

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name J.L. Elam Bank

other names/site number Bank of Freewater; Godwin Block

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 601 N. Main Street not for publication

city or town Milton-Freewater vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Umatilla code 059 zip code 97862

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE / financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE / professional

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store (wine)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: CONCRETE

roof: SYNTHETICS

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The J.L. Elam Bank is located at 601 N. Main Street, Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon. The building was constructed in 1906, expanded in 1908, and received a new façade in 1920.¹ The one-story rectangular, 2,178 square foot building – the only contributing property within the nominated boundary – sits at the corner of N. Main Street and N.W. 6th Avenue on one city tax lot amongst other commercial buildings.² The main façade and primary entrance faces east, though there is an additional entrance on the south elevation. The painted, smooth concrete block building sits on a rusticated stone foundation with a flat, synthetic roof. Originally built by J.L. Elam to house the Freewater Branch of the Walla Walla, WA based Elam Bank, the property has had many other commercial occupants over the last 118 years, including law offices, doctors office, post office, another bank, insurance agency, restaurant, and presently a winery tasting room. The J.L. Elam Bank retains all seven aspects of integrity. The property is in its original location in a commercial downtown setting. The feeling and association of the building with the distinctive architectural style also remains intact. With regard to the exterior, the building retains many character-defining features of the Classical Revival style from the period of significance (1906-1920), most notably a flat roof with decorative balustrade on the parapet, lintels above windows and doors, symmetrical entrance with columns, smooth exterior walls, and an entablature. Minor modifications outside of the period of significance – primarily door infill on the south elevation and window replacement on secondary elevations – have not substantially diminished the overall integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. The interior of the building has been subject to some changes to accommodate changing commercial uses, but the bulk of materials and design remains. The J.L. Elam Bank building remains one of the best examples of the Classical Revival style in Milton-Freewater.

Narrative Description

The J.L. Elam Bank is located in Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon. Milton-Freewater is located five miles south of the Washington-Oregon state line in rural eastern Oregon (Figure 1). The Walla Walla River runs north-south along the eastern edge of the town. Historically two railroad lines and presently Oregon Route (OR-) 11 provide transportation corridors that create economic opportunity for agricultural endeavors. Given the history of Milton and Freewater as separate communities, discussed in Section 8, today Milton-Freewater still has two distinct downtowns. Historic downtown Milton is located to the south along OR-11 (S. Main Street). Historic downtown Freewater is located to the north along N. Main Street. The J.L. Elam Bank is located within historic downtown Freewater (Photos 8 and 9).

Setting:

Historically, the J.L. Elam Bank was located on the northwest corner of Depot Street and Grant Avenue in Freewater. When Milton and Freewater consolidated in the early 1950s, streets were renumbered and renamed, and today the building is located on the northwest corner of N. Main Street and N.W. 6th Avenue, Milton-Freewater. While the nominated boundary encompasses only the footprint of the building, N. Main Street features other commercial buildings and downtown elements – like sidewalks, streetlights, and vegetation, including a large deciduous tree in the parking strip east of the building (Photo 1). Based on a review of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and historic photos of the downtown, there was once a building adjacent but not attached to the J.L. Elam Bank on the north elevation (Figures 6 and 12;

¹ “New Homes for Freewater Banks,” *Morning Oregonian*, July 4, 1906; “Freewater Advices,” *East Oregonian*, October 10, 1908; “Construction is Progressing,” *East Oregonian*, July 13, 1920.

² Square footage based on Umatilla County Assessor records, accessed on March 10, 2024.

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demolition date unknown but between 1955 and 1978).³ There is now an asphalt parking lot north of the property. The tax lot immediately to the west is residential, though visual separation is created by an asphalt lot and chain link fence.

Exterior:

The J.L. Elam Bank is a Classical Revival commercial building that was constructed in 1906, expanded in 1908, and received a new front façade in 1920. The building is a one-story, rectangular plan sitting on a rusticated stone foundation which creates a shallow crawl space under the building. The building measures approximately 20' (north-south) by 60' (east-west). The historic primary entrance is on the east façade facing N. Main Street. There is a secondary entrance accessed by three stone stairs on the south elevation facing N.W. 6th Avenue. The building is smooth, concrete block construction with a flat synthetic roof. There are simple though noticeable lintels above all doors and windows, including those that have been infilled. The east and south elevations have a decorative, concrete entablature. The underside of the cornice has dentils, the frieze has dentils and bead molding, and the architrave has donuts with vertical dividers (Photo 11). Historically, there was a concrete balustrade along the east and south elevations (Figure 7). However, since a July 1936 earthquake, the balustrade only remains on the east façade (Photo 9).

The front façade faces east towards N. Main Street and measures approximately 20' across. The main entry is level with the sidewalk and has two wood doors each with one large glass pane (Photo 13). The main entrance is flanked by two Ionic order, fluted columns. The columns are built of two vertical logs with a plaster exterior (Photo 10). Above the entry doors is the word "BANK" as well as a seven-pane transom window. On both sides of the doors are – from bottom to top – a stretch of smooth, concrete base molding (the only portion of the building that does not have the rusticated stone foundation); stucco material; a one-pane, fixed wood window with storm window (measures 5' tall and approximately 41" across); and a four-pane transom window (Photo 13). Running along the entire east façade parapet is a concrete balustrade. Centered above the door on the roofline and breaking the balustrade, is the word "BANK" and the construction date of 1906 (Photo 17).

The south elevation faces N.W. 6th Avenue and features the secondary entrance to the property. On the 1906 portion of the building, there are three one-over-one fixed vinyl windows that measure 5' wide and approximately 92" tall. Between two of the windows there is also the ghost pattern of a former entrance (enclosed during the period of significance; Photo 7 and Figure 13). On the 1908 portion of the building there are three one-over-one fixed vinyl windows, measuring 4' wide and approximately 92" tall. With the exception of the current entrance, between the windows there are the ghost patterns of two former entrances, including the lintels and entry steps (infilled after 1978; Figure 9). The secondary entrance door on this elevation is wood with six glass panes and two rectangular panels.

The west elevation of the building has limited architectural features (Photos 2 and 3). There is a one-over-one, vinyl window and the bulk of mechanical equipment and gutter drainpipes are located on this elevation.

The north elevation of the building also has limited architectural features, which aligns with the historic presence of a neighboring building blocking most of elevation from public view (Photos 4 and 5). The interior bank safe is also installed on the north elevation, making windows an illogical choice. The western half of the building includes two one-over-one fixed vinyl windows, each measuring 4' wide and approximately 92" tall. These windows are each inset 12" from the main wall. There is a small window with a metal ventilation hood west of the two windows. The north elevation features a stepped parapet.

³ The 1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicates the adjacent property was a concrete block movie theater.

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Interior:

The interior of the J.L. Elam Bank is divided into four spaces – one large wine tasting room with historic bank safe, and then three smaller rooms that offer office space, a restroom, kitchen equipment/food preparation spaces, and storage. This interior layout continues to reflect the historic layout and plan based on primary sources and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. The eastern half of the building, which is the original 1906 bank portion, is still one large room with wood floors and wood ceilings (a dropped ceiling was removed during 2023 renovations; Figure 4 and Photo 15). Given the shallow crawlspace under the building, climbing one stair is required from the main entrance (Photo 16). The original J.L. Elam Bank safe still sits in the room and is built of thick, walls and has the original and operational safe door (Photo 14). The metal molding surrounding the safe has multiple features that reflect back to the detailing found on the entablature. The western half of the building, which dates to 1908, still has three distinct spaces with wood floors throughout (Figure 4). Only the farthest western room retains an exterior door (Photo 19). Since the property has seen multiple commercial businesses over the years, there have likely been multiple upgrades to the interior. However, character-defining features including the bank safe, trim, wood floors, and overall design are still present throughout.

Integrity of the J.L. Elam Bank:

The integrity of the J.L. Elam Bank is highly intact. The location of the bank building is where the property was constructed in 1906, expanded in 1908, and remodeled in 1920. Overall, the design of the building is also intact from the period of significance (1906-1920). It retains the overall original form, plan, and Classical Revival character-defining features. There have been no additions or major upgrades to the exterior of the property since 1920, the close of the period of significance. On the south elevation, two exterior doors have been infilled, however, the lintel detailing remains above the former entrances and the materials used for infill (smooth concrete block) are compatible with the overall property (Photo 7). While the specific use of the property has changed numerous times since construction, it has remained a commercial space taking advantage of the existing arrangement and ornamentation.

Milton-Freewater, specifically historic downtown Freewater, has been subject to minor changes – including urban renewal upgrades, infill, and demolition. However, the setting of the nominated property is intact since it is still located in the downtown core surrounded by other commercial buildings (Photos 8 and 9). While there are no notable landscaping or other features within the nominated property boundary (which is confined to the footprint of the building), sidewalks, paved roads, light posts, and other downtown characteristics adjacent to the nominated property enhance the setting.

The material integrity and workmanship of the building has been slightly compromised outside of the period of significance.⁴ Windows have been replaced with vinyl (date unknown but post-1978) and two doors on the south elevation have been infilled (date unknown but post-1978; Figure 9). The building was also damaged during a July 1936 earthquake (Figure 7). The concrete balustrade on the south elevation collapsed and was not replaced. There have been new utilities added to the west elevation, though these are not visible from the primary façade. The material integrity of the interior is highly intact, primarily the wood floors, wood slat ceiling, door and window trim, marble stair entry, and bank safe features. Even with these changes, many of the character-defining features of the Classical Revival style – the entablature, Ionic columns, and remaining balustrade – continue to convey the workmanship often connected with the style and time period.

⁴ During the 1920 upgrades, substantial modifications occurred to the east façade changing the appearance of the J.L. Elam Bank. These changes included a new fenestration pattern including relocating the front entrance, removal of the 1906 leaded diamond windows, and adding columns (Figures 5 and 13). The building may have also been painted at this time to give a smoother stone appearance. The new design did retain the entablature and parapet details on the east and south elevations.

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Located on Main Street in downtown historic Freewater, the J.L. Elam Bank emits a feeling of a commercial building that was looking to the past while still meeting the needs of the present. The building is one of two remaining Classical Revival style buildings in historic downtown Freewater. Despite some changes, mainly on secondary elevations, the building still represents a Classical Revival commercial building. Between the symmetrical entrance flanked by Ionic order columns, the details of the entablature, and "1906" "BANK" prominently featured along the balustrade on the main façade, the J.L. Elam Bank harkens back to a time of the Classical Revival style and connects the present with the past.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1906-1920

Significant Dates

1906: Date of construction

1908: Building expansion

1920: Façade upgrades complete

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the J.L. Elam Bank spans from 1906, the year of initial construction, includes building expansion in 1908, and ends in 1920, the documented date of front façade upgrades that give the building its current appearance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The J.L. Elam Bank – constructed in 1906, expanded in 1908, and recipient of a new façade in 1920 – is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, at the local level, for its architecture, as one of the few examples of the Classical Revival style in Milton-Freewater. The period of significance spans from 1906 to 1920, which captures initial construction, expansion to the current property footprint, and final façade upgrades that give the building its current appearance. The building retains strong integrity on both the interior and exterior to help convey its significant architectural style. The late 19th and early 20th century Classical Revival architectural style first rose to prominence in the 1890s and continued to be common in cities across the country until the mid-1900s. While historic downtown Freewater has many commercial buildings, none are in the same Classical Revival style with the same high level of integrity. Therefore, the J.L. Elam Bank is one of the few and most notable examples of the Classical Revival commercial style for the time period in Milton-Freewater.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Milton-Freewater, Oregon:

Located less than five miles south of the Oregon-Washington state line, Milton-Freewater is in the Plateau cultural region. According to Stern, Milton-Freewater is in the aboriginal homelands of the Cayuse.⁵ The Cayuse Nez Perce name for Milton-Freewater is *ʔlmséeme* – which translates to “mortar stone” – and the area was the winter village for the *ʔlmséemepu* band.⁶ The Treaty of June 9, 1855, entered into between United States government and the Walla Walla, Cayuse, and Umatilla, ceded 6.4 million acres, including Milton-Freewater, which today is about ten miles north of the northern boundary of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The history of Milton-Freewater is not one of, as local historian W.S. Caverhill noted, “exciting stimulation.” In theorizing why little had been written on Milton-Freewater, Caverhill concludes it was perhaps “the abundant water, the fertile soil, delightful climate and uninterrupted progress [that] produced a complacency of mind so general among residents that no thought was given to writing the life story of the area.”⁷ However, it was this steady history that also made the community successful. Originally platted in 1872 by William S. Frazier, rumor has it the name Milton was selected “by common consent” after “Milltown” was rejected.⁸ By 1882, Milton featured “two general stores, one variety store, one millinery store, three saloons, one hotel, one restaurant, three livery and feed stables, one meat market, one shoe shop, one barber shop, four blacksmith shops, one undertaker’s shop, a picture gallery, a flour mill, a planer, chop, and shingle mill, a hall, a flume, railroad station, school house, two churches, Post Office, Express Office and a population of 400[!]”⁹

⁵ Theodore Stern, “Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla” In *Plateau*, edited by Deward E. Walker, 395-419 (Washington: Smithsonian Institute, 1998).

⁶ Eugene S. Hunn, Thomas Morning Owl, Phillip E. Cash Cash, and Jennifer Karson Engum, *Cáw Pawá Láakni They Are Not Forgotten: Sahaptian Place Names Atlas of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla* (Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, 2015), 126.

⁷ W.S. Caverhill, *Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area* (Milton-Freewater, OR: Valley Herald, Inc., 1962), 1.

⁸ Lewis A. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, 4th ed. (Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 494; Caverhill, *Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area*, 10. As with any small, rural community, documented history of origins can differ. This author sought out what she could and will be happily corrected in the future.

⁹ Caverhill, *Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area*, 10. According to Meinig (1995), the 18-mile long flume was “built to bring logs from the highlands... which supplied heavy construction beams, bridge timbers, and railroad ties, as well as boards, posts, and firewood” (299).

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In January 1886, Milton was incorporated, and a Board of Trustees, consisting of one mayor and five trustees, was established. Their first order of business was selecting the name – Milton City – and the official city seal.¹⁰ However, it was only three years after Milton City was incorporated a group of citizens unhappy with Milton City's acceptance of prohibition and limited alcohol sales established their own community immediately to the north. Originally platted as "New Walla Walla" in 1889, the name Freewater was allegedly selected since advertising for the new town highlighted "Free water for all home sites" and the local Milton City newspaper poked endless fun at the name New Walla Walla.¹¹ Freewater was incorporated in 1892, and by 1902 had six saloons.¹²

In the early 1900s, a railroad was constructed through Milton and Freewater that provided easier access to Walla Walla and helped to support agricultural industries in the area. Eventually automobiles would change how goods were transported, but not before a vibrant canned-foods industry was established during the Great Depression.¹³ *The Oregonian* wrote that the area was a "vast garden spot, much of it covered with fruit trees...there is something being shipped almost every day from early in March until the first of the next January."¹⁴ By the early 1910s and after the J.L. Elam Bank had been constructed in downtown Freewater, Milton and Freewater had two railroads, two newspapers, eight churches, a Methodist Episcopal college with 145 students, and one school district with two elementary schools and a central high school.

Organized efforts to consolidate Milton and Freewater started as early as the 1920s, however, they were unsuccessful until 1950.¹⁵ Following World War II, the Consolidation Club was founded by a group of local citizens to highlight the many inefficiencies and duplications of having two cities operating so close together. In November 1950, the cities of Milton and Freewater voted to consolidate and establish a city manager-council type of government.¹⁶ The total vote was 704 in favor and 371 opposed. The breakdown by city is slightly more interesting with Milton voting 464 in favor and 167 opposed, and Freewater with 240 in favor and 204 opposed.¹⁷ Following consolidation, Milton-Freewater citizens launched efforts for substantial capital improvements, including fire department upgrades, a new garbage disposal system, building a new swimming pool and park, and a 2,000,000 gallon reservoir system.¹⁸

Geography professor D.W. Meinig took particular care in his work *The Great Columbia Plain* to highlight that Milton-Freewater was never "in a position of regional dominance."¹⁹ Yet, the city has a notable and steady history. As Oregon's only hyphenated city, it was also Oregon's second "All American City" and at the time the smallest city in the United States to receive the honor.²⁰ In 2015, an American Viticultural Area was designated

¹⁰ Caverhill, *Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area*, 21. Other highlights from Milton City's first year include regulating liquor sales, restrictions on gambling, constructing a city jail, compelling Charles Gano to "remove a dead horse from the City limits," and discriminatory road taxes on Chinese citizens in the region.

¹¹ Caverhill, *Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area*, 35.

¹² Caverhill, *Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area*, 36; City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, "City History," <https://www.mfcity.com/community/page/city-history> (accessed December 29, 2023).

¹³ Chris Foss, "Milton-Freewater," *Oregon Encyclopedia*, <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/milton-freewater/>, accessed January 22, 2024.

¹⁴ Addison Bennett, "Twin Cities Thrive in Land of Plenty," *The Oregonian*, August 28, 1913.

¹⁵ "Union of Towns Urged," *The Oregonian*, February 14, 1926.

¹⁶ "Milton Joining With Freewater," *The Bend Bulletin*, November 15, 1950.

¹⁷ "Milton-Freewater Officially One Town," *The Corvallis Gazette-Times*, November 15, 1950.

¹⁸ James Schick, "Freeway Pattern Shown; Milton-Freewater Gets Honor," *The Oregonian*, March 14, 1962.

¹⁹ D.W. Meinig, *The Great Columbia Plain: A Historical Geography, 1805-1910* (University of Washington Press, 1995), 326-7.

²⁰ Schick, "Freeway Pattern Shown," *The Oregonian*, March 14, 1962. Since 1949, the All-America City designation is awarded by the National Civic League and recognizes communities that engage community members to strengthen democracy. Other Oregon cities that have received the title include Grants Pass, Cornelius, Cottage Grove (twice), Eugene, Lane County, Albany (twice), Independence, Salem (twice), and Portland. Milton-Freewater is the only Oregon city on this list in the eastern part of the state. (National Civic League, "All-America City Award," <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/america-city-award/>, accessed March 10, 2024.)

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(The Rock District) and the 2020 population was over 7,000.²¹ Milton-Freewater is a city that has adapted to changing pressures – whether that be agricultural markets or establishing new city governments – while also staying steady. The J.L. Elam Bank is a property that reflects both the constant need to adapt, but also speaks to the stability of the city with its highly intact Classical Revival architecture.

J.L. Elam Bank Building:

James L. Elam was born around 1863 in Tennessee. He first appears in the Oregon census in 1900 as living with Andrew Elam²², his uncle, and being a hardware dealer. In 1893, Andrew Elam and James Elam incorporated the J.L. Elam Hardware Company in Milton.²³ J.L. Elam was also one of the first members of the Columbia College board of trustees and introduced the first automobile to Umatilla County in 1900.²⁴ In 1903, Elam – described by Walla Walla's *The Evening Statesman* humbly as “one of Walla Walla's most successful and conservative business men” – opened a private bank in Walla Walla.²⁵ According to the 1910 Census, he was listed as the president of a bank and living in Walla Walla, Washington. By the late 1910s, Elam, ever the opportunist, was working in the automobile industry and selling liberty bonds during the Great War. On February 15, 1942, Elam died, sadly and ironically, in an automobile accident, the “first traffic fatality of the year” in Walla Walla.²⁶

Even though there were merely train tracks separating the towns of Milton and Freewater, access to banks created a stark divide between the cities in the early 1900s. In fact, there were no banks in Freewater, “much to Freewater business men's inconvenience.”²⁷ In addition, existing banks in Milton were “unsuccessful” in moving to Freewater “as none of the Freewater businessmen showed a disposition to give them a suitable building.”²⁸ J.L. Elam, like the good businessman his short biography above proves him to be, decided to capitalize on this gap. Since he already had a bank in Walla Walla, J.L. Elam opted to open a branch in Freewater. In December 1905, *The Spokesman-Review* made the official announcement of the new J.L. Elam Bank branch in Freewater:

Freewater merchants are elated over the announcement by J.L. Elam of Walla Walla that he will establish a bank in this city, to be in operation early in January [1906]. The temporary location will be in the Vinson building on Main street, which is centrally located.²⁹

Elam initially established the Freewater bank branch under the Peacock Mill Company, a company owned by his uncle Andrew Elam. Construction on a new bank building was well underway by Spring 1906. *The East Oregonian* reported “The Peacock Milling Company now has a force of men at work on their new bank building in Freewater. It will be a handsome stone structure, 22X36, on the corner of Grant and Depot streets, and will

²¹ Foss, “Milton-Freewater,” *Oregon Encyclopedia*.

²² Andrew M. Elam was born in Tennessee and later moved to Texas where he met and married Martha L. Fraizer, daughter of William and Paulina Frazier. William, Paulina, Andrew, Martha, and a lot of children all moved to the Milton-Freewater area in the late 1860s. William eventually built the Frazier Farmstead, now the Frazier Farmstead Museum. Andrew Elam was involved in many aspects of Milton's early history, including serving as the first mayor (Harry E. Ringhand, *Marie Dorion and the Trail of the Pioneers* (Milton-Freewater, OR; The Valley Herald Inc. 1971), 30.

²³ “New Incorporations,” *Statesman Journal*, August 17, 1893.

²⁴ “Columbia College Dedicated,” *Morning Oregonian*, September 19, 1900; “First Automobile,” *The Capital Journal*, August 3, 1900. “Milton is able to boast of the first automobile brought to Umatilla county. It is even ahead of Pendleton, Portland, or Walla Walla in this respect...[it] is now the admiration of the countryside.” Perhaps D.W. Meinig would have spoken differently of Milton-Freewater's dominance had he known this.

²⁵ *The Evening Statesman*, August 3, 1903. The bank was reorganized in 1911 before going out of business shortly after (“Died of Injuries,” *Spokane Chronicle*, February 16, 1942).

²⁶ “Died of Injuries,” *Spokane Chronicle*, February 16, 1942.

²⁷ “Freewater Notes,” *The Spokesman-Review*, November 15, 1905.

²⁸ “Bank of Freewater!,” *The Tacoma Daily Ledger*, January 8, 1906.

²⁹ “Freewater to Have Bank,” *The Spokesman-Review*, December 17, 1905.

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be the handsomest building of its kind in Umatilla County.”³⁰ By July, the “new stone structure for the Peacock Mill Company’s bank [had] just been completed, and the fixtures [were] being moved in.”³¹ Just weeks after the new bank building was constructed, the Peacock Mill Company was sold and J.L. Elam purchased the bank branch. The *East Oregonian* announced that the “Peacock Milling company’s bank in Freewater will hereafter be known as Elam’s Branch bank.”³² However, Elam’s Bank was not the only occupant of the new handsome building. “C.T. Godwin, who has been practicing law in Milton for some years, has gone to Freewater, where he has a fine office fitted up in the new Peacock Milling company’s bank, and will be here in the future, though he says he will make his home in Milton part of the time” (Figure 5).³³

Elam’s Bank had a short life in Freewater. In May 1908, it was announced “J.L. Elams’ bank has been removed from this city. It was simply a branch of Elam’s bank at Walla Walla.”³⁴ However, instead of sitting vacant, C.T. Godwin took over the building and doubled the size. Local news sources said that “C.T. Godwin is building new offices in the rear of J.J. Elam’s [sic] bank. The structure will be 20X32. The materials being used is concrete blocks. Dr. H.M. Page will also have office room in the building.”³⁵ Together, the new space would have “five larger rooms... [and] be furnished in the latest office style.”³⁶ The building expansion was completed in October 1908 and described as “a beautiful building and a credit to the city.”³⁷ Due to ill health, Dr. Page vacated the building and returned to Portland after only one year practicing in Freewater. In September 1909, Godwin opened a law office in Baker City and relocated. The *East Oregonian* reported that his partner, J.P. Neil, “will reside here and occupy the same office that Mr. Godwin was occupying in the Godwin building.”³⁸

Following the departure of C.T. Godwin, the history of the building gets harder to decipher. At some point c.1915 the Freewater post office and another law office took occupancy in the J.L. Elam Bank building, which was also called the Godwin Block at the time (Figures 14 and 15). In spring 1920, it was announced that a new bank would be established in Freewater – the Bank of Freewater. With the goal of opening doors by summer 1920, the Bank of Freewater leased the post office building – the J.L. Elam Bank – and began to make upgrades. In July 1920, *The East Oregonian* reported, that “work is progressing on the remodeling of the Bank of Freewater, which is to have new fixtures, new front and remodeled vault.”³⁹ The Bank of Freewater opened in early August 1920 “in a remodeled building which is of attractive finish and modern detail” (Figure 13).⁴⁰ In early 1929, Bank of Freewater was sold to the First National Bank, which already had a building immediately south of the J.L. Elam Bank building.⁴¹ The First National Bank had an established branch in Milton before establishing a branch in Freewater and constructing the present building c.1919 (seen in Photo 8).⁴²

Following these early changes, the next time the J.L. Elam Bank Building would make major news was when an earthquake hit Milton-Freewater during the late evening of July 15 and early morning of July 16, 1936. *The Milton Eagle* reported that “part of the cornice of the old Freewater bank building was hurled to the sidewalk

³⁰ “Bank Building,” *East Oregonian*, May 2, 1906. The word handsome was used repeatedly to describe the new building. For example, “The Peacock Milling company’s new bank building is now occupied by the bank and the fixtures and the entire building make a handsome appearance to say the least” (“Freewater Advices,” *East Oregonian*, July 3, 1906). Further, while the architect of the building is unknown, there is some likelihood the materials were supplied by the Walla Walla Brick and Stone Company (“Walla Walla Brick & Stone Co.,” *The Evening Statesman*, July 20, 1906).

³¹ “New Homes for Freewater Banks,” *Morning Oregonian*, July 4, 1906.

³² “Freewater Advices,” *East Oregonian*, July 17, 1906.

³³ “Freewater’s Attorney,” *East Oregonian*, July 13, 1906.

³⁴ “Freewater-Milton,” *East Oregonian*, May 13, 1908.

³⁵ “Concrete Building at Freewater,” *La Grande Evening Observer*, July 30, 1908.

³⁶ “Fine Office Building,” *East Oregonian*, August 3, 1908.

³⁷ “Freewater Advices,” *East Oregonian*, October 10, 1908.

³⁸ “Freewater Advices,” *East Oregonian*, September 13, 1909.

³⁹ “Construction is Progressing,” *East Oregonian*, July 13, 1920.

⁴⁰ “Freewater Bank has Opening This Evening,” *East Oregonian*, August 7, 1920.

⁴¹ “Freewater Bank Sold in Milton,” *Spokane Chronicle*, January 26, 1929.

⁴² “Milton Banks Prosper,” *Spokesman-Review*, December 2, 1919.

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and the plaster shaken from the rooms occupied by Attorney G.H. Bishop.”⁴³ Photos of the J.L. Elam Bank building were splashed across the news, including *La Opinion*, a Spanish newspaper out of Los Angeles, California (Figure 8). At the time, some articles identified the building as a stage terminal building, truck terminal, and bus station, though this is unconfirmed by other sources. Since 1936, the building has seen multiple uses. In addition to its beginnings as a bank, it has been a law office, doctors office, post office, another bank, insurance agency, restaurant, and presently a winery tasting room.⁴⁴ The J.L. Elam Bank building has seen many lives, but the Classical Revival architectural style has stood the test of time.

Classical Revival Architecture:

The J.L. Elam Bank is one of the few examples of the late 19th and early 20th century Classical Revival architectural style in Milton-Freewater. The style – sometimes referred to as Neoclassical or American Renaissance – began in the 1880s and was popular until the mid-twentieth century. The World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago helped to popularize the style.⁴⁵ Architectural Historian Leland Roth notes the Classical Revival style “emphasized balance, symmetry, and restraint” and helped make “urban buildings more harmonious with one another.”⁴⁶ Classical Revival buildings allowed for “new functions, while using traditional historicist vocabularies.”⁴⁷ These features built upon the Greek Revival style that had been prominent during the mid-1800s. Rosalind Clark notes that in Oregon, Classical Revival architecture was most often found on “civic buildings – Carnegie library buildings, small banks, and schools – which were modest attempts to emulate the style, and which were built in almost every city in the state before 1920.”⁴⁸ Milton-Freewater was not an exception to Clark’s observations.

Character-defining features of the Classical Revival include a flat roof with “decorative parapet, sculptural decoration or balustrade,” monumental scale, rectangular windows with “keystones or lintels or different materials,” “smooth dressed stone, marble, or brick over concrete,” and imitation of Greek or Roman architecture.⁴⁹ In addition, the style often features full height columns with pediment on the primary elevation.⁵⁰ Though speaking primarily about residential architecture, Virginia McAlester identifies a number of common features of Classical Revival architecture including classical columns with either Ionic or Corinthian capitals and a façade with “symmetrically balanced windows and center door.”⁵¹ Other features include a cornice with “boxed eave with a moderate overhang, frequently with dentils or modillions beneath; a wide frieze band is occasionally found beneath the cornice.”⁵² Rectangular, double-hung windows and roofline balustrades are also common.

The J.L. Elam Bank features many of the character-defining features of the Classical Revival style. The main façade is symmetrical with Ionic columns flanking the main entrance (Photo 13). The building features an entablature with a slight overhang, dentils, and modillions (Photo 11) and concrete balustrade along the east

⁴³ *Milton Eagle*, July 16, 1936.

⁴⁴ While the J.L. Elam Bank has maintained a commercial function since 1906, a review of historic newspapers and other sources did not reveal any events or themes that would rise to a level of local, state, or national significance to exhibit individual significance under Criterion A for Commerce/Trade. The building has featured numerous commercial businesses over the years and research has not indicated that it ever played a significant role as a catalyst for the town’s commercial development or growth. That said, there may or may not be a potential historic district in historic Freewater with significance under Criterion A, though that is far outside of the scope and scale of this individual nomination.

⁴⁵ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), 346.

⁴⁶ Leland Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture* (New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1980), 191.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 193.

⁴⁸ Rosalind Clark, *Oregon Style: Architecture from 1840s to the 1950s* (Portland, OR: Professional Book Center, Inc., 1983), 128.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 126.

⁵⁰ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, “Classical Revival Style 1895-1950,” <https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/classical-revival.html> (accessed January 3, 2024).

⁵¹ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 343.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 344.

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façade (Photo 17). All windows are rectangular in shape and, while now fixed, were once double-hung. Though built of concrete block, the building has a smooth stone appearance. Each door and window, including those that are no longer present has a lintel. Of particular note is that the Classical Revival style was continually embraced by occupants of the building. This intentional use of the style evokes “permanence,” “stability and the promise of growth,” features that would hopefully lead clients in the door and make them feel confident about the future of their investment.⁵³

When C.T. Godwin expanded the building in 1908, he continued the decorative entablature, concrete balustrade, and symmetry on the south elevation. When the Bank of Freewater took over the property from the post office, they ensured that their upgrades complimented and continued the Classical Revival style with the use of Ionic columns and symmetry on the east façade. From initial construction in 1906 until the final major façade upgrades in 1920, the building incorporated past vocabularies with the use of columns, entablatures, balustrades, and other details, creating a “handsome” small-town bank. However, in true Classical Revival style, the building embraced modern requirements with the fixtures, spaces, and other needs. The J.L. Elam Bank is a modest but mighty Classical Revival bank building in Milton-Freewater, something not seen anywhere else in the city.

Comparative Properties:

As noted above, there are few other Classical Revival buildings in the Greek tradition and none are truly comparable to the J.L. Elam Bank, especially as a commercial space. A review of the Oregon Historic Sites Database shows only two “Classical Revival” buildings – J.L. Elam Bank and the Valley Christian Center (Figure 16) – located in Milton-Freewater. The database also includes only two “Late 19th/20th Period Revivals: Other” – Central School and McLoughlin High School – but neither are comparative examples for the J.L. Elam Bank. A true windshield survey given the rainy weather, revealed no additional comparative examples in the historic downtown of either Milton or Freewater.

The Valley Christian Center is located at 800 N. Main Street, two blocks north of the J.L. Elam Bank, in historic Freewater. Built c.1900, the building is a prominent two-story building with full-height entry porch that features Doric columns and a pedimented gable. According to the 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the building was a church. Even though the building never had a commercial use, the Valley Christian Center is included as a comparative example since it has some character-defining features of the Classical Revival style. However, it is much larger scale and lacks some key features that are present on the J.L. Elam Bank building, including lintels above the doors and windows, decorative entablature, and balustrades. It also appears that more modern stain glass windows have been installed on the west elevation, compromising the integrity of the property. The J.L. Elam Bank is a better example of a commercial Classical Revival property based on the scale of the property and the intact character-defining features.

Conclusion:

There are no records of the architect or the logic behind the selection of the Classical Revival style for the J.L. Elam Bank building. There is even less understanding of why, 14 years after construction, the building received substantial front façade upgrades still in the Classical Revival style. Regardless, the J.L. Elam Bank remains one of the “handsomest building of its kind” in Milton-Freewater.⁵⁴ This distinction is due in large part to the many character-defining features of Classical Revival architectural style that are present on the building.

The J.L. Elam Bank building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its association with the Classical Revival architectural style in Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County. The building is one of the only Classical Revival commercial buildings in Milton-Freewater. Further, even though

⁵³ National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark Records, “Bank of Tracy,” National Park Service <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/3e0d7cfb-5ad6-405b-8bf1-50e550d3d238> (accessed March 10, 2024).

⁵⁴ “Bank Building,” *East Oregonian*, May 2, 1906

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minor alterations have occurred, the building retains a high degree of integrity and significance. Located in historic downtown Freewater, the building sends those passing by back to a time and style on a street that has seen modifications through demolition and urban renewal upgrades. The building – with the Ionic columns, materials, entablature, balustrade, and words “1906 BANK” – is representative of a period when buildings looked towards the past while incorporating modern technologies to create beautiful civic space that would stand for over 118 years.

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- “Walla Walla Brick & Stone Co.” *The Evening Statesman*. July 20, 1906.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
 (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	45.942152°	-118.397686°	3		
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2			4		
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is the footprint of the building located within tax lot map 5N3502-AD-03700 in Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon. Tax lot map data was accessed from the Umatilla County Assessor's Office in January 2024. See Figure 2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary selected is the footprint of the building, which occupies the bulk of the tax lot. Since there are no contributing or non-contributing features and given the significance only under Criterion C, the vacant, western portion of the tax lot was omitted from the boundary. Further, there is no need to buffer the property given the historic and current commercial setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tracy Schwartz date March 2024
 organization _____ telephone (847) 431-3408
 street & number 3022 SE 73rd Avenue email schwartzpreservation@gmail.com
 city or town Portland state OR zip code 97206

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: J.L. Elam Bank
City or Vicinity: Milton-Freewater
County: Umatilla **State:** Oregon
Photographer: Tracy Schwartz
Date Photographed: January 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0001
East façade and north elevation, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 2 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0002
West and south elevations, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 3 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0003
West elevation, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 4 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0004
North elevation, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 5 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0005
North elevation, camera facing south.
- Photo 6 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0006
East façade and south elevation, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 7 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0007
South elevation, camera facing north.
- Photo 8 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0008
East façade and setting overview, camera facing south.
- Photo 9 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0009
East façade and south elevation with setting overview, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 10 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0010
Column detail, camera facing west.
- Photo 11 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0011
Entablature detail on south elevation, camera facing north.
- Photo 12 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0012
East façade, camera facing southwest.

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- Photo 13 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0013
East façade and primary entrance, camera facing west.
- Photo 14 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0014
Safe in the 1906 portion of the interior, camera facing north.
- Photo 15 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0015
1906 interior, camera facing east.
- Photo 16 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0016
Entry stairs, camera facing north.
- Photo 17 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0017
East façade balustrade detail, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 18 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0018
1908 interior, camera facing south towards existing exit.
- Photo 19 of 19:** OR_UmatillaCounty_J.L.ElamBank_0019
1908 interior, camera facing northwest towards bathroom.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)

- Figure 1:** Regional location map.
- Figure 2:** Local location and nominated property boundary.
- Figure 3:** Tax lot map.
- Figure 4:** Interior plan.
- Figure 5:** Historic photo, camera facing northwest, J.L. Elam in front of the J.L. Elam Bank (c.1906-08).
- Figure 6:** Historic photo, camera facing south, Main Street, Freewater (date unknown).
- Figure 7:** Historic photo, camera facing west, J.L. Elam Bank after July 1936 earthquake (1936).
- Figure 8:** Historic photo from *La Opinion* (1936).
- Figure 9:** Historic photo, camera facing west, J.L. Elam Bank (1978).
- Figure 10:** Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1910).
- Figure 11:** Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (April 1923).
- Figure 12:** Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1955).
- Figure 13:** Historic photo, "Handsome Home of the Bank of Freewater, Freewater, Ore." (c.1920).
- Figure 14.** Historic photo, camera facing north, Peterson & Bishop Lawyers (c.1915).
- Figure 15.** Historic photo, camera facing northwest, U.S. Post Office (c.1915).
- Figure 16:** Comparative Example: Valley Christian Church.

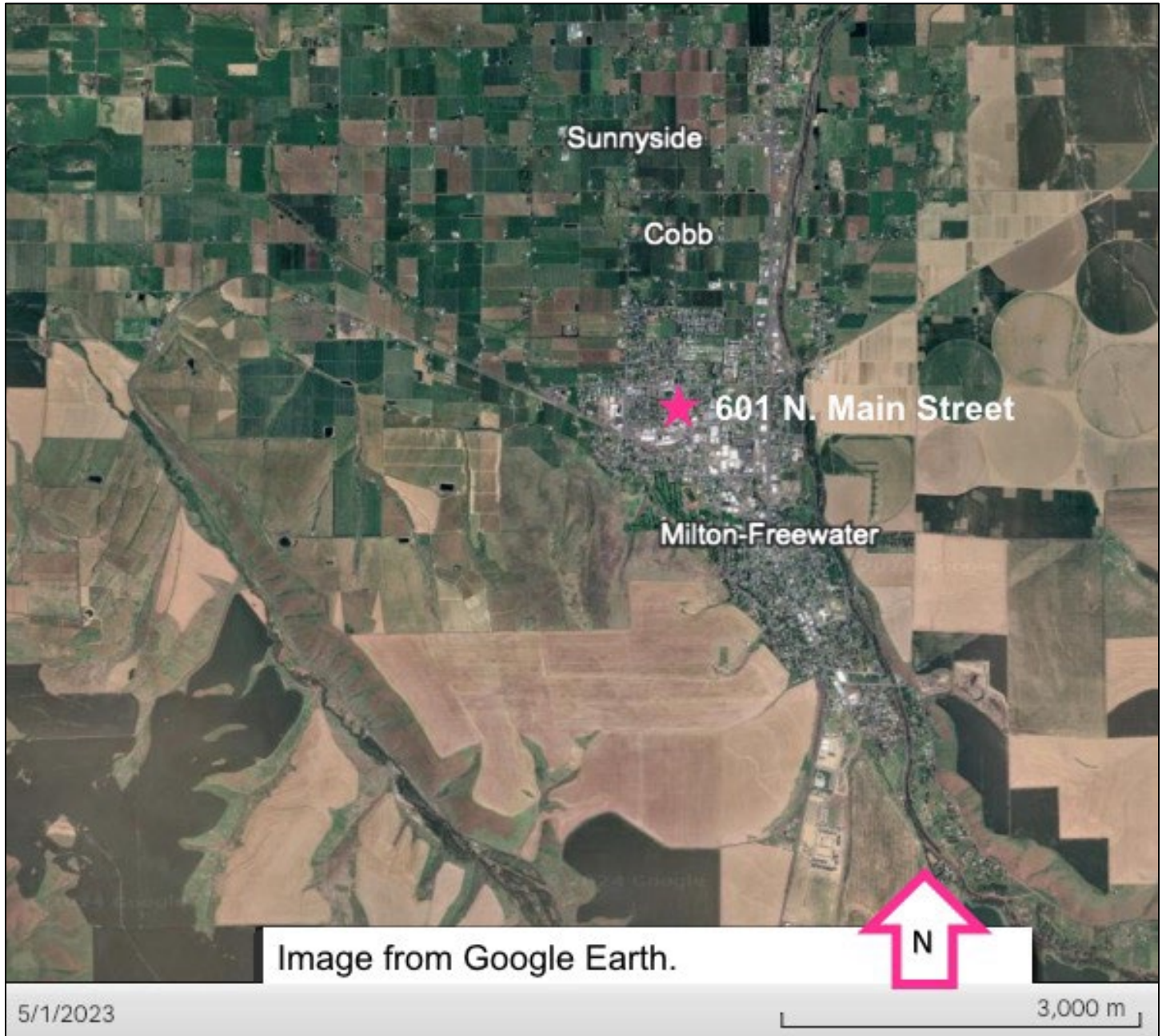
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Figure 1. Regional location map. (Image from Google Earth.)



5/1/2023

3,000 m

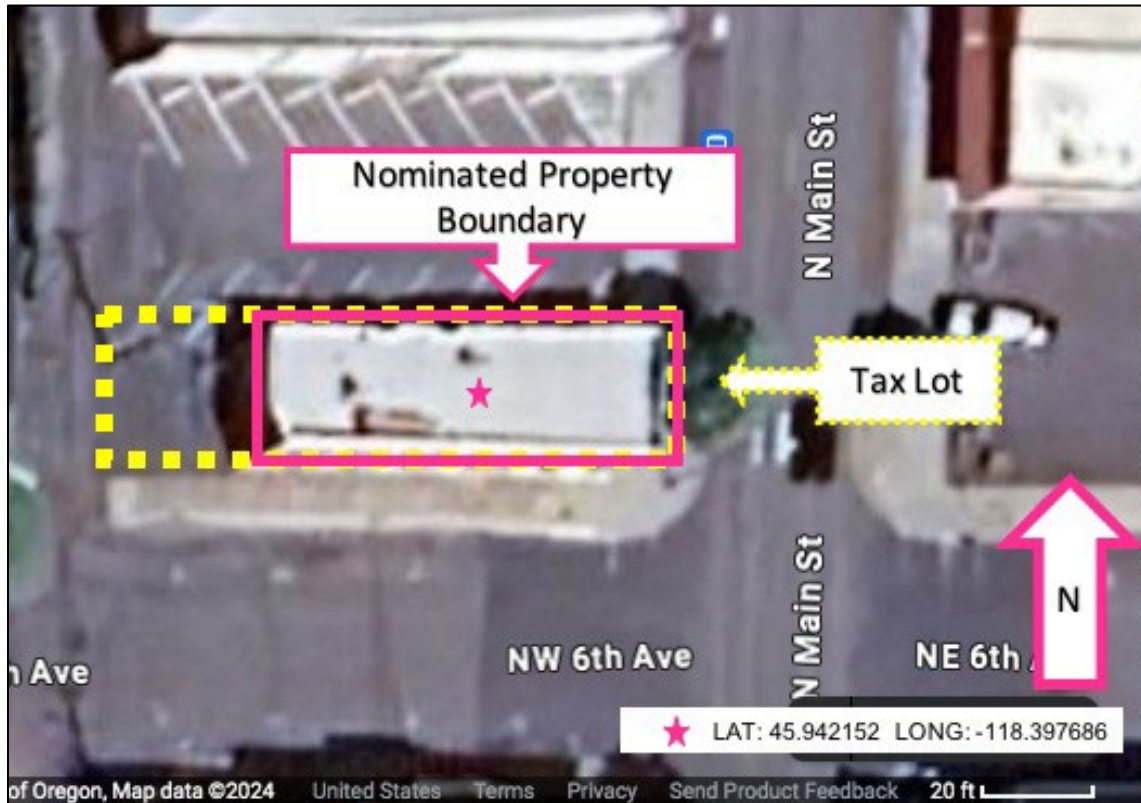
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Figure 2. Local location and nominated property boundary. (Image from Google Maps.)



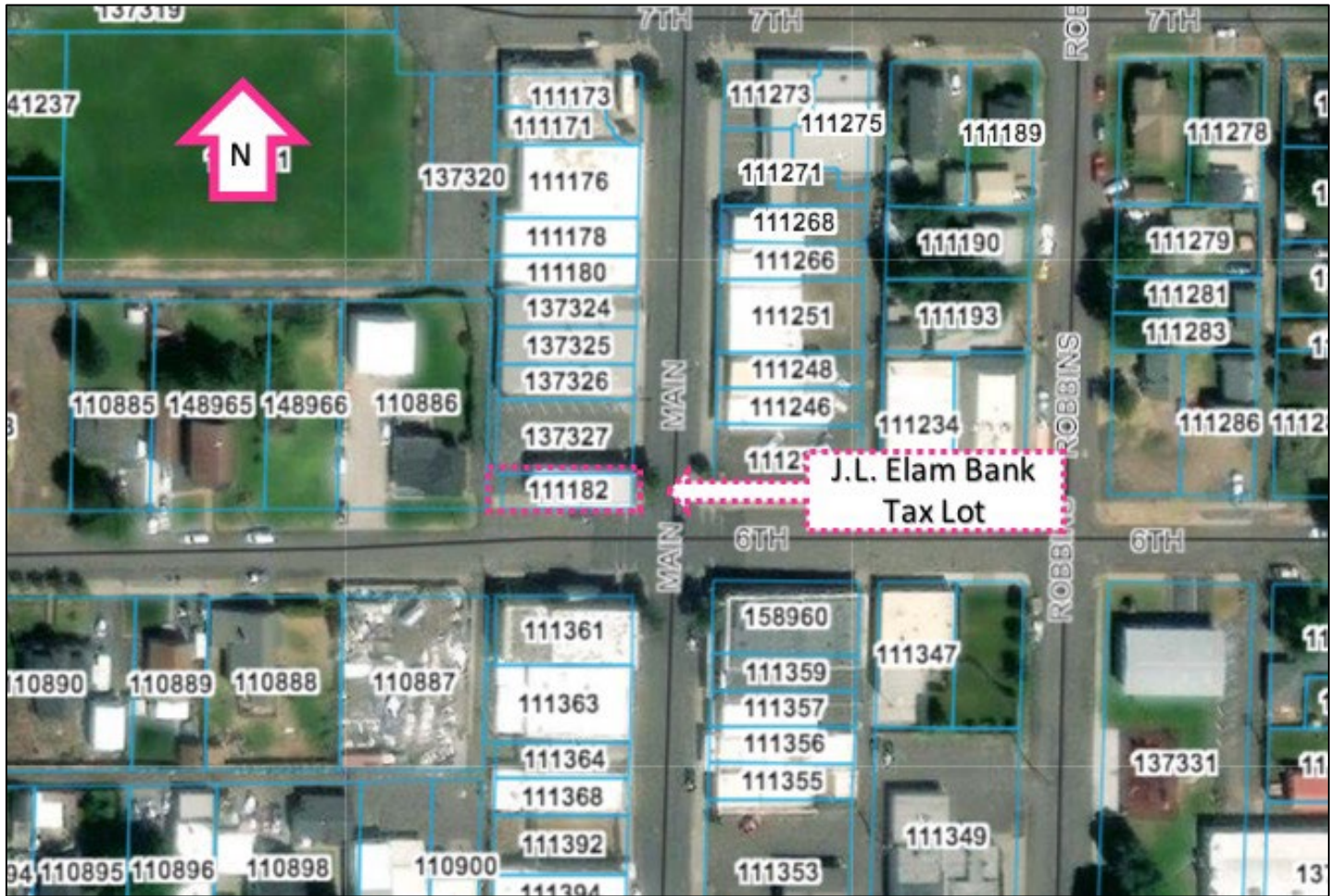
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Figure 3. Tax lot map from Umatilla County Assessor's Office (accessed January 2024).



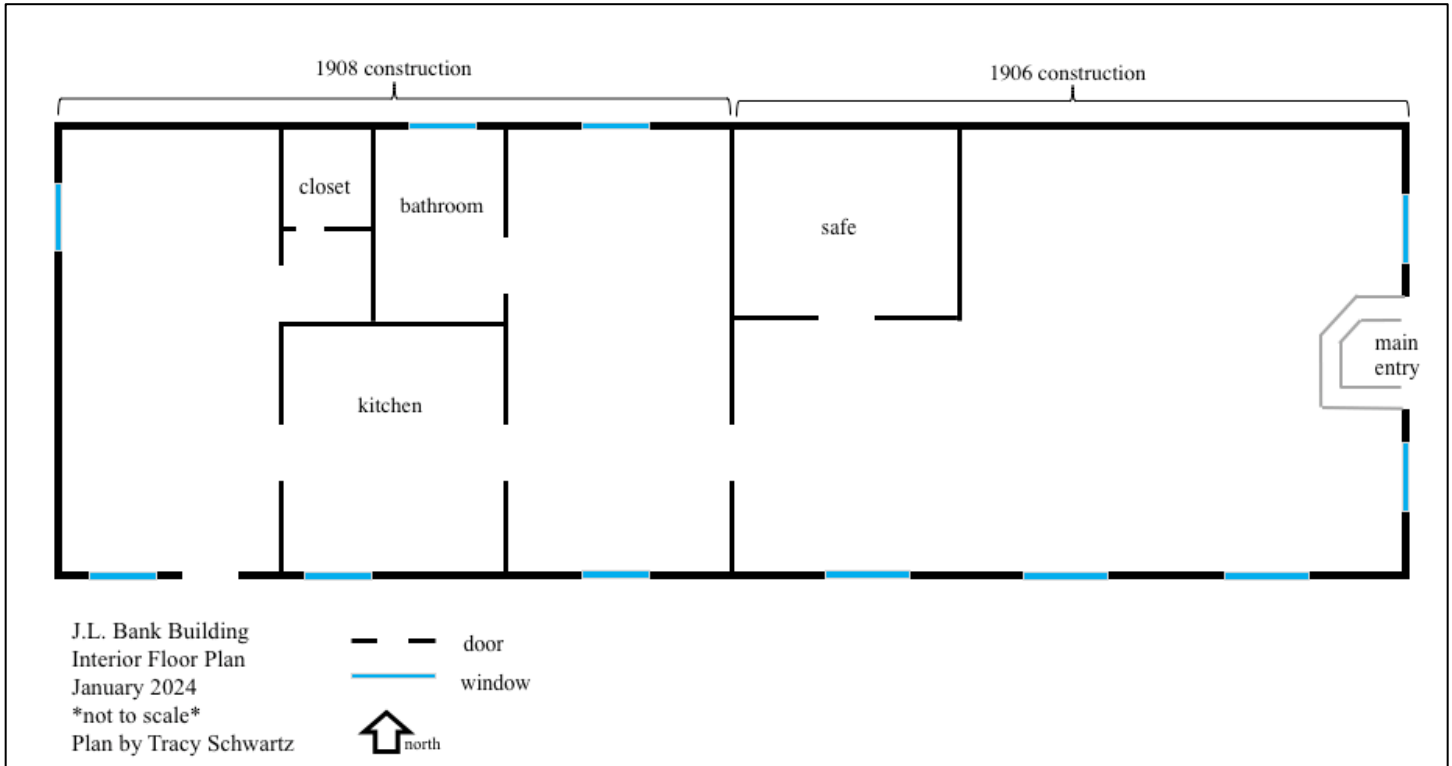
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Figure 4. Interior plan, not to scale. (Sketch by Tracy Schwartz.)



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Figure 5. Historic photo, camera facing northwest, J.L. Elam in front of the J.L. Elam Bank (c.1906-08). (Image from *Bygone Walla Walla Project*, <http://wallawalladrazanphotos.blogspot.com/2015/10/elams-bank-at-1st-and-alder-had-branch.html>, accessed February 3, 2024.)



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Figure 6. Historic photo, camera facing south, Main Street, Freewater (date unknown; c.1920-29) (Image from Oregon Encyclopedia, <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/milton-freewater/>, accessed February 4, 2024.)



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Figure 7. Historic photo, camera facing west, J.L. Elam Bank after July 1936 earthquake (1936). (Image from Oregon Encyclopedia, <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/milton-freewater/>, accessed February 4, 2024.)



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Figure 8. Historic photo from *La Opinion* (1936). Headline translates to “Effects of Recent Earthquake.” Text reads: “A strong earthquake that spanned the borders of Idaho to Portland, Oregon, with the Walla Walla Valley as its epifocus, caused considerable material damage in the different cities and towns it attacked. The graphic shows the partial collapse of the truck terminal in Freewater, Oregon.” (Image from page 8, *La Opinion*, July 21, 1936; translation courtesy of Google Translate.)



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Figure 9. Historic photo, camera facing west, J.L. Elam Bank (1978). Photo by Marion Dean Ross. (Image from Building Oregon, University of Oregon, <https://oregondigital.org/concern/images/df67sr41n>, accessed February 3, 2024).



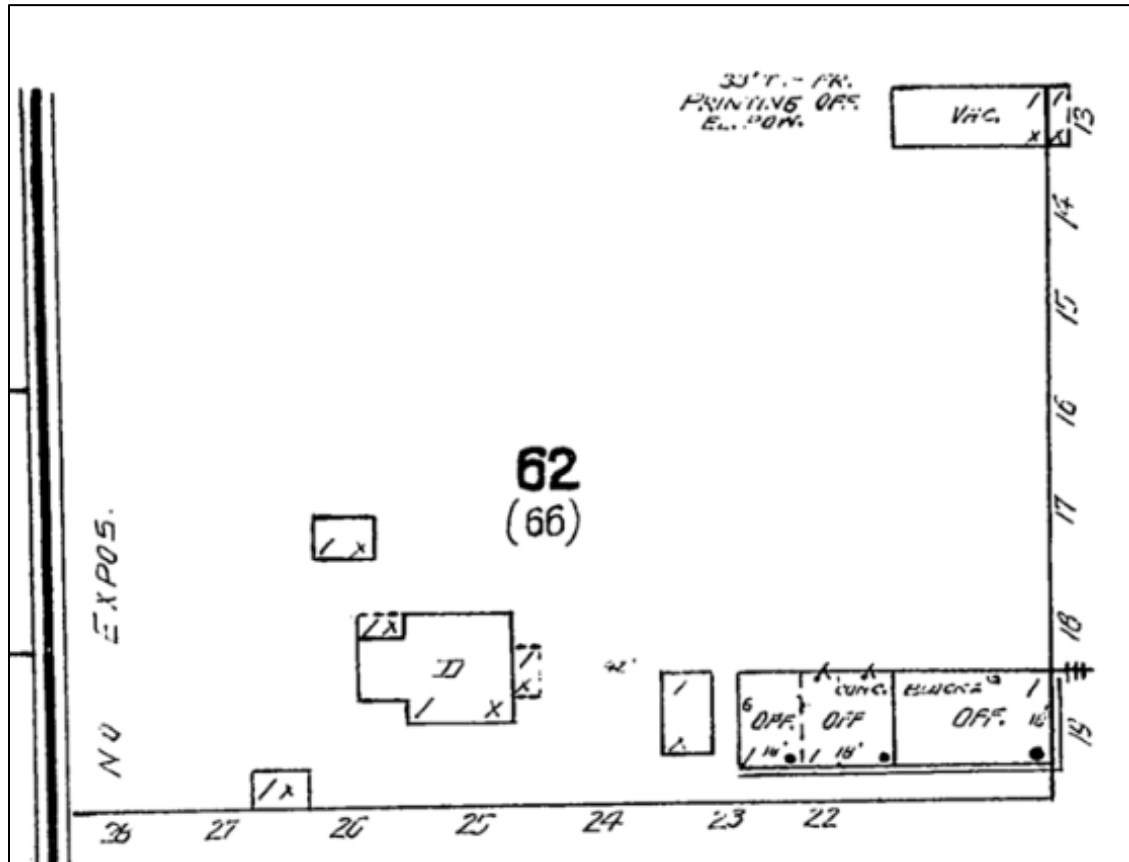
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Figure 10. Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1910). J.L. Elam Bank in bottom right corner.



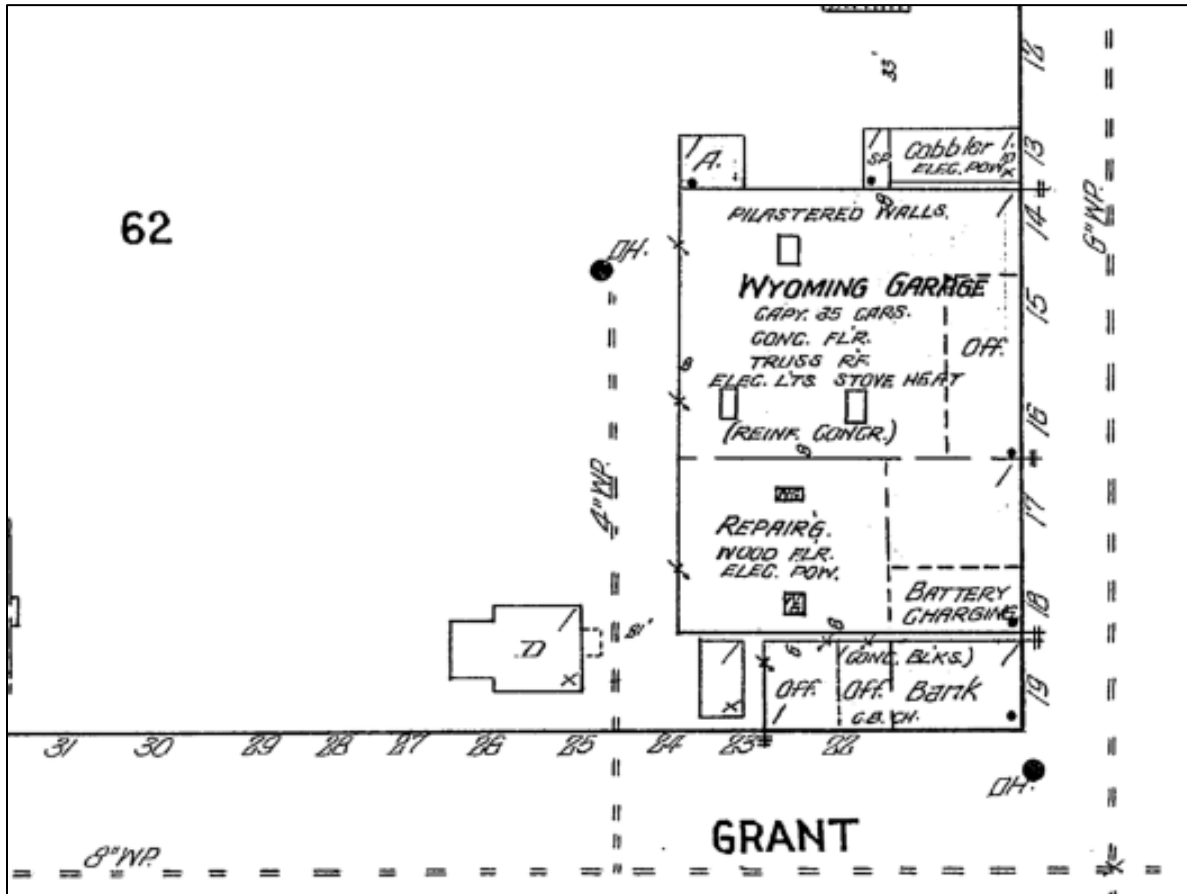
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Figure 11. Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (April 1923). J.L. Elam Bank in bottom right corner.



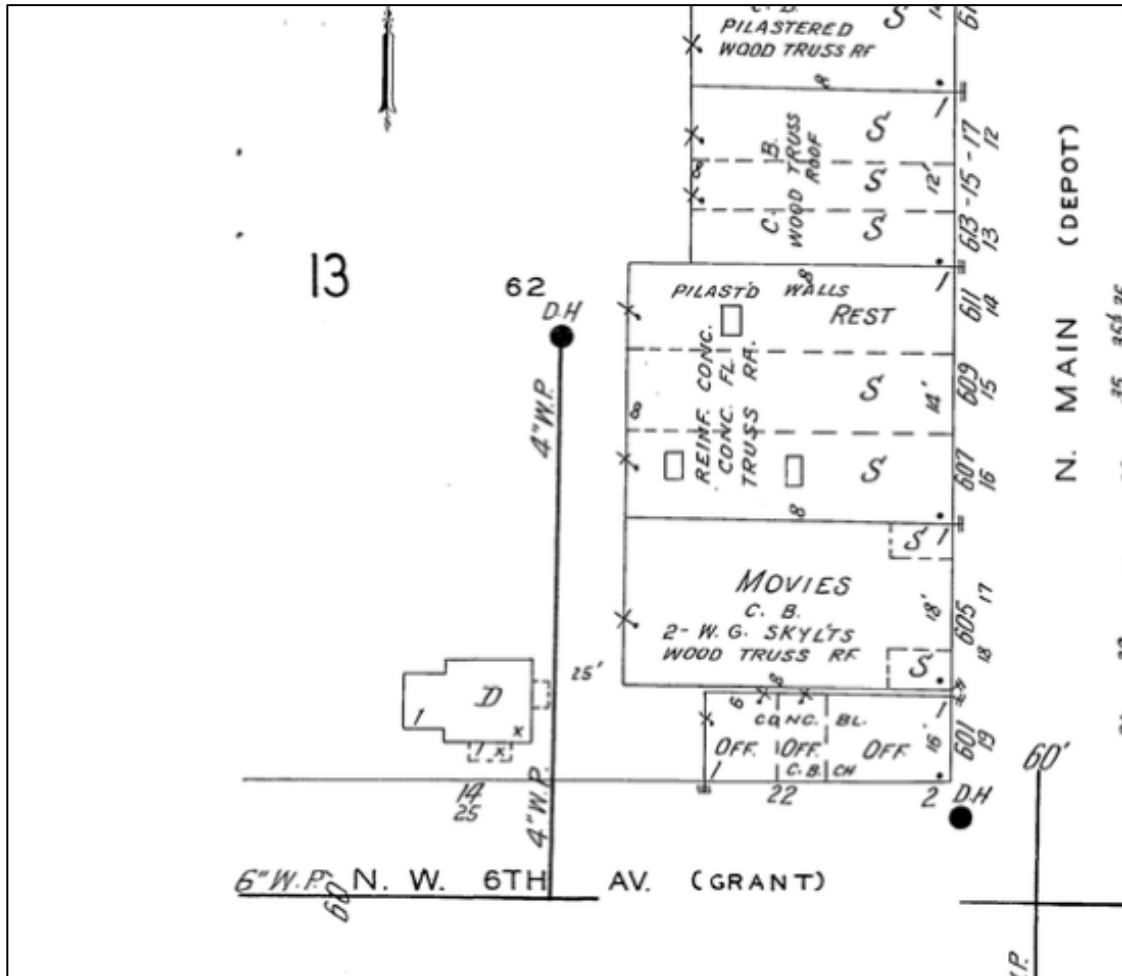
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Figure 12. Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1955). J.L. Elam Bank in bottom right corner.



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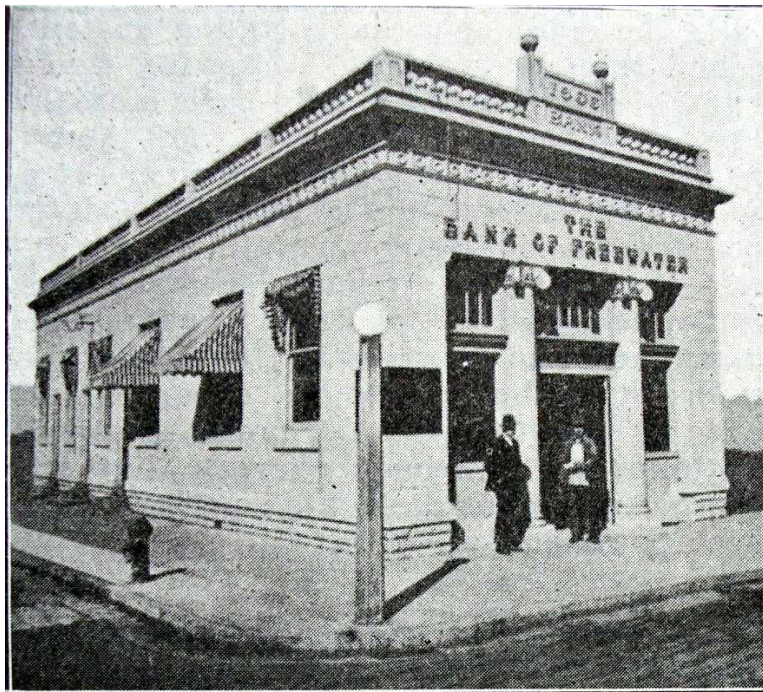
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Figure 13. Historic photo, "Handsome Home of the Bank of Freewater, Freewater, Ore." (c.1920). (Image from *Bygone Walla Walla Project*, <https://wallawalladrazanphotos.blogspot.com/2017/05/freewater-oregon-as-pictured-in-up-to.html>, accessed February 4, 2024.)



Handsome Home of the Bank of Freewater,
Freewater, Ore.

The Bank of Freewater is among the newer financial institutions of the Walla Walla Valley. Located in one of the most productive and substantial agricultural and horticultural sections in the Northwest this bank has made much creditable history since its establishment. It has a board of capable officials who are as follows:—President, J. B. Saylor; Vice-President, H. S. Murray; Cashier, E. S. Rowe.

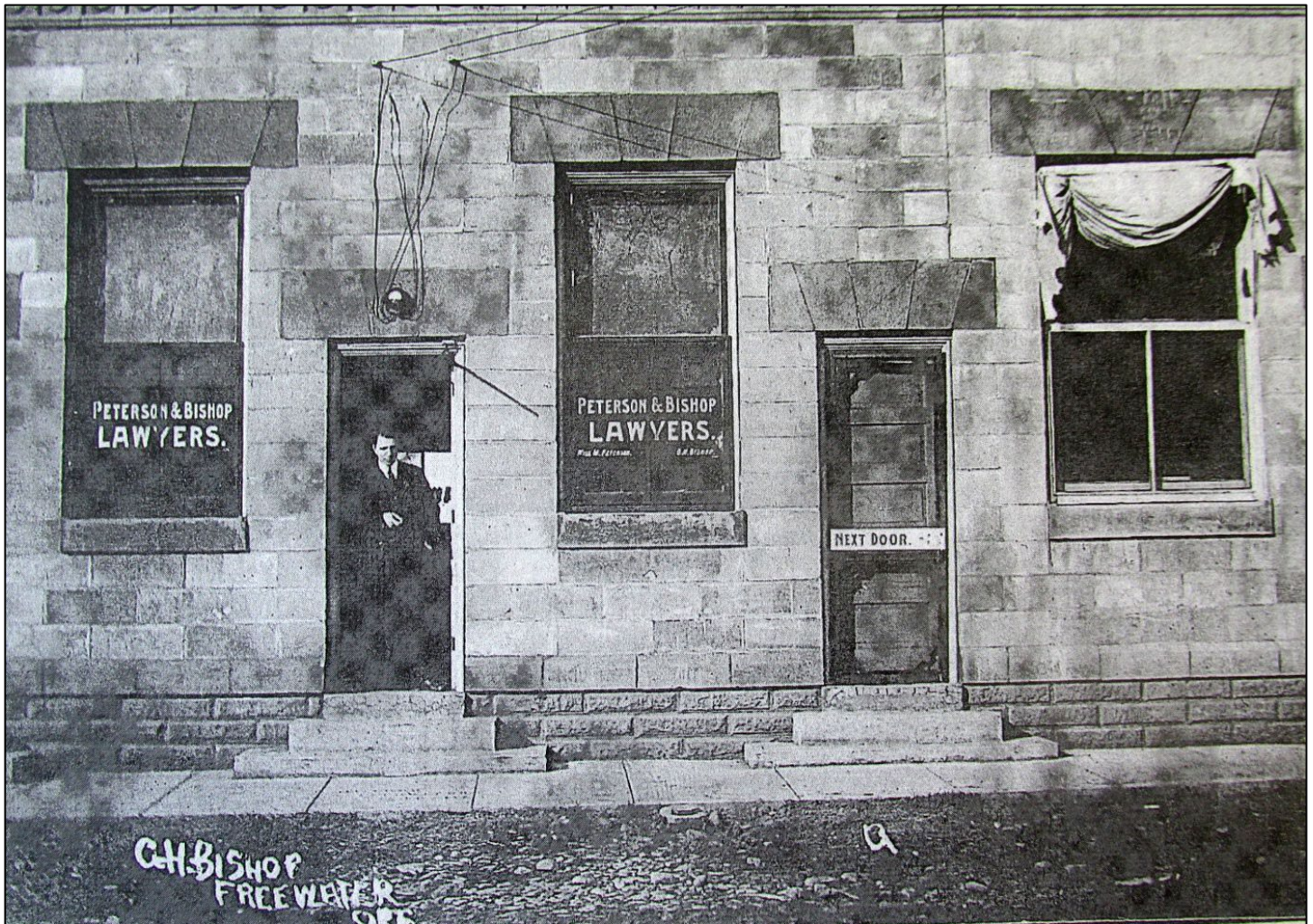
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Figure 14. Historic photo, camera facing north, Peterson & Bishop Lawyers (c.1915). (Image from *Bygone Walla Walla Project*, <https://wallawalladrazanphotos.blogspot.com/2017/07/freewater-oregon-1915-images-courtesy.html>, accessed March 10, 2024.)



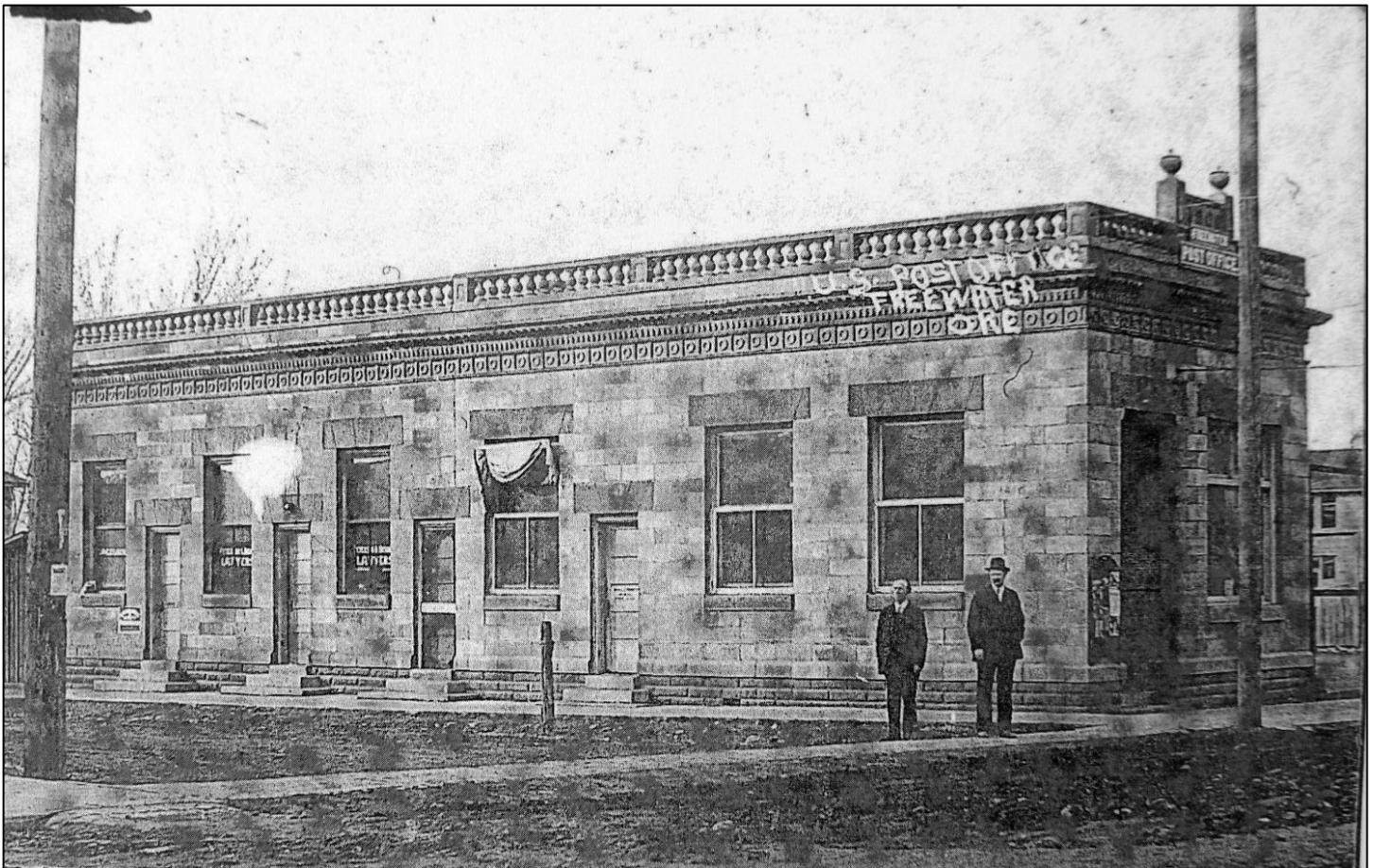
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Figure 15. Historic photo, camera facing northwest, U.S. Post Office (c.1915). (Image from *Bygone Walla Walla Project*, <https://wallawalladrazanphotos.blogspot.com/2017/07/freewater-oregon-1915-images-courtesy.htm>, accessed March 10, 2024.)



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Figure 16. Comparative Example: Valley Christian Church, 800 N. Main Street. Camera facing northeast.
(Image by Tracy Schwartz, January 2024.)



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Photo 1 of 19. East façade and north elevation, camera facing southwest.



Photo 2 of 19. West and south elevations, camera facing northeast.

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Photo 3 of 19. West elevation, camera facing southeast.



Photo 4 of 19. North elevation, camera facing southeast.

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Photo 5 of 19. North elevation, camera facing south.



Photo 6 of 19. East façade and south elevation, camera facing northwest.

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Photo 7 of 19. South elevation, camera facing north.



Photo 8 of 19. East façade and setting overview, camera facing south.

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Photo 9 of 19. East façade and south elevation with setting overview, camera facing northwest.



Photo 10 of 19. Column detail, camera facing west.

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Photo 11 of 19. Entablature detail on south elevation, camera facing north.



Photo 12 of 19. East façade, camera facing southwest.

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Photo 13 of 19. East façade and primary entrance, camera facing west.



Photo 14 of 19. Safe in the 1906 portion of the interior, camera facing north.



Photo 15 of 19. 1906 interior, camera facing east.

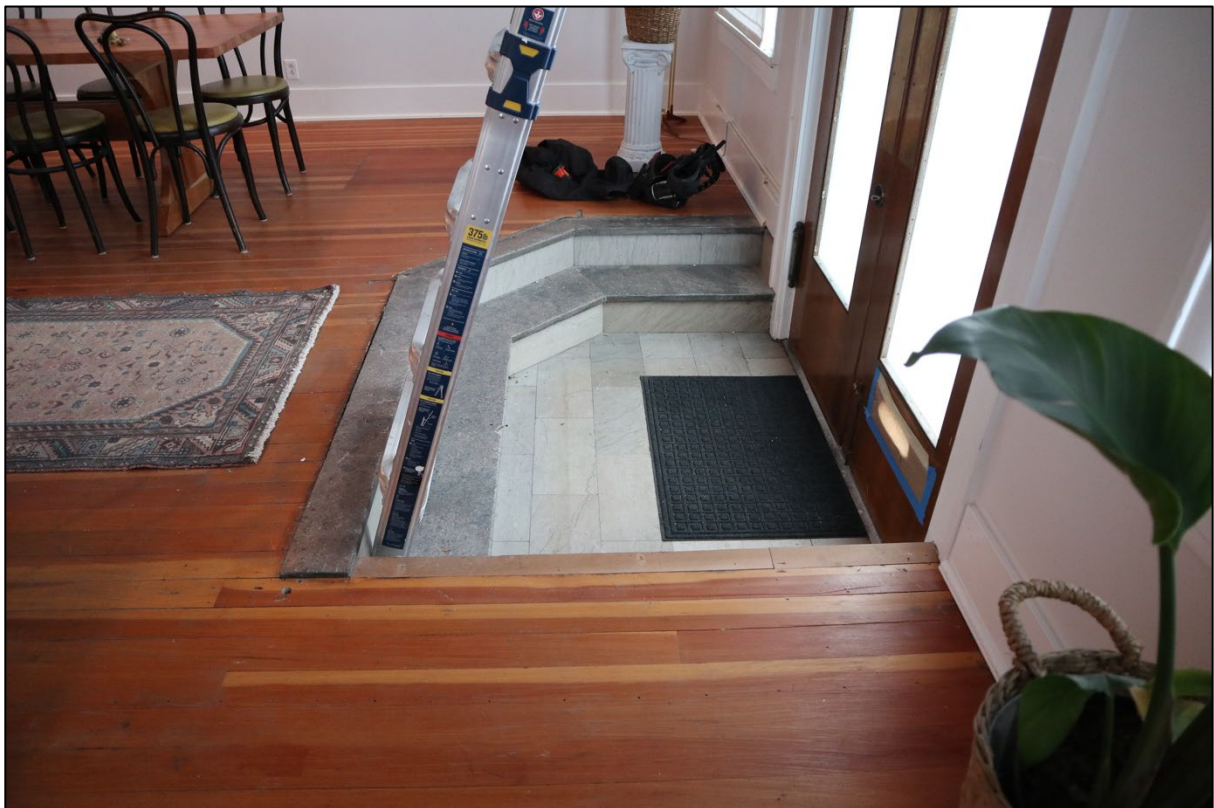


Photo 16 of 19. Entry stairs, camera facing north.

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Photo 17 of 19. East façade balustrade detail, camera facing northwest.



Photo 18 of 19. 1908 interior, camera facing south towards existing rear exit.



Photo 19 of 19. 1908 interior, camera facing northwest towards bathroom.