

Building built for a bank now serves as civic seat of power

Editor's note: The following excerpt is from a story that ran in the *Hermiston Herald* on July 1, 1965.

The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Pendleton announced today that construction would start immediately on their new Hermiston Branch Building.

The contract for constructing the building has been awarded to the Timber Company of Hermiston who submitted a low bid of \$108,490 for this work. The building was designed by Pendleton Architect Wes Korman.

The building will be built on the corner of NE First Street and NE Gladys Avenue across from the Hermiston Library. Because the site borders residential property, the architect had set the new building back from the property line and has provided landscaping completely around the free standing building.

The new building will pro-

The building, which is of contemporary design will be constructed entirely of fireproof materials, and will feature brick on the exterior in conjunction with panels stuccoed with marble chips.

Hermiston History

Hermiston History will be a regular feature in the *Hermiston Herald*. If you have something to share about the history of the greater Hermiston area, send your submission to editor@hermiston-herald.com with Hermiston History in

the subject line. If you have a question about the area's history you would like the Herald staff to look into, you can send your questions to the same email address with Hermiston History question in the subject line.

vide 2,700 square feet of space on the main floor for banking facilities, 700 square feet on a balcony for an employees lounge and 700 square feet in a basement for mechanical equipment and storage.

Included on the first floor is a conference room which according to Hermiston Branch Manager Bill Parker may be used by any groups requiring a meeting room. ...

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Hermiston subcontractors who will be working on this building include Shelco Electric, Hamilton Sheet Metal Works, and Mr. Five Percenter.

Work is scheduled to start immediately so that the Hermiston Branch Office which has outgrown its present leased quarters in the Inland Empire Bank building can be moved before the end of the year.

...
The building may be familiar, but don't look for it on NE First Street, which is also Highway 395. No, the building didn't move, the street names have changed.

The building today is at NE Second Street and NE Gladys Avenue. It also is no longer a bank and hasn't been for about 30 years or so. Today, the former First Federal Savings and Loan building is

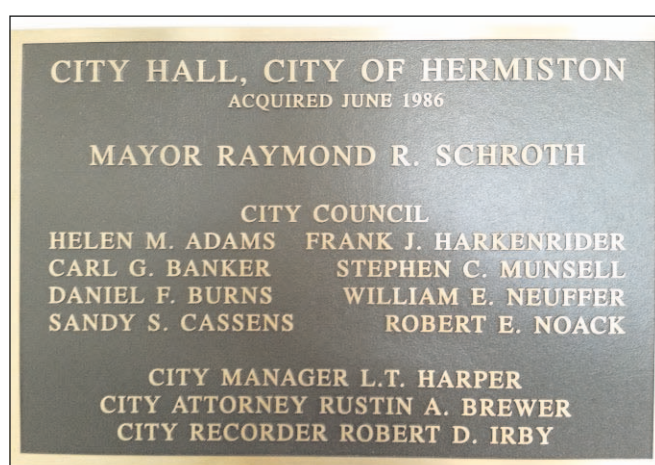
better known as Hermiston City Hall.

The city acquired the building in June 1986 from Benj. Franklin Western Heritage Bank for \$365,000.

At the time the purchase agreement was reached the city planned to spend about

\$35,000 for remodeling and furnishings. The city moved from the old city call at corner of NE Third Street and Main to the renovated bank building in December 1986.

A public dedication and open house was held on March 19, 1987.



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

The dedication plaque inside City Hall commemorates the council members and top city staff members at the time the building was purchased by the city in 1986.

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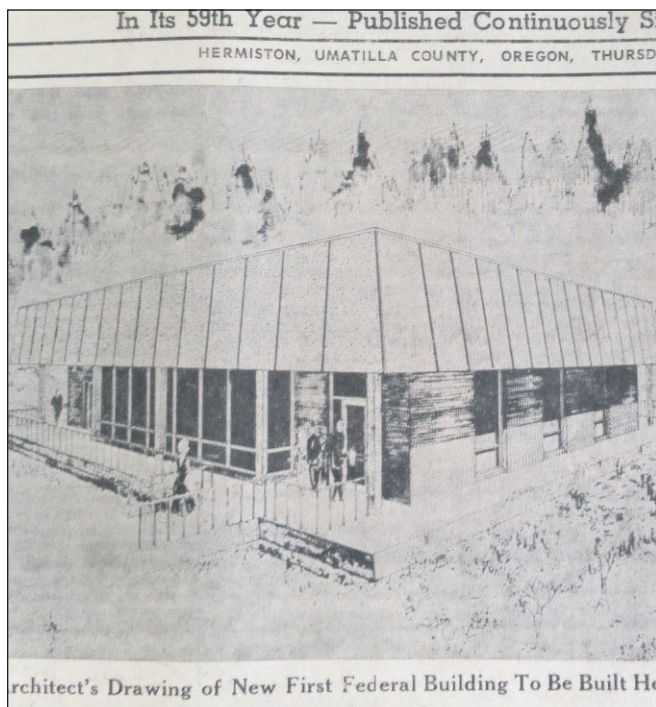
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An artist rendering on the front page of the July 1, 1965 *Hermiston Herald* of a bank building planned for downtown Hermiston. The building did serve as a home to banks, but for nearly the last 30 years it has had another use.



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST
This is how the building looks today. The former bank building today is known as Hermiston City Hall.

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