

Canby's Historic Review Board:
Leveraging Our Past to Create a
Stronger Future

Purpose of the Historic Review Board

- “Promote the historic, educational, cultural, architectural, economic, and general welfare of the public, and to safeguard the city’s historic and cultural heritage through the identification, preservation and protection of structures, sites, objects, and district of cultural interest within the city.”

⊗ (Canby municipal code 16.110)



History of the Historic Review Board

- January 1994 - Established by Ordinance 905
- Reinstated in 2013, allowing the City to participate in Certified Local Government grant dollars

Historic Review Board

The Members

- ## Carol Palmer

- Carol Palmer has an MBA from the University of Oregon. In 2003, after a 31 year career, she retired from an executive position in the telecommunications industry. She enrolled in the Arizona State University Public History Program, receiving her MA in 2007 and PhD in 2012. An Oregon native, she and her husband returned to the state in 2013 after two decades away, choosing Canby as their new home.



- ## John Baker

- John Baker works for the Canby Herald as its editor. He joined the Historic Review Board due to his passion for history.



- ## John Serlet

- John Serlet moved to Canby in 2007 for a better quality of life. He is a retired FFA licensed aircraft mechanic. His interests include raising chickens, gardening, and his two classic cars: 1965 Pontiac GTO and 1978 Pontiac Firebird. Along with the Historic Review Board, he is also a member of the Planning Commission and a Habitat for Humanities ReStore volunteer.



- ## Rebekah Goodfellow

- Rebekah Goodfellow has been a resident of Canby for over 15 years. Now with children of her own, she wanted to plant roots in this great city which she has grown to love. Part of a great city is its' heritage and history. She joined the Historic Review Board to make sure that the historical integrity of this great town was well preserved.



Canby's Historic Landmarks

Official Historic Structures

These sites were designated as historic by the first Historic Review Board and this status was approved by the city council.

- The W.H. Bair house at 375 NW 3rd Avenue
- The William O. Mack house at 139 SW 2nd Avenue
- The 1st Methodist Episcopal Church on NW 3rd Ave
 - Canby Wedding Chapel

William O. Mack House

- Erected in 1879, this structure is the center section of the home of the Mack Family. Victor Mack served as mayor. Roscoe Mack was on the first city council and a co-founder of the U.S. Flower Map Company and Canby Bank and Trust Company.



W. H. Bair House

- W. H. Bair was one of the organizers of Canby Bank and Trust and the First National Bank of Canby. He helped establish the Canby Ferry and served two terms at the towns mayor.



1st Methodist Episcopal Church

- Built in 1884 as the First Episcopal Methodist Church, this structure was moved to its present location in 1912 when it was purchased by the Catholic Church. The Methodist congregation had outgrown this facility and built a larger place of worship.



Historic Review Board Accomplishments

- Certified Local Government Grant
- Intensive Level Survey – 5 sites
- Historic Façade Renderings – 5 sites
- Mack House Move

Intensive Level Survey

- City Hall – 111 NW 2nd Avenue – City Hall
- Knight Building – 394 NW 1st Avenue – Red Door Antiques
- Arrestad Building – 302 NW 1st Avenue - Nails 2C
- Masonic Lodge – 288 NW 1st Avenue – Wallflowers Framing
- Oddfellows Building – 211 N Grant Street – Backstop Bar & Grill

City Hall

- This Public Works Administration project was completed in 1937 on land purchased by the city in 1931 for \$50. The town's third city hall site was originally designed to include a three-cell jail and a fire station.



Knight Building

- This structure was constructed sometime between 1887 and 1891, by William Knight, one of Canby's founders. The upper level was once a prime event space, hosting functions such as fraternal lodge meetings, medicine shows, and the first city council meetings. The lower level has housed many retail establishments.



Arrestad Building

- This structure was completed in 1906 for the Canby Bank and Trust Company. A successful enterprise incorporated by business leaders in the community, including Fred Rosenkrans, Roscoe Mack and others, the bank outgrew this space in less than a decade. In 1914 First National Bank of Canby moved into the building.



Masonic Lodge

- Built in 1913 by local contractor Frank Dodge, this building was the home of Canby's Masons, a group established in 1908. The ground floor served as a commercial space, housing enterprises such as Canby's first movie theater in the 1930s and 1940s.



Odd Fellows Building

- The cornerstone laying of this building was a major social event for the Odd Fellows in Oregon, with over 200 members attending from the surrounding areas. Established in 1902, the Canby Odd Fellows were a powerful organization in the city, counting at least four mayors among their membership.



Historic Façade Renderings

- Bettis Building
- Appliance Store/Liquor Store
- Mattress World Building
- Canby Rental and Equipment
- Graham Building

Work In Progress

- Heritage Trail
- Heritage Tree Nomination – Lee Tree
- National Register of Historic Places nomination for City Hall

What is a Heritage Trail?

- Heritage Trails are organized and labeled routes laid out to follow points of interest concerning the local history of a region.
- Heritage Trails can include plaques, brochures, web apps, and websites.



Philander Lee Tree

- Situated between Package Containers and Austen's Body Shop, this 160 year old oak shaded the home of Philander and Anna Lee, the first family to homestead property in what is now Canby. Lee was instrumental in the location of the rail line and in the layout of Canby's commercial district, much of which is situated on his original land claim.



Nomination of City Hall

National Register of Historic Places

- The National Register is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, districts, sites and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, and is maintained by the National Park Service in Washington D.C.
- Currently, Oregon has nearly 2000 places on the National Register (none from Canby)

Why City Hall?

- Public Works Administration Building
- One of several out of 17,000 properties in the book
- Face for the city for over 70 years
- 17 PWA projects from Oregon on the National Register



National Register Process

- Nomination
- SHPO staff review and recommendation
- State Advisory committee approval
- National Park Service Review and approval



Benefits of Listing a Property

- Listing in the National Register of Historic Places honors the property and recognizes its importance to the community, the state, and/or the nation.
- Owners of listed properties may apply for Preserving Oregon grants.
- The State Historic Preservation Office administers a federal tax credit program that can save building owners 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating their listed income-producing building.
- In addition, Oregon has a property tax benefit that freezes the assessed value of a listed property for a 10-year period.
- As a condition of the property tax benefit, the owner must provide a preservation plan for the building that meets SHPO standards.

Heritage Tourism

- 83% of leisure travelers in Oregon travel to experience places, people, activities, and things that authentically represent past and present.
- National average is 78%.
- Leisure and hospitality employment accounts for 10% of jobs in the state.
- Cultural and heritage travelers in OR spend on average \$1,618 per trip.

For More Information Contact:

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111 NW 2nd Avenue,
Canby OR 97013

301. CANBY CITY HALL

Address: 182 N. Holly Street

Year Built: 1936–1937

Architect: Jones & Marsh

Builder: Robinson, Scott, & Scott

Significance

Canby City Hall was a project of the Public Works Administration (PWA), a program for work relief under the federal government during the Great Depression. The city hall is significant under Criterion A of the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places in the area of government as Canby's most iconic government building. It is also eligible under Criterion C as one of only two major public buildings in Canby to be constructed under the PWA—the other being Canby Union High School. The City Hall was nationally recognized at the time of its construction as an example of an ideal modest city hall (Short and Stanley-Brown 1939).

History

The present City Hall is Canby's third. Two other buildings have been used as the seat of local government. The first was the Knight Building at 394 NW 1st Street, a rented multi-purpose event space. The second was a purpose-built city hall erected in 1901 on 1st Avenue, just northeast of the Knight Building on the same block (Sanborn Map Company 1913, 1931). This formal city hall was designed by E.D. Olds of Oregon City, who did extensive work in Clackamas County, including designing several bridges and commercial buildings (*Oregon City Courier-Herald* 1902).

After thirty years, there were distinct inadequacies in the 1st Avenue building. Foremost among these concerns was its wood frame and therefore its potentially susceptibility to fire, but the city council also believed the building to be just overall inadequate (*Canby Herald* 1935a; *Canby Herald* 1935b). The local paper was also convinced of the need for the new building, declaring the city's present offices for the council, fire department and jail to be "hazards" and too small to be useful (*Canby Herald* 1935c).

The city acquired the double lot on which the city hall is located in July 1931 from J.D. and Esther M. Morris for a purported sum of \$50 (Clackamas County Recorder 1931) under Mayor Dr. Henry A. Dedman. The Morrisses named in the deed are most likely the Portlanders Jefferson D. and Esther M. Morris (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1930). Despite this early acquisition, serious discussions about funding the project did not begin until late 1935 (*Canby Herald* 1935a) and was submitted to city voters at the January 31, 1936, election (*Canby Herald* 1935c). Despite early selection of the site, there was significant consideration given to reusing the original Main Street/1st Street site in the period right before the election (*Canby Herald* 1935c, 1936a). There were also questions about the city's expenditure of its funds, as it had already purchased new fire equipment necessitating the new building before the question was submitted to the voters (*Canby Herald* 1936b). Obviously, the voters ultimately approved the building, but the local paper did not report exact election results (*Canby Herald* 1936c). The project was completed under Mayor J.R. Vinyard (1887–1948) (Oregon Death Index 2008; U.S. Selective Service System 1918), who was also a local merchant. He served as mayor from 1933 to 1946 (*Enterprise-Courier* 1963).

The city was awarded \$5,318 from the federal government to build the new combined city hall and fire house in July 1936 (*The Morning Oregonian* 1936). The city provided additional funding, with a final

project cost of \$11,642. The design was intended to house all aspects of the local government at the time—including a council chamber, Light & Water Department public service counter, fire station, and three-cell jail (Short and Stanley-Brown 1939).

The Public Works Administration was a federal program formed in 1933 to address the Great Depression by spending government money on construction projects for public facilities on behalf of any level of government from cities and school boards to the federal government itself. Contracts were awarded to private firms who then completed the projects. Countless buildings from this program survive in Oregon from the small Canby City Hall, to the U.S. Highway 101 coast bridges, to the state capitol (Sawyer 2014).

In 1961 the fire department moved out of the east wing and it was remodeled to serve as the library, which functioned under the direction of Ora Lee Cattley (1890–1966). Cattley was the granddaughter of city founder Philander Lee (1802–1887) (*Canby Herald* and Canby Centennial Celebration Committee 1993:27–28). The library had previously been in other locations in the building. In 1977, it moved out of the City Hall building permanently (*Canby Herald* and Canby Centennial Celebration Committee 1993:9, 15).

The architects for the city hall project were the firm of Jones & Marsh of Portland. Born in Portland in 1887, George Howell Jones trained in architecture at the Oregon State College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, completing the program in 1913. He worked in New York City for several years and served in World War I in the army as a combat engineer. At war's end, he came back to New York briefly and then returned to Portland where he became the district architect for Portland Public Schools. Jones' father had served in the position of district architect previously. George Jones designed dozens of schools in Portland, staying in the position until 1932 or 1934. In the early 1930s, he went into private practice with Harold Dickson Marsh, with whom he worked until he died of a heart attack in his office in 1950. Together they worked many more school projects around the state and at least one more fire station in Portland (*The Oregonian* 1950; Ritz 2002:216–217).

Harold D. Marsh lived a similar life, having been born in Portland in 1889, attending Oregon Agricultural College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for architecture, and graduating the same year as Jones in 1913. However, Marsh immediately returned to Portland, working for others until starting his own firm in 1920. Marsh also served as an army engineer in World War I and worked briefly in New York City upon his return. Marsh's specialty was houses, but he served as a partner in the designs of many schools around Oregon with Jones. He was responsible for designing numerous public buildings in Klamath Falls. He continued to practice independently after Jones' death and died himself in 1969 (Ritz 2002:269–270).

During the 1970s and 1980s, Canby completed many alterations and changes of use to the city hall. Ralph “Bud” Atwood, short-time city administrator and long-time city employee, oversaw the removal of the library from the building and the conversion of a neighboring building into the city's police station (Schouten 1986).

Ownership History

The city acquired the double lot on which the city hall is located in July 1931 from J.D. and Esther M. Morris for a purported sum of \$50 (Clackamas County Recorder 1931).

Description

The 1936–1937 Canby City Hall at 182 N. Holly Street is a modest municipal building in high Colonial Revival style. The building is at the east corner of a prominent downtown intersection in Canby. The building is 1.5 stories, with a partial basement and multiple wings and a major addition to the rear (north), creating an irregular shape of three distinct rectangular blocks. The main portion of the building rises from a concrete foundation and basement and is a large, symmetrical rectangular block. It has walls of brick in multiple shades of orange with a tall and steep hipped roof. Ground floor windows are two-sash, vinyl with false muntins surrounded by original wood trim and capped with fabric awnings. The entry is approached by three concrete steps topped by a large landing and connected to an accessibility ramp at the east. Entry details consist of fluted side panels and a recessed modern metal fire door with half-light. The door is topped by a historic multipane wood transom. The upper level is decorative only and has a barrel-vaulted former with an arch-topped multipane window at the center of the north and west façades in the steep hipped roof. At the north and east are two exterior basement access staircases.

Offset to the south is the historic fire station wing, which was extensively altered in 1961 to accommodate the public library. The exterior of this wing is essentially unaltered since 1961, and it has thus acquired significance in its own right as part of the city's history. The entry consists of a projecting rectangular bay with recessed center entry clad in horizontal boards. Single-pane picture windows adorn all sides from about half height up. The entry is a recessed half hexagon with a half-light metal fire door at the center. To the rear at the east corner of the building is a large hose drying tower that has been repurposed as a chimney. It has a square pyramid roof with a round metal chimney projecting from the center.

Behind the main building are the original jail projection and the council chamber addition. The jail projects off the main body at the intersection of the “L” formed by the main wing and library/fire wings. It is under a split-pitch shed roof coming off the fire wing. It is stucco and has two barred windows and a sturdy, windowless door with full-width strap hinges for reinforcement. It has long since stopped being used as a jail and has been used as a mechanical room since at least the 1980s.

Finally, there is the council chamber addition behind the fire/library wing and jail wing. It is a rectangular concrete block building with a stucco primary façade facing northeast. The façade of this section is a mid-century variation of the enframed block with flat piers in front of recessed window panels. At the north end is the entry, a typical commercial all-glass and aluminum construction in full height glass. The other panels are half-light windows.

Alterations

Ground floor windows have been replaced with modern vinyl windows, c. 2000. The fire station entrance was converted to a commercial entry for the library in 1961. A council chambers addition was added to the back at roughly the same time as the library moved into the fire station.

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