

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM

County CLACKAMAS

Note: For properties 35 years old and newer, starred (\*) sections are the only required fields.

*Street Address: 801 MAIN STREET			*City: Oregon City		
USGS Quad Name: Oregon City		UTM or GPS Latitude:		Longitude:	
Township: 2S	Range: 2E	Section: 31	Block/Lot: 7/3-6	Tax Lot #: 22E31AB04400	
*Date of Construction: 1935-1936		Historic Name: Clackamas County Courthouse		Historic Use or Function: Courthouse	
Group or Ensemble Name: N/A		*Current Name or Use: Clackamas County Courthouse		Associated Archaeological Site: Unknown	
Style(s): Art Deco			Plan Type/Shape: Rectangular (slightly irregular)		
Foundation Material: Concrete		Structural Framing: Concrete and brick		Number of Stories: 3	
Roof Type/Material: Gabled/rolled and metal		Window Type/Material: 1:1 dh wood			
Exterior Surface Materials - Primary Brick		Secondary: Concrete		Decorative: Stone (limestone?)	
Exterior Alterations or Additions/ Approximate Date(s):		3rd floor added to provide additional courtroom space; some windows on south elevation bricked in; awnings over entrances added			
Integrity: Excellent		Preliminary National Register Findings <input type="checkbox"/> National Register Listed			
Condition: Excellent		Potentially Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually (and/or) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As a contributing resource in a district			
Local Ranking:		Not Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> In current state <input type="checkbox"/> Irretrievable loss of integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Not historic			

Description of Physical and/or Landscape Features:

This is a three-story building with a full basement, much of which is fully exposed as a ground floor on the south and west elevations due to the slope of the landscape. It exemplifies the Art Deco style with its chevrons and stylistic sculptures, which include eagles surmounted on attached columns flanking the doors, scales symbolizing justice, and figures hold an "all-seeing eye" atop the corner piers. The exterior walls are sheathed with brick above the basement; the basement is sheathed with stone in a smooth ashlar rusticated finish. A beltcourse of stone with chevron detailing rings the building above the second floor windows. The east entrance is set off by stone surrounds. The north and south "wings" are set back slightly from the front and rear elevations. The interior includes oak trim, terrazzo floors and Tennessee marble wainscot. Alterations include the raising of the roof over the former jail area and the addition of a third floor to provide additional courtroom space (1959), awnings over the entrances, and filling-in of some windows.

Statement of Significance: (use additional sheets if necessary)

Clackamas County was formed in 1843 by the Provisional Government. The first courthouse, built in 1850, burned in 1862. For the next 20 years, county business was conducted in various rented spaces downtown. An imposing, 2nd Empire style courthouse, designed by Neer and LaRomer, was constructed in 1884-1885 on the site of the present courthouse. By 1930, the building had become overcrowded and badly deteriorated and county officials began seeking funding for a new building. It was not until a PWA grant for \$90,000 was received in 1935, however, that a new courthouse became a possibility. The new courthouse, an excellent example of the popular Art Deco style used for many public works projects during the Great Depression, was designed by architect F. Marion Stokes. Construction, which began in September 1936 and was completed in May 1937, was supervised by Glen L. Ford, a contractor from Portland. The building was constructed with 20,000 sacks of cement, 350,000 board feet of Clackamas County grown and manufactured lumber, and 90,000 bricks from Yamhill County. In keeping with the purpose of the federal relief-funded projects in the 1930s, the project created employment for dozens of people and resulted in 83,121 hours of labor. The total cost of the project was \$273,000. This building should be considered eligible not only as a contributing resource in a historic district, but also as an individually eligible resource. Although there have been some alterations to the building, they have been mostly sensitive to the historic appearance and have not seriously affected the integrity of the building. As an individually eligible resource, the courthouse would be eligible as the only example of an Art Deco building in downtown Oregon City and as a nearly intact example of a public works project funded in part by a federal relief program (PWA) which provided assistance to communities throughout the country.

Researcher/Organization: Michelle L. Dennis			Date Recorded: May 2000		
Survey Form Page 1	Photo Roll #: 2	Frame #(s): 6	Local Designation #:	SHPO #:	

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Architect and/or Builder: F. Marion Stokes, arch/Glen L. Ford, contractor		Owner Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	
Addition or Subdivision Name: Oregon City Original Plat		Owner Name: Clackamas County	
Area(s) of Significance: Government/Social History		Address: 2106 Kaen Rd.	
Property Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> District		City, State, Zip: Oregon City, OR 97045	
		Phone:	

<b>Documentation</b>		
Research Sources: <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives <input type="checkbox"/> State Library <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs	Local Library (specify) Oregon City Public Library  University Library (specif) UO/OSU  Historical Society (specify) Clackamas Co. Historical Society  Other (specify):

<b>Bibliographic References:</b>  <u>Clackamas County and Oregon City Directory</u> . Oregon City, OR: Sohns & Woodbeck, 1917.  Clackamas County Historical Society and Museum history files and historic photographs.  <u>Directory of Oregon City</u> . Portland, OR: Pacific Directory Service, 1941.  <u>Directory of Clackamas County</u> . Portland, OR: Pacific Directory Service, 1948.  Gardner, Wilmer (compiler). <u>Old Oregon City</u> . Oregon City, OR: Clackamas County Historical Society, 1987.  <u>Historic Oregon City</u> . 1957 (n.p.)  Oregon City Enterprise [daily and weekly] (various dates).  Oregon City Library files.  Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1892, 1911, 1925.  "Telephone History in Oregon City." Pacific Northwest Bell, 1976.  The City of Oregon City's 1983 Historic Survey of Downtown Oregon City (individual property files).  Webber, Bert and Margie. <u>Oregon City (By Way of the Barlow Road) At the End of the National Historic Oregon Trail</u> . Medford, OR: Webb Research Group, 1993.  Wiederhold, Kathleen M. <u>Exploring Oregon's Historic Courthouses</u> . Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 1998.
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Researcher/Organization: Michelle L. Dennis		Date Recorded: May 2000	
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		SHPO #:	

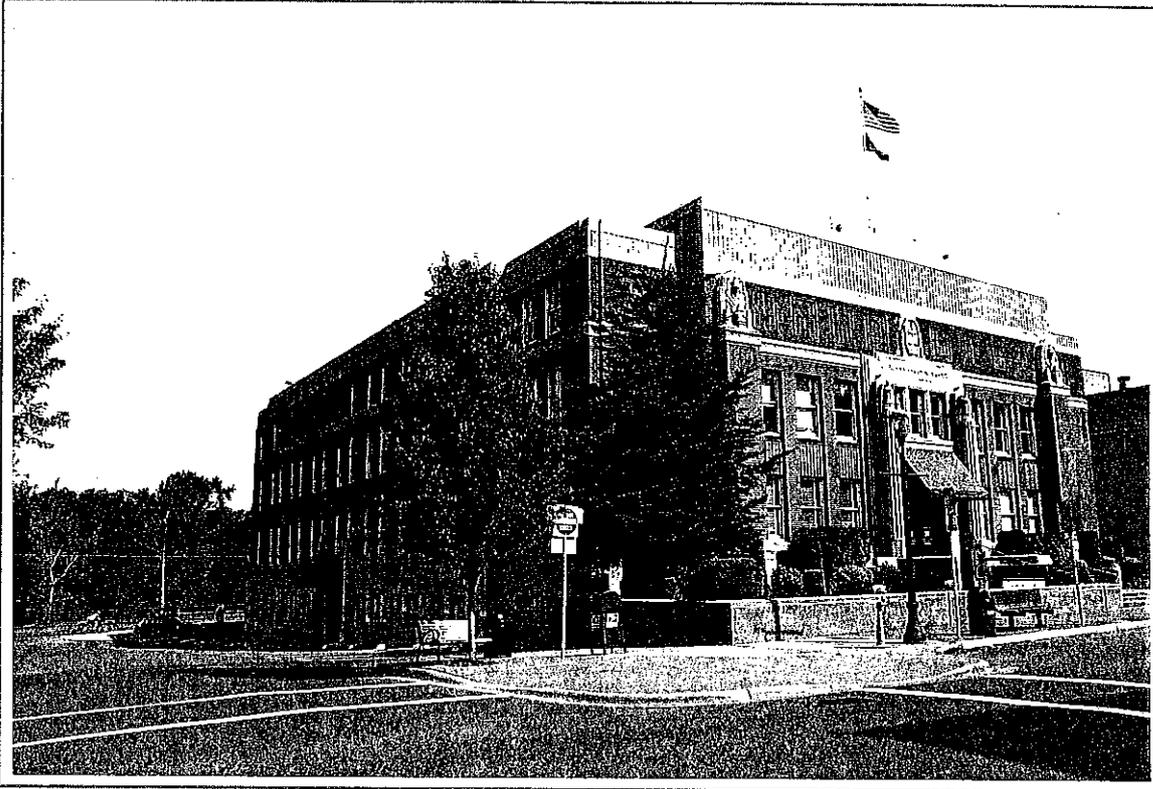
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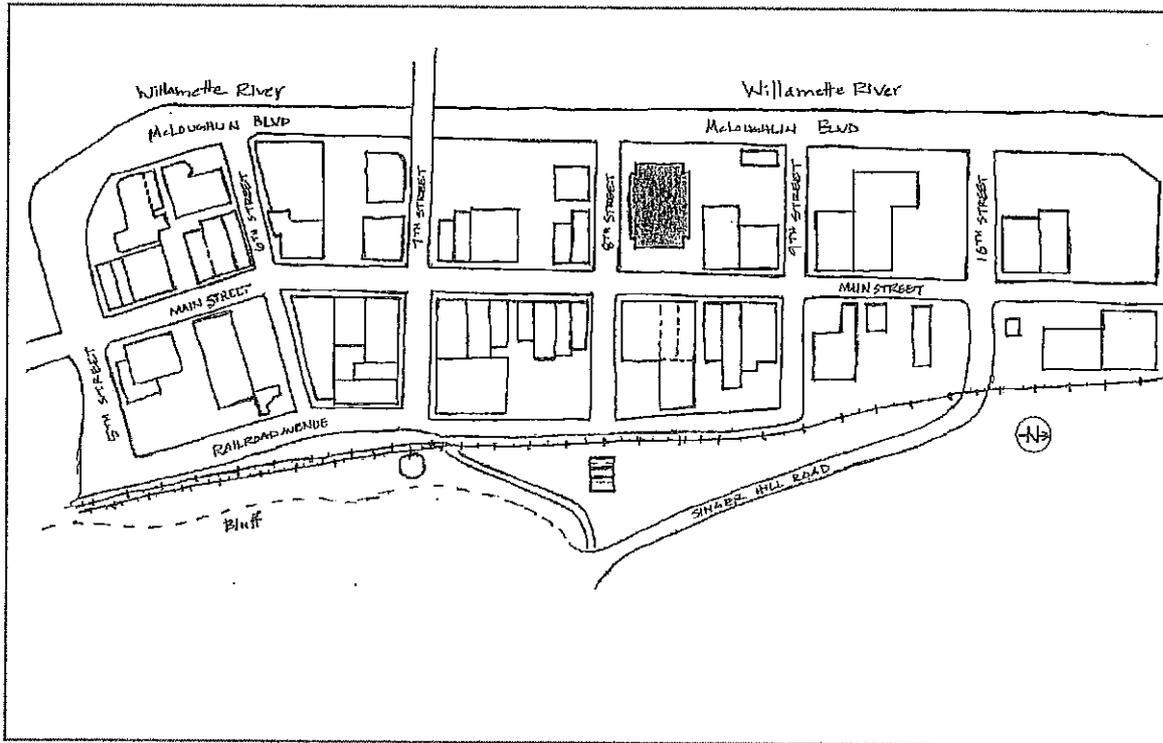
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Photo:



Map:



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Survey Form Page <b>2</b>	Photo Roll #: <b>21</b>	Frame #(s): <b>213</b>	Local Designation #:	SHPO #: