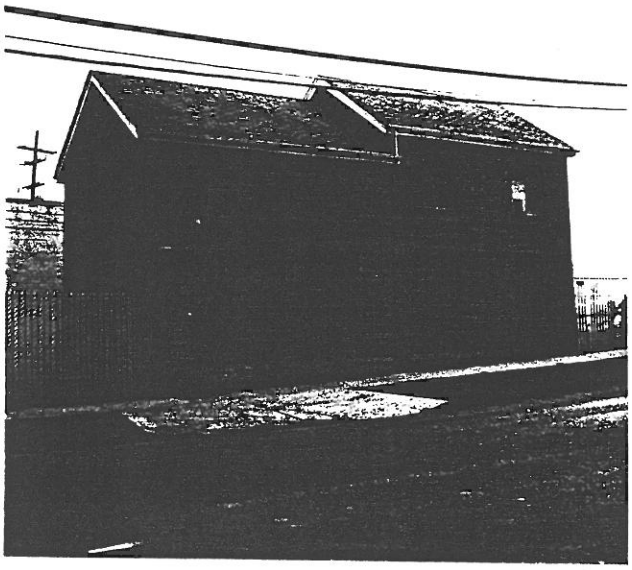
STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310



County Linn

Ranking

Name
(Common) Unknown

(Historic) Unknown

Address 1165 Second Street

Present Owner Pacific Power & Light

Address 920 S.W. 6th Avenue, Portland

Original Use Water Processing Plant and Pump House

Date of Construction 1947

Map Reference Number 136

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

This is a two-story brick structure with a rectangular floor plan and low-pitched gable roofs that parallel the street. The building shelters water pumps which transfer water from the adjacent Albany/Santiam Canal into the city water system. There is a paddle wheel filter next to the building where the intake is located and there are massive steel pipes on the back which feed into large concrete settling tanks.

On the front facade there are three six-light metal sash windows and a double metal door in the left corner. The south wing, with its higher roof, has two six-light metal sash second-story windows. The south elevation contains a single metal door. There are two six-light metal sash windows on the ground floor of the east elevation and above there are massive pipes running out of the wall. The verges are close to the face of the building and the eaves are boxed. There are brick sills below the windows and flat arches supported by steel plates. The walls are constructed of red brick in a common bond that uses six stretcher courses between each header course.

(continued)

Recorded by Heritage Investment Corporation, 813 SW Alder, Portland, OR 97204 (228-0272)
Allen, McMath-Hawkins, Architects, 213 SW Ash, Portland, OR 97204 (228-5154)

Initials _____ Date _____

Sources consulted: see attached.

History

The history of the water filtration and pump house building is tied in with the history of the Lebanon Canal system and water supply system. In December 1891, J. L. Cowan, Frank O'Neil and Dr. L. Foley were granted a franchise to construct a water works system under the name of the Lebanon and Santiam Water Company. Thomas Price, an itinerant canal excavator from Lincoln, Nebraska, was engaged to dig the canals with a team of 20 to 30 horses dragging iron scrapers and Chinese laborers finishing the job with picks and shovels. In 1892 the franchise for water and power services was given to J. J. Duberville. C. G. Rawlings sometime later purchased half interest in the business, but after problems with the city over costs and quality of the services, the two sold their interest to J. S. Hughs. After Dr. Foley's death, Hughs bought half interest in the canals also, sharing them with O'Neil Bros. and Calaham, the predecessors of Crown Zellerbach Corp. Mr. Hughs had financial difficulties in 1908 and was required to sell his interest to the First National Bank of Lebanon. The bank organized the Lebanon Electric Light and Water Company to run the property with Samuel L. Garland, S. P. Bach, Stanley I. Stewart and J. C. Mayer administering the firm. Mayer was the bank president, city mayor and is associated with the beginning of the annual strawberry festival.

In 1920, a new power plant was constructed on the west side of town.

In 1923 the canal system and other properties were sold to Mountain States Power Company. This company was based in Albany and owned by the Welsh family. Mountain States Power Company merged with Pacific Power and Light Company in 1954 to form the leading utility company in the Pacific Northwest.

Sources Consulted

1. "Electricity, Watr System Arrive in Lebanon in 1891," Lebanon Express. June 5, 1947.

2. "Historic Lebanon Canal Adds Practical, Esthetic Value to City," Lebanon Express. June 5, 1947.

3. Welsh, William. A Brief History of Oregon City and West Linn, Lebanon, Oregon, Crown Zellerbach Corporation. 1941.

4. Chamber of Commerce. The Lebanon Story.

5. Sim, Ken. Lebanon Electric Light & Water Company History, unpubished paper from Pacific Power and Light company files. 1950.

6. McCracken, Sue. "Built 106 Years Ago PP&L Canal to Channel Water to N. Albany," Portland Oregonian. Aaugust 9, 1979.