

C.W. Kahler's Law Office  
105 North Third Street  
Jacksonville  
Jackson County  
Oregon

HABS No. ORE-90

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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. ORE-90

## C. W. KAHLER'S LAW OFFICE

Location: 105 North Third Street, Jacksonville, Jackson County,  
Oregon

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The lot that Kahler's Law Office stands on has served as an office site for many years. In 1858 it was deeded to Dr. Lewis Ganung,<sup>1</sup> who sold it to Paine Paige Prim--lawyer, U. S. Prosecuting Attorney, and for many years the U. S. District Judge for the Fourth Judicial District of Southern Oregon.<sup>2</sup> (Prim was also a delegate to the convention that drew up the Constitution of the State of Oregon.<sup>3</sup>)

Paine Paige Prim sold the lot to Joseph Gaston,<sup>4</sup> who in turn sold it to L. S. Thompson.<sup>5</sup> When Thompson redivided his lots on California Street, he sold the lot on Third Street to Charles Savage and James Sutton as part of the lot on which they built their drugstore.<sup>6</sup> The Kahlers acquired the lot when they bought the drugstore.<sup>7</sup>

A substantial increase in the value of the land between 1864 and 1868 suggests that a building might have been constructed between those years.<sup>8</sup> The 1868 map of the town shows a larger building on the lot than that shown on the 1864 plat.<sup>9</sup> In the late 1860s, William Hoffman had his office in the building.<sup>10</sup> In the 1870s, it served a number of different purposes. In early 1870, C. C. Beekman renewed his insurance policy on the bank building, and the presence of a printing office north of his building was noted on the policy. In 1873, the policy renewal noted a frame building "occupied as a shoe shop."<sup>11</sup>

In 1877, Kahler and Watson first advertised their law office on Third Street.<sup>12</sup> In a reminiscence of a trip to Jacksonville in March 1779, Albion Kahler mentioned his Uncle Wesley's law office behind the Beekman Bank and his Uncle Rob's drugstore next door to the bank.<sup>13</sup> The present building was probably built by Kahler after the drugstore had been rebuilt in brick.

## FOOTNOTES

1  
Jackson County Deeds, November 12, 1858.

2  
Ibid., February 22, 1859.

3  
Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of Oregon, 1848-1888 (San Francisco: The History Company, 1888), pp. 336, 336 n. 37, and 423, n. 18.

4

Jackson County Deeds, October 22, 1862.

5

Ibid., August 26, 1864.

6

Ibid., March 13, 1866.

7

Ibid., October 19, 1874.

8

Joseph Gaston sold the lot to Thompson for \$800; Thompson in turn sold it for \$1,500.

9

C. E. Curley [and J. S. Howard], "Map of Jacksonville," 1864 and "Map of Jacksonville," 1868.

10

"Map of Jacksonville," 1868 and Jacksonville Reveille Weekly, January 4, 1868.

11

Phoenix Insurance Company, "Insurance Book," MSS in Jacksonville Museum, Jacksonville, Oregon.

12

The Democratic Times, January 6, 1877; previously, they had advertised their office in the court house.

13

"Reminiscence of Jacksonville in 1879," in Albion Kahler Papers, Oregon Historical Society MSS 778.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: The building has one story with a half-story addition.
2. Number of bays: The (east) facade is three bays wide, with a central doorway.
3. Layout, shape: The building is rectangular. On the west end there is a one-story, shed-roofed, rectangular addition.

4. Wall construction, finish, and color: The walls are brick, painted a buff color.

5. Openings:

a. Facade: The facade has three bays with semicircular headed openings, carried on piers with capitals but no bases. The capitals are four courses--the lowest a band of stepped-forward bricks, the next set back, and the top two projecting forward as an abacus. The arches that spring from the capitals are composed of a course of headers set radially, with a surrounding course of projecting headers set circumferentially. The capitals also support a wooden lintel across the center bay; above the lintel a semicircular light is divided into two panes by a vertical muntin. The window bays have recessed brick panels below the window sills. The windows are double-hung two-over-two-light sash; the upper sash have semicircular heads.

b. North wall: On the north wall there are two double-hung sash windows with segmental relieving arches laid flush with the wall surface.

6. Roof:

a. Shape: The roof is a gable, sloping to the north and south from the ridge. On the facade, the gable is masked by a stepped parapet.

b. Cornice: A parapet with applied moldings replaces the usual cornice. The parapet has five sections; the two outer ones are flat topped and step upward to the central semicircular section. A projecting molding, formed by bands of brick, follows the stepped form below the top of the parapet.

c. Dormers: On either side of the roof, dormers have been added to light the half-story under the roof.

B. Description of Interior:

The first floor of the brick building is divided into two rooms by a modern frame partition wall. The half story above consists of one room. The frame addition on the west end also has one room. Panelling, doors, ceilings, and fixtures are all modern.

C. Site and Surroundings:

The facade faces North Third Street. A small yard separates the south wall of the building from Beekman's Bank. On the

north side, an alleyway divides the property from the adjoining residential lot. The structure is built on the property lines of the lot.

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