

Salem Distinguished City for Its Architectural Beauty

CLASSIC LINES ARE REVEALED

Courthouse, Capitol, University, Bear Tribute to Planners Wisdom

Salem is distinguished among the smaller cities of the country for the architectural distinction which marks many of the public and private structures in the city. In times past the city has been favored with wonderful buildings so that many of the oldest structures are real works of the builder's art. Among them may be mentioned the state capitol, the court house, the First Methodist church, Waller hall and its beautiful lantern. Among the newer buildings are the First Presbyterian church, the Elks club and the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph building.

One thing to be noted is the various types of architecture which have been used, the beauty of the buildings to original designs, and the way these lines have retained their beauty through the years.

Capitol Symmetry Pleasing
The capitol which is of course the outstanding building of the city, is of classic capitoline design. It has the Romanesque dome and the Grecian facades and columns. The balance of the main structure and dome is pleasing. Sometimes there are splendid domes on vast structures; or domes too large for the supporting edifice. Here both in height and width the dome is in perfect balance with its structure.

The ornamentation of the exterior is also classic with fluted columns and Corinthian capitals. The interior decorations in the main halls are reminiscent of the golden age of Louis XIV and his famous palaces at Versailles. The hall of representatives in fact seems almost a copy of some French hall.

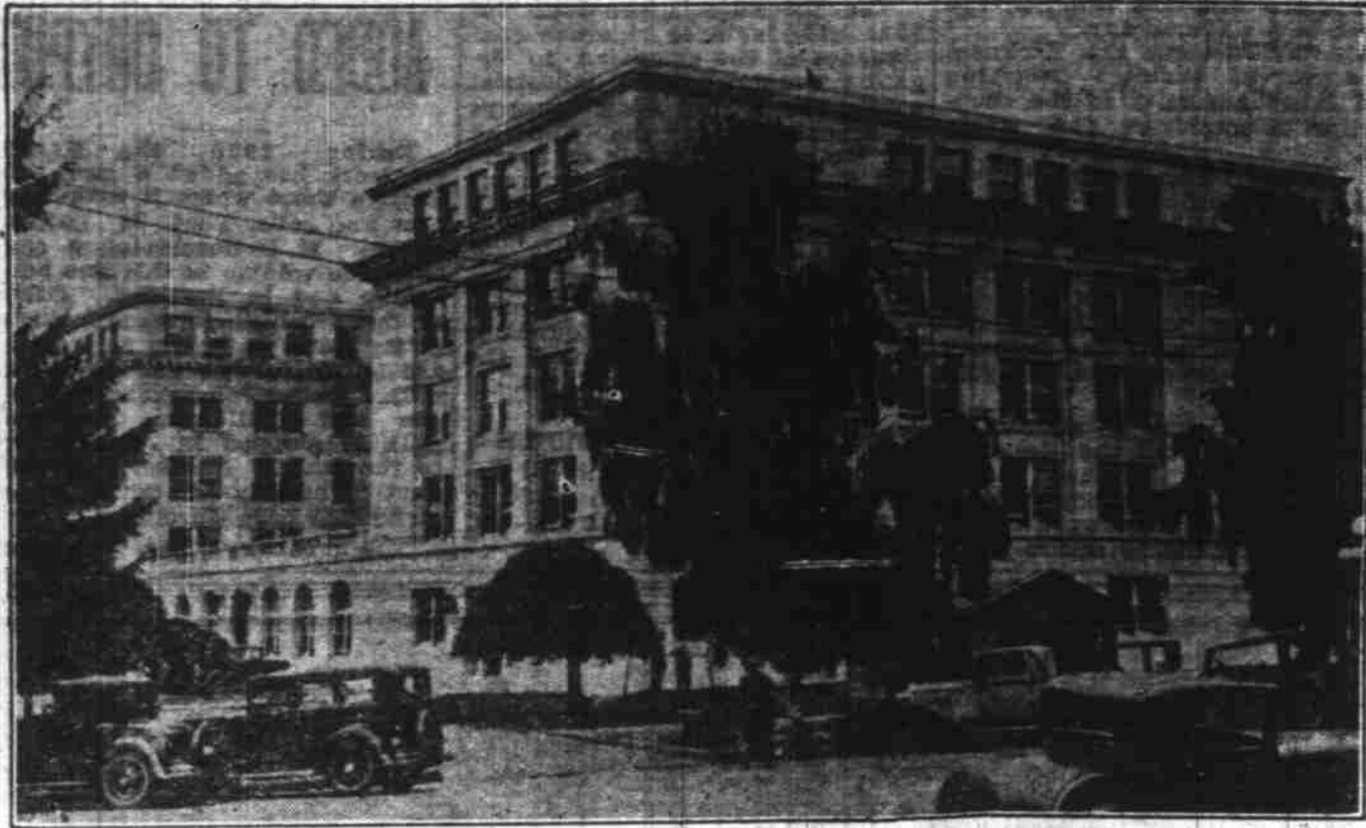
The First Methodist church is pure Gothic. The great steeple is its chief characteristic, piercing like a heaven-pointing finger the sky above. The flying buttresses, the pointed-arch windows all carry out the Gothic idea of verticality—pointing upward. Lancelot windows on the sides and the rose window at the front are designed with a beauty that is ageless. Thousands pass by it year by year and see only an old red brick church. But if they get across the block to the north and view it at a distance it becomes as distinctive in its way as those cathedrals many cross the ocean to see.

Court House French Style
The third prominent building in the civic center is the court house. This is of the French renaissance period. Florid after the French style, lighter in its lines and treatment than the massive capitol, it is as pure an example of this period of architecture as may be found in America. In fact it is studied in schools of architecture.

One thing which deserves mention in connection with the capitol and the court house is the fine job of plaster coating they bear. The buildings are white and one thinks they are of white stone. Instead the walls are of brick covered with white plaster. In very few places are there signs of cracking and peeling, showing the workmen of years ago handled their materials even better than we see now in some stucco jobs.

Waller hall is another "red brick" building. Seen close up it is not particularly beautiful. But view it from across the capitol park with the boughs of trees to screen its rather spare, simple

STATE'S NEW OFFICE BUILDING OCCUPIED



New \$500,000 state office building which was occupied here this last spring. Many of the major activities of the state government are located here.

lines, one appreciates its beauty better. This is a good spot too from which to view its lantern or cupola. Study this lantern closely. It is splendid both in design and in the construction. The lines have a singular delicacy and lightness quite foreign to the rather plain walls of the building. Octagonal in shape, the windows are gracefully arched, with very light mullions. It is an architectural "trade mark" for old Willamette. Waller hall was built in the form of a Greek cross. Seen nearby its height seems too great for the spread of its base. This impression might be moderated if the walls were overgrown with ivy, and if there were more shrubbery about the base.

Elks Club Attractive
Of newer buildings, the Elks club while not especially distinctive in its general style, has a massiveness of structure and a variety of masonry treatment of the exterior walls which merit friendly study. The First Presbyterian church is a New England meeting house set down in Salem. It too is of a design which will endure. Its lofty steeple rising from the center of the facade suggests aspiration. The masonry work of the whole architectural mass of the church and ell-hall is a fine example of modern brick work.

The building of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company on State street shows a fine appreciation of the semi-public character of its location and of the company. Its front is unique: a new and modern interpretation of the classic. It graces the civic center on which it fronts, and makes a desirable addition to the list of public and semi-public edifices of pleasing architectural treatment.

Capitol's Cost Low
Believing that the description of these structures as we see and love them today is not complete without some sketch of the history of their building and some tribute to those who designed and built them. The Statesman has asked R. J. Hendricks, its editor emeritus, to review something of the story of the three really great buildings above described: the capitol, the court house and the First Methodist church. The following is his contribution on this subject:
The original architect for the capitol was Justus F. Krumboltz of Portland. He estimated that the structure would cost \$500,000. Its actual cost, up to the time the dome was added, in the

eighties, was \$335,000. The cost of the dome was around \$90,000. The east and west steps were added during the same period. This building is unique in the fact that it is probably the only state capitol in this country that was built far below the original estimate of its cost. The site was donated to the territory of Oregon by Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Willson, pioneer missionaries, who platted the central portion of what became the capitol city. There is a big picture now stored in the attic or first part of the dome that was made from the original drawing of the architect; a picture that formerly adorned and took up a large portion of the space in one of the office rooms on the second floor, and should be reframed and given an appropriate place. The lettering under this picture follows: "Architects, Krumboltz & Gilbert, J. M. Scott, superintendent, R. H. Dearborn, secretary, Harry Kippel, E. L. Bristow and Samuel Allen, commissioners."

Prisoners Do Much Work
These are all names of men who were prominent in the Oregon of pioneer days. One reason why the cost was smaller than the estimate was the fact that the brick was burned at the penitentiary, and a large part of the work was performed by prisoners. What is now the hall of the house was unfinished up to the early nineties, and the lower branch of the legislature had its sessions on the third floor of the north wing. The treasurer's office was then on the second floor of that wing. The initial appropriation of \$100,000 for the construction of the capitol was made by the legislative session of September, 1872; the sessions up to that of 1885 being held in the fall. Ground was broken in May of the following year and the cornerstone was laid October 3, 1873. The building was accepted as partially completed August 25, 1876. There have been many changes in the office arrangements in the intervening years, but the total cost has perhaps not been more than \$500,000. During the time between the burning of the territorial state house (on the same site) and the occupation of the state capitol, about 20 years, the state offices were located in the present Statesman building and the Turner block across the street north. The legislative sessions were held in the Turner block. That is where Col. E. D. Baker and James W. Nesmith were elected United States senators.

The office of the state treasurer was on the second floor of the present Statesman building, and so was the state library. The First Methodist church was built in the early seventies, and both the architect and the builder was W. F. Boothby, who for many years was the landlord for the Statesman in the building at 170 North Commercial street, now occupied by the Peckless bakery and the Shanghai cafe. That property is still owned by Mrs. John McCourt, widow of United States Attorney John McCourt, deceased. She was a daughter of Mr. Boothby. One of the early day pastors perhaps most responsible for the erection of the historic church building was Rev. L. D. Driver, prominent in the religious and political history of Oregon. Mr. Boothby, architect and builder, erected many of the old buildings on Salem's downtown streets. He worked on the capitol and on the asylum for the insane—the latter first occupied in 1883.

Courthouse Built 1871-73
Mr. Boothby was also the architect and builder of the present Marion county court house, erected in 1871-73. The members of the court when that structure was authorized were County Judge C. N. Terry of Salem and Commissioners John Glesy of Aurora and A. Coolidge of Silverton.

It is said that Mr. Boothby in planning both the church and the court house used a book containing various specifications for historic structures; then adapted them according to his ideas of what was needed in the tasks at hand. The construction of the court house was quite an undertaking for Marion county at the time; and the project was far from pleasing to some taxpayers, many of them, however, living to see the wisdom of it. A magazine writer not long since pronounced the Marion county court house as architecturally among the seven most beautiful in this country. Its cost was less than \$100,000; though it could not be duplicated now for \$200,000. The cost of the church was about \$35,000.

Mr. Boothby sometimes told a story about his construction of the court house. Hon. A. Bush of the Laid & Bush bank—the original A. Bush—was furnishing the money to Mr. Boothby. It mounted up into what he (Mr. Boothby) thought was a large sum. One day he went to Mr. Bush and told him he was get-

OREGON LUCKY ONE SAYS KAY

While Economic Outlook is Not Good, Diversity Locally Great Asset

Laws or by-laws will do little good toward the stabilization of business, in the opinion of Tom Kay, state treasurer, who holds with Calvin Coolidge that the unrepeatable law of supply and demand is the only basic governing agency for sound conditions. "The new year finds the United States government appropriating hundreds of millions to bolster prices, and more millions for measures of temporary relief. And the immediate effect is a further drop in market values. Whatever may be the proper remedy, it is certain that government subsidy of industry and agriculture is not it," Mr. Kay insists.

Nineteen thirty-one, however, finds Oregon and its immediate neighbors far better situated than any other section of the United States, the treasurer believes. In his recent visits to Europe and to the Atlantic seaboard of this country, Mr. Kay became acquainted with a standard of living much below any considered enduring in the Northwest. Meat was a rarity, and only the most staple products appeared on many tables, he recalls.

Time of '92 Recalled
"The present condition by no means is unprecedented," Mr. Kay says. "In 1892, with the election of a republican president, Grover Cleveland, and a democratic congress, the free trade scare created a panic almost overnight, with values sinking lower and lower for nearly eight years."

Laborers could be obtained for \$1.10 a day, with far more men than jobs, he recalls. Real estate values were proportionately lower. One Salem plot, now valued at from \$25,000 to \$40,000, could have been purchased then for \$1,250, and there were no buyers, Mr. Kay declared.

Such a condition is the natural result of prolonged prosperity, high wages, and capactive production, he believes, with credit buying and labor saving

being worried; that he was walking the floor over his large borrowings.

Mr. Bush, in his characteristic way, told him to go along about his business and finish his job; that if anyone was to walk the floor, he was the man. If there was any floor walking after that, Mr. Bush did it.

devices chiefly responsible. "Public employees are profiting from present conditions, in that their wages have remained stable and living costs have decreased," Mr. Kay pointed out in predicting a general slight cut in salaries throughout the nation.

"Prepare Asst." Advice
"Preparation and adaptation—these two compose the true solution of hard times," according to the state official.

"Business leaders forsook at least a portion of the present wave two years ago," Mr. Kay declared. "Retrenchment policies in large organizations were put into force. Preparations for a drop in values were made. And within the last 60 days firms who made such preparations have emerged far less damaged than their unprepared competitors. And the same is more than true of individuals."

Mr. Kay refused to be quoted as having painted a pessimistic picture of actual conditions, but rather insisted he was facing things as they are, with optimism born of experience that time will turn the tide.

RAINY NAME FOR CITY UNDESERVED

Queer how people want to think it rains very much in Salem. Compared with a lot of other cities, Salem has quite a moderate rainfall.

Even in 1920, the total rainfall in Salem was only 25.98 inches and that is about the average of Lincoln, Nebraska. Yet who is there in central Nebraska talks about too much rain?

Even for the past 25 years, the average rainfall in Salem was only 37.71 inches, about the same as Kansas City or St. Louis. No one ever heard about too much rain in Kansas City. Many cities in the Mississippi valley have from two and a half to three and a half inches of rainfall during the summer months, while Salem doesn't average quite half an inch. But during November, December and January, Salem has from five to six inches of rain—thus boosting the average.

MANY PAVED ROADS
Salem has more miles of paved roads within a distance of 25 miles than any city in the northwest. There are around 260 miles of pavement and 1180 miles of macadam.

MORE GAS
Gas consumption on a large scale was made possible in the past year, and the close of 1930 finds in the neighborhood of 3000 consumers.

UNION PLANS FOR 1931 CONVENTION

Federation of Labor Will Meet Here Next Fall At State House

Union laborers of Salem are looking forward to playing hosts at the 1931 annual convention of the state federation of labor, to be held in this city next fall. Hal Hoss, secretary of state, has promised leaders here that the house of representatives may be used as a meeting place. The end of the year finds 22 active organizations in the union movement in Salem, with nine of these belonging to the building trades. The baby unit of the local movement is the group of 30 outside wiremen who became affiliated here from the Portland only a few weeks ago. Between 800 and 1,000 union men are living in this city.

The nine groups of the building trades are: carpenters, painters, plumbers, lathers, electricians, plasterers, sheet metal workers, laborers and brick layers. Other groups are: barbers, butchers, culinary alliance, engineers, pressmen, typographers.

tailors, musicians, stage employes, bus drivers, truck drivers and outside wiremen. The truck drivers' local also is a new group. The central council, parent body of the labor movement, has had at its head the past year Frank Boehringer of the engineers. H. W. Hale of the carpenters has been secretary; L. A. Elwell, reading clerk; and S. P. Davidson, Clarence Townsend and Frank Marshall, trustees.

Lightning and Storms Almost Unknown, Valley

When the chamber of commerce sends literature to people in the Mississippi valley, where in it is stated that the Salem district is not accustomed to lightning, thunder storms and cyclones, it is hard for those easterners to believe it.

And wind storms? They hardly believe there is a country without windstorms, and to the people in western Nebraska and Kansas, it seems a strange story when they read there are no sand storms. Inhabitants of western Nebraska say the wind blows the sand for three days in one direction, and then turns around and blows it all back. Not so in the Willamette river valley of Oregon.

Happy NEW YEAR

We wish to express a feeling of appreciation to our many patrons and friends, who have made this season such a successful one for

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