

**Historic Resources Survey  
City of McMinnville  
Yamhill County, Oregon**

**Site Information**

**Site Address**

406 - 428 NE 3rd St.

**Owner at Time of Survey**

Donna & Wallace Wright

**Map/Tax Lot**

R4421BC09500

**Current Zoning**

C-3

**Special Tax Assessment**

No

**Downtown Historic District**

Yes

**Subdivision Name**

McMinnville, Original Town of

**Block**

16

**Lot**

4

**Lot Size**

5,700 sq.ft.

**Quadrant**

NE

**Site Number**

8.22a

**Aerial Number**

J-11

**Resource Classification**

A

**Resource Number**

476

**Historic Significance**

Primary Resource #204

**Historic Information**

**Date of Construction**

1893

**Early Additions/ Remodels**

**Builder/Architect**

Unknown

**Historic Name**

Wright Building

**Original Use**

Commercial

**Common Name**

1893 Limited

**Present Use**

Commercial

**Condition of Structure**

Good

**Comments (at time of Survey)**

**Building Type**

Commercial

**Outbuildings**

None

**Building Style**

Rectangular/  
Queen Anne

**Stories**

2

**Porch**

**Basement**

**Roof Style**

Flat

**Roof Type**

**Moved**

**Demolished**

**Year/Date**

**Permit Number(s)**

96B0212, 08B0257,  
08B0718, 10B0408

**Additions/ Alterations**

Interior Commerical Remodel; Awnings

**Resource Information**

**Recorded By**

Janice Rutherford

**Date**

5-10-1980

**Sources**

J.C. Cooper " Military History of Yamhill County",  
Wallace Wright

Historic Resource Survey  
City of McMinnville  
Yamhill County, Oregon

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

A476

This imposing rectangular two-story commercial building of painted brick, faces North on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Davis. The most ornate commercial structure in the city, it exhibits Queen Anne influence in the use of a variety of textures. There are tall narrow one-over-one double hung windows at the second floor on the North and West sides of the building; in four on the façade and one on the side, the top light is shorter than the bottom. At ground level the façade has been altered and the entire front is glass with an inset entrance. Five floor-to-roof pilasters which expand into brackets at frieze level and terminate in decorative iron projections above the roofline adorn the façade. There are sixteen stepped-forward piers on the façade from a second floor cornice line to the frieze; then are irregularly spaced. A peaked parapet decorated with elaborate pendilled brackets, a filegreed rake board and lattice design pierces the roofline at center front. An involved cornice of shell designs alternating with pendilled brackets superimposes frieze decorated with small geometric designs. Inset panels above the façade windows display shells and garlands in relief and additional panels between the windows and the frieze are fluted and decorated. Dentil molding below the frieze runs the length of the Westside. The west windows are arced and superimposed by continuous corbelled brick stilted segmental arch labels. Much of the ornament appears to be stucco. It has been highlighted with darker paint, also used on sashes and pilasters. The first floor on the West side has been stuccoed. The interior was recently rehabilitated and now houses several shops and a mezzanine restaurant.

Elsia Wright came to Oregon from Illinois in 1871. He was in the harness business in McMinnville and erected several buildings. This was his finest. It cost \$12,500 to build. He served on City Council and was active in various civic organizations. The building has remained in the Wright family and is owned today by the builder's grandson.

A central steam heating plant with three boilers (log fuel, oil) was located in the basement (put in by Earl Wright) sold heat to other downtown merchants until the 1960's. (Interview with W. Wright 6-24-80.)

New first floor front and windows (6 x 20 and 6 x 22). Also added elevation and basement improvements, 3-27-1914; Telephone Register.

State of Oregon Inventory  
Historic Sites and Buildings  
State Historic Preservation Offices,  
Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

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Elsia Wright was born in Knox County, Illinois, in 1851. He emigrated to Oregon in 1871 and was a farmer until 1888. He then entered the harness business and in 1892 began constructing business buildings in McMinnville. Following the construction of his first building in 1892, he built the Wright Block in 1893 and was also an investor in the Union Block across the street. Wright served as a member of the McMinnville City Council in the 1890's. In 1898 J.C. Cooper noted: "He is one of the heaviest men in the county, weighing 263 pounds when on full feed."

Built in 1893 at a cost of \$12,500, the Wright building is a two-story brick building with a heavy zinc (or metallic) façade connecting chimneys and screening its flat roof. The building has the full appearance of being a late 19<sup>th</sup> century "commercial palace." A photograph from the 1890's indicates the building once had a semi-circular brick arch above a central staircase ascending to the second floor; this stairway has since been altered. The building also had sections of cast iron façade on the main floor. The first floor of the building has been altered several times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the exterior has been covered with stucco. Most of the balls mounted on the façade ornaments have disappeared, but the remaining exterior features of the building are largely intact.

**Historic Resource No. A476**



Photo April 2001



Original 1983 Survey Photo