

City of Salem Historic Preservation  
Historic Alleyway Naming Report

Kimberli Fitzgerald, Historic Preservation Officer

September 2018

Compiled by Kirsten Straus

Summary: While completing research for an update of the Salem Downtown Historic District researcher Kirsten Straus was tasked with finding any information about historic names for alleyways downtown. While unable to find any evidence that the alleyways downtown were ever officially named, below are suggestions for the names of alleyways downtown based on historic information.

Historic Precedent for originally suggested names:

1. Electric Alley – in a review of the primary documentation (maps and newspaper records) about downtown, researchers were unable to confirm the historic nature of the name “Electric Alley.” However, “Electric Alleys” was the name of a bowling alley located in Salem from 1914-1915. There was also a team named “Electric” that competed in tournaments at Electric Alleys, so there are a lot of mentions of the “Electrics” at “Electric Alley.” However, there was no evidence of this name referring to anything but a bowling alley. Regardless, it is an appropriate name for the alley because of its association with the Electric Building.
2. Pastoral Alley – reference to the mural on the wall of the Christian Science Reading Room.
3. No-No Alley – Could not find any evidence of this name in the newspaper record.
4. Spirited/Gallery Alley – This alley has been called “Gallery Alley” in the very recent past, though there is no historic precedent for this name. It is true that this alley was the site of many gaming and recreation-type businesses, the inspiration behind “Spirited Alley.”
5. Peppermint Flats – I was able to confirm that Peppermint Flats is the old name for the area around Ferry and High Streets. This name could apply to several different blocks.

Research Methods:

Using the digitized records of the Statesman Journal (formerly the Oregon Statesman and Capital Journal), researchers performed a text search of the word “alley.” Researchers then selected a ten year period beginning with the earliest newspapers records and used the “best match” feature to scroll through the first one-hundred result for each ten year period to find any specifically mentioned alleys.

Other reference materials included historic maps, including Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the 1876 and 1905 Birds-Eye Salem, and the 1878 Williams and Co. Historical Atlas of Marion and Linn Cos.

City of Salem Historic Preservation

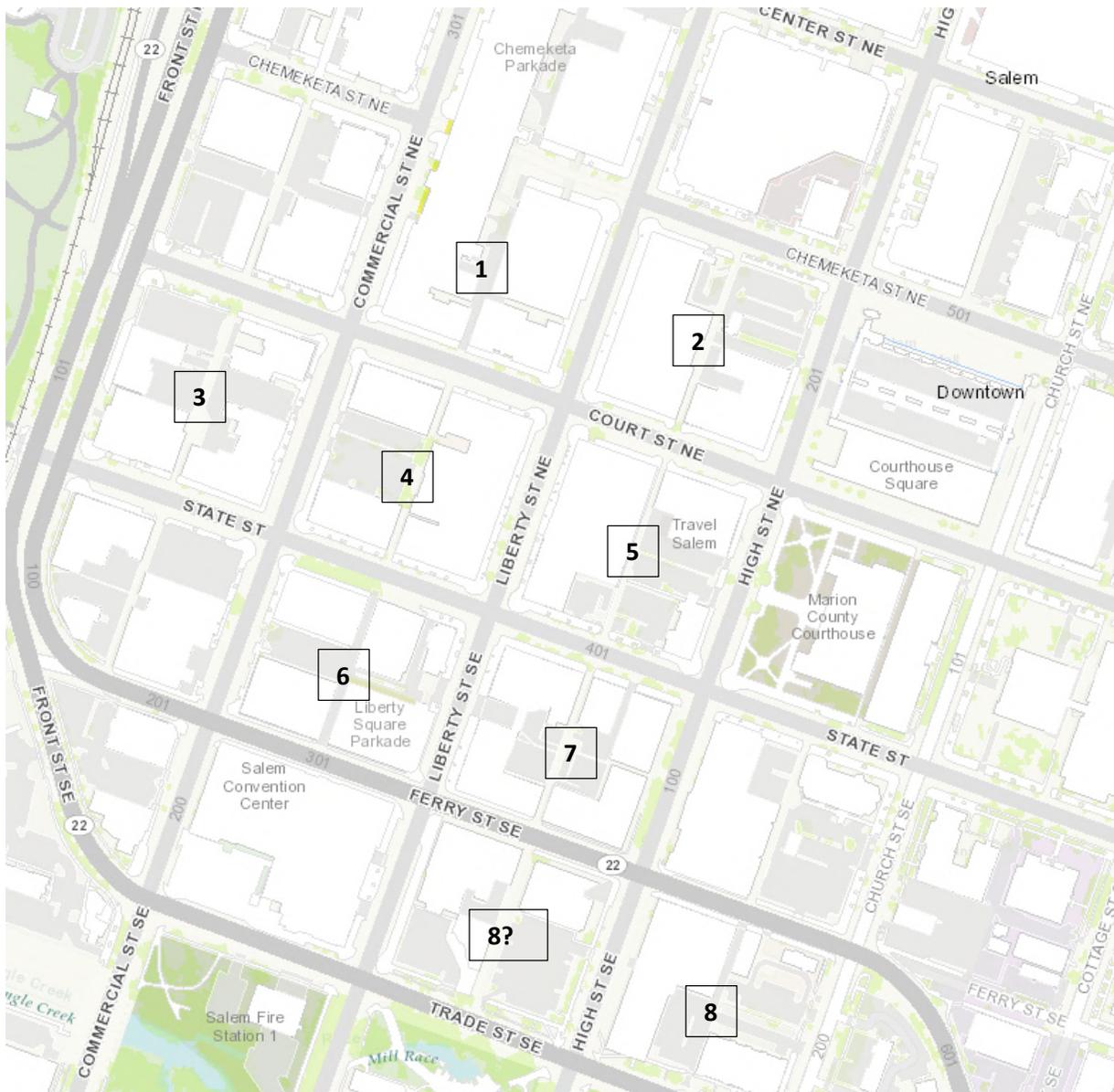
Historic Alleyway Naming Report

Note: Researchers confirmed that there was another attempt to name the alleys in the 1980s, congruent to the efforts to beautify the alleys. It appears that this effort was not ultimately successful however, as there are no follow up mentions in newspaper records.

Note: The photos attached in this report are intended for reference purposes only. Proper permissions must be received from the correct institution to use photos for any other purpose.

Downtown Salem, Oregon

Alley Key



### **Alley One**

Eldriedge Alley – named for the Eldriedge block. The north half was demolished to build the Chemeketa Parkade.

Electric Alley – named for the Electric Building and Electric Apartments that face along Liberty St NE.

Stuesloff – The Stuesloff building is located at 399 Court Street. It went through an extensive remodel in 1940 so an alley name would be a good opportunity to showcase the historic look of the building.

### **Alley Two**

Wexford Alley – named for the Wexford Theater which used to face along Court St.

Golden Pheasant Alley – named for the Salem restaurant which was open at the same location (248 Liberty St NE) from 1936 to 1995.

Pastoral Alley – named for the 1987 mural on the side of the Christian Science Reading Room.

### **Alley Three**

Fortune's Corner/Fortune's Alley – named for two bank buildings in this block and a store which was called "Fortune's Corner"

### **Alley Four**

Eckerlen Alley – built two buildings on either side of the alley.

Joseph Meyers Alley – Bottom floor of Reed Opera House was the Jos. Meyers Store for many years. His dramatic personal tales were common fodder for the local newspapers and his story would be an interesting way to humanize the past.

Durbins' Alley – The Durbin Bros. Livery was located at 120 Commercial St NE.

Statesman Alley – The first Statesman building was located at 162 Commercial St NE.

### **Alley Five**

Fashion Alley – named for the "Fashion Stables" that were located first at the SW corner of High and Court and then relocated closer to the NW corner of State and High after the construction of the I.O.O.F. Hall.

Bligh Alley – named for the Bligh Hotel and Theater which was located on this block.

**Alley Six**

Patton's Alley – named for Patton's Block which was subsumed by the Ladd and Bush Bank.

Tioga Alley – named for a block that was mostly demolished for the construction of the Livesley Building.

The Spa Alley – named for a longtime Salem restaurant that was located in the last remaining section of the Tioga block from 1891 to 1948.

**Alley Seven**

George Sun Alley – named for the contributions that Sun made as Mayor of Salem's Chinatown. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight the forgotten history of Salem's Chinatown, as this block was once part of Chinatown.

**Alley Eight**

Peppermint Flats – named for the mint that used to grow in this part of town. This is a verified historic name. Looks like there is a little flexibility on placement because this general area was known as Peppermint Flats – alley name could be moved west one block.

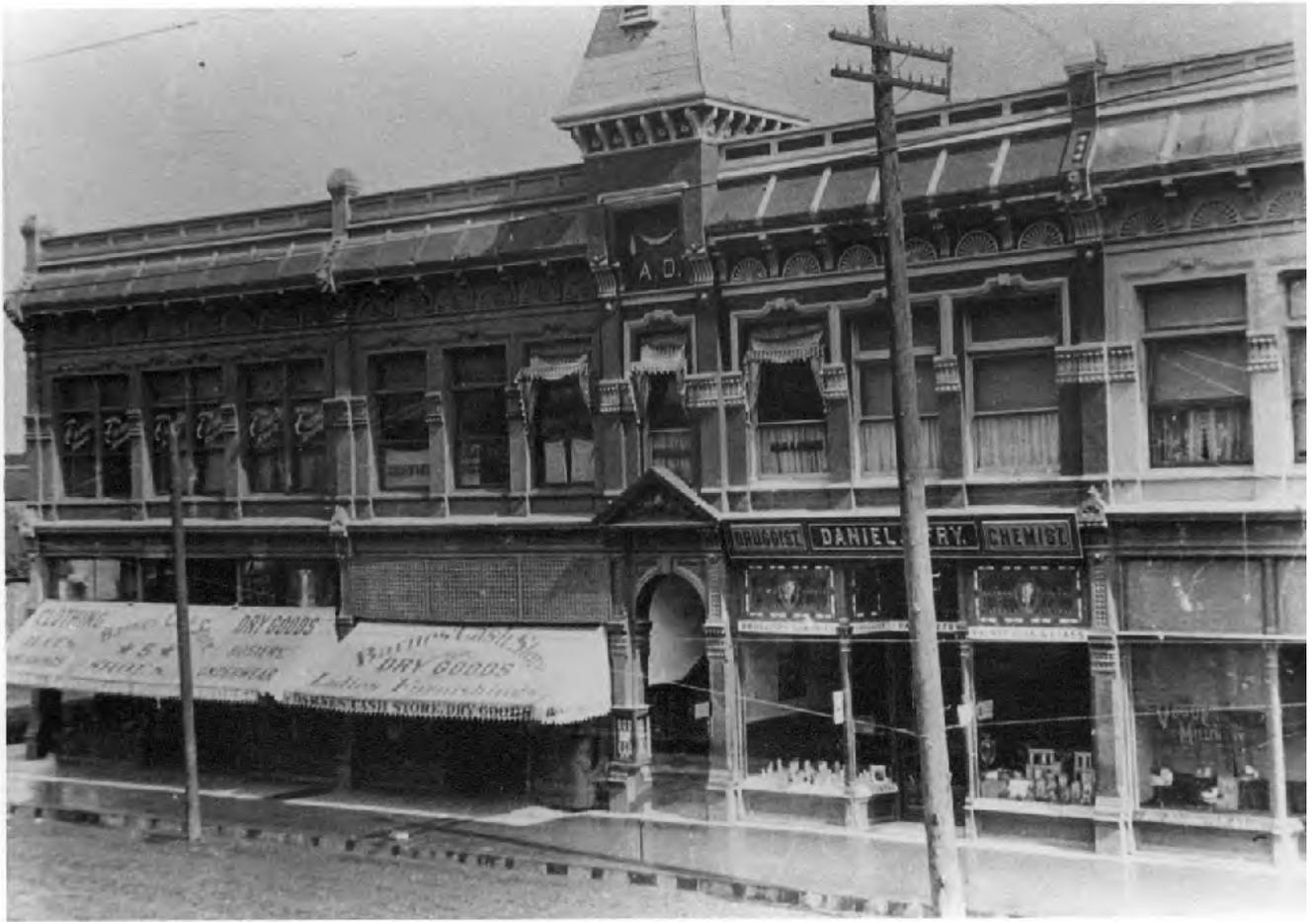
# Alley One Options:

**Electric Alley-** named for the Electric Building and Electric Apartments that face along Liberty St NE.

**Steusloff Alley-** the Steusloff building is located at 399 Court Street. It went through an extensive remodel in 1940 so an alley name would be a good opportunity to showcase the historic look of the building.

**Eldriedge Alley-** named for the Eldriedge block. The north half was demolished to build the Chemeketa Parkade.





**Description**

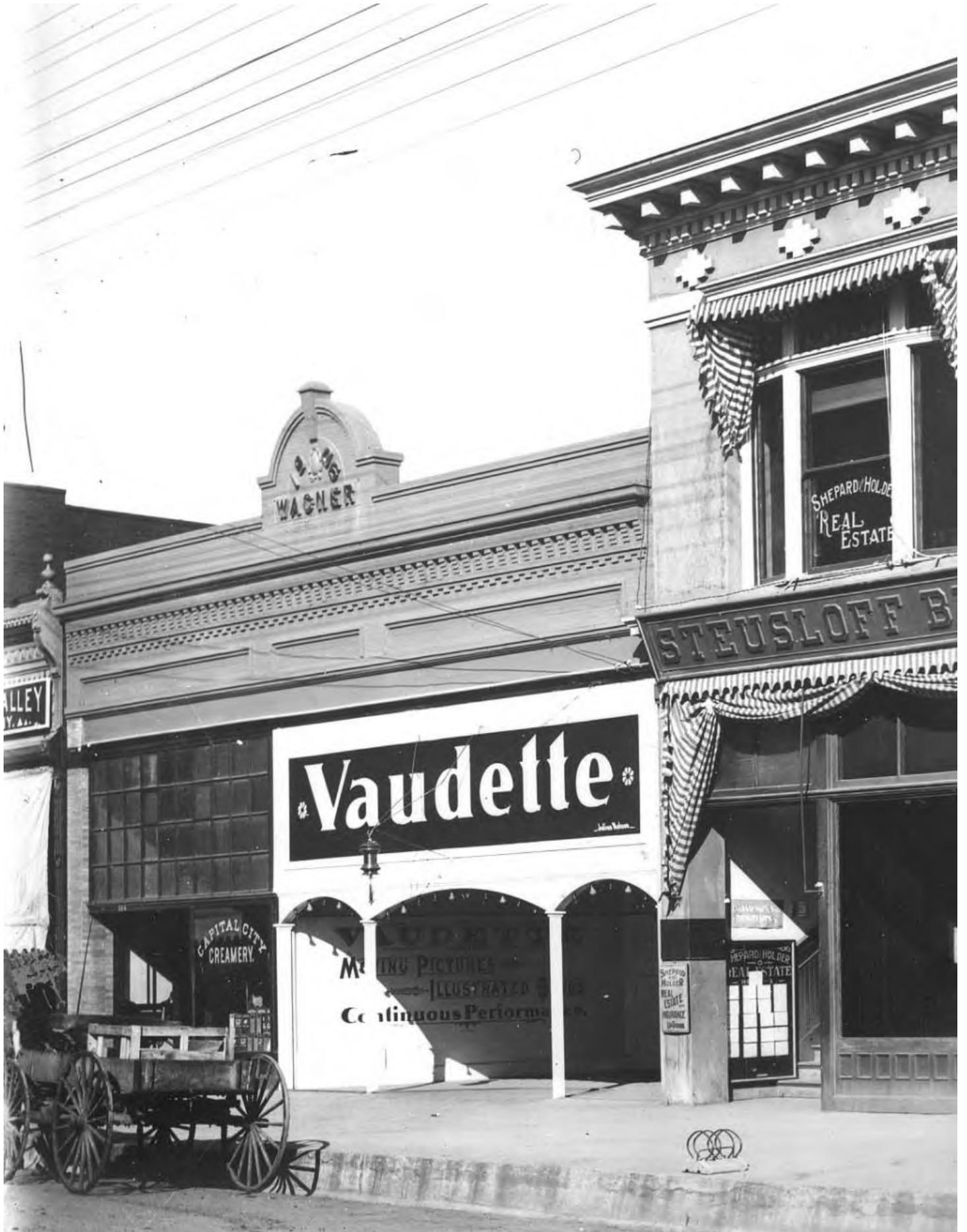
East side 200 block of N. Commercial Street, ground floor at left is Barnes Cash Store, Dry Goods, and at center is Daniel Fry Drug Store.

**People**

Fry, Daniel J.









**Description**

Steusloff Brothers Inc. Meat Market. NW corner of Court and Liberty Streets. The store was also a grocery store.

# Facade hid buildings' history for years

Andy Thompson  
Staff Writer

It's a city street that appears to be a typical downtown Oregon street. The buildings are mostly three stories high, with storefronts that look like they belong in the 1920s or 1930s. But the buildings are actually much older than they appear to be.

The facade of the buildings is a facade. It's a facade that has been in place for more than 50 years. The buildings are actually much older than they appear to be.

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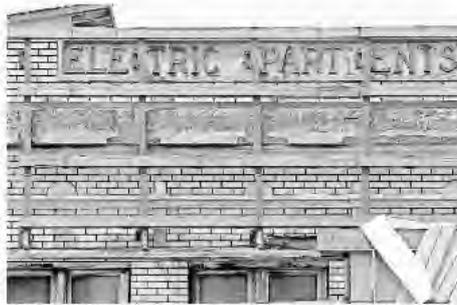
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J.A. Roebbey Co. can be seen on Liberty Street NE. The store was in downtown Salem from 1904 to 1962.



The original facade of the Electric Apartments can be seen beneath the old address sign. The facade was hidden for more than 50 years.

and the city to save the building. The city is now working to save the building.

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## 1917 Electric apartments hidden behind facade for 50 years

Clipped By:



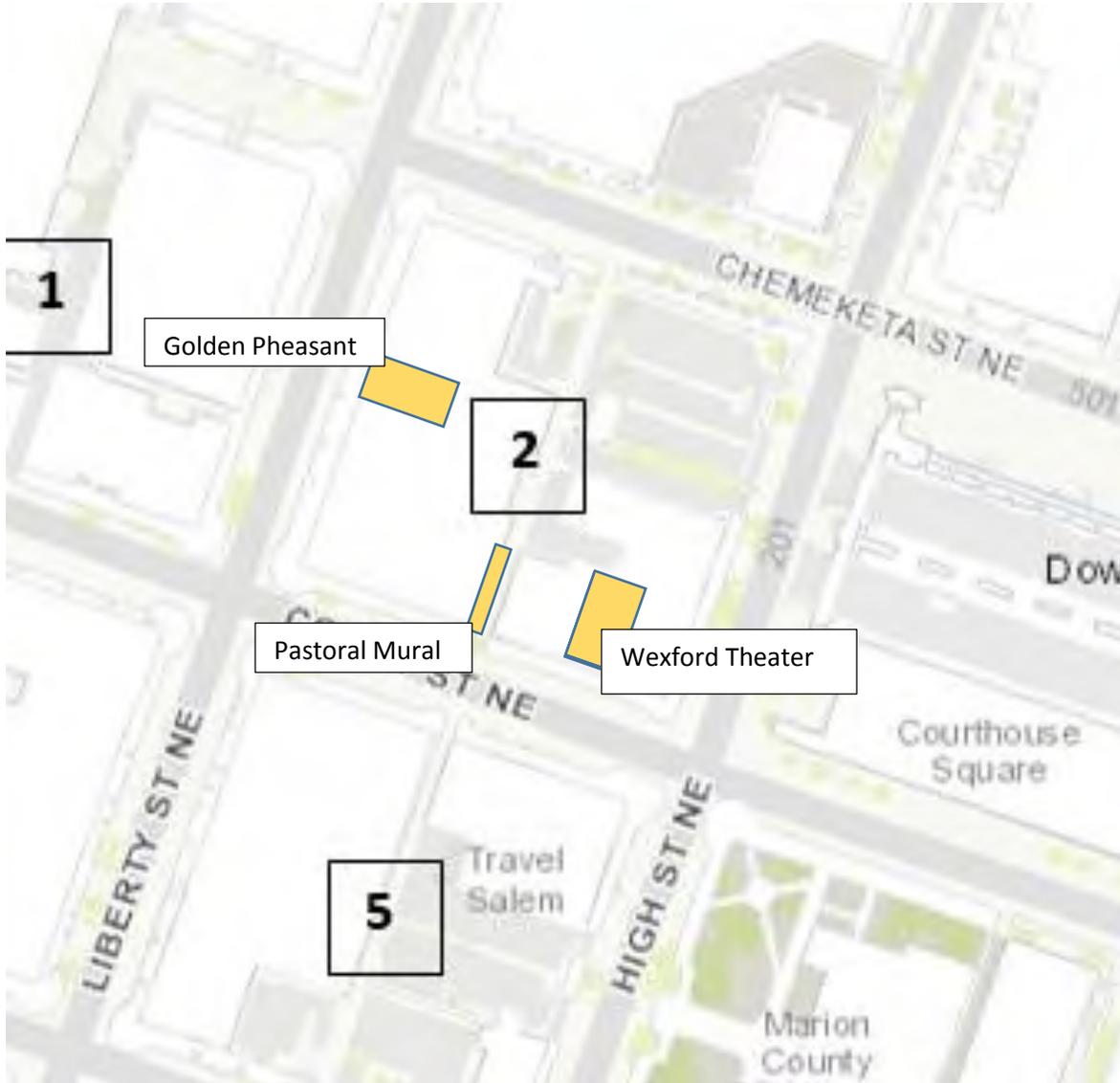
kstraps  
Wed, Aug 22, 2018

## Alley Two Options:

**Wexford Alley** – named for the Wexford Theater which used to face along Court St.

**Golden Pheasant Alley** – named for the Salem restaurant which was open at the same location (248 Liberty St NE) from 1936 to 1995.

**Pastoral Alley** – named for the 1987 mural on the side of the Christian Science Reading Room.



SON STATESMAN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1911.

### THE WEXFORD IS DRAWING CARD

GEORGE HUNTER, PROPRIETOR, IS A MASTER OF REMARKS AND TALENT.

INDIVIDUALS WISH TO BUY AND FURNISH—SEE ORGAN TO BE INSTALLED

The Wexford, on Court street, and the building, which was added last winter, during the past year and that it has been a great success, only to be the first one here. It has been the subject of much talk in the city.

It is the only one of its kind in the city, and it is the only one of its kind in the city. It is the only one of its kind in the city, and it is the only one of its kind in the city.



The Wexford Classic Entrance.

has been under the very capable and of finest management of George Hunter. This gentleman is without question a combination of professional dramatic attributes that would not only be the pleasure of any theater or moving picture house but also under his control or management as the part of the city, even by a special representation of the City. The action of the Statesman, Mr. Hunter makes representative matter with a few lines and should be read as a personal struggle into the history of this gentleman to give the citizens of this city the best that he can give. The Wexford has a history of its own, and it is the only one of its kind in the city. It is the only one of its kind in the city, and it is the only one of its kind in the city.

At a meeting given at the Statesman building, the Wexford has a history of its own, and it is the only one of its kind in the city. It is the only one of its kind in the city, and it is the only one of its kind in the city.

# 1911 Wexford Theater

Clipped By:



Ferg89  
Thu, Sep 14, 2017

**TO BUILD ON SITE OF  
WEXFORD THEATRE**

**Judge D'Arcy to Erect New  
Brick Business Block On  
Court Street**

The two story building to be erected by Judge P. H. D'Arcy on the site of the Wexford theatre will be a credit to the city and in keeping with the general style of later store buildings on Court and State streets.

The frontage of the building is 40 feet and the general color of the brick will be a light buff, almost similar to that of the McGilchrist building. The first floor will have a ceiling of 17 feet in height and the second 13 feet. A gallery will be built around the entire lower floor.

The entrance will be of one large center and the interior arranged to suit the ideas of a tenant that will occupy the building as soon as completed. A marquis will be built across the entire front.

The height of the building is 36 feet, exactly the same as the Moore building. Plans and specifications for the building were drawn by George M. Post and the estimated cost is \$15,000.

## 1916 D'Arcy to build

Clipped By:



**kstraps**

Fri, Aug 10, 2018

THE

# GOLDEN PHEASANT

248 North Liberty St.

## SALEM'S EXCEPTIONAL RESTAURANT!

ANNOUNCES ITS

# GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
NOV. 7 and NOV. 8

*The Golden Pheasant is Modern in Every Manner — A Complete Restaurant. At This Time a Cordial Invitation is Extended To All To Visit Our Restaurant.*

**We Wish To Thank The Citizens of Salem For Their Patronage to Date and Say That We Appreciate Their Good Will, But Wish To Apologize for Our Inability To Serve You As We Would Have Wished. We Are Now Fully Organized and Trust That Both Our Food and Service Will Fully Meet Your Approval.**

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rindff

**Quality Food — Sensibly Priced**

*The following have been supplied Customers and Materials for The Golden Pheasant*

**Barney's** (Lafayette) Company, Corvallis  
Salem, Ore.  
Coke & Coal  
Foster & Co., 218 State  
Prest & Danneberg  
Rexley, Corvallis and Corvallis, Ore.  
Rivers, 211 So.  
Sawmills, Sakers of Sakers  
Hatch, 1, 11th  
Sawmills, Sakers of Sakers  
Dress, Sakers

**The Golden Pheasant THE SIGN OF GOOD FOOD**

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Dress, Sakers

**The Golden Pheasant THE SIGN OF GOOD FOOD**

## 1936 The Golden Pheasant Opens

Clipped By:



Ferg89

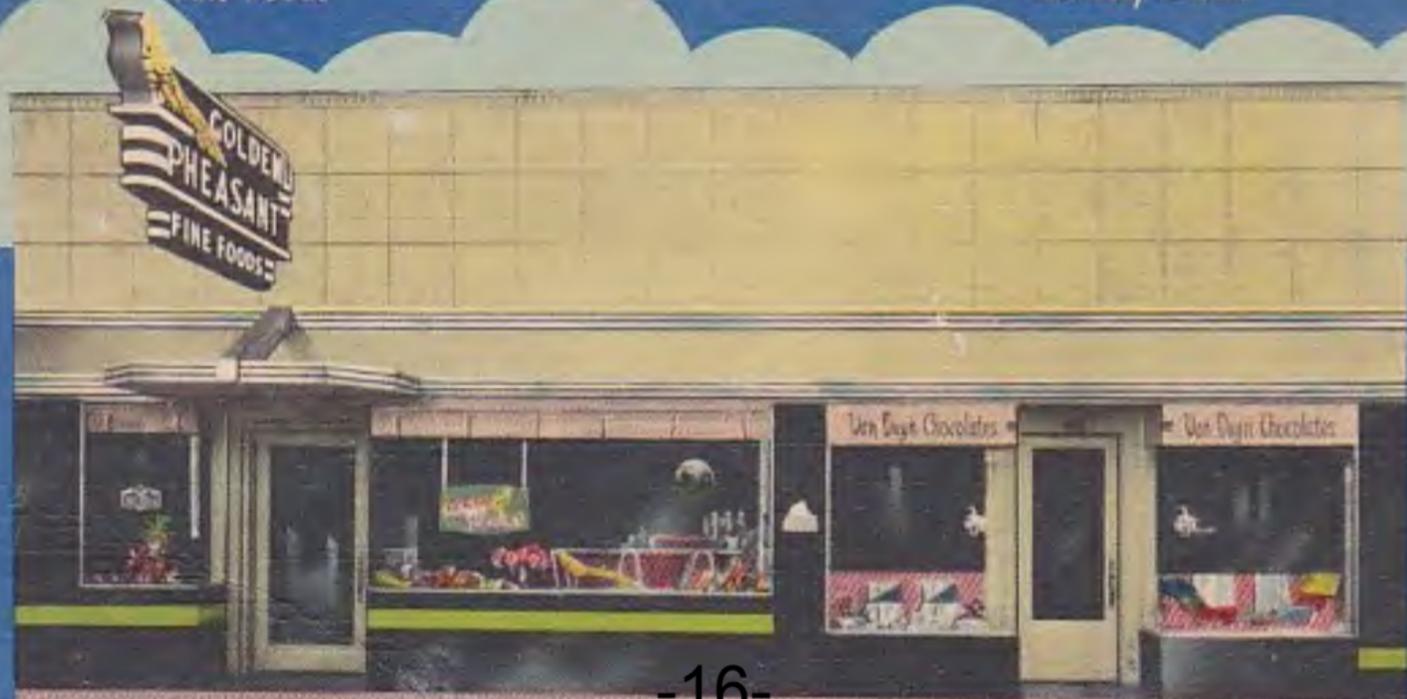
Mon, Dec 11, 2017

# The Golden Pheasant

Fine Foods

Salem, Oregon

Sensibly Priced



-16-



## Applebee's will build restaurants in Salem

The Statesman Journal

Applebee's, a casual restaurant and bar chain, is coming to Salem.

The restaurant will be built near the corner of Center Street NE and Lancaster Drive NE, outside of Lancaster Mall in East Salem. The value of the project is estimated at \$250,000.

Ed Casey, vice president of Apple Partners of Beaverton, expects the restaurant to open in December. He also is looking for a location for a second Applebee's, possibly near downtown or on Commercial Street in South Salem.

"Salem is a tremendous town. There's a lot of growth, a solid economy," Casey said.

He plans to hire about 65 people.

Applebee's is similar to a T.G.I.Friday's or Red Robin, with Hollywood- and sports-themed walls, trendy food and a full bar. Applebee's will seat 180, including the bar.

Casey described the menu as broad, including super salads, barbecued pork ribs, steaks, pasta and hamburgers. It has seasonal specials, such as Southwest cuisine in the summer and ribs in the fall.

Applebee's already has locations in Lake Oswego and Beaverton; one is planned to open in December in Vancouver, Wash.

Apple Partners, the franchise owner, plans to build restaurants from Eugene to Kelso, Wash., but is concentrating between Salem and Vancouver.

Applebee's is based in St. Louis. Apple Partners also owns restaurants in the St. Louis area.



Bruce Thorsen/Statesman Journal

**CHANGES:** Downtown customers walk past Nopp's Golden Pheasant. The restaurant, in business since 1936, recently was sold to become part of a chain of establishments owned by Virgil Weber.

## Nopp sells his prized Pheasant to Webber chain

■ One of Salem's oldest eating establishments joins a downtown string that includes Webber's Bar & Grill.

By Dawn Vlahandreas

The Statesman Journal

Nopp's Golden Pheasant, one of Salem's oldest restaurants and one of the few with a liver-and-onions special, has new owners.

The restaurant, in business since 1936 and owned by the Nopp family since 1951, is now part of the Weber's string of downtown Salem eating and drinking establishments — Weber's Bar & Grill and Weber's Too.

"We wanted to concentrate on the downtown area," owner Virgil Weber said about the purchase of Nopp's. "It seemed like a pretty good buy at the time."

Weber sold his third location, The Flight Deck Restaurant & Lounge at the Salem airport, to Robert and Betty Wright on Friday. He didn't discuss financial details of either transaction.

Weber said he plans to drop the "Nopp's" but keep the name The Golden Pheasant. He also plans to do some light remodeling and to expand the bar to include a lounge in the back.

All of The Golden Pheasant's

employees will keep their jobs, Weber said.

The restaurant, at 248 Liberty St. NE in downtown Salem, seats 150, not including its basement banquet facilities. It has a loyal customer base, including many senior citizens who have been eating there for years.

Nopp's also does a big lottery business, pulling in \$37,579.50 in video poker, \$666.75 in keno and \$800 in pull tabs last year.

Bruce Nopp, a second-generation owner, said that selling the restaurant, while sad, was like a breath of fresh air.

"I just wanted to do something different. I grew up down there, building forts in the basement when we were kids," he said. "It's the same location, the same walls, too many years."

Nopp works as a general contractor, overseeing a 450-lot housing development in Molalla.

The restaurant dates to 1936. It was sold by Joe Randall to brothers George and Ronald Nopp in 1951. George and Ronald started as busboys at the restaurant in 1936 and were cooks in the restaurant before they bought it.

In 1966, Ronald sold his part to George to manage McNarry Golf Club and Lounge. George added the bar in 1977. Bruce, George's son, became manager in 1981.

## 1995 Nopp sells Golden Pheasant

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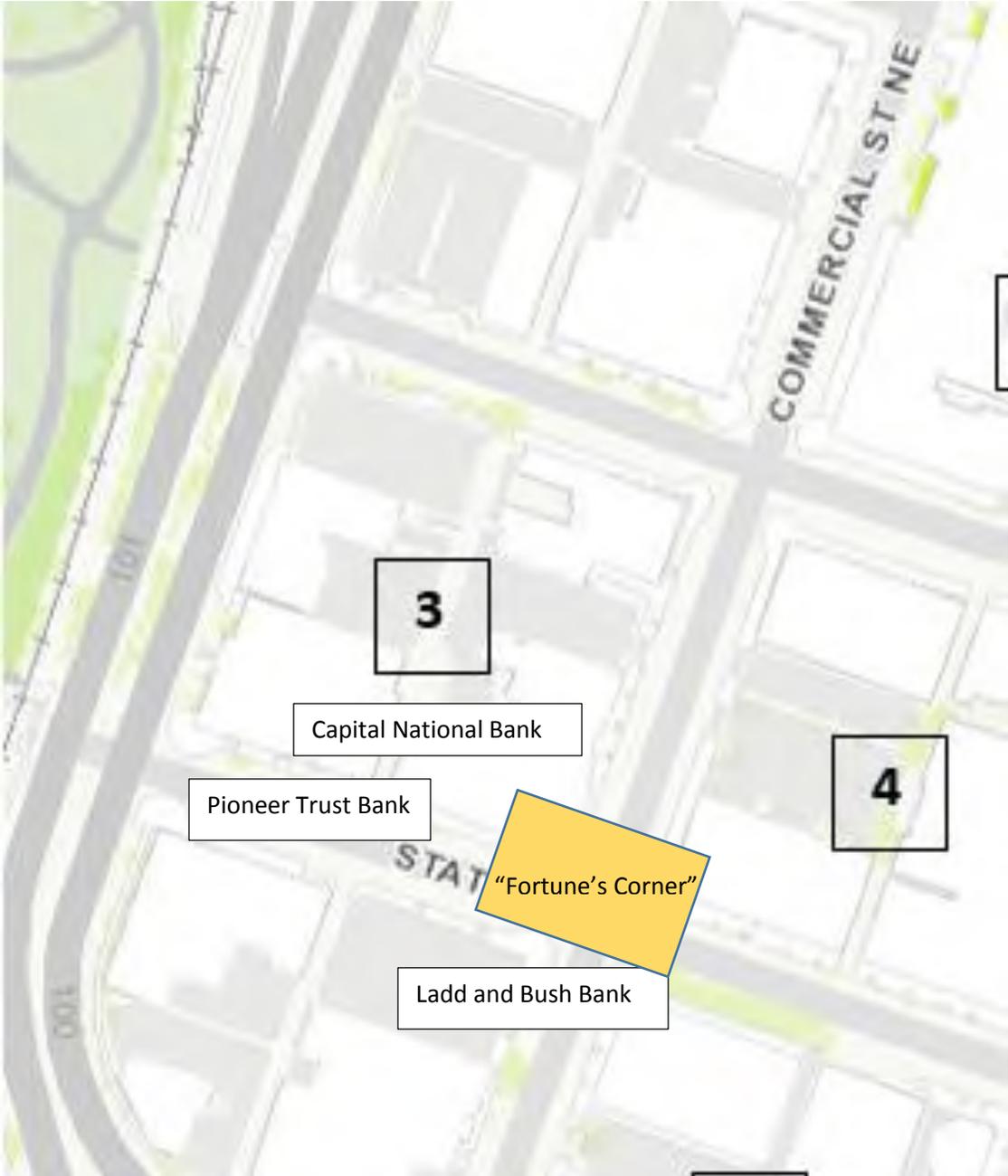
Ferg89

Mon, Dec 11, 2017

**Alley Three Options:**

**Fortune's Corner**

**Fortune's Alley**



<h1 style="margin: 0;">BANK TALKS</h1>	<p style="text-align: center;">BY THE---</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OF SALEM, OREGON.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 13- - THE SOURCE OF POWER.</p>
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Which turns the wheel of the mill of prosperity, is money. Without money you can not even start the wheel, but once started, it turns easier with every revolution. There is but one way to accumulate money, and that is by saving. A little money and a good credit established, by consistent saving, will accomplish wonders. We want you to get ahead, and stand ready to help you. Nothing opens the gateway to success so quickly as

**MONEY IN THE BANK**

and nothing gives you more satisfaction than the feeling that you are independent. It adds to your good cheer, brings contentment and makes your whole life easier to live. These happy results do not require a big bank balance. Begin with any small amount you can spare, and add to it regularly from your surplus earnings of these prosperous days. Every dollar saved and deposited in bank is adding just so much to

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**FORTUNE'S CORNER STONE**

**United States National Bank**

## 1908 Fortune's corner

Clipped By:



**sjlong687**  
Thu, Mar 29, 2018

## Alley Four Options:

**Eckerlen Alley** - built two buildings on either side of the alley.

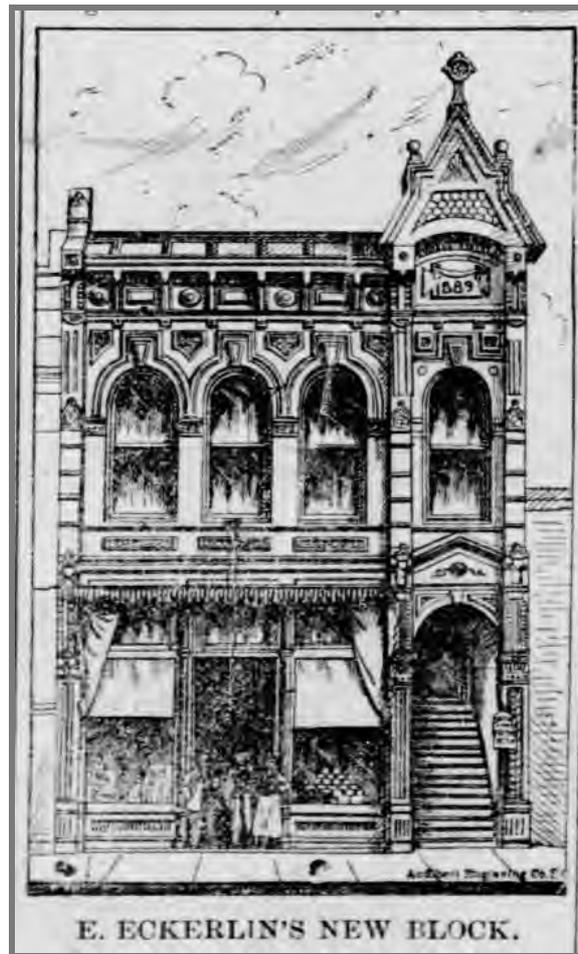
**Joseph Meyers Alley** - Bottom floor of Reed Opera House was the Jos. Meyers Store for many years. His dramatic personal tales were common fodder for the local newspapers and his story would be an interesting way to humanize the past.

**Durbins' Alley** - The Durbin Bros. Livery was located at 120 Commercial St NE.

**Statesman Alley** - The first Statesman building was located at 162 Commercial St NE.







## 1890 Eckerlin's New Block

Clipped By:



kstraps

Tue, Aug 7, 2018

**THE ELITE HOTEL.**

**E. Eckerlen, Proprietor, Has Been in Present Location for Past Sixteen Years.**

E. Eckerlen has been a successful business man in Salem for the past twenty-five years. He has been in his present location

ness. The restaurant department is one of the best furnished and most convenient in the city, and it is enjoying a very liberal share of the first-class trade. People who want a good meal in a luxurious and quiet place go to the Elite Cafe.

Mr. Eckerlen has a wholesale liquor store next door, and he is supplying a large part of the valley demand, be-



**Snapshot of the Eckerlen Front.**

during the past sixteen years. He is the owner of the building in which part of his business is conducted, and part owner of the balance, at 148 to 152 Commercial street, including the Eckerlen and Klinger brick block.

Mr. Eckerlen started as a retail liquor dealer, with the "Reception." He now has the Elite Cafe and Elite Hotel, doing a large and growing busi-

sides accommodating the family trade of the Capital City.

Mr. Eckerlen retains the original business, the "Reception," catering only to the first-class trade.

The hotel part of his business comprises an ample supply of good and well kept rooms on the second floor, where one may have comfortable quarters by the day, week or month.

## 1906 Eckerlen Building

Clipped By:



kstraps

Thu, Jul 19, 2018

c1965 - Leslie Oakes Tennes,  
posted to Facebook





## 1908 Meyers is a successful man, will add annex to current store (Reed Opera House)

Clipped By:



**kstraps**  
Fri, Aug 10, 2018



## 1908 Meyers store celebrated for plate glass windows

Clipped By:



kstraps

Fri, Aug 10, 2018

**MEYERS AND HIS TROUBLE**

SALEM, Or., Sept. 8.—A daring express robbery, in which a package containing notes and other valuable papers representing over \$50,000 belonging to Joseph Meyers, of this city, brings again to public notice the internal troubles of the Meyers family. It recalls the fight made by his sons to prevent his recent marriage in Portland to Mrs. Zenaide Du Rette, and to control the old man's fortune.

Upon the request of Mr. Meyers, J. H. Albert, president of the Capital National bank of Salem, forwarded the former's strong box to him at Portland, in care of the Portland hotel. The package was intrusted to the Wells-Fargo Express company here for transmission to Portland on the afternoon of August 21. It arrived in Portland that night at 11:30 o'clock.

The package never reached Mr. Meyers at his Portland address, and it has just been learned that it was stolen from the express company on the night of August 21, or the early morning of August 22. The circumstances of the daring theft are such that it is believed that unknown persons entered the express office at the Portland Union depot, where the package was left over night, and carried it away.

The strong box contained among other valuable packages and jewelry three notes executed by Henry W. and Milton L. Meyers in Joseph Meyers of a total value of \$52,600.

PORTLAND, Or., Sept. 8.—Willa

## 1908 Meyers had a really dramatic life

Clipped By:



kstraps

Fri, Aug 10, 2018



Corner of State and Commercial - before Durbins' Block was built

**Description**

Lines of horses and men (band? with flag) in front of Durbin Livery Stable. Smaller version is 2013.013.0039.

## Commercial &amp; State Streets in Salem Oregon, 1880's

[View Description](#)

Print



## Description

<b>PHOTO ID</b>	12013
<b>TITLE</b>	Commercial & State Streets in Salem Oregon, 1880's
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This photo of the early business district in Salem, Oregon, looks north on Commercial Street from the intersection with State. It was taken ca 1886; the business in the foreground is not in the 1889 city directory, but the R.M. Wade & Company, carrying hardware and farm implements, is listed at 282-286 Commercial and can be seen further down the block. Salem streets were renumbered in 1904. The buildings are a mix of one story and two story; the two-story ones are brick with high narrow arched windows, and a covered walkway with raised wooden sidewalks. Horse-drawn wagons can be seen on the dirt road and a wagon loaded with hay is on the right.
<b>DATE</b>	ca 1886
<b>SUBJECTS</b>	R.M. Wade & Company; Salem, Oregon; dirt roads
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	Cronise Studio
<b>COLLECTOR</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>OBJECT</b>	b/w photo
<b>DIMENSIONS</b>	5 in. H x 7 in. W
<b>PHOTO SOURCE</b>	Salem Public Library
<b>REMARKS</b>	Research by Toni Meyering. This photo is from the Ben Maxwell Photo Album, p 51.
<b>CONTENTdm file name</b>	2633.jpg
<b>Date created</b>	2004-03-29
<b>Date modified</b>	2004-03-29
<b>CONTENTdm number</b>	4874



# Alley Five Options:

**Fashion Alley** - named for the “Fashion Stables” that were located first at the SW corner of High and Court and then relocated closer to the NW corner of State and High after the construction of the I.O.O.F. Hall.

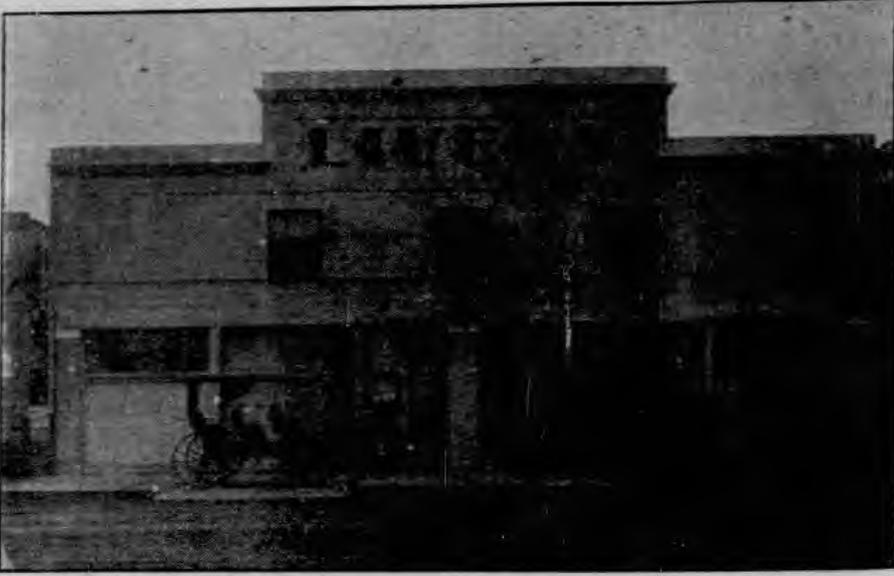
**Bligh Alley** – named for the Bligh Hotel and Theater which was located on this block.



Anne Huteson,  
Facebook



-33-



**A LEADER IN HIS LINE.**

**Chas. W. Yannke Has a Complete Equipment in the Popular Fashion Stables.**

The name of Chas. W. Yannke is inseparably connected with all that is best in livery stable management in Salem. From small beginnings he has gradually enlarged his business until now the

Fashion Stables are the most noted in two counties. In addition to regular livery and boarding stables, Mr. Yannke has a complete equipment of hacks, cabs and fashionable driving rigs, and also has the only ambulance in the Capital City. The Fashion Stables are prepared to handle large parties on short notice. They are located on High street, directly opposite Marion county court house.

## 1907 Fashion Stables

Clipped By:



kstraps

Fri, Aug 24, 2018

## AUTO GARAGE REPLACES THE FASHION STABLES

CLUB STABLES TAKE OVER HACKS  
AND CAB STABLES OF OLD  
CONCERN.

The Fashion Stables, belonging to C. W. Yanuke, which has been an institution in Salem, is no more. The business was concluded last evening, with the close of the month and the building will now be an automobile garage.

The hack and cab business that has belonged with the Fashion Stables has gone to the Club Stables. So when you want a hack or cab in the future, phone Main 7 instead of Main 44.

The rest of the business of the Fashion Stables has gone to the various livery barns throughout the city, to all of which Mr. Yanuke commends his patrons. He wishes to thank the people who have patronized his business and to assure them that he is grateful for all their many favors.

Mr. Yanuke expects to remain in Salem. He will be busy for a time in settling up the affairs of the business that has just been closed, and he will find other channels of business and employment later.

## 1910 Auto garage replaces Fashion Stables

Clipped By:



kstraps

Fri, Aug 24, 2018



# Bligh Block remembered for deadly fire in 1975

By Andy Zimmerman  
Special to the Statesman Journal

It was one of the early footprints by Thomas Gregor Bligh in downtown Salem, but it is remembered for its fiery finish 40 years ago.

Bligh constructed the Bligh Block, a hotel and movie house at 441 State St. in 1912.

The Bligh Theater was reported to have 500 seats. The Hotel Bligh had 60 rooms. Bligh opened the Star Theatre in Salem in 1908, reportedly the first 10-cent show house in Salem.

At one time, advertising for the hotel was strung across State Street. Drivers going either direction could spot the word "Bligh" high above the traffic.

Bligh died in a car wreck in 1924. After, his wife, Anna, and son, Frank, ran the hotel and movie house.

The building's theater days ended in 1926, when Frank Bligh constructed the Capitol Theatre across from the Marion County Courthouse on State Street. The theater in the Bligh Building was remodeled for retail use in the fall of 1926.

In the hotel's later years, it consisted of 40 rental units and catered to long-term residents.

On June 8, 1975, the building was destroyed by fire. Two men were killed in the blaze, which officials determined was caused by arson. Fifty-eight people were left homeless.

It took five hours for fire officials to control the blaze. Arnold Stover, 48, and August Cico, 49, died in the fire. Stover lived at the Bligh for 10 years; Cico for four years, according to reports.

The fire gutted the second and third stories, while the first floor suffered water damage. Businesses at street level were Transamerica Title Insurance, Steimert's Studio and the Jewel Box, which was in the Bligh Building for 40 years, according to the



P. K2012.056.0281 / WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER

The Bligh Building is seen during demolition after a deadly fire in June 1975.

### LOST SALEM

Do you know of an iconic Salem location, business or important event to the community that has been lost to history and should be remembered? Send suggestions to [SJTimeCapsule@gmail.com](mailto:SJTimeCapsule@gmail.com).

Oregon Statesman. The hotel occupied the top two floors.

Police officials identified a suspect in the arson, Thomas Charles Hanson, whom witnesses placed at the scene, according to a Statesman Journal story from June 2014. Cold case investigators continue to search for Hanson.

The property has been used for parking since the Bligh was demolished. The Capitol Theatre was torn down about 25 years later, although the rest of the building remains. The Bligh name still can be seen on another of the family's former buildings at the northwest corner of High and Court streets NE.

Andy Zimmerman is a former Statesman Journal copy editor who writes a column about local history twice per month. You can contact him with comments or suggestions for future stories at [SJTimeCapsule@gmail.com](mailto:SJTimeCapsule@gmail.com).



P. 2002.005.054 / WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER

The Bligh Block, which included a theater and hotel, is seen circa 1924 on State Street. It was destroyed by fire in 1975.



P. K2012.056.0282 / WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER

The Bligh Block is seen before demolition in June 1975.

## Andy Zimmerman

Clipped By:



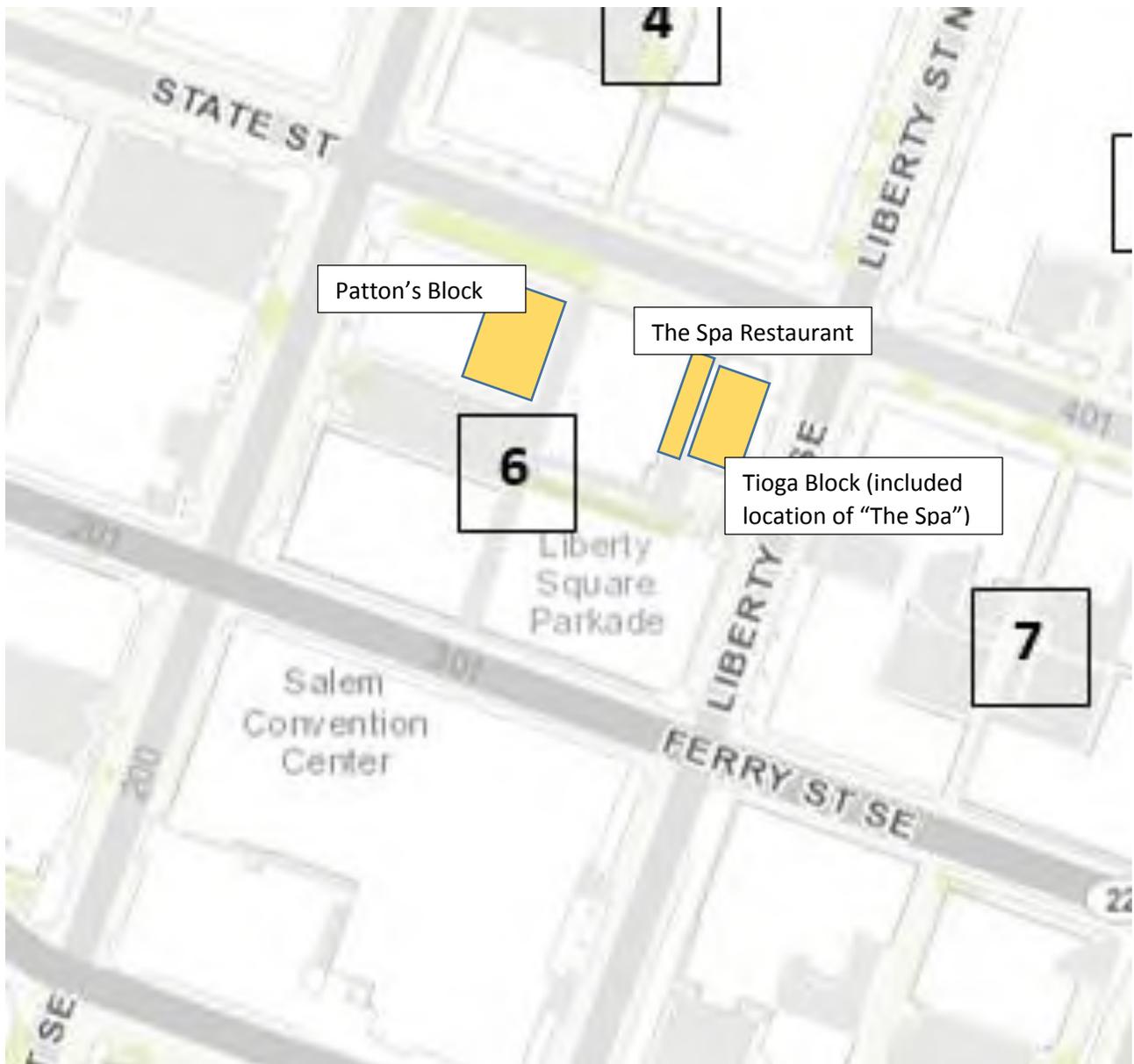
Ferg89  
Wed, Feb 1, 2017

## Alley Six Options:

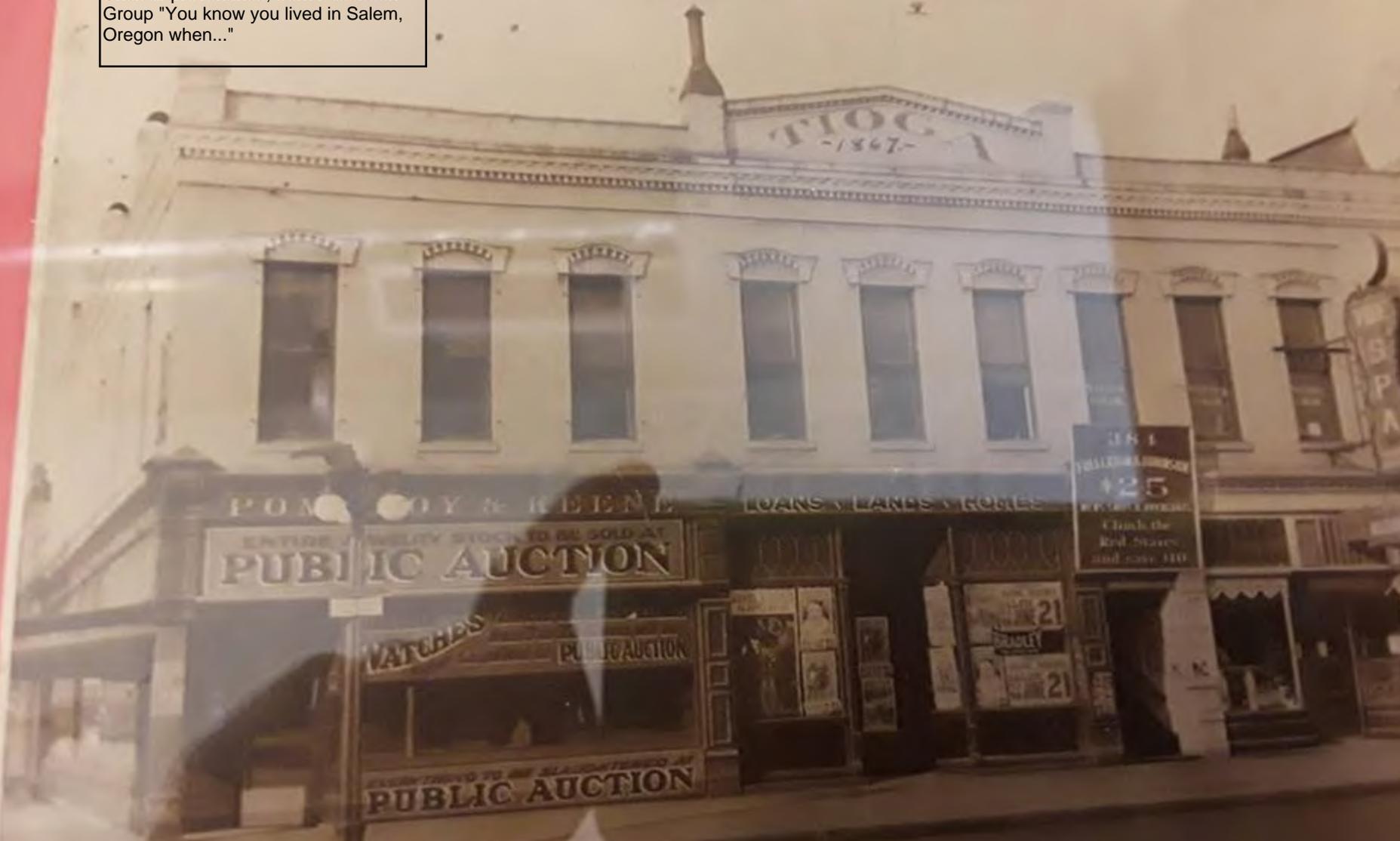
**Patton's Alley** - named for Patton's Block which was subsumed by the Ladd and Bush Bank.

**Tioga Alley**- named for a block that was mostly demolished for the construction of the Livesley Building.

**The Spa Alley** - named for a longtime Salem restaurant that was located in the last remaining section of the Tioga block from 1891 to 1948.



Unclear provenance, from Facebook Group "You know you lived in Salem, Oregon when..."





Adolph Block **NOV 28 1979**  
360-372 State Street  
Salem, Marion County, Oregon

3 of 4 **FEB 1 1980**

Tom Cronise photo, c. 1920  
West Collection  
Oregon State Library  
Salem, OR 97310

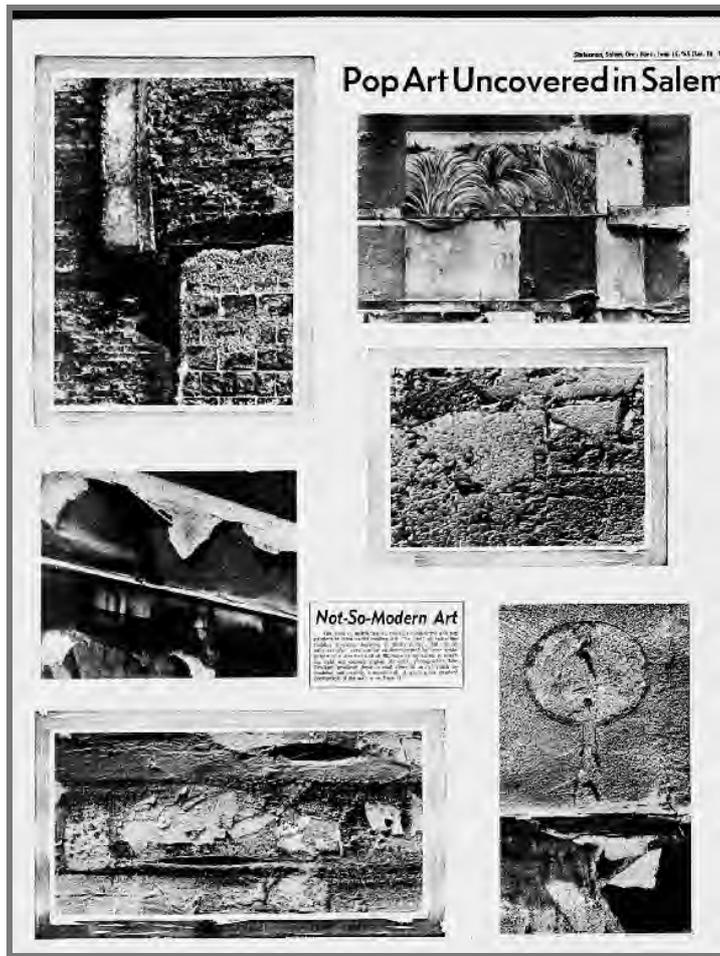
## Southwest corner of State Street in Salem, Oregon, 1939

[View Description](#)[Print](#)**Description**

<b>PHOTO ID</b>	1421
<b>TITLE</b>	Southwest corner of State Street in Salem, Oregon, 1939
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This is the southwest corner of State Street as seen in 1939. The view is to the west. The address of The Spa restaurant was 382 State Street. The sporting goods store belonged to Cliff Parker and was located on 372 State Street. The tall building on the corner was the Guardian Building which housed the Willamette Credit Company among other offices.
<b>DATE</b>	1939
<b>SUBJECTS</b>	Salem, Oregon; Guardian Building; The Spa restaurant; Parker, Cliff; State Street
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>COLLECTOR</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>OBJECT</b>	b/w negative
<b>DIMENSIONS</b>	2.6 in. W x 3.7 in. H
<b>PHOTO SOURCE</b>	Salem Public Library
<b>CREDITS &amp; RESTRICTIONS</b>	Salem Public Library Historic Photograph Collections, Salem Public Library, Salem, Oregon
<b>ACCESSION ID</b>	SSV.3.7
<b>IMAGE FILENAME</b>	524163BB.jpg
<b>CONTENTdm file name</b>	524163BB.jpg
<b>Date created</b>	2004-04-05
<b>Date modified</b>	2011-01-14
<b>CONTENTdm number</b>	282

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## 1965 Art from the demolished Spa Restaurant

Clipped By:



**kstraps**  
Thu, Aug 23, 2018

## Ladd and Bush Bank in Salem, Oregon, 1880

[View Description](#)[Print](#)**Description**

<b>PHOTO ID</b>	108
<b>TITLE</b>	Ladd and Bush Bank in Salem, Oregon, 1880
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The view of the Ladd and Bush Bank exterior on the corner of State and Commercial Street S.E., taken in 1880, also shows the facade of the neighboring building to the east. A boardwalk runs along both sides of the building. On the corner is a street lamp with a ladder propped against it.
<b>DATE</b>	1880
<b>SUBJECTS</b>	Ladd and Bush Bank; State Street; Commercial Street SE; boardwalk; street lighting; Salem, Oregon
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	unknown
<b>COLLECTOR</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>OBJECT</b>	b/w photo; negative
<b>DIMENSIONS</b>	H 5 inches L 7 inches
<b>PHOTO SOURCE</b>	Salem Public Library
<b>ACCESSION ID</b>	SBA,1,5
<b>IMAGE FILENAME</b>	99D9E1AB.jpg
<b>CONTENTdm file name</b>	99D9E1AB.jpg
<b>Date created</b>	2003-01-17
<b>Date modified</b>	2003-01-17
<b>CONTENTdm number</b>	61

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[Home](#) >> [Ben Maxwell Collection](#) >> [Patton Block on the south side of State Street between Commercial & Liberty, Salem, Oregon, ca 1886](#)

Reference URL

## Patton Block on the south side of State Street between Commercial & Liberty, Salem, Oregon, ca 1886

[View Description](#)

Print



### Description

<b>PHOTO ID</b>	12109
<b>TITLE</b>	Patton Block on the south side of State Street between Commercial & Liberty, Salem, Oregon, ca 1886
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This photo is of the Patton Block, built in 1869 on the south side of State Street between Commercial & Liberty streets in Salem, Oregon. The builder was T. McF. Patton, whose advertisement in the 1889 Salem City Directory appears to have been based on this photo. It proclaims "Look it over, and see what we carry!" It then lists numerous types of books, pens, art supplies, bibles, albums, etc. The name Patton was prominent in early Salem life, both for the Cooke-Patton Victorian home, where the present day State Library is, and for their bookstore and postcard hall which attained more than local distinction. He had two sons, Hal and Cooke Patton; the latter was a well-known magician, photographer, and manager of Reed's Opera House.
<b>DATE</b>	ca 1886
<b>SUBJECTS</b>	Patton Block; Salem, Oregon; State St.; Commercial St.; Liberty St.
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	unknown
<b>COLLECTOR</b>	Ben Maxwell
<b>OBJECT</b>	b/w photo
<b>PHOTO SOURCE</b>	Salem Public Library
<b>REMARKS</b>	Research by Joan Marie "Toni" Meyering. This photo is from the Ben Maxwell Photo Album, p 53.
<b>CONTENTdm file name</b>	2634.jpg
<b>Date created</b>	2005-07-13
<b>Date modified</b>	2005-07-13
<b>CONTENTdm number</b>	4875

## Alley Seven Options:

**George Sun Alley** - – named for the contributions that Sun made as Mayor of Salem’s Chinatown. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight the forgotten history of Salem’s Chinatown, as this block was once part of Chinatown.



George Sun, Mayor of Chinatown



George Sun and his two children, Woo Lai Sun and Mary Lai Sun, 1890.



*George Sun in his Salem store, circa 1920 with Maxine Lai Sun and Hem Lai Sun. Norma O'Kelley Collection, Org Lot 480, Box 1, Neg #OrHi019922.*

George Sun was born in 1849 in China, immigrated to the United States in 1869 and lived in Salem until 1926. He ran a successful business in Salem, and was also known as the “Mayor of Chinatown” during the period after the passage of the 1882 Chinese Exclusionary Act. He also owned a ranch and successful hop farm outside of Salem.

## Alley Eight Options:

**Peppermint Flats**- name could also be applied one block west





# 1939 Peppermint Flats

Clipped By:



sjong687  
Fri, Sep 14, 2018

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## **Previous alley-naming or beautification efforts**

**For your information.**

# Our Alleys Need Not Be Ugly

Thousands of people walk the sidewalks of downtown Salem daily. This foot traffic is attracted by the retail stores of the area and, in turn, makes the land adjoining the sidewalks very valuable for retailing.

Not far away, however, the alleys of downtown are all but deserted. Yet, potentially, they offer the shopper everything the sidewalks have except curbside parking.

The problem is that everybody, historically, has assumed that alleys were good for nothing but delivery trucks.

Downtown stores have been designed for people on sidewalks rather than alleys. Building fronts have been planned and constructed as attractively as the budget permitted while the rears were ignored. Big public entranceways are along the sidewalks, while out back there's nothing but a little door marked "employees only." And the backsides have been maintained about as diligently as they were designed, which is just barely.

The utility companies have followed suit, too. Their ugly poles and wires dominate most downtown alleys. But, gradually, some of these are moving underground. In Salem, for instance, Portland General Electric has gone underground in several downtown blocks. PGE plans to do so in many others in the future.

These alleys could be much more attractive, however. If so, the value of adjacent land and buildings would increase.

Some downtown buildings could be made very attractive from the rear. That's true of brick buildings particularly, especially those with interesting windows, doors and balconies. A good cleanup and some attention to the trim would work wonders.

There's an interesting architectural feature along many downtown alleys, too. That's open space.

Most downtown buildings have been constructed flush against sidewalks, because the land is so valuable. But that isn't true along alleys, especially in some of the older blocks. Many buildings don't extend all the way to the alley, leaving open areas in the interior of blocks. Most of these areas now collect dust in summer, mud in winter, and as many automobiles as awkwardly arranged space permits. But these open areas could be beautiful garden courts, leading into the back doors of retail shops.

Alleys won't make such a comeback until the utilities move underground. Even then, they won't become popular shopper malls unless merchants within a given block work together to dress up their backyards.

But something might encourage this. That would be the development of downtown parking garages. As some of these are constructed on the backsides of retail blocks, they will tend to feed foot traffic into alleys and backdoors.

Then, perhaps, we'll see a facelift of Salem's downtown alleys.



## 1966 Alleys could be improved

Clipped By:



sjlong687  
Thu, Sep 13, 2018

# Fancy alleys win approval

By MICHAEL ROALINS  
*Capital Journal Reporter*

By the end of August, Salem should have nine ornate alleyways that are part of a package of downtown improvements approved by voters in a 1977 bond measure.

The Downtown Development Board today approved final architectural plans for improvements to alleys behind the Reed Opera House Mall and Frederick and Nelson department store.

The project could have been done sooner, but original design approval last year as part of a design contest had to be modified to accommodate the \$11,000 construction budget for the alley improvements.

Other factors in the delay were problems in designing ground slope and drainage problems and city replacement of sewer and water lines and storm drains in the Reed alley, and a storm drain behind Frederick and Nelson, said Dick Hayden, renewal administrator.

One particular water line in the Reed alley dated back to 1941, he said.

The two alleys were chosen because they are in a present private and public renewal efforts that generate more pedestrian traffic than other downtown alleys.

Representatives of the Seattle architectural firm that won the design contest were at the board meeting to outline the latest plans.

The new design eliminates ornate overhanging trellises but includes planters that later can be expanded and transformed into trellises.

About one-third of the alleys will be devoted to pedestrians and one-third to commercial vehicles. The commercial portion would be leveled to create the impression of a raised sidewalk for pedestrians. That design best suits the pedestrian, the vehicle and storm drainage characteristics, architects said.

The alleys will be paved with high-strength bricks made by a Vancouver, B.C., firm, Hayden said. The special bricks are shaped to allow interlocking of the pieces, much like a jigsaw puzzle with identical pieces, he said.

As a good faith measure, and as a test of the bricks' strength, the firm sent enough bricks for city crews to install a test strip across Court Street NE at High Street, Hayden said. Those bricks are free to add, along with some maintenance advisers to teach city crews how to properly align the bricks.

The development board recommendation should go to the city council on April 14, Hayden said, with a construction start in late May.

The board also decided the alleys should remain two-way for now. There had been some thought given to making the alleys one-way, but loading, dock problems prevented it. Had the delay in the alley project further, the board decided to keep them two-way.

The board also voted to oppose nomination of the Wilson House at 48 Ward Street, SE, in the National Register of Historic Places if the house remains at its present inverted location.

Whether the deteriorated house can be restored is questionable, board members agreed, and a better use could be found for the vacant property if the house is to be demolished, it should be moved to another location, they said.

"I'm not a structural engineer, and let's just say it's better to go a long way," said Mark Siegel of the renewal division.

Board member Leo Chaffin said the house is in "impossible condition."

The Wilson recommendation also goes to the city council, which might take a tough decision on its hands.

The council will be receiving a counter-recommendation from the city Historic Landmarks Commission, which Wednesday recommended that the council endorse the nomination of the house to the National Register.

## 1980 Salem Alley improvement

Clipped By:



**sjlong687**  
Thu, Sep 13, 2018

# Beautification, sales in collision

The Downtown Development Board got some glum news today — work on an alley beautification project still will be going on at the height of the 'Back to School' retail season.

The alleys behind the Reed Opera House Mall and the Frederick and Nelson department store are to be paved with brick-like stones as part of an alley facelift project approved by voters in 1977.

The two alleys are to be joined by a mid-block crossing made of the same stones.

Work was to have started on the alleys in mid-July, with a late August completion date. Now work will start in August and is scheduled to be finished in mid-September, according to a construction schedule provided by Jim Walker of the city Urban Renewal Division.

There are two reasons for the delay,

Walker said.

The first is a grading problem with a sewer line recently installed in the Reed Mall alley, he said. The grading was even when installed by the contractor and inspected by city crews, but compaction from covering the line caused it to waver, he said, creating dead spots. The sewer line lies under a new storm drain and water line, adding to the difficulty, he said.

The second is a requirement that design specifications for the alley improvements be updated to conform to new Public Works standards, he said.

The board, at the suggestion of member Leo Chaffin, suggested that the bid for the alley and crossing work be reworded so work can begin on schedule at least for the Frederick and Nelson alley and the mid-block crossing.

## 1980 Brick lined alleyways in Salem

Clipped By:



sjong687

Thu, Sep 13, 2018

Advertising Supplement

## Group drives toward naming Salem alleys

New York has its Tin Pan Alley. In Portland, tourists may visit Morgan's Alley.

And Salem? Well, Salem simply has generic alleys. Some of them between Chemeketa and Ferry streets, have been refurbished at some expense.

The work is part of a general facelift in the downtown area aimed at making foot traffic easier and pedestrian areas more inviting.

Although those two goals have been achieved, there's still work to be done. More and more merchants are creating attractive rear entry areas for their firms.

Still, there's something not quite appealing about giving somebody directions to "go down the alley."

Bill Dorney, of Greenbaum's Fine Fabric, wants to change all that. He'd like to name the downtown alleys with an attractive or descriptive tag that would heighten their appeal.

There are some hurdles to overcome, but the Salem Downtown Association is willing to help. The association has asked Dorney to head a task force to explore the naming possibilities, and members have been asked to make suggestions.

The first hurdle may be the city charter, which sets standards for naming streets and alleys. The charter prohibits naming alleys below a specific width (20 feet), a test the downtown routes fail.

Dorney, however, believes a case can be made for an exception in this case, and he and his group will work with the Downtown Development Board, the City Council and planners on resolving the issue.

If that obstacle can be overcome, Dorney and the group will develop a mechanism, perhaps a public contest, to choose an appropriate name.

Meanwhile, an alley remains an alley.

## 1982 Group tries to rename downtown alleyways

Clipped By:



sjlong687

Thu, Sep 13, 2018