building was erected. This structure conveyed the enriched lifestyle and intrepid attitude that blanketed the community for the next several years. When this dream transformed into a nightmare with the collapse of the economy in 1929, the Coos Bay National Bank became a buttress to the community at a time when poverty and unemployment began to erode its foundation.

The distinctive characteristics of the Coos Bay Bank Building which depicted strength and abundance also represent an excellent example of the Classical Greek and Roman Styles in the 1910-1935 period. Not only is this building used as a representative example of its architectural type in at least one known text on significant Oregon architecture, but it is also the only one of its particular type in the area.

ELEMENTS APPLICABLE TO CRITERION A

Building History

In 1915, Norwegian immigrant banker Reidar Bugge, R.H. Olsen, the mayor of Empire, and banker John E. Ross, decided to organize a new bank in Marshfield. With the financial backing of Bugge's father-in-law C.H. Hendricksen (president of the Scandinavian-American Bank of Portland) and other area investors, Bugge, Olsen and Ross were able to manifest the third bank in Marshfield.

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John Ross, who was elected president, announced that the newly formed bank would set up business at 177 Front Street. With a quick remodel, the Scandinavian-American Bank of Marshfield was open for its first day of business on May 8, 1915. Reidar Bugge served as the bank's cashier.

In the following years changes in the bank's directors included: in 1919 Ralph Fuller Williams, formerly of the Bank of Southwestern Oregon, became the new president of the Scandinavian-American Bank; Joseph Williams (Ralph's son) also of the same former bank, joined forces with his father and Reidar Bugge. These three men projected an image of reliability toward the community for the Scandinavian-American Bank based on their strong civic, social, and business practices locally. In addition to the bank's trustworthy image, Reidar Bugge's somewhat unusual character amused and attracted the bank's patrons. For example, Reidar's calculation practices with his customers: Instead of using paper, Reidar would carry his inkwell and quill pen over to a large pink marble counter and proceed to calculate business matters with his customer using the marble as his writing tablet. When the business was completed the counter would be wiped clean and readied for the next customer.

With the bright post-war future projections, the Scandinavian-American Bank made application to be converted from a state bank to a national bank. On January 3, 1922, the bank officially became the Coos Bay National Bank. The bank's directors and major stockholders remained unchanged with this new chartership which enabled the bank's character and momentum to successfully continue. With the new charter came the challenge of seeking a new home suited to the bank's image and upward mobility. Their intent for their future building purposes was to provide for the growth of the bank's business, to thank the community for their patronage by being able to better serve them, as well as to be a credit to the city by erecting a masterpiece architecturally and provide opportunity for retail growth.

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Following a trend to shift the city's commercial district away from the waterfront, the bank purchased the building site of their new home on the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Second Street. Officers Williams and Bugge chose the prestigious Portland architect John E. Tourtellotte to design their new home. The final plans were agreed upon on April 22, 1923, with the general construction contract following some months later to Graham and Aitkin of Portland.

On January 19, 1924, the retail tenants occupying the building began opening their doors. The ground floor occupants included the Sterling Shoe Company, Charles LaPointe's women's fashions, and Red Cross Drugs. The second floor was occupied by physicians Mershon, Johnson, and Endicott, and other professional offices as well. The Coos Bay National Bank's first day of business was February 4, 1924.

The bank's post-war officers remained with the bank until the end of their financial institution careers. Ralph Williams retired at the age of 80 in 1941, leaving the position of president to be filled by Reidar Bugge. This position enabled Bugge to follow in his father-in-law's footsteps by also obtaining presidency of a Scandinavian-American Bank. In January, 1956, Coos Bay National Bank merged with U.S. National Bank, leaving Bugge and Joseph Williams as vice-presidents. Shortly after the acquisition Reidar Bugge retired at the age of 75. Joseph Williams went on to serve the bank until he retired in June, 1958.

Today the structure stands silent, having housed U.S. Bank until 1975 and recently vacated ground floor retailers following.

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## Commercial Significance

There were several key elements contributing to the prosperous twenties for Marshfield. The great demand for Port Orford cedar significantly helped the international as well as local lumber markets. The railroad link to the Willamette Valley, previously used to support the war effort, was an asset to make the fishing industry a commercial victory. Federally-aided harbor improvements and year-round coastal automobile road improvements were also beneficial. Together these factors added up to the thriving fishing, agricultural and lumber production markets. These booming markets led to the overall prosperity of the local economy which enabled businesses such as the Coos Bay National Bank to expand at an astounding rate.

## The Impact and Significance of Marshfield's Ethnic Bank

American economic history was substantially influenced by commercial enterprises developed by foreign born people who immigrated to the United States in the early 20th century. The foreigners coming from countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Germany and so on, left their countries to seek their fortune in the "land of opportunity." People from the same country who tended to **colonize together**, formed their own ethnic business enterprises, hence the Scandinavian-American Bank. Originating in Marshfield in 1915, the Scandinavian-American Bank went on to become "The most successful of the Oregon nationality banks...", as stated by CPA and finance and investment expert Orin Kay Burrell within the text Gold in the Woodpile.

Perhaps more importantly, the Scandinavian-American Bank (chartered the Coos Bay National Bank in 1922) proved to be the sole financial institution in Coos Bay to survive The Great Depression. While all other local banks succumbed to the bankruptcy and buy out consequences of the 1930's, the ethnic bank prevailed. This bank continued to support the community through sound business practices and local concern throughout our nation's most severe economic crisis.

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The Great Depression as well as the establishment of nationality expressed business organizations played a major part in our American heritage and its economic and sociologic development of this country. The Coos Bay National Bank is strongly significant in the association and direction sought toward a strong local economy brought on by these American historical influences.

Historic Immigration Pattern: Large numbers of foreign born immigrants decided to make their new home in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the hopes of improving their quality of life. In the 1870 census, 24% of Coos County's population was comprised of these immigrants.<sup>1</sup> Although this figure dropped 10% over the next 50 years, this ethnic background pattern played a major part in the formation of the county's character.

Due to language barriers and ethnic segregation, integration into American society was no easy task. In many cases these foreign born people were only considered acceptable to fill menial, low-paying occupations. Feeling somewhat ostracized, these people tended to colonize with others that shared the same ethnic background. With this colonization came the formation of nationality churches, social clubs, and business organizations.

One major trend in the United States in these ethnic business organizations was the establishment of nationality banks. "Nationality banks seem to have been established rather out of pride of a national origin and a belief that members of the group would<sup>2</sup> be attracted to a bank with a nationality reference in the name." These included the Swiss-American banks, Hibernian-American banks, Japanese-American banks, Scandinavian-American banks, Italian-American banks, German-American banks, and many others.

The Scandinavian-American Bank of Marshfield was founded by Reidar Bugge (born in Ireland), R.H. Olsen (born in Norway), and John E. Ross (origin unknown). This bank was partially backed by Bugge's immigrant father-in-law C.H. Hendricksen, who was the president of the Scandinavian-American Bank of Portland.

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As the nationality consciousness began to fade so did the trend of naming business organizations after specific heritages. When the bank became nationalized in 1922 its official new chartership was under the name Coos Bay National Bank.

The bank continued to grow in size and strength. Perhaps more notable, this bank was regarded as an important institution to the community it served as stated in an article in the local newspaper:

The men in charge of the affairs of this bank have demonstrated through the growth and progress of the bank and its willingness to co-operate in the development of this city and trade territory that they are eminently fitted to discharge the responsible duties that devolve upon this important institution. When the showing of this institution for the past year is taken into consideration there is no bank that can show more substantial and solid success nor better qualifications for handling general banking business than this institution possesses. 4

The Scandinavian-American Bank lived up to its reputation both in the minds of the local community and in the history books. One such book stating:

"The most successful of the Oregon nationality banks was without a doubt the Scandinavian-American Bank of Marshfield."<sup>5</sup>

The Great Depression: With the panic and stock market collapse of 1929 that followed a prosperous decade, this country experienced poverty and unemployment levels it never before imagined. Although the people of Coos Bay could live off of the generous natural resources such as fish, game and wild berries for food, the high unemployment rate and severe wage cuts for those who had jobs left empty pockets. Forclosure and bankruptcy, which became a common occurrence across the country, were directly associated with its financial institutions. Coos Bay entered this 1929-39 depression era with four locally owned and managed banks. Coos Bay left this period with just one—The Coos Bay National Bank.

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The first financial institution to go was spared the public humiliation of having to declare bankruptcy due to the valiant efforts of the Coos Bay National Bank. The American Bank, which was established in March, 1924, found itself hard hit by The Great Depression with little more resources than demand and deposits. On October 24, 1931 the American Bank was taken over by the Coos Bay National Bank. All checks of depositors were honored and "assured of payment in full"<sup>6</sup> by the ethnic bank. This guarantee was surely a great comfort to the depositors in the community who could have easily lost their entire savings just as many afflicted other Americans across the country already had.

The second bank to go during the depression, which was not as fortunate as the American Bank, was the Bank of Southwestern Oregon. Coined "the oldest bank in Coos County" (organized as the Flanagan and Bennett Bank, 1889), this institution boasted its "endeavors to keep pace at all times with the district's needs."<sup>7</sup> It is believed that 'district's needs' did not include the loss of virtually all of its depositors' life savings in the bankruptcy of the Bank of Southwestern Oregon. Assets were sold for total liquidation on January 16, 1932.

The last surviving bank in the area, aside from Coos Bay National, was the locally owned First National Bank of Coos Bay which was organized March 15, 1905. On May 20, 1937, this bank was purchased outright by the Giannini banking interests of San Francisco and Portland. The acquired bank went on to become a branch of the Portland firm.

The Coos Bay National Bank was owned and controlled by people who were directly affected by the area's industrial and economic growth. With the concerns of a stable and prospering community foremost in their minds, the bank's directors made their decisions and ran their business with the well-being of the community in mind. This local concern contrasted with the First National Bank to the extent that their controllers and their civic interests were nonresident in nature.



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The Coos Bay Bank went on to honor the people of the community with its well-intended proceedings until 1956 when it merged with United States National Bank. Belief in this banking institution was appropriately stated in the Coos Bay Times:

The officers and directors of the bank are individually successful business men and are of that broad-minded class of men who can always find time to advise and assist the patrons of the bank either on business changes or financial investment in such a way as to practically assure success.<sup>8</sup>

Remembering back to the hard-pressed days several people expressed common attitudes toward this bank which was suitably summed up by senior resident Alice Alter who said:

"It was the bank that cared."<sup>9</sup>

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The Coos Bay National Bank Building is submitted for nomination consideration under National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance. Representing the Classical Greek and Roman Styles in the 1910-1935 period, the Coos Bay Bank stands alone in being the only example of its particular architectural type in the area.

Architect John E. Tourtellotte, who began his career in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1885 with the Cutting and Bishop firm, was responsible for the design of the building in question. His successful reputation stemmed from many noteworthy hotels, buildings, and schools including local works such as the Hotel North Bend, North Bend Oddfellows Hall, and the Marshfield City Hall.

The Coos Bay National Bank Building's representation of an historic architectural style has been noted within the text of Architecture Oregon Style by Rosalind Clark and Marion Dean Ross. Categorized under the Classical Greek and Roman Styles of the Twentieth Century, this building embodies an eclectic blend of characteristic elements including:

- \*A domed rotunda as a primary feature. The building still retains the original dome flooring, lower wall framing and partial wall finishes. As stated earlier, the restoration of the dome is being considered.
- \*Full Classical entablature on the east and north facades of the building.
- \*Georgian fanlight windows gracing a good portion of the ground floor which remain in exceptional condition.
- \*A stuccoed concrete exterior finish.
- \*Symmetry about the main entrance.
- \*A mixture of both Greek and Roman Classical ornament, including acroteria with Greek anthemion motifs on the parapet and engaged Ionic columns.

As will be seen in the accompanying photographs, much of the building's architectural impact is hidden behind a publicly owned mall covering connected to the entire north elevation of the building. Currently the plan is for the Crow/Clay Architecture and Planning firm, who will oversee any renovation and rehabilitation contemplated for the building, to petition the City of Coos Bay for removal of the visual obstruction which hinders the appreciation of this building and its historic features.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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- <sup>1</sup> Nathan Douthit, The Coos Bay Region 1890-1944: Life on a Coastal Frontier. River West Books, Coos Bay, Oregon, 1981, p.89.
- <sup>2</sup> Orin Kay Burrell, Gold in the Woodpile. University of Oregon Books, Eugene, Oregon, 1967, p.261.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid, p.262.
- <sup>4</sup> The Coos Bay Times, December 16, 1924, Sec. 6 p.44.
- <sup>5</sup> Orin Kay Burrell, Gold in the Woodpile. University of Oregon Books, Eugene, Oregon, 1967, p.268.
- <sup>6</sup> The Coos Bay Times, October 26, 1931, p.6.
- <sup>7</sup> Potential Southwestern Oregon Edition of the Coos Bay Times. Vol. XLVII January 30, 1930, No. 77, p.21.
- <sup>8</sup> The Coos Bay Times, December 16, 1924, Sec. 6 p. 44.
- <sup>9</sup> Alice Alter, Personal interview by Terri Lundberg on March 31, 1989.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

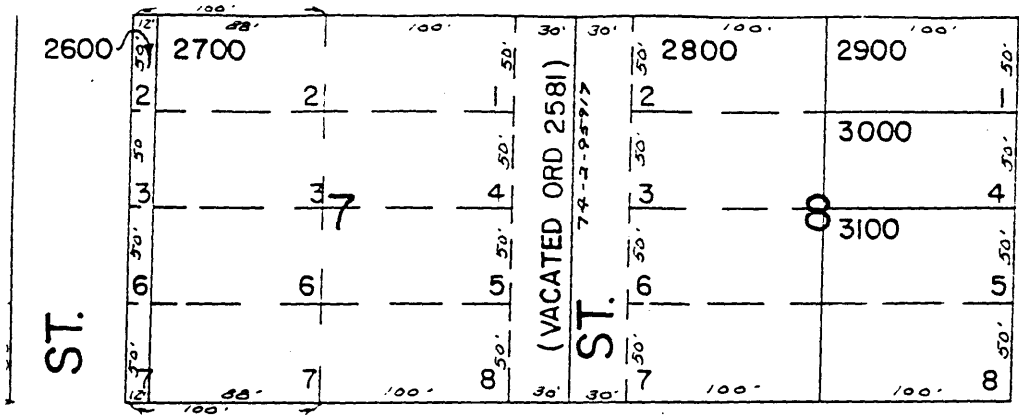
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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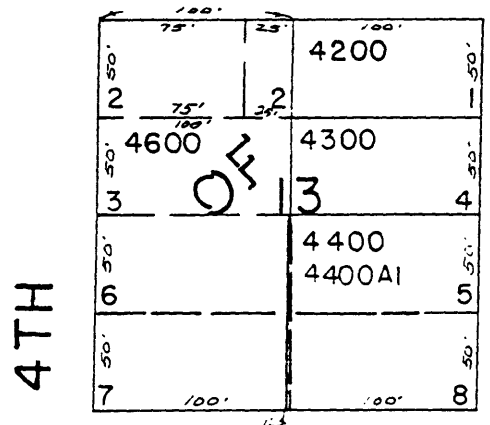
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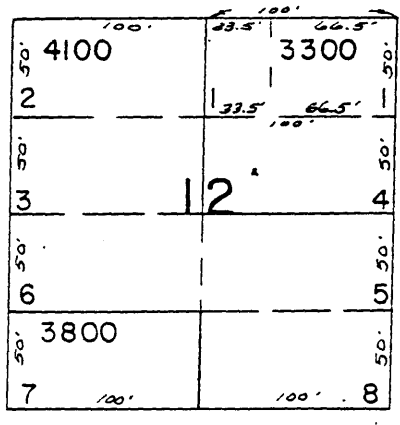
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AVENUE

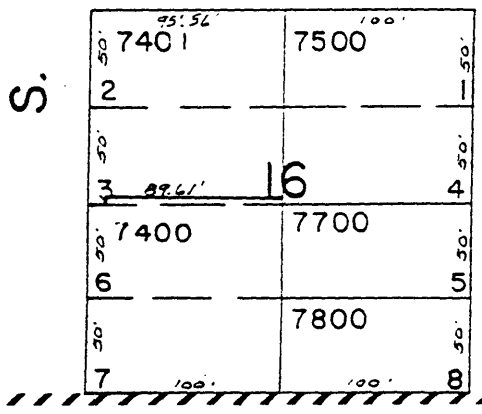


4TH ST.

3RD

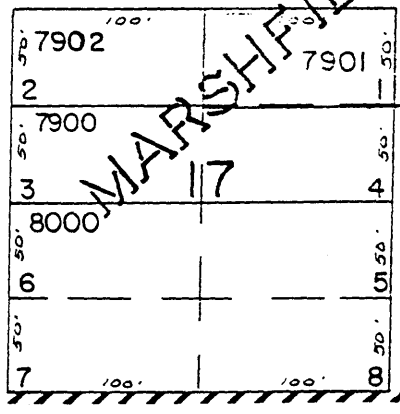


2ND



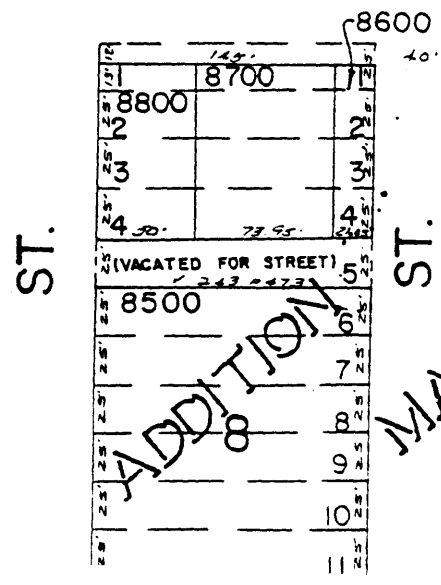
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S.



2ND ST. S.

AVENUE



ST.

ST.

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2ND CT. S

SEE MAP 25 13 26CD

642.DC



- 1) Coos Bay <sup>NATIONAL</sup> BANK Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County Oregon
- 3) photographer - unknown
- 4) Historic view, UNDATED, c. 1936
- 5) Copy Negative  
Brown's Studio  
2020 Sherman Ave  
North Bend, OR 97459
- 6) north east elevation
- 7) 1 of 12





- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> Bank Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terry Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) Northeast elevation
- 7) 2 of 12



- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> BANK Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) EAST elevation      Surrounding  
Area
- 7) 3 of 12

**BAY  
AREA**

**ATHLETIC  
SUPPLY**

*Going Out*  
*of*  
*Business*  
**SALE**

- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> Bank Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) Georgian Fanlight Window  
east elevation
- 7) 4 of 12



201



- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> Bank Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) Rotunda Northeast elevation
- 7) 5 of 12





- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> Bank Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC - 52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) Detail, Acrotarian, Apartments
- 7) p of 12



NATIONAL

1) Coos Bay, Bank Building

2) 201 Central Ave.

3) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon

4) October, 1988

5) TERRI Lundberg - photographer

HC-52 B02337  
6) COOS BAY, OR 97420 } negative location

7) Detail of Ionic Columns

7 of 12



NATIONAL

1) Coos Bay, BANK Building

2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon

3) TERRI Lundberg- photographer

4) October, 1988

5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay OR 97420

6) Detail of Marble northeast  
elevation

7) 8 of 12



- 1) Coos BAY<sup>WATSON</sup> BANK Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) North Elevation
- 7) 9 of 12





- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> Bank Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) Interior entrance
- 7) 10 of 12



- 1) Coos Bay, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> BANK Building
- 2) Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC-52 Box 337  
Coos Bay, OR 97420
- 6) Interior Retail west half
- 7) 11 of 12



- 1) COOS BAY, <sup>NATIONAL</sup> BANK Building
- 2) COOS BAY COOS County Oregon
- 3) Terri Lundberg - photographer
- 4) October, 1988
- 5) HC 52 Box 337  
COOS BAY, OR 97420
- 6) INTERIOR North east second Floor  
OF Rotunda
- 7) 12 of 12