

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

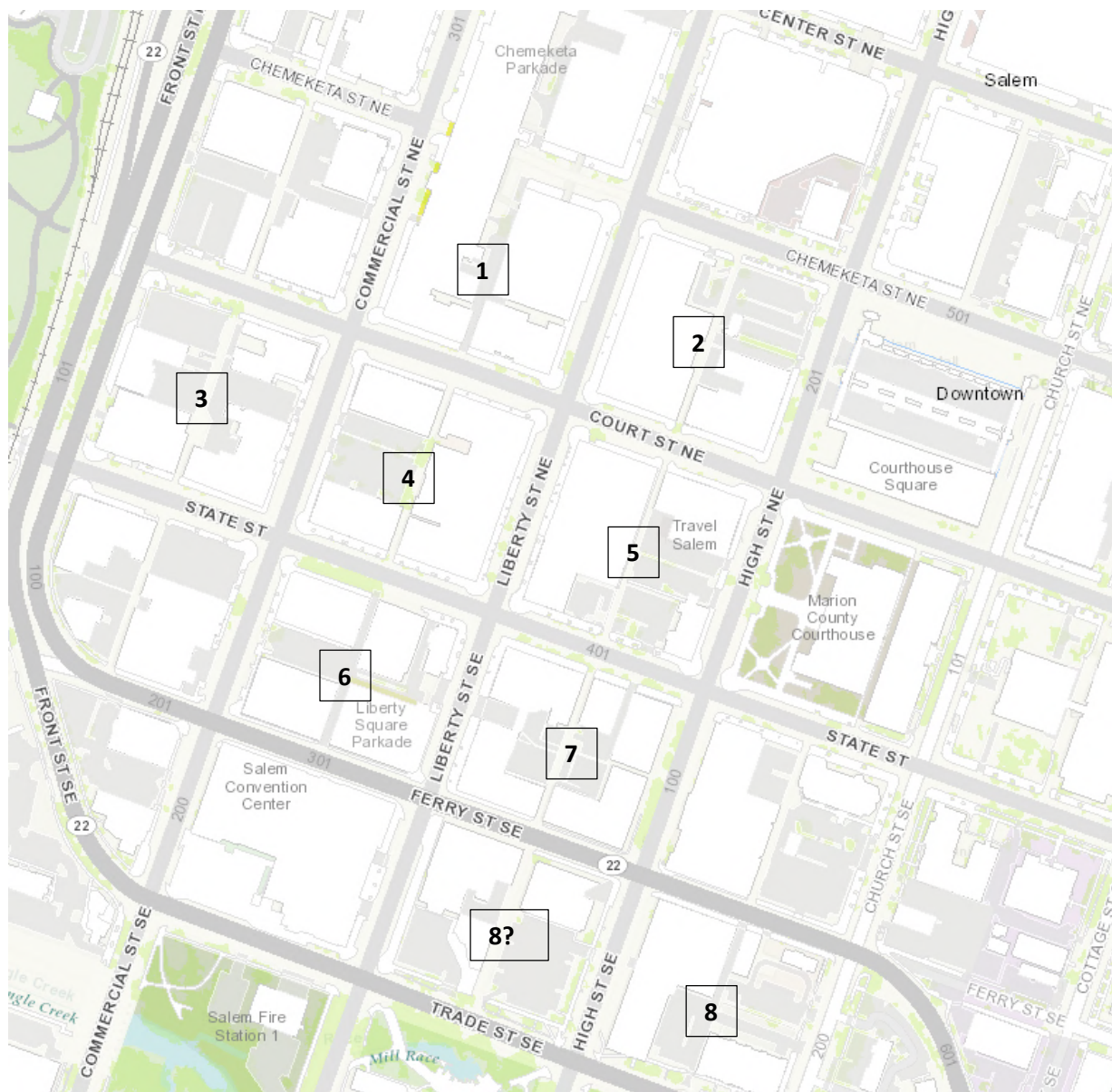
### Historic Alleyway Naming Report

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.

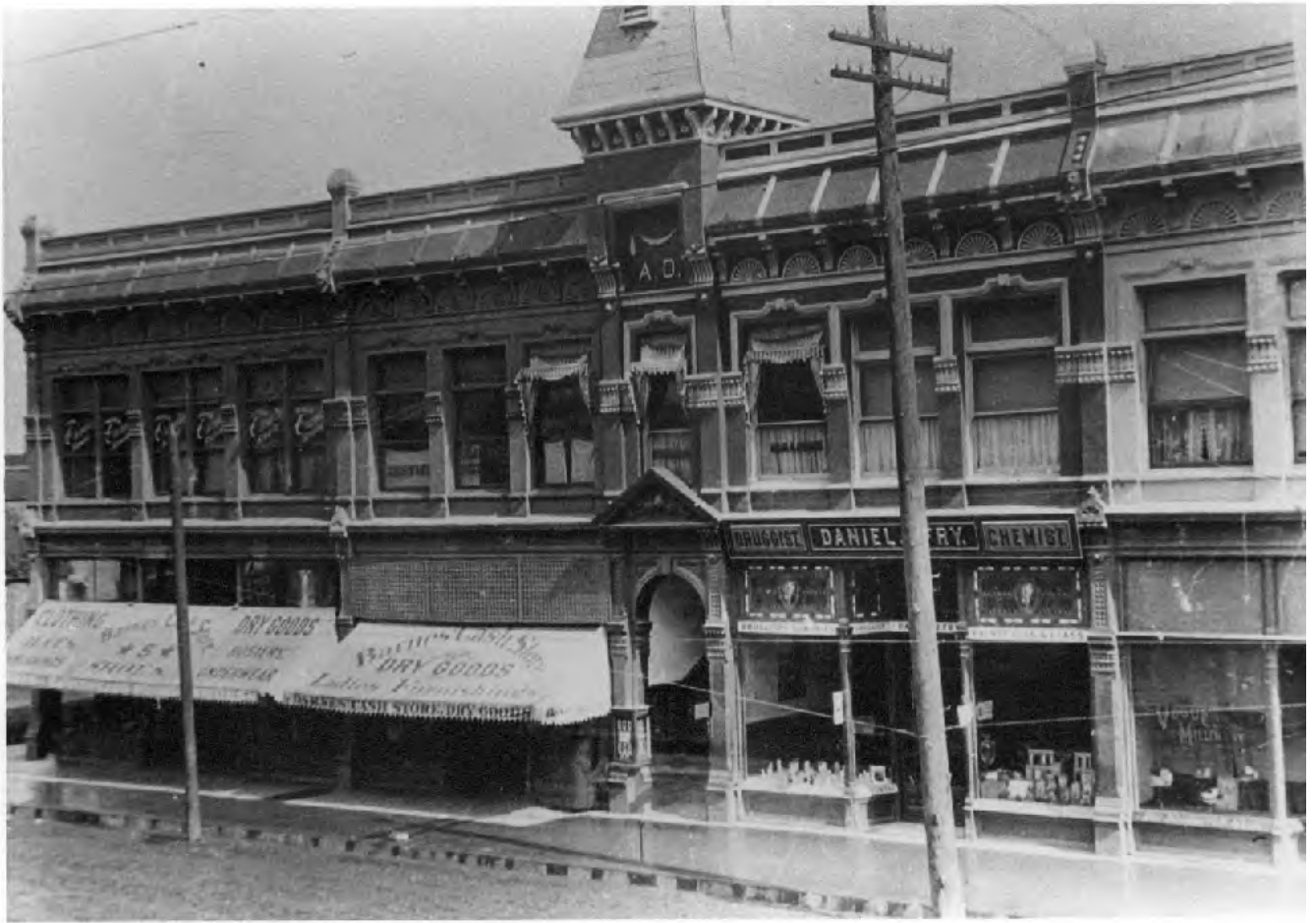
## Alley One Options:

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

**Steusloff Alley-** the 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.

**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.

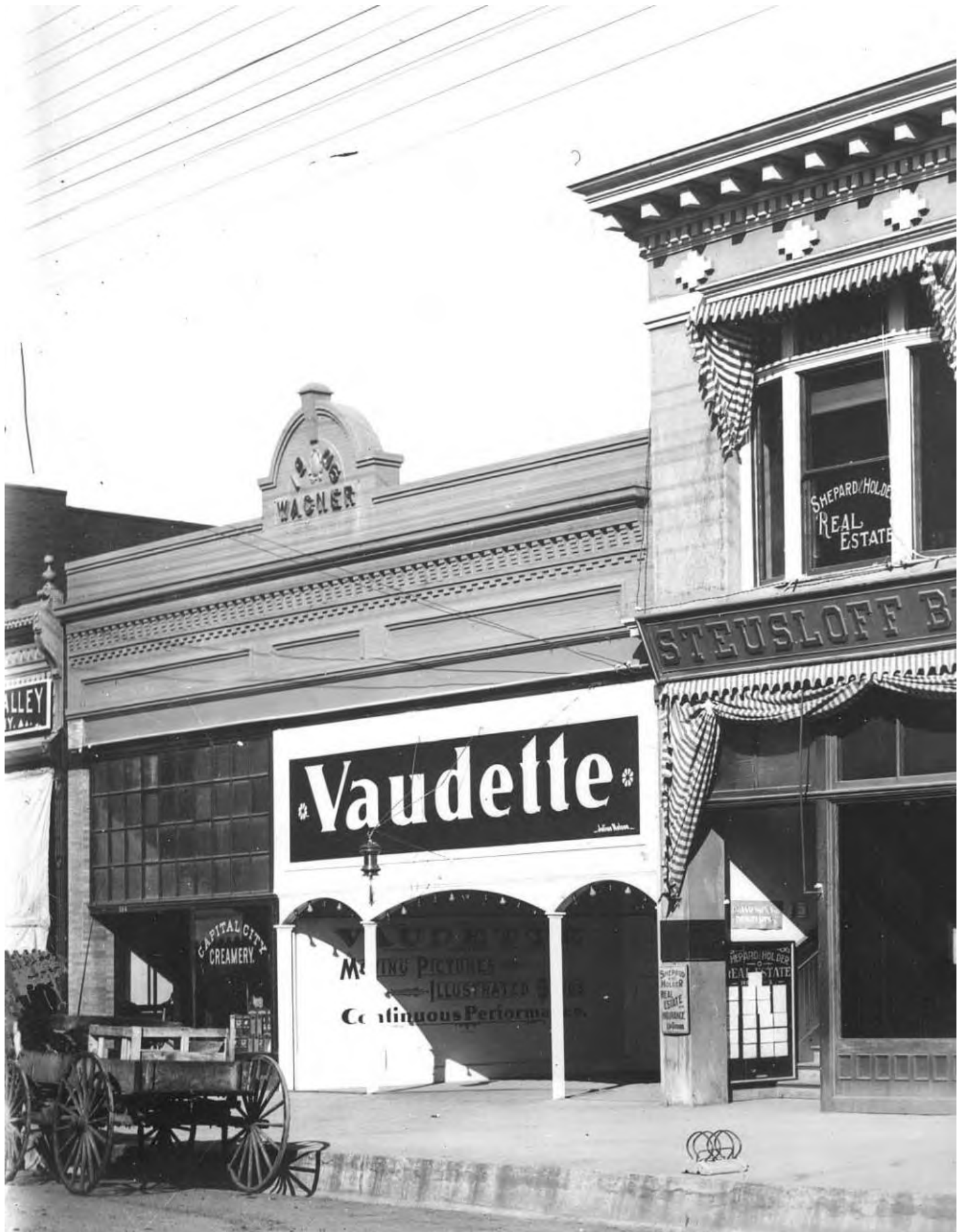
**People**

Fry, Daniel J.











**Description**

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

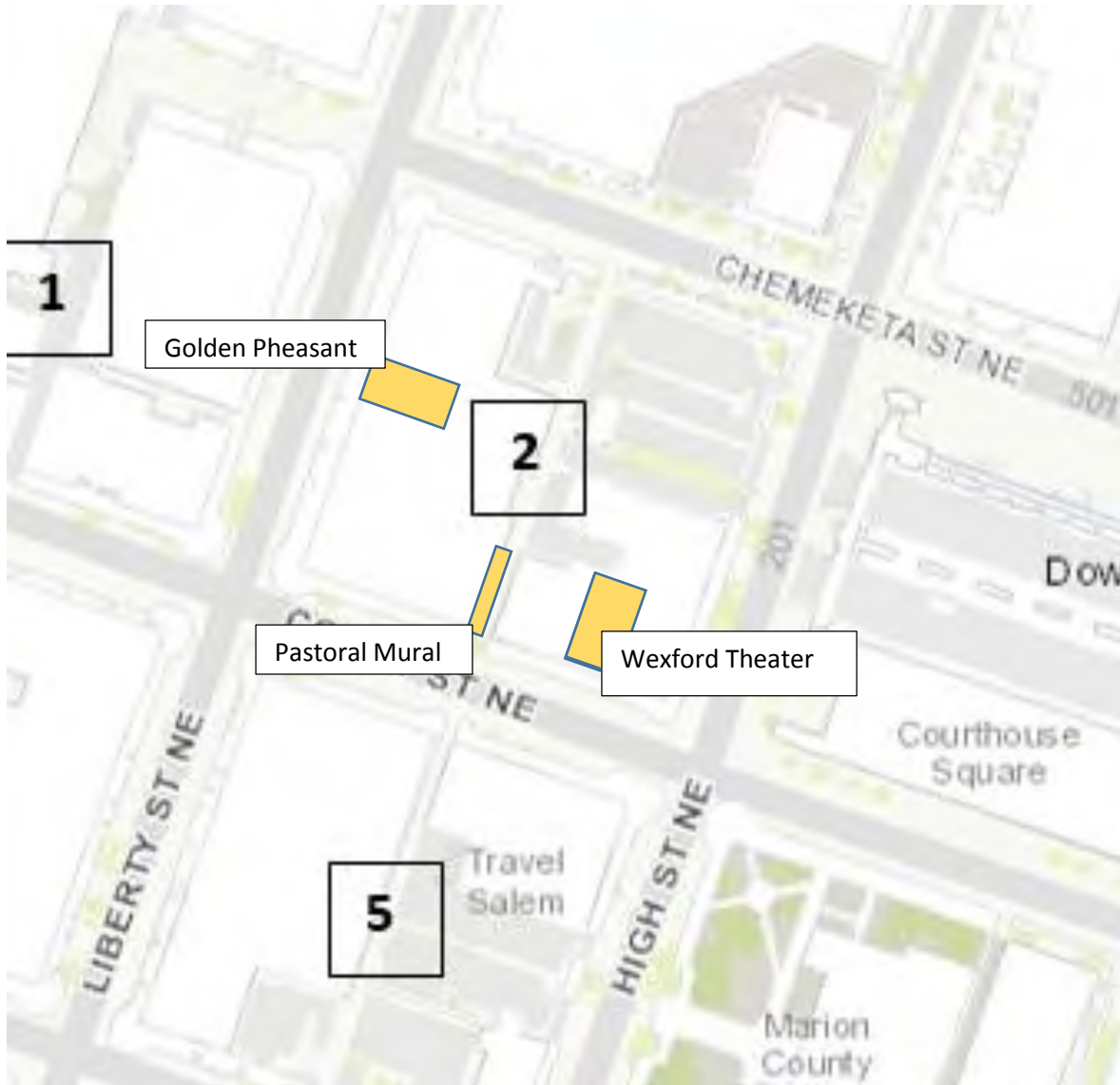


## Alley Two Options:

**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.







## 1916 D'Arcy to build

Clipped By:



**kstraps**

Fri, Aug 10, 2018



THE

# GOLDEN PHEASANT

348 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. Rindt

**The Golden Pheasant**

THE SIGN OF GOOD FOOD

**The Following Have been supplied Customers and Materials for The Golden Pheasant**

**Meats:** Borden's, Cornish, Cattle, Chicken, Turkey, Pork, Beef, Lamb, Veal, Fish, Shellfish, Game, etc.

**Produce:** Greenhouse, etc.

**Bakery:** Baker's, etc.

**Dairy:** etc.

**Spices:** etc.

**Drinks:** etc.

**Quality Food — Sensibly Priced**

**Fine New Restaurant Opens for Business On North Liberty St.**

**HUTTON WILL START COURSE**

**draw me!**

**Try for an Art Scholarship**

**FEDERAL SCHOOLS, INC.**

## 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 190, including the bar.

Casey described the menu as broad, including super salads, barbecued pork ribs, steaks, pastas 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 350-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 McNary Golf Club and Lounge. George added the bar in 1977. Bruce, George's son, became manager in 1981.

## 1995 Nopp sells Golden Pheasant

Clipped By:



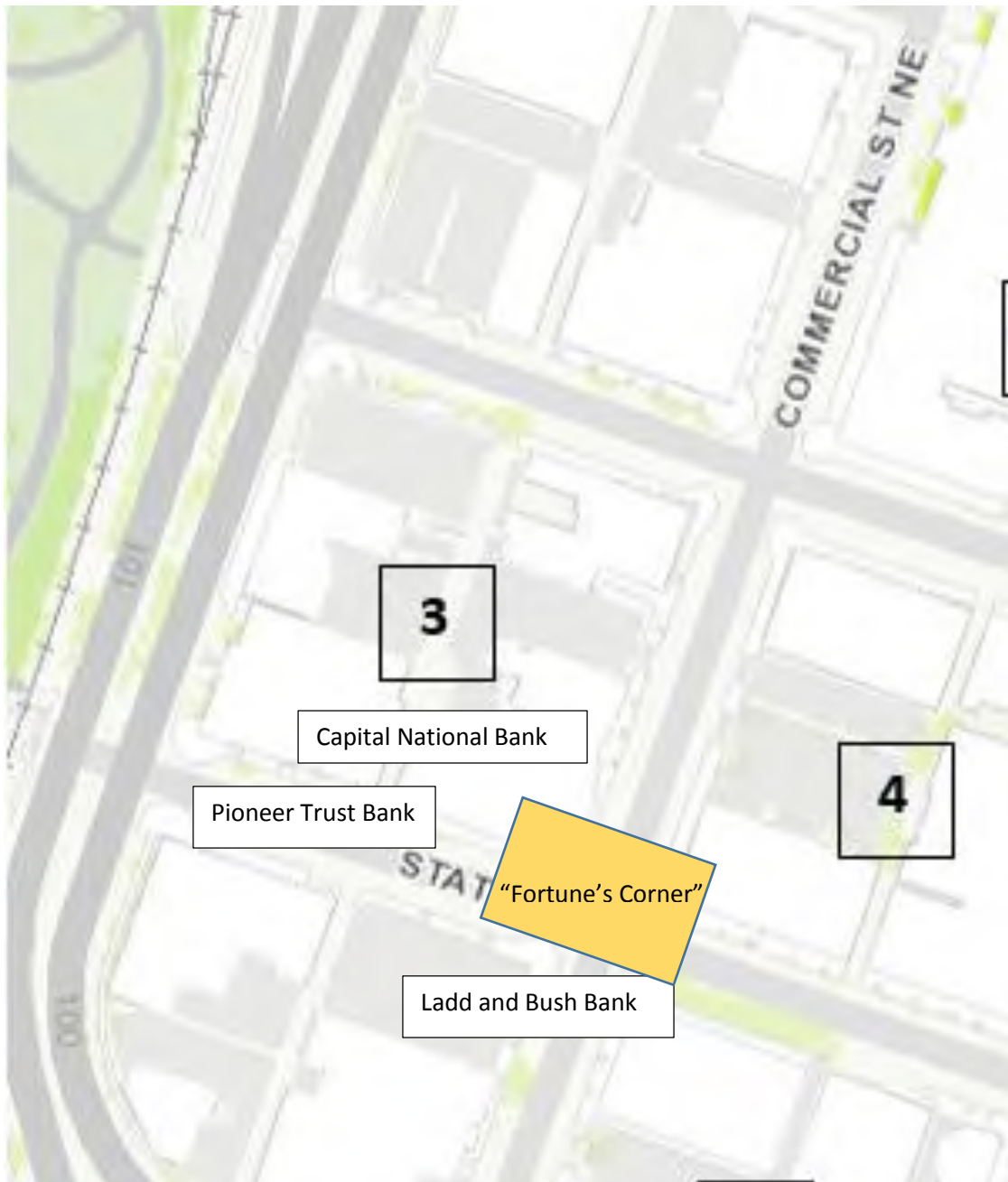
Ferg89

Mon, Dec 11, 2017

## Alley Three Options:

**Fortune's Corner**

**Fortune's Alley**





# BANK TALKS

BY THE---

## UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK

OF SALEM, OREGON.

NO. 13- - THE SOURCE OF POWER.

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 STO NE

# 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.

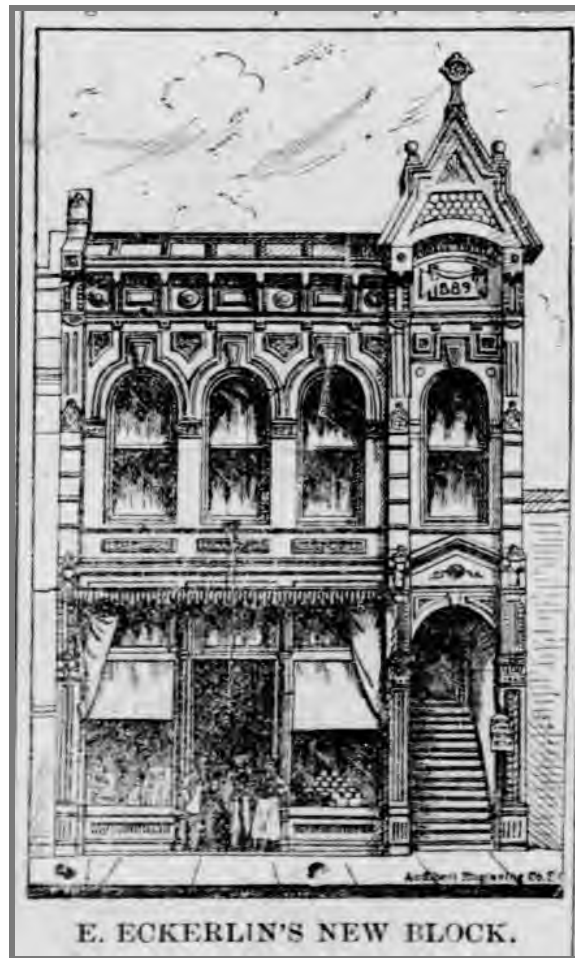
**Joseph Meyers Alley** - Bottom floor of Reed Opera House was the Jos. Meyers Store for many years. His dramatic personal tales were common fodder for the local newspapers and his story would be an interesting way to humanize the past.

**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



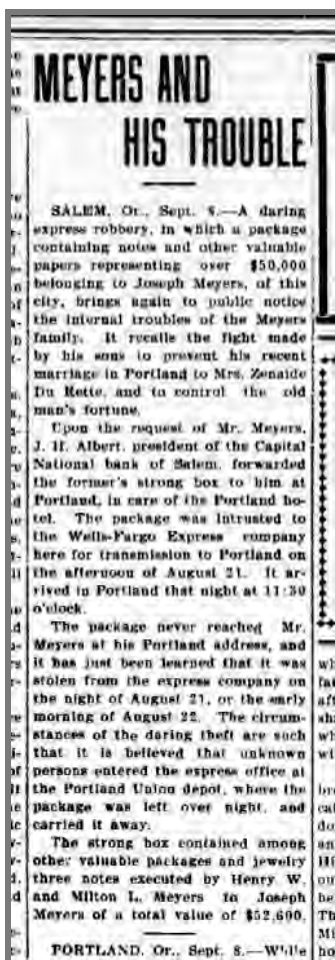
## 1908 Meyers store celebrated for plate glass windows

Clipped By:



kstraps

Fri, Aug 10, 2018



## 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 & State Streets in Salem Oregon, 1880's

[View Description](#)

Print



Description	
PHOTO ID	12013
TITLE	Commercial & State Streets in Salem Oregon, 1880's
COLLECTION	Ben Maxwell
DESCRIPTION	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.
DATE	ca 1886
SUBJECTS	R.M. Wade & Company; Salem, Oregon; dirt roads
PHOTOGRAPHER	Cronise Studio
COLLECTOR	Ben Maxwell
OBJECT	b/w photo
DIMENSIONS	5 in. H x 7 in. W
PHOTO SOURCE	Salem Public Library
REMARKS	Research by Toni Meyering. This photo is from the Ben Maxwell Photo Album, p 51.
CONTENTdm file name	2633.jpg
Date created	2004-03-29
Date modified	2004-03-29
CONTENTdm number	4874



## 1951 History of Oregon Statesman

Clipped By:



kstraps

Tue, Jul 31, 2018

## 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.

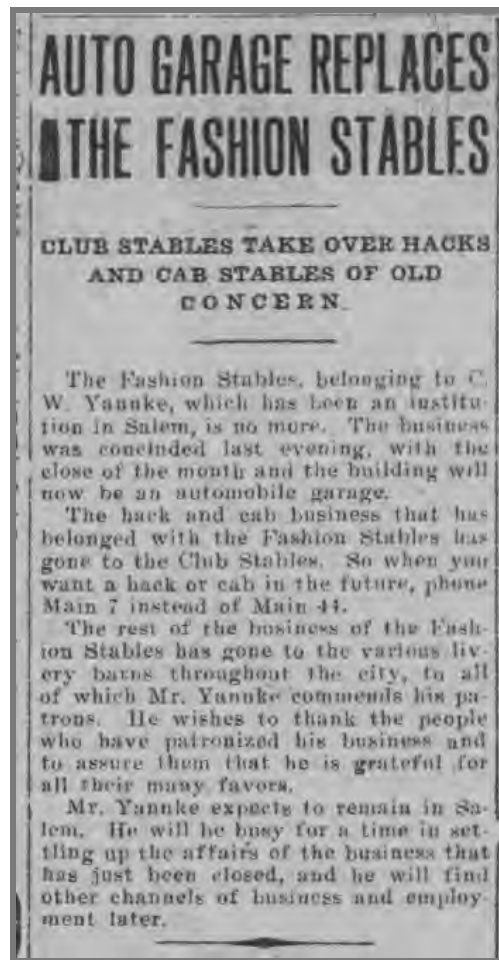
## 1907 Fashion Stables

Clipped By:



kstraps

Fri, Aug 24, 2018



## 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 foot-prints 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, Steimont's Studio and the Jewel Box, which was in the Bligh Building for 40 years, according to the



P 1002.001.05.0228 / 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 1002.001.05.0228 / 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 1002.001.05.0228 / WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER  
The Bligh Block is seen before demolition in June 1975.

## Andy Zimmerman

Clipped By:



Ferg89

Wed, Feb 1, 2017

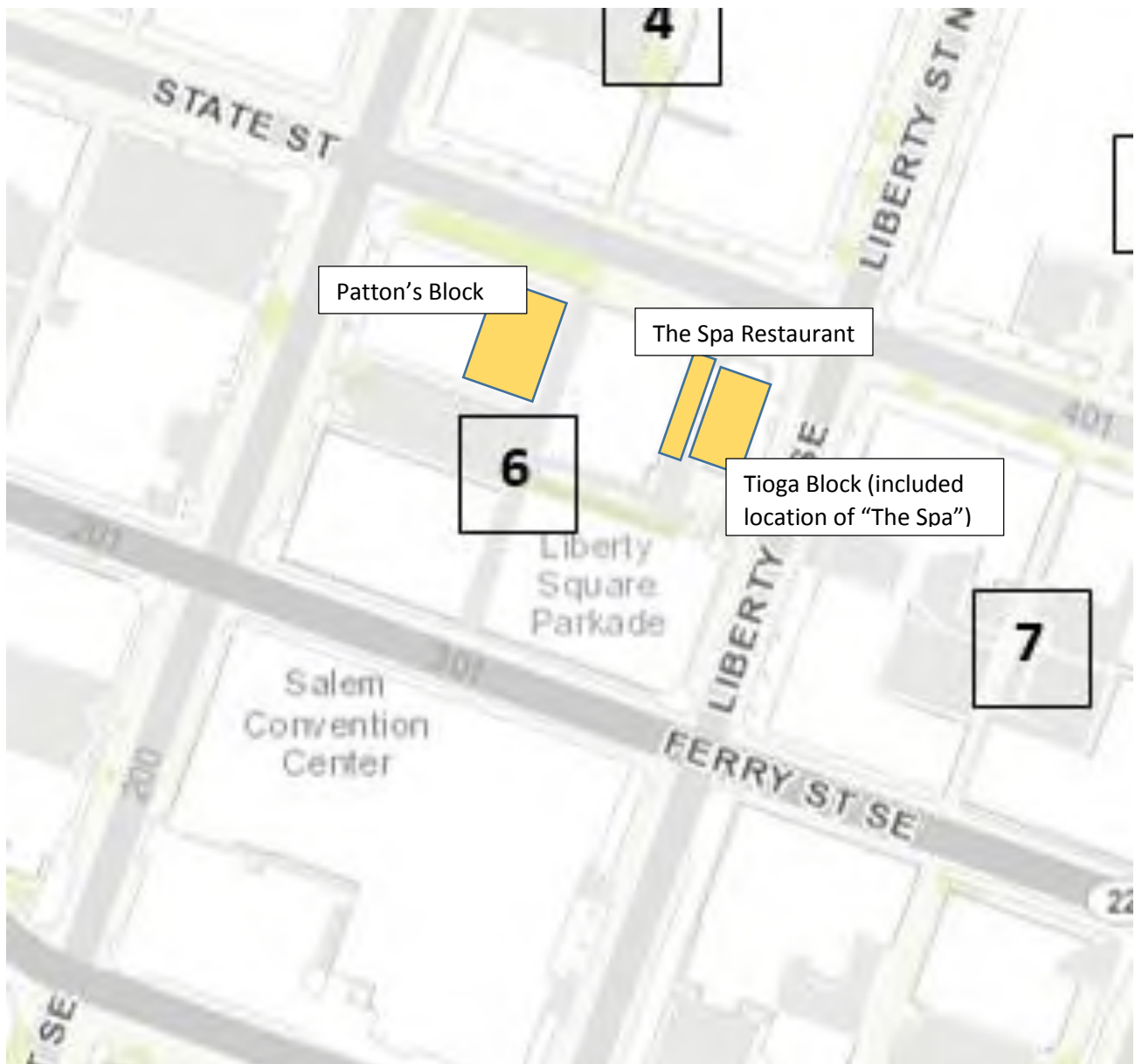


## Alley Six Options:

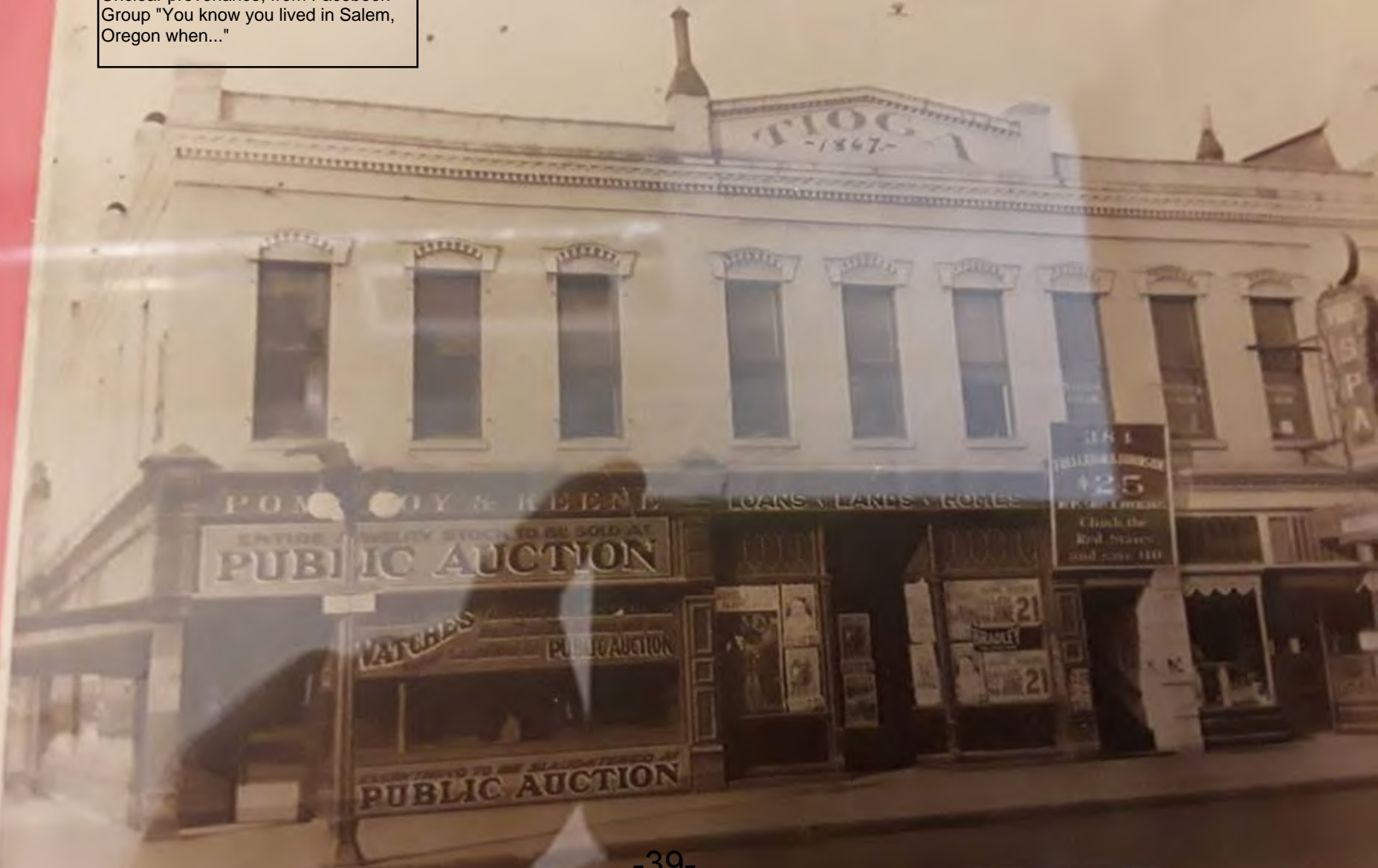
**Patton's Alley** - named for Patton's Block which was subsumed by the Ladd and Bush Bank.

**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

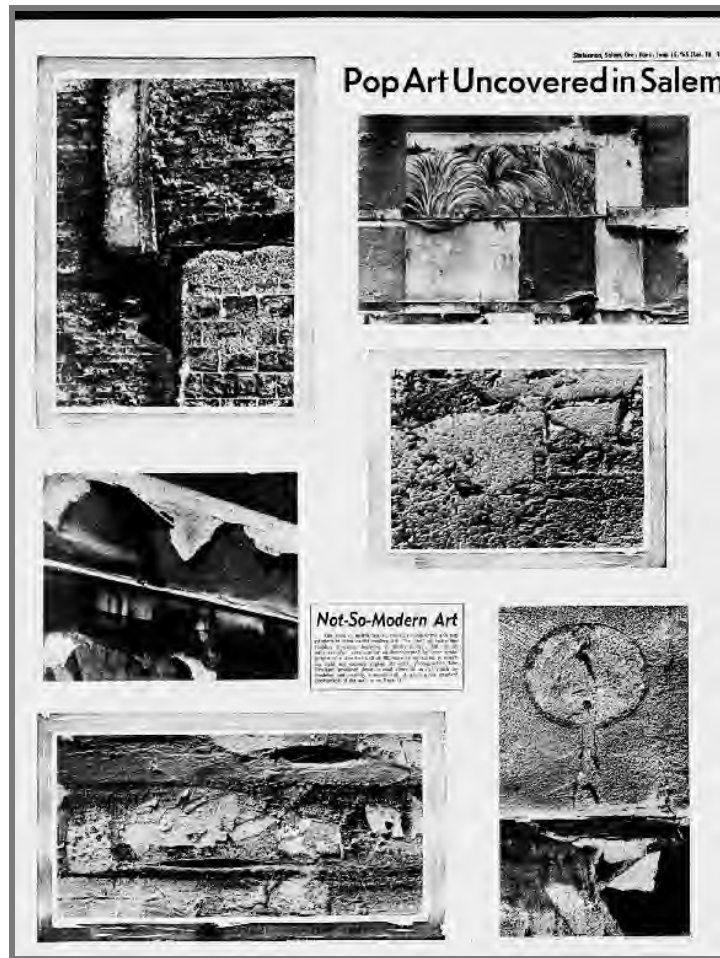
[View Description](#)

Print



Description	
PHOTO ID	1421
TITLE	Southwest corner of State Street in Salem, Oregon, 1939
COLLECTION	Ben Maxwell
DESCRIPTION	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.
DATE	1939
SUBJECTS	Salem, Oregon; Guardian Building; The Spa restaurant; Parker, Cliff; State Street
PHOTOGRAPHER	Ben Maxwell
COLLECTOR	Ben Maxwell
OBJECT	b/w negative
DIMENSIONS	2.6 in. W x 3.7 in. H
PHOTO SOURCE	Salem Public Library
CREDITS & RESTRICTIONS	Salem Public Library Historic Photograph Collections, Salem Public Library, Salem, Oregon
ACCESSION ID	SSV.3.7
IMAGE FILENAME	524163BB.jpg
CONTENTdm file name	524163BB.jpg
Date created	2004-04-05
Date modified	2011-01-14
CONTENTdm number	282

[Back to top](#)



## 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



100% 100%

Description	
PHOTO ID	108
TITLE	Ladd and Bush Bank in Salem, Oregon, 1880
COLLECTION	Ben Maxwell
DESCRIPTION	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.
DATE	1880
SUBJECTS	Ladd and Bush Bank; State Street; Commercial Street SE; boardwalk; street lighting; Salem, Oregon
PHOTOGRAPHER	unknown
COLLECTOR	Ben Maxwell
OBJECT	b/w photo; negative
DIMENSIONS	H 5 inches L 7 inches
PHOTO SOURCE	Salem Public Library
ACCESSION ID	SBA,1,5
IMAGE FILENAME	99D9E1AB.jpg
CONTENTdm file name	99D9E1AB.jpg
Date created	2003-01-17
Date modified	2003-01-17
CONTENTdm number	61

[Back to top](#)

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	
PHOTO ID	12109
TITLE	Patton Block on the south side of State Street between Commercial & Liberty, Salem, Oregon, ca 1886
COLLECTION	Ben Maxwell
DESCRIPTION	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.
DATE	ca 1886
SUBJECTS	Patton Block; Salem, Oregon; State St.; Commercial St.; Liberty St.
PHOTOGRAPHER	unknown
COLLECTOR	Ben Maxwell
OBJECT	b/w photo
PHOTO SOURCE	Salem Public Library
REMARKS	Research by Joan Marie "Toni" Meyering. This photo is from the Ben Maxwell Photo Album, p 53.
CONTENTdm file name	2634.jpg
Date created	2005-07-13
Date modified	2005-07-13
CONTENTdm number	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.

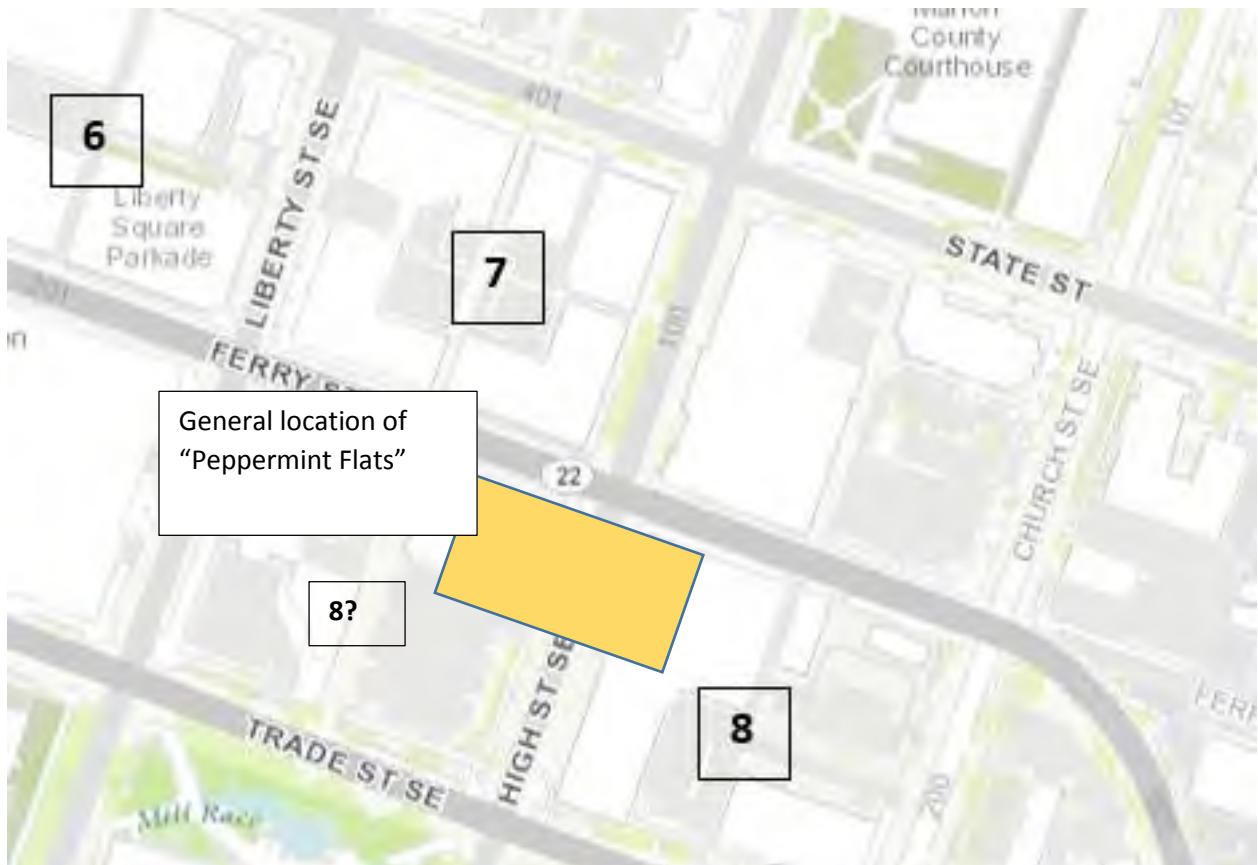


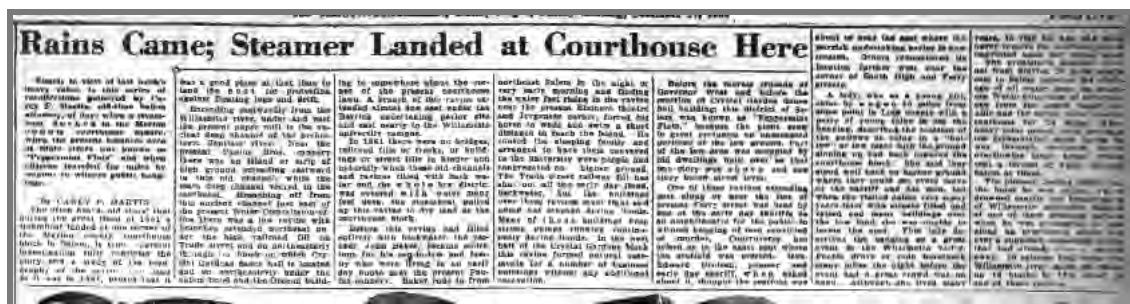
*George Sun in his Salem store, circa 1920 with Maxine Lai Sun and Hem Lai Sun. Norma O'Kelley Collection, Org Lot 480, Box 1, Neg #OrHi019922.*

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

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

**For your information.**





# Fancy alleys win approval

By MICHAEL ROALSON  
Capital Journal Reporter

By the end of August, Salem should have two ornate alleyways that are part of a package of downtown improvements approved by voters in a 1979 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 stores.

The projects could have been done sooner, but original design approval was held up as part of a design contest, said to be motivated to accommodate the \$10,000 construction budget for the alley improvements.

Other factors in the delay were problems in designing around ships 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 1944, he said.

The two alleys were chosen because they lie 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, overlapping 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 beveled to create the impression of a raised sidewalk for pedestrians. That design best suits the pedestrian, the vehicle and storm drainage considerations, 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 installation 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 construction starting 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. Further delay the alley project further, the board decided to keep them two-way.

The board also voted to oppose nomination of the Wilson House at 404 West Second St. in the National Register of Historic Places if the house remains at its present riverfront location.

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

"I'm not a structural engineer, but let's just say it's probably got a long story," said Mark Siegel of the renewal division.

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

The Wilson recommendation also goes to the city council, which might have a tough decision with it.

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

## 1980 Salem Alley improvement

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# 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

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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

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