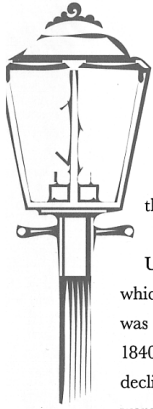


Downtown Corvallis

A Brief History



The earliest Anglo Americans in this part of the Willamette Valley were explorers and fur trappers. By the 1820s, American missionaries and business people began arriving in the Pacific Northwest. They wrote glowing letters and articles to individuals and newspapers in the eastern United States about the wonderful Oregon Country, which to them meant the Willamette Valley. The result was wagon trains of emigrants, who began arriving in the 1840s. The arrival of hundreds of emigrants marked the decline of the fur trade because most of the newcomers were farmers.

In 1845, the first Anglo Americans came to live in what is now Benton County. Joseph Conant Avery was the first person to stake a claim within today's Corvallis city limits. After staking his claim in 1846, he left to move his family to Benton County. When Avery returned, he found William F. Dixon and his family living on a claim just north of his.

In 1846, Avery built a log cabin near the confluence of the Marys and Willamette Rivers. It was located in what is today, Pioneer Park. Dixon's cabin was just north of where Michael's Landing is today. Settlement in the Willamette Valley was rapid during the years of 1846 and 1847. During this time, Avery staked off 12 acres of land around his cabin, these were the first town lots of Marysville which in 1853 became Corvallis. In 1847, Benton County was established. At that time, the border between California and Oregon was its southern boundary, and the Pacific Ocean its western boundary. Over the years, the county was reduced in size until today it is the third smallest county in the state.



12 BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

120 NW 4th Street

Replacing an earlier wood framed structure, this is the oldest courthouse in Oregon still used for its original purpose. It was designed in 1887 and construction began a year later. Some of the original furniture is still used in the courthouse today. Eighteen chimneys have been removed from the building, otherwise, the exterior remains unaltered and in excellent condition. The Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.



Walking...

J.C. AVERY BUILDING

400 SW 2nd Street

1

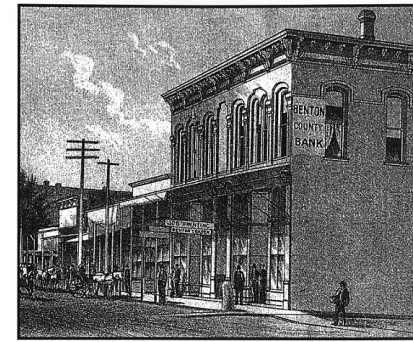
This building was built in the late 1850s. It is the oldest brick structure in downtown Corvallis. The Robnett family acquired sole ownership in 1956 and it is thought to be the oldest hardware store in the county still operating in its original location. The warehouse was added to the south elevation after the original building was completed. Remodeling is extensive.



2 CRAWFORD & FARRA BUILDING

344 SW 2nd Street

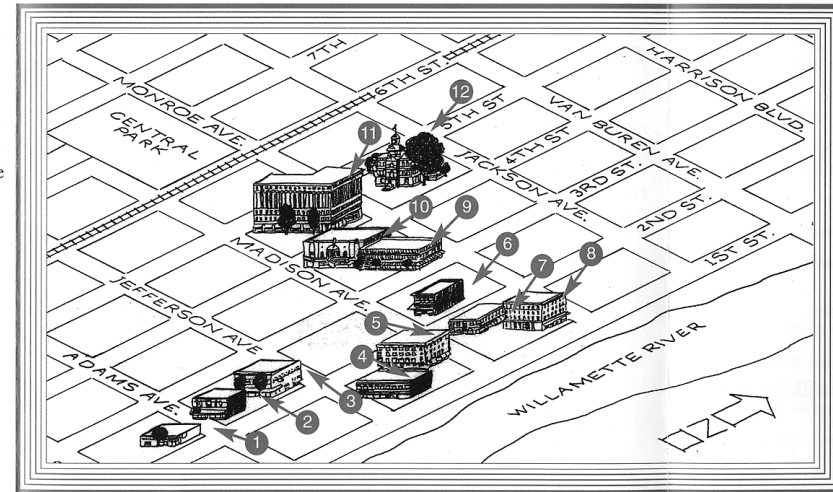
From 1882 until the late 1920s this building was used as a general store, hardware store and grocery/feed store. Its location is also the site of the Oregon Territorial Capitol Building, which later was moved to Salem. (See plaque located on the southeast corner of the building commemorating this historical site.) Today it houses Corvallis Cyclery.



3 BURNETT BUILDING

300-310 SW 2nd Street

Built in 1882, the decorative wooden cornice extending from the roof-line is one of the few remaining original features on this building. A dry good store and a print shop were two of its first occupants. It has been extensively remodeled and today is home for Edge Design, Advertising and Photography.



11 BENTON HOTEL

408 SW Monroe Avenue

Constructed in 1925, the Benton Hotel, now called Benton Plaza, was the largest project of its kind ever undertaken in Corvallis. It is seven stories tall on a foundation of 10,201 sq. ft., and was proclaimed, upon completion, to be completely fireproof. The Benton was built to provide a first class tourist hotel, but has since been converted to apartments and businesses. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

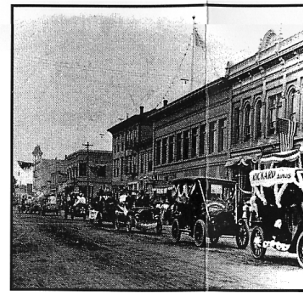


S.L. KLINE BUILDING

215, 217, 223 SW 2nd Street

4

This building was built in 1908. The architectural style is Commercial. Note the classical cornice and decorative, interlaced brick arches running beneath the cornice. At one time, the Kline Department Store was hailed locally as the "...largest and most up-to-date in the state of Oregon." The store offered clothing, dry goods, furnishings, tailoring and pure food (groceries). Today the first floor houses Paperworks and New Morning Bakery. The Odd Fellows Hall IOOF occupies the second floor of both the S.L. Kline and the adjoining E.W. Fisher buildings.

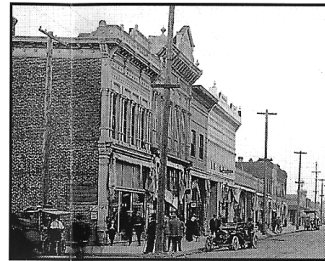


HOTEL CORVALLIS

205 SW 2nd Street

5

The Hotel Corvallis, also known as the "House of Cheer," was built in 1927 on the site of the Occidental Hotel which had been in business for 47 years before the Hotel Corvallis was built. The hotel was furnished by Meier and Frank Co. of Portland which at the time was the largest department store in Oregon. In 1960 John F. Kennedy stayed here during his presidential campaign. For many years, the room on the third floor that he stayed in was preserved as it had been in 1960. Today it houses the Corvallis Arms.

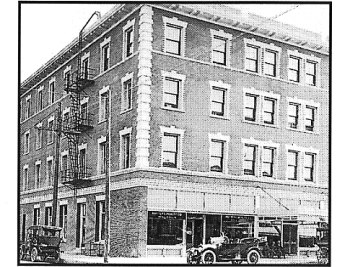


L.G. KLINE BUILDING

219 SW Madison Avenue

6

Built in 1889, an interesting feature on this building is the ornate cast-iron facade on the second story. The building, which housed J.D. Clark's Tin Store in 1890, is best remembered as the home of Allen's Drug Store in the early part of the century. From 1939 to 1959, Berman's Drug Store was in this location. The interior ceiling on the first floor is embossed tin. The Boudreaux family purchased the building in 1985. It is now home to 5 Star Sports. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.



JULIAN HOTEL

150 SW Monroe Avenue

8

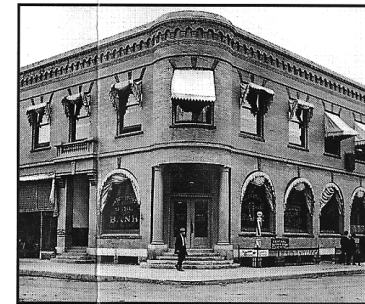
The Julian Hotel, (the former Corvallis Hotel), was built in 1892, and was the first brick hotel in the city. In 1907 Julian McFadden acquired the Corvallis Hotel and three years later decided to enlarge and modernize it. After \$60,000 of remodeling and the addition of an upper floor, the hotel reopened in 1911. Located near the Willamette River, it now is used as a senior residence. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

BENTON COUNTY STATE BANK

155 SW Madison Avenue

7

The building was built by the one-time president of the Benton County State Bank, Archie J. Johnson. From 1907 through 1957, several different banks occupied this building giving it the longest banking history of any building in the county. At one time the building boasted Turkish steam baths in the basement. In 1979 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



WHITESIDE THEATER

361 SW Madison Avenue

10

Constructed in 1922, the Whiteside was built in the "grand style" of the 1920s at a cost of \$120,000 for construction and decoration. Upon opening, the theater had a seating capacity of 1000 and was declared "the finest theater in Oregon with the exception of the Liberty in Portland." On October 19, 1927 the theater caught fire and the interior was completely destroyed with the exception of the foyer, restrooms and business offices.



HARDING BUILDING

301, 305, 311 SW Madison Avenue

9

This building was built in 1910. The construction of the Harding Building signaled the commercial movement to 3rd Street. Nolan's Department Store, an historic landmark in its own right, was a long time resident of this building. They advertised: "It pays to walk a little farther." This corner became the center of the business district. Today it houses Footwise-The Birkenstock Store, P. Puffin & Co., and Talisman Jewelers Ltd.

