

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Umatilla County Library

other names/site number Pendleton Public Library

2. Location

street & number 214 N. Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Pendleton N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Umatilla code 059 zip code 97801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jan Hamrick June 25, 1997  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

2 Signature of the Keeper 8/15/97 Date of Action  
Paul R. Fugini

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**UMATILLA COUNTY LIBRARY (1916)**

214 N Main Street

Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The former Umatilla County Library in Pendleton, Oregon was built in 1916 from a design in the tradition of the American Renaissance by Folger Johnson, Portland architect. It occupies a prominent, but constricted site on the north bank of the Umatilla River adjacent to the Main Street bridge which links Pendleton's North Hill area to the main body of the city and its central business district. The building meets National Register Criterion C as the city's outstanding example of historic period architecture in the Italian Renaissance style. It also is noteworthy as an efficient and aesthetically pleasing adaptation of Carnegie Library Foundation program requirements to a challenging riverside site.

The site, sloping to the south, toward the river, is an irregular triangular lot of just under a quarter of an acre which dictated a V-shaped plan in which public spaces are laid out in two nearly perpendicular wings. The south facade of the main reading room parallels the river bank, and the west face of the children's room wing fronts on Main Street. Filling the intervening space in this parti is the stack room with its partial mezzanine. The single story volume, with concrete framing members and stuccoed hollow clay tile wall construction, rises from a full basement story of concrete and a concrete foundation. The low gable roof is covered with clay tiles detailed with a full classical entablature with modillioned cornice. That the inspiration for the design comes from the Italian Renaissance is evident. The signal feature of the building is its angled and pedimented entrance bay at the front corner, where a monumental Palladian portico shelters a vestibule that is achieved from a shallow plaza and a flight of concrete steps leading from street grade. An arched wrought iron gate secures the vestibule, from which point the entrance gives access to an interior flight of steps leading to the central circulation space. In the articulation of spandrels of the portico facade in color outline and contrasting textures, both smooth and pebble-dashed stucco, the facade mimics the polychromed Florentine churches of the late Middle Ages and the more subtly articulated Florentine buildings of the 15th and 16th centuries. It is known from a conversation with the architect that was reported in the *Pendleton East Oregonian* for July 9, 1915, that a specific source of inspiration for the library portico was Filippo Brunelleschi's Pazzi Chapel in the cloister of Santa Croce in Florence, a work begun in 1429, nine years after Brunelleschi commenced his masterpiece, the dome of Florence Cathedral.

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Generous arcaded fenestration of the two main exterior elevations sustains the Renaissance theme and expresses the large common spaces within. The wings terminate at the outer corners in apsidal bays. Among the many fine craft details of note are classical trim and chimneypieces in the reading rooms, which include denticulated cornice molding and monumental chimney fronts incorporating pilasters of the Ionic order and full classical entablatures. The large overmantel panels were designed for the display of commemorative plaques and rotating exhibit material. Pendleton's library is a distant echo of the American archetype, McKim, Mead and White's Boston Public Library of 1892, which embodied the Renaissance ideal of integrating the arts and architecture. In the period 1890-1915, the best American architects, sculptors, and painters trained in the academic traditions of the École des Beaux Arts at home or abroad had reached a proficiency that reflected the nation's wealth, its industrial power, and political vigor. This gave rise to the concept of a genuine American Renaissance. The point bears emphasis since the architect was a student of the École des Beaux Arts, and the appropriateness of a Renaissance theme for the library's design was discussed and reported on locally.

Competition was central to architectural training in the Beaux Arts tradition. Grand-scale public building design projects were emphasized so students could learn to analyze function and organize circulation. A formal axis, in this case two, and a dominant central volume as a focal point were hallmarks of Beaux-Arts composition. The influence of Beaux Arts academic eclecticism is evident in Johnson's library in the basement meeting room in which the focal point at the end of the long axis is a fireplace in the medieval great hall vein consisting of an elliptical arched alcove with back wall and floor of ceramic tile. Above the firebox is a mantel shelf on oversized modillion blocks, and on either side are opposing settles, or built-in seats.

The basement contains, in addition to its specialized public spaces, such as meeting room and auditorium, the mechanical services, including boiler room, wood and coal storage areas.

The building was little altered in its 80 years of use as a public library. Before the building was closed in 1996, disability access had been accommodated from the northwest corner in the opening of a doorway adjacent to the chimney piece in the children's reading room. A vestibule created for this entrance, reached by ramp from Despain Avenue, abuts the chimneypiece, narrowly avoiding encroachment upon it. Other minor alterations were the closure of skylights and installation of fluorescent lighting.

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As is well supported by the applicant's documentation, the Umatilla County Library also meets Criterion A in the area of social history as the tangible reminder of the community's achievement in creating a county-wide library system of which the hub of distribution was the county seat. The premise was that every outlying community was entitled to be served through a branch library. The property also illustrates the far-reaching influence of the Carnegie Foundation of New York, which in its nationwide philanthropy set the standard for public libraries as community centers supporting cultural events as well as reading and research. In this project, the foundation formed by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie leveraged the conventional donation of land for a building site, stipulated fire-resistant construction, and granted the community \$25,000 toward its goal. The foundation also allocated smaller grants to two branch libraries of the county system, those in Milton and Hermiston, in what was the last major phase of the foundation's giving. The application brings out the fact that the Umatilla County Library was the last of 25 projects in Oregon to be funded from this source. In addition to Milton and Hermiston, there were six other outlying communities in the County library's distribution system.

The library had its genesis in 1913 with the formation of a Umatilla County Library Board which successfully campaigned for a County levy. In 1914, however, a new board was formed of the merger of the County Court and a board appointed by the Mayor. It was this group that applied to the Carnegie Foundation for assistance. To achieve their goal of a county-wide network, the library supporters campaigned successfully to overturn a state law that prevented levies for local library development in towns with populations under 50,000. Just as the library's design was tied to the sense of pride in American competence in the arts, as a civic project it was part of the general tenor of upbuilding in Pendleton during the first two decades of the 20th century. The regional agricultural trading center in Oregon's high Columbia Plateau country was platted as early as 1868 but did not begin to reach its greatest growth until after the arrival of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company in 1881. By 1928, it is reported, the Umatilla County Library was considered the best supported public library in the state outside of Portland.

The application adds welcome detail to general knowledge of the career of Folger Johnson (1882-1970), an erstwhile partner of Jamieson Parker and Carl Wallwork in Oregon's metropolitan center, Portland. Johnson, a native of Georgia, was educated at Georgia Institute of Technology and received his bachelor's degree in architecture from Columbia University. From 1908 to 1910, he studied in Paris at the École des Beaux Arts and eventually entered practice in Portland for a time with Parker and Wallwork. Before his selection by the Umatilla County Library Board as architect for the central library project in 1915, Johnson had designed two Carnegie-assisted libraries in the metropolitan area: the English Tudor Gresham Library and the

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Georgian-style St. Johns Library, both projects of 1913. Criticism of the board's failure to award the design commission to local talent was ameliorated in the naming of Pendleton architect Raymond Hatch as local supervising architect. Raymond Hatch commenced his Oregon practice in this role after having completed his training at the University of Pennsylvania in 1909. Hatch's active period in Umatilla County spanned the years 1915-1924.

The library facility ceased operating as a County library in 1987 after voters approved a measure to create a separate taxing district for the County Library. As a result, the building was reopened as the Pendleton Public Library and was administered as a department of city government. It was in 1994 that voters approved relocation of the city library facilities into a new city hall, and the old library was closed in 1996. It is now the object of lease agreement between the City of Pendleton and the Arts Council of Pendleton for renovation as a community arts center.

The proposed renovation plan calls for expansion of the entrance lobby and reopening of its skylight, conversion of the children's reading room in the northwest wing to an exhibit gallery, conversion of the southeast wing as a sales gallery and administrative office, and provision for a cafe in the former reading porch. A theater will be installed in the stack room. The basement will be converted to studio spaces, multi-purpose meeting room, and various service and work rooms.

Mayor Robert Ramig signed his approval on April 1, 1997 to a Pendleton City Council resolution (No. 1936) endorsing the initiative of the Arts Council of Pendleton to nominate the City-owned library building to the National Register. A copy of the resolution is appended to this documentation. As previously mentioned, the City leases the building to the Arts Council and supports the Arts Council's efforts to adapt the building as a community arts center. The City relocated its public library and city hall to a remodeled junior high school. An allocation from proceeds of the sale of the old City Hall is to assist the Arts Council in its goal.

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT\NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Hollow Clay Tiles/Concrete

roof Clay Tiles

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### SUMMARY

The Umatilla County Library in Pendleton, Oregon was constructed in 1915-16 in the Italian Renaissance style and opened in September, 1916. Designed by Folger Johnson and his associate, Raymond Hatch, the library was the first building specifically designed for public library purposes in Umatilla County. Construction of the library was funded, in part, by the Carnegie Foundation. The building was constructed of concrete and hollow clay tiles and inspired by the traditions of the Ecoles des Beaux Arts. The building served as a public library for 80 years from 1916 to 1996 when the library was moved to a new facility in Pendleton. Currently unoccupied, the Arts Council of Pendleton has a 30 year lease on the building from the City of Pendleton. The Arts Council plans to convert the building to a community arts center. The building is listed on the State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings (1976) and listed in the City of Pendleton's comprehensive plan as a historic resource.

### SETTING

The Umatilla County Library is located at 214 N. Main Street (tax lot 2700) and is sited on the north bank of the Umatilla River at the north end of the N. Main Street Bridge. The building was constructed on a triangular lot; North Main Street is to the west, Northeast Despain Avenue is to the north, and the Umatilla River to the south and southeast. Downtown is directly south of the library building and is characterized by commercial buildings, apartments, and churches. The First Christian Church is across N. Main Street to the west and residences are north of the library on the north side of Northeast Despain Avenue.

The southeast and east sides of the building drop down to the river's edge exposing the full height of the basement level. Concrete stairs from the entrance plaza leads to the river's edge on the southeast side of the building. The river bank is covered with deciduous trees and shrubs which include beach trees, alder, and locust trees. Mature deciduous trees are on the east side of the property.

A small concrete plaza which overlooks the river to the south, is in front of the concrete entrance stairs. A low stucco retaining wall encloses the plaza on the south and east sides. A small cast concrete bench with fluted legs is on the south side of the plaza.

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A sidewalk extends around the southwest side of the building along N. Main Street. Three small shrubs are planted in the grassy area between the building and the sidewalk on the southwest elevation. A flagpole is near the front entrance. Junipers and deciduous shrubs are planted in the northwest corner of the site. Northeast Despain Avenue is raised above the building lot on the north side of the building. Steep, narrow stairs along the north elevation lead to the basement delivery door. The stairway is lined with a high stuccoed retaining wall.

### PLAN

The Italian Renaissance style Umatilla County Library is basically triangular in plan with a rounded reading porch on the eastern axis. The building measures approximately 109' east-west; 64' along the northwest-south axis; and 82' east-south axis. The corner entrance portico measures approximately 24' wide. The building is one-story in height with a full basement and a partial mezzanine. The full basement height is exposed on the southeast and east facades. The basement level is constructed of concrete and the main floor walls are hollow clay tiles.

### GENERAL EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The building has a low-pitched gable roof system covered with greenish clay tiles. The built-in gutters in the cornice are lined with a galvanized iron liner. The overhanging eaves are embellished with decorative wooden brackets. A gable roof which intersects the main roof system shelters the main corner entrance. The library has three chimneys; one on the northwest corner; one in the east end of the southeast wing; and another chimney in the northeast corner of the building. There were two original skylights in the roof system; one in the reading porch (boarded over) and one in the entrance delivery space (boarded over).

The exterior of the library is covered with a pebble-dash stucco finish on the main floor and a smoother float finish on the basement level. The basement walls are constructed of concrete and the main floor walls are constructed of hollow clay tiles. According to the original architectural drawings, the main level floor is constructed of cast-in-place concrete and consists of a 2" concrete slab in combination with concrete joists which span the exterior concrete basement walls and interior concrete beams. The concrete beams are supported with concrete columns. The building has a concrete foundation.

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### Southwest Elevation

The main story of the southwest elevation is composed of five, wooden multi-pane windows with fanlights above. Brick arches, covered with a stucco finish, support the rounded arch windows. The upper portions of the windows are fixed pane and the lower half are casement windows. The windows are recessed slightly and have no trim with the exception of a slightly projecting sill which is finished with a smoother float stucco finish. Built-in window boxes decorate the middle three windows. The window boxes are constructed of concrete and finished with a float finish. Concrete brackets support the window boxes. Each window box was constructed with two drain holes.

Stairs on the southern end of the elevation lead down to the basement level. A concrete retaining wall surrounds the stairwell. Double steel doors access the basement. Another stairway leading to the basement auditorium is near the center of this elevation. The wooden double doors have a multi-pane transom above. Three small multi-pane windows are located between the two basement entrances. The windows have slightly projecting window sills.

### Corner Entrance Portico (South Entrance)

Concrete steps lead into the corner entrance portico. The portico is embellished with a heavy wooden cornice supported with wooden brackets. Wooden dentils decorate the frieze. The tympanum is slightly recessed with "Pendleton Public Library" framed in raised letters on a pebble dash stucco finish. The area outside the name block is finished with a float stucco finish. The spandrels are accentuated with geometric panels finished with a pebble-dash finish; a smoother float finish surrounds the panels. The portico has a central arch embellished with a keystone. The arch has decorative rectangular panels on the underside of the archway and surmounts the architrave. The architrave is supported by Ionic columns with opposing volutes. Paired pilasters flank the central Ionic columns and are sheathed with a float stucco finish.

An arched wrought iron gate between the entrance columns and pilasters enclose the entrance vestibule. The vestibule has a high domed ceiling covered with a stucco finish. Oak doors are located on the west and east side of the vestibule and lead to interior spaces. Recessed stucco panels are above the doors.

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Double oak door with glass in the upper panels leads to the interior foyer. A multi-pane transom caps the double doors. A pedimented gable surmounts the foyer doors which are flanked by pilasters. The concrete floor in the vestibule is decorated with inlay terra cotta tiles. Double oak doors on the north side of the foyer lead to the interior delivery space.

Southeast and East Elevations

The southeast elevation faces the Umatilla River and is two stories in height. The basement level is exposed due to the slope of the site towards the river. Stairs from the entrance plaza lead down to the river's edge. This elevation is characterized by two rows of windows; one row illuminating the reading room on the main floor and the other row illuminating the basement story hour room. The main story window fenestration is identical to the southwest elevation; five, arched fanlight multi-pane windows with concrete window boxes below the middle three windows. A pebble-dash stucco finish covers the first story. The basement windows are multi-pane casement windows. Reinforces concrete lintels support all the basement windows. The basement wall surface is finished with a smoother float stucco finish.

The east elevation is characterized by the semi-circular reading porch. Classical wooden columns flank the window openings and concrete balusters form a balustrade between the window openings. The openings have been enclosed with glass windows (ca. 1950s alteration). Originally, the window openings were enclosed by removable screens. A skylight, now boarded over, was in the northern end of the reading room. Multi-pane windows light the county book room below the sun porch.

North Elevation

The north elevation is the longest axis of the building and fronts Northeast Despain Avenue. The elevation has a series of rectangular multi-pane windows and one round arch window on the western end of the elevation. Narrow, steep stairs lead down to the basement boiler room. The street level is elevated higher than the building on the north elevation.

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### INTERIOR

#### Main Floor

The main floor plan is composed of three main spaces plus several smaller auxiliary spaces. These rooms include a children's room, reading room, stack room, committee room, cloak rooms, main delivery space, reading porch, librarian's room, and cataloging room.

#### Delivery Space

The delivery space is an open area immediately inside the foyer which houses the circulation desk. Double oak doors from the foyer lead into the entrance space. The 15 ft. ceilings are accentuated by a wide classically inspired plaster crown molding with dentils. Originally, an art glass circular skylight illuminated the delivery room; the skylight has been boarded over (glass removed) and a fluorescent light installed over the opening. A recessed area, originally designed to house an umbrella stand, is directly east of the entrance doors. A drinking foundation is now in the recess. A wooden built-in bench is directly east of this drinking foundation and visually separates the entrance delivery space from the adult reading room on the east.

Auxiliary rooms flank the entrance vestibule. On the east side is a small committee room. The room is approximately 10' x 14'6" and has an acoustic tile ceiling and carpeting on the floor. The walls are plaster and finished with a high baseboard with molded cap. A small triangular closet is the northwest corner of the room.

Two coat rooms are located on the west side of the entrance space. These are small rooms with high ceilings and vinyl floor covering. The coat room nearest the entrance vestibule is an irregularly shaped room with a multi-pane casement window on the west elevation which overlooks the side stair hall. The access panel to the attic is located in this room.

#### Reading Rooms

The two reading room wings form a V-shape in the overall plan and are separated from the central stack room by eight square concrete posts. The rooms are long rectangular rooms with fireplaces at the end of the long axis (north and east ends). A wide plaster dentilated crown molding extends around the two rooms. The

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plaster walls are finished with an 8 1/2" baseboard capped with a simple molding. The original hanging pendant light fixtures (six in each room) have been replaced over the years with fluorescent lights.

The outside walls of the two rooms (the south and west walls) have five round arch multi-pane windows that illuminate the rooms. The tall windows extend almost to the crown molding. Radiators (26" high) with built-in wooden covers are below each window. The floors are covered with carpet. Oak bookcases separate the adult reading room from the stack room.

The fireplace at the east end of the adult reading room is classically detailed. The deep cornice, supported by brackets, projects over the frieze. Dentils decorate the bottom of the cornice. The simple frieze has raised rosettes at either end. Ionic fluted pilasters (approx. 12" wide) flank the central hearth. A painting depicting Native Americans on horseback decorates the area above the mantel. The painting (artist unknown) was donated to the library by Doris Bounds in the 1950s. Bounds owned a bank in Hermiston, Oregon and had a large Native American art collection (her collection is currently housed at the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon). The painting replaced another painting entitled "Battle of Willow Springs" that was loaned to the library in the 1940s. Originally, the area above the mantel was used for display. The hearth surround is made of a greenish-gray marble tile trimmed with a wooden molding. The molding is decorated with an egg and dart pattern. A newer fireplace insert has been installed over the firebox opening.

Doors flank the fireplace. A French door with a multi-pane transom above is located on the south side of the fireplace. This door lead to the reading porch. The solid paneled door on the north side of the fireplace leads to the librarian's room. A bronze plaque (designed by Folger Johnson) with the inscription, "In Memoriam, Samuel P. Sturgis, 1836-1896. Founder and Generous Benefactor of the Pendleton Public Library. Books, Friendship, and Inspiration are Legacies Forever Remembered. Inscribed by the Friends, 1916" is above the door to the librarian's room. Both doors have a recessed arched panel above the opening that mimic the round arch of the windows.

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The fireplace at the north end of the children's room, although smaller in scale, is identical in detail to the fireplace in the reading room. A wood stove insert has been installed in the firebox. A bronze plaque is above the mantel which commemorates the construction of the library and early library board members. An oak leaf border surrounds the inscription.

A rear entrance vestibule has been added to the northwest corner of the children's room. The vestibule abuts the fireplace; a portion of the volute on the Ionic pilaster was removed when the vestibule walls were installed. The vestibule is composed of low wall. The original window in the northwest corner of the children's room/vestibule was removed and replaced with a door. A wheel chair ramp on the exterior leads to this exit door.

### Stack Room and Mezzanine

The stack room is a triangular shaped room in between the two reading room wings. The room has a simple plaster crown molding that finish the plaster walls. Multi-pane windows with bookcases below line the north elevation of the room. Carpet covers the floor. Staircases to the mezzanine and basement are on the east elevation of the room as is the door to the cataloging room. The wooden staircase to the mezzanine is composed of simple square newel posts and square balusters grouped in threes.

The mezzanine has low ceilings with a simple crown molding. Small multi-pane casement windows with brass hardware line the east and north elevations. Radiators are below the window. There is no trim around the rounded windows corners. Original cork floor covering is still intact in the mezzanine. The mezzanine was originally designed as a space to house a Native American collection of artifacts.

### Cataloging and Librarian's Room

The cataloging room is a narrow room with high window on the north and east elevations and built-in closets on the south elevation. The low ceilings (approx. 8'6") are finished with a simple crown molding. The three built-in closets on the south wall house a sink, lockers, and a cupboard. Another door in the southwest corner leads to the book lift that goes to the basement. The hydraulic book lift is still intact. The door to the librarian's room is on the south wall of the room as is a window that overlooks the reading porch.

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The librarian's room is a small room with low (8'6"") ceilings finished with a simple crown molding. The plaster walls are finished with a high baseboard. The floors are carpeted. A window that overlooks the reading porch is on the east wall of the room. A small closet is in the southeast corner of the room.

### Reading Porch

The reading porch has been remodeled over the years (1950s/60s). The walls are covered with vertical knotty pine paneling finished with a low baseboard. Acoustic tiles cover the ceiling. Multi-pane casement windows are on the west and north elevations which overlook to the librarian's room and the cataloging room. The original porch window openings have been enclosed with glass; the top lights are multi-pane and the lower lights are a single pane of glass. The light fixtures were also installed in the 1950s/60s.

### BASEMENT

The basement level is divided into two main rooms with several auxiliary rooms. The rooms in the basement include the hallway, vestibule, auditorium, story hour room, janitor's closet, restrooms, kitchenette, county book room, boiler room, and box room.

### Hallway and Vestibule

The stairway from the stack room on the main floor to the basement leads to the central interior hall. Doors in the hall access the box room, restrooms, auditorium, vestibule, story hour room, and county book room. The floor and the baseboards in the hall are constructed of concrete. Wooden cabinets line the southern wall of the hall. High multi-pane windows are above the cabinets and let in light from the story hour room. The door on the west end of the hall leads into the vestibule. The vestibule is a hexagonal shaped room with doors to the kitchenette, men's lavatory, janitor's closet, stair hall, auditorium, hall, and story hour room. The door on the western side of the vestibule leads to the stair hall. The L-shaped stair hall leads to a landing with metal double doors that access the west side of the building. The stairs then ascend southerly to wooden doors that open into the main corner entrance vestibule.

### County Book Room

The county book room is an irregular shaped room and includes the

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book lift and the staff lavatory. The room has concrete floors covered with vinyl tiles and concrete baseboards. A picture rail extends around the perimeter of the room. The piping for the radiators are on the ceiling as are the fluorescent lights. The east elevation of the room is slightly rounded reflecting the main floor reading porch plan. Windows line the east elevation. A small staff lavatory is located in the southwest corner of the room. The lavatory has the original sink and light fixtures intact. Wood wainscoting lines the walls of the lavatory. The hydraulic book lift is located in a small rectangular alcove in the northwest corner of the room. The lift ascends to the cataloging room above.

### Story Hour Room

The story hour room is a long rectangular room measuring approximately 48' by 27'6". Tall, multi-pane windows, overlooking the Umatilla River, are on the south side of the room. Radiators are below the windows. The floor is covered with vinyl floor covering (installed 1982) with cork flooring underneath. Eight inch baseboards finish the floors. The room is lit with fluorescent lights. A door on the west end of the room leads to the downstairs vestibule. A kitchenette is at the west end of the story hour room. The small kitchen has built-in cabinets, a sink, and stove. The floor is covered with linoleum. A window is on the south end of the room and doors are located on the east and north elevations.

A fireplace alcove is at the east end of the story hour room. The fireplace has a recessed elliptic arch over the mantel. Scored concrete in 8" x 8" squares decorates the arch of the fireplace. Six inch by six inch ceramic tiles, outline the arch of the fireplace. A central diamond-shaped pattern made with with inlaid ceramic tiles is the central focal point of the area above the mantel. Concrete scored to simulate 8" x 8" tiles surrounds the hearth. A single coursing of ceramic tiles surrounds the fire box. The concrete has been stained with a rust and gray colorant to simulate ceramic tiles. Paired chamfered modillions support the projecting wooden mantel. Two decorative green ceramic tiles designed with a dragon motif decorate the area below the mantel. The floor in the fireplace alcove is covered with ceramic tiles. A black metal fireplace screen has been installed over the firebox. The fireplace alcove is flanked by two built-in wooden seats.

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### Janitor's Closet and Men's Lavatory

The janitor's closet is a small room underneath the west stair hall. The closet has concrete floors and baseboards. The interior wall between the closet and the men's lavatory is constructed of hollow clay tiles. The men's lavatory is east of the janitor's closet and is an irregular-shaped room with high ceilings and a concrete floor. Wainscoting extends around the perimeter of the room. The lavatory stalls have been modified probably in the 1950s/1960s.

### Auditorium

The auditorium encompasses the northwest half of the basement and is bicycle triangular in plan. The ceilings are 11'6" high and finished with a simple crown molding. The floors, baseboards, and walls are constructed of concrete. Cork flooring covers the floor. A door on the west elevation serves as an exterior exit. Three windows on the west elevation light the interior. A stage, removed, was originally at the east end of the room. A door on the south side of the stage area leads to the interior hallway.

### Women's Lavatory

The trapezoidal-shaped room has a multi-pane window at the north end and a door on the south end that leads to the hallway. Two original wall-hung sinks are on the west side of the room and the two toilet stalls are on the east side. Wood wainscoting extends around the perimeter of the room. The floor and baseboards are concrete.

### Box Room and Boiler Room

The box room, more recently used as a janitor's storage room, is a long L-shaped room directly west of the stairs to the main floor. The room has plaster walls and a concrete floor. A wide door with a multi-pane transom above is on the north end of the room. A small closet with a sink and the hydraulic system for the book lift is located underneath the stairway. A wide metal clad door on the east elevation of the room leads to the boiler room (stamped in metal door is "Yukon Extra Cooper").

The boiler room is comprised of one larger room with a wood bin and a coal bin on the north wall. The boiler room has a high ceiling and concrete walls and floor. The boiler (new as of 1974) is centrally located. An exhaust fan and motor associated with an original vacuuming system is located in the southwest corner of

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the room. Large wooden batten doors separates the coal and wood bins from the boiler room. The two bins are constructed of concrete and have hatches in the ceiling for delivery.

**MECHANICAL SYSTEMS**

Currently (1997), the building is heated by cast iron radiators. The heating system consists of a cast iron sectional boiler in the basement that heats water which is pumped to the attic then gravity fed to radiators located under the windows on the main floor and basement. A single thermostat on the main floor controls the heating system. Two five-ton split system heat pump units provide air conditioning and mild weather heating for the stack areas on the main floor. Ventilation air for the facility is provided by operable windows. The existing plumbing piping for water distribution is made of galvanized steel. An electrical water heater located in the basement boiler room provides the hot water.

**MAJOR ALTERATIONS (1950s to 1980s)**

The Umatilla County Library is virtually intact. Alterations from the 1950s to the 1980s include: installation of a door (and removal of original window, 1980s) on the northwest corner of the building to allow for a second exit and wheel chair ramp; construction of an entrance vestibule in the northwest corner of the children's room; removal of window seats flanking the fireplace in the children's room and a seat between the delivery space and children's room; replacement of the double wooden doors with metal doors on the southwest elevation (these lead to the basement); enclosure of the skylight in the delivery space and the reading porch; remodeling of the reading porch in the early 1960s, includes installation of windows in the window openings of the reading porch; carpeting the interior floors on the main level; installation of air conditioning units in some of the windows; removal of original pendant lights with fluorescent lights; and removal of the stage in the auditorium.

**PROPOSED RESTORATION AND RENOVATION WORK FOR ART CENTER**

Exterior: Install new roof matching existing tiles in profile, color, and details; construction of exterior plaza on the southeast side of the building overlooking the river; addition of new wheel chair ramps on the south and west elevations; add door to north elevation for second exit; site work to improve drainage

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on the north side; replace stairs to the basement on the north elevation; remove door; restore window in the northwest corner of the building; and reinstall window seats flanking fireplace in children's room.

**Main Floor:** Remove low partition walls that were installed in the northwest corner of the children's room; restore missing volute on fireplace in the children's room; add low partitions between children's room and stack room, and reading room and stack room; install new restrooms in original librarian's and cataloging rooms; install art glass and restore skylight in delivery space and reading room; reinstall window seats in children's room.

**Basement:** Reconfigure auditorium and women's restroom into painting studio, new restrooms; darkrooms, practice rooms, ceramic room, and storage room; convert portions of boiler room into kiln room and video editing room; install elevator in stair hall in southwest corner of basement; and convert men's restroom and janitor's closet into storage room and mechanical system room for elevator.

**Mechanical Systems:** Install site drainage system; upgrade main electrical service; and replace radiators and air conditioners with new zoned HVAC system.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1916 to 1946

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Folger Johnson: Architect

Raymond Hatch: Supervising Arch.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Pendleton City Library

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Umatilla County Library, erected in 1916 and used for public library purposes for 80 years, meets National Register criterion "a" as a lasting testament to the early work of Umatilla County residents to establish a county-wide library system. The development of a county-wide system was promoted by the local library board, women's clubs, and other civic organizations. The members of the library board thought that every person in the county should have access to books and that every community was entitled to a branch library. With grants from the Carnegie Foundation, the library board succeeded in their efforts to build a main library in Pendleton (\$25,000 grant), and branch libraries in Milton (\$7,500 grant) and Hermiston (\$5,000 grant). The Umatilla County Library in Pendleton became a gathering place in the community for reading, research, meetings, and community events.

The Umatilla County Library also represents the far-reaching effects of the Carnegie Foundation in helping communities establish libraries across the nation. The library also represents the last of the philanthropic ventures of the Carnegie Foundation in Oregon: Umatilla County was the last jurisdiction in Oregon to receive funding from the Carnegie Foundation to build libraries.

The Umatilla County Library is also significant under criterion "c" as a well preserved example of a Carnegie Library built in the Italian Renaissance style. The building was designed by Portland architect Folger Johnson. Johnson studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and was inspired by classical architecture. The entrance to the Umatilla County Library was modeled after the portico of the Pazzi Chapel of the church of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. The chapel was the work of the celebrated Italian architect, Filippo Brunelleschi (ca. 1377 to 1446). Johnson also designed the Gresham Library and the St. Johns Library in historic period styles. The Gresham Library was designed in the English Tudor style and the St. Johns Library designed in the 20th Century Georgian Revival style.

The Umatilla County Library displays characteristics of the Italian Renaissance style in its low-pitched clay tile roof, round-arched windows, richly embellished cornice with dentils and brackets, pedimented portico, Ionic columns and pilasters, and the turned balusters on the reading porch. Classical details inside

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the building are evident in the dentilated crown molding and classically inspired fireplace surrounds.

The period of significance dates from 1916 to 1946. The start date represents the construction date of the library and the end date represents the 50 year cut-off date for significance according to National Register guidelines. The areas of significance include architecture and education.

### EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF PENDLETON

The early development of City of Pendleton was closely tied to the Oregon Trail. One of the main streets in Pendleton, Court Street, roughly followed a route of the Oregon Trail. The original town of Pendleton was platted in 1868, the same year the community was selected as the county seat for Umatilla County. The City, with 730 residents, was incorporated on October 25, 1880 in anticipation of the coming of the railroad.

In 1881, the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company railroad began operation of a railroad from Portland to Umatilla Landing (near the present town of Umatilla) along the Columbia River. The same year, the railroad built its first depot in Pendleton south of the incorporated city limits on right-of-way granted by the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The southern boundary of the town was built along the northern boundary of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. In 1884, rail connections to the East Coast were completed. Pendleton, on the main east-west line, was assured of continued growth.

Activities associated with the railroad provided the stimulus for the construction of many of the commercial buildings in downtown Pendleton. "With the completion of the transcontinental railroad, local products such as cattle, wheat, wool, and flour could be shipped nationwide. Pendleton quickly blossomed into a regional inland shipping center. The economic base of the region, which had always been agricultural, now broadened in Pendleton to include a wide variety of commercial activities" (National Register Nomination, S. Main Street Commercial Historic District). By 1900, Pendleton had a population of 4,406 and was the fourth largest town in Oregon.

During the first two decades of the 20th Century, several of the major commercial and public buildings were built in Pendleton.

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The public buildings constructed during this time period included City Hall (1908), the second railroad depot (1910), the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (1916), and the Umatilla County Library (1916). Other activities spurred growth in Pendleton at that time including the organization of a rodeo after the 1910 harvest, which became known as the Pendleton Round-up. The rodeo brought thousands of people into the city every year. The Umatilla River levy and the water transmission line were also completed around 1915. The community prospered until the 1930s when the depression hit hard in the community.

### THE PENDLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

In the late 1880s, the first donation was received towards establishing a "free" public library in Pendleton. Other gifts followed. Sam Jackson of the *East Oregonian* newspaper donated books and in 1894, a library festival sponsored by the Commercial Association raised \$1,700 in cash and books. In 1896, Samuel P. Sturgis, a prominent Pendleton business person, left \$5,000 to the Commercial Association for the purchase of new library books. This fund would later become the source of conflict between the county and city library systems.

In May 1909, a public library was opened on the second story of City Hall and became known as the Pendleton Public Library. The City allotted \$531.20 in funds to the library plus providing the space and utilities. Rules and regulations were written by the Library Commission about the structure of the city library. The library was open seven days a week with the exception of the 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

The Commercial Association, who had accumulated a collection of books over the years, transferred its collection to the new library to have it administered from the library facility at City Hall. Other civic organizations contributed financially as well as with contributions of books. In 1911, the Civic Club started a fiction rental fund. Several hundred books were purchased and then lent to the library for use in their collection. The city continued its library service for five years until plans began for developing a county wide library system.

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THE UMATILLA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

In 1913, the library board (seven women and two men) and the women's club started a campaign to start a county-wide library system. The goals of starting branch libraries in remote communities were expressed by the board and the women backers as follows:

*We want a system that will give us a central building in Pendleton, where all the county people can come and rest and read when they are through shopping: a regular clubhouse sort of building with rooms for clubs' meetings, and farmers' meetings, and conventions. And we want a similar-if smaller-building in every small town in the county. And we want an operating plan of book distribution that will move the best and newest books in a continuous stream from Pendleton throughout the county, sending them to loneliest sheep camp, to the remotest cattle outfit, to the farthest ranch where perhaps a woman spends all her days alone while men are away running cattle, to the most detached homesteads where undaunted Americans are still trying their hand at pioneering. We want ranch children everywhere to have storybooks to people their imaginations gaily and vividly; we want ranch mothers to have fiction and poetry for relaxation; we want ranch fathers to have helpful books dealing with the very problems they are trying to solve alone. We want to make every possible printed word of light and inspiration and helpfulness accessible to every person who contributes to the prosperity of our country by living in it and producing foodstuffs (Good Housekeeping, Nov. 1921).*

A campaign was started and letters were sent to the eleven towns in the county outlining the benefits of establishing branch libraries in the small communities in Umatilla County. The organizational meetings were held in all the smaller towns to generate support for the project. A petition was signed by the county residents to get the county to support a county system with the ability to levy taxes. The county responded favorably by levying a tax for the purchase of books, supplies, and a librarian's salary.

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An agreement was signed on January 6, 1914 between the county court and the Pendleton Library Board supporting a county-wide library system. The new County Library Board, consisting of the county court and the Pendleton Library Board (appointed by the mayor), were charged with establishing a system of branches and stations to provide books and assistance to all communities in the county.

The first county librarian was hired in January 1914 and the Pendleton Public Library opened its doors to all county residents (not just city residents). By March 1914, new books were purchased and eight towns were making plans for branch library facilities. The smaller communities found space for libraries in a variety of building types including city halls, commercial clubs, telephone offices, and bank buildings. Books from the library were sent all over the county at the county's expense; the return postage was paid by the reader. The motto of the Umatilla County Library was "The best reading for the greatest number at the least cost." Now that a county system had been established, the county board started making plans for construction of new library buildings.

In the spring of 1914, the Library Board made application to the Carnegie Foundation for the funds to construct a main library at Pendleton and eleven branch libraries in the county. The Carnegie Foundation responded back saying that they would consider libraries in Pendleton and a branch library in Milton but the other towns were too small for libraries. The women believed that no community should be too small to have library buildings. They decided to take matters into their own hands and tried to levy additional county funds to build branch libraries. The women hit a road block when they found out that Oregon law prohibited them from levying taxes for construction of library buildings in counties with populations less than 50,000. The library board, the club women, and the state librarian decided to try to change the law. In the winter session of the 1914-1915 legislature, representatives of Umatilla introduce a change to the law and were successful in passing a law which stated that counties with lesser population base of 50,000 could levy taxes to construct libraries. Work continued on raising funds for the construction of library buildings.

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By January, 1915, county branch libraries had been established in the following communities and buildings: Adams, population 205, library in room in hotel; Athena, population 586, rented a store front for library; Echo, population 400, site for library near bank; Freewater, population 532, used the city council room for library; Hermiston, population 648, used the rear room in the land office for library; Milton, population 1,289, used the city council chamber for library; Pilot Rock, population 200, used the commercial club room; Stanfield, population 318, used the central telephone office; and Weston, population 500, rented room in commercial building. The idea of a county library system, one of the first in the state, was a success. An estimated 10,000 books were circulated in 1915, just one year after the inception of the system.

### CITY LIBRARY VS COUNTY LIBRARY

The Library Board continued acquiring books while working on funding library construction. As in the past, women turned to the trustees of the Sturgis Fund to help buy new books for the county library. The majority of the Commercial Club members were willing to have books purchased by the Sturgis Fund and circulated throughout the county. The club also were willing to take suggestions from the women on what books to buy.

The women, however, came across another stumbling block when the trustee for the Sturgis Fund, James A. Fee, opposed having the city books purchased by the Sturgis Fund to be circulated throughout the county. The trustee was of the school of thought that women should not take part in public affairs and that the small towns should establish their own city libraries. Fee further stated that he saw no reason to change the city library system and that he was reinvesting the Sturgis Fund and no funds would be available to purchase books. The trustee stated that the fund was wholly in his control and no one else had any jurisdiction over the money or the management of it.

The women on library board went back to the Commercial Club to gather their support for distribution of the Sturgis Fund. When they pressed the issue, they found out that the law only required a report from the trustees on a fund only in the case of orphans. The trustee was acting within his legal rights. The women went back to the legislature and passed a second law which required all trustees to make an annual report of the expenditures of trust

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funds.

The controversy continued over whether to promote and expend funds for a county system verses a city library. The Library Board continued to pursue funds for the construction of a main county library building in Pendleton and construction of branch libraries in the smaller communities. In 1915, funds from the City of Pendleton and the Carnegie Foundation were secured for the construction of the main county library in Pendleton. Construction of the new building started in the fall/winter of 1915 as the controversy continued about the county library system. An article recapping the controversy about the library states:

*At last the day when they broke ground, and the women of the board, with a number of the loyal men supporters, put in the first spade and turned the earth. They hurried the workmen as rapidly as possible, for a new mayor was to be elected, and he would have the privilege of appointing three new board members. Should they be appointed from the opposition, all the women's work could be undone.*

*But as the new library rounded up into form, local pride grew up in its beauty and commodiousness. Many of the opposition were won over. However, the building was scarcely finished when the city elections came off and what the women had most feared transpired; the new mayor appointed three men of the opposition.*

*The new board, at an illegally called meeting, dismissed the librarian whose knowledge and devotion had made the dream possible. Then they canceled the list of books chosen for purchase.*

*The women of the old board could only watch their work melt away. But a surprise was in store for them. At the first regular meeting of the new board, a lawyer representing the county court had discovered a clause in the library law that 'the county court may do any and all things necessary or desirable.... for the advancement of the county system.' the lawyer added,*

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*'For the advancement of the county library system, the county court here-by dissolves this board and takes over directly the management of the library'.*

*Then the lawyer told the would-have-been dismissed librarian to go on with her duties as usual, carrying out the plans of the original board.*

*Meanwhile, the trustee of the Sturgis Fund (James A. Fee) was becoming agitated. The import of the new law that required trustees to report annually began to dawn upon him. The women could keep track of the fund's annual income, even if they could not compel him to use it for book purchases. Something must be done. It occurred to him that Mr. Sturgis must have made a mistake in his will. He was sure that the donor meant to word his bequest to the 'Pendleton Public Library' instead of the 'Commercial Club Library'. Here was a way to put those 'infernal' women where they belonged.*

*He incorporated the 'Pendleton Public Library Association' to maintain and establish a separate city library, and got an ordinance passed by the city council to aid this corporation financially. They named the Sturgis Fund books as part of this property. The purpose was to cripple the county library and move the Sturgis Fund books back to the stuffy city hall room. It meant the nullifying of what the women had worked to build up.*

*But at this point the Commercial Club rose up to defend the property of their founder had willed to them. The trustee was sued, and the Commercial Club won both in the circuit court and in the Supreme Court to which the trustee appealed. The directors of the Commercial Club drew up a contract with the county court, ordering their Sturgis Fund books to be kept in the county library and distributed throughout the county. The battle was won (Good Housekeeping, November 1921).*

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### UMATILLA COUNTY LIBRARY BUILDING

In January 1915, the Carnegie Foundation of New York awarded Umatilla County Library Board a \$25,000 grant to build a county library in Pendleton and \$7,500 for a branch library in Milton. Stipulations of the Carnegie Foundation were that an annual maintenance fund had to be established for the libraries and that the plans for the libraries had to be approved by the foundation (in 1912, the foundation issued "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings" that established guidelines for library designs). Initially, the library board asked for \$50,000 for the County Library in Pendleton but the amount was rejected and the foundation pledged \$25,000 for the construction of the building in Pendleton. The Umatilla County Court donated \$10,000 towards making the library building fireproof. In 1916, a \$5,000 grant was given to the County Library board for the construction of a branch library in Hermiston; the first grant given to a town of that size.

The site for the new county library building was chosen for its proximity to downtown Pendleton. The site was at the north end of the Main Street Bridge, along the north bank of the Umatilla River. The triangular parcel of land was a joint gift from Mr. and Mrs. Lot Livermore, Mr. and Mrs. W. C.E. Pruitt, and the City of Pendleton. The next mission of the library board was to choose an architect for the project.

In the spring of 1915, library board members went to Portland to find an architect skilled in designing libraries. After talking with members of the community, the board found architect Folger Johnson. Johnson had designed library buildings in Portland including the Gresham Library (built 1913 in the Tudor style) and the St. Johns Library (built in 1913 in the 20th Century Georgian style). The women of the library board returned to Pendleton and announced their choice for an architect.

Although many supported their decision to hire a Portland architect, opponents of the new library building said that the women "were taking the very bread out of the mouths of Pendletoninas. They would be giving the other contracts to outsiders! The city should take immediate steps to stop this mad careering with its funds!" (Good Housekeeping, Nov. 1921).

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Despite the intense opposition, the board proceeded with their plans to hire Portland architect Folger Johnson. Raymond Hatch, a local Pendleton architect, was hired to work with Johnson as the supervising architect.

On July 8, 1915, at a regular meeting of the library board, architects Folger Johnson and Raymond Hatch met with the board to review the specifications for the library. The preliminary plans for the library were sent to the Carnegie Foundation for review and approval. By July 15, 1915, the plans for the library were approved and the money for the construction of the library released. The final drawings from Johnson's design were dated July 21, 1915, drawing no. 131.

The design for the library was inspired by the Italian Renaissance style. The July 2, 1915, Eastern Oregonian describes the concept of the new library building according to the inspiration of the architect:

*A choice of Italian Renaissance may seem strange at first thought but closer consideration justifies this for certainly most of the art of our modern civilization is based upon the interpretation and attainment of the Age of Renaissance in Italy which in turn received its inspiration from the classic art of old Rome. So rather than design the Pendleton library in an architectural style that is purely a vogue, enjoying popularity today but tomorrow falling into disfavor, the architects have reverted directly to the inspired ages of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries hoping to catch the spirit of that old work of which humanity never seems to tire.*

*The building will be simple and dignified and only slightly ornamental, a conception of style that seems highly appropriate to such a country as surrounds Pendleton of sweeping contours with but little detail of trees or shrubbery. Any building to harmonize with the big country must be of decided form and line, characterized by frank expression of its purpose and void of all subtlety.*

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The entrance of the new library building was inspired by the portico of the Pazzi Chapel of the church of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. The chapel was the work of the celebrated Italian architect, Filippo Brunelleschi (ca. 1377 to 1446).

The specifications for the new library called for fireproof construction. The basement and foundation were to be made of concrete, the walls hollow clay tile, and the roof clay tiles (three slightly different shades of green tiles). The main floor of the library was arranged with three main areas and several smaller auxiliary rooms. Flanking the main entrance was cloak rooms and a committee meeting room. The design called for a children's room to the left of the main entrance, a reading room to the right of the entrance and in the center, a delivery desk with a stack room behind. The reading rooms and the stack room were separated by bookcases.

French doors in the reading room opened into the reading porch which overlooks the Umatilla River. The librarian's office and cataloging room were designed in the northeast portion of the main level. A small museum was planned for the mezzanine area; a showcase for a local collection of Native American artifacts. The basement plan included an auditorium (seating capacity of 280 people), county book room, a kitchen, boiler room/wood room, story hour room, and restrooms.

Specifications for the interior finishes of the library called for plaster walls painted with a natural tone, classically inspired plaster crown moldings, tall ceilings, and cork carpet to help hold down noise. The interior "will conform to that of the exterior so that the building as a whole will be a unit in the harmony of its parts" (East Oregonian, 2 July 1915). The new library had a capacity to hold about 65,000 volumes with room for expansion on the site.

The architectural plans also called for the development of the grounds to maximize its siting on the banks of the Umatilla River. A small, concrete plaza was planned (and executed) in front of the main corner entrance. A concrete seat and drinking fountain were constructed overlooking the river. The bench was constructed of cast concrete. The waste water from the drinking fountain was used to irrigate the plantings along the river's edge.

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The Umatilla County Library in Pendleton opened in September, 1916 and soon became a source of pride in the community. By the end of 1916, the Umatilla County Library was second only to Portland for having the most number of volumes in the state and was the third in the state for book circulation. The library became a gathering place for people as well as the center to have reference work done. Theatrical productions were held in the auditorium's stage and the story hour room became a popular place to hold meetings in town. The story room also had a baby-grand piano which was used often for entertainment.

In 1927, additional radiators were installed to help heat the building during the winter months. The radiators were installed by the Portland firm of Fox & Company. The work included increasing the number of radiators in the library and the installation of a larger boiler and pumping system. The work was completed in December 1927.

By 1928, the Umatilla County Library was the best supported public library in the state outside of Portland. The budget for the library was \$18,000 a year. The library in Pendleton was the hub of the county system, distributing books county-wide to the ten smaller branch libraries, school districts, and country residents living on remote farms and ranches. The library also maintained a special collection of books used in the county schools and assisted teachers in the preparation of teaching materials.

John Vert, a Pendleton pioneer, presented a plaque to the library in 1930 which still hangs above the fireplace mantel in the children's room. The bronze plaque honored the original library boards of 1914 and 1915-16. The plaque also commemorated the Livermores, the Pruitts, and the City for donating the land for the library. The plaque concludes with the names of Miss Sabra Nason, the first Umatilla county librarian and Folger Johnson, the architect for the project. The date of the construction of the library is also on the plaque.

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Almost twenty years after the library was established, funds were secured to repair and paint the library. In 1933-34, money was granted to repair the roof, gutters, sewer, and drainage systems. In March, 1934, the renovations were complete. A March 28, 1934 East Oregonian article about the renovation states:

*Spick and span, with every inch of the building renovated; every piece of furniture glistening with varnish; every wall shining with paint; every bit of woodwork gleaming with enamel, the improvements at the Umatilla County Library have been completed through the expenditure of \$2,000 in CWA funds and \$327 in library funds.*

*The entire exterior was painted, and the roof repaired. Walls and woodwork upstairs have been painted, the walls being a deep cream color and the woodwork white enamel. Filing cabinets, tables, chairs, book cases, etc. have all been varnished. The curtains have all been laundered.*

The renovation of the library in 1934 marked the 20 year anniversary of the incorporation of the Umatilla County library system. The library continued to be a gathering place for the community and was one of the best library systems in the state. The library functioned as a county library until 1987 when voters approved a Umatilla County Special Library District with a \$463,000 tax levy separate from any county or city. The Pendleton Public Library was created as a department of the City. With \$165,000 budget staffing doubled and the library opened 48 hours per week. The name of the library changed from the Umatilla County Library to the Pendleton Public Library (building owned by city).

In 1994, voters in Pendleton approved a \$2.95 million general obligation bond issue to convert the Helen McCune Junior High School to a City Hall and Library. The library moved their collection from the 1916 library building to the new facility in the renovated school building in November 1996. The original Umatilla County Library building was leased for 30 years to Arts Council of Pendleton. The Arts Council plans to renovate the building into a community arts center.

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### ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STYLE

The Italian Renaissance style, popular in the United States in the first decades of the 20th century, was a favorite building style for commercial and public buildings. The style was popular in Oregon from approximately 1910 to 1935. The buildings designed in the Italian Renaissance were generally less ornate than the American Renaissance style which was popular in the state from the 1890s to 1915.

The American Renaissance began as a "conscious reaction against the picturesque movement and called for a return to a disciplined order based on classical precedent, either ancient or Renaissance" (Clark, Architecture Oregon Style). Architects trained at the Ecoles des Beaux Arts in Paris often spread the ideals of the American Renaissance. The Ecoles des Beaux Arts emphasized classical composition and principles and often borrowed different elements of historic period styles to create a new styles (Clark, Architecture Oregon Style).

The Italian Renaissance was based on similar philosophies as the American Renaissance style. The designers of the Italian Renaissance style relied on architecture from Italy for inspiration. Italian Renaissance buildings usually had low-pitched or flat roofs, terra cotta ornamentation, simple forms, round-arched windows, pedimented porticoes, columns, pilasters, balustrades, and stone or brick construction.

The Umatilla County Library expresses stylistic elements of the Italian Renaissance style. Folger Johnson, the library's architect, studied at the Ecoles des Beaux Arts and was influenced by classical architecture. The entrance of the library was inspired by the portico of the Pazzi Chapel of the church of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. The chapel was the work of the celebrated Italian architect, Filippo Brunelleschi (ca. 1377 to 1446).

The Umatilla County Library has characteristics of the Italian Renaissance style in its low-pitched clay tile roof, round-arched windows, richly embellished cornice with dentils and brackets, pedimented portico, Ionic columns and pilasters, and the turned balusters on the reading porch. Classical details inside the building are evident in the dentilated crown molding, and classically inspired fireplace surrounds.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

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CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN OREGON

Andrew Carnegie, the United States steel magnate, began his philanthropic ventures in 1886 in the United States. In the later part of his life, Carnegie gave money for public libraries throughout the English speaking world. He donated \$56 million for 2509 library buildings world wide: \$40 million of that granted for 1670 library buildings in 1412 American cities.

Carnegie libraries throughout the United States were designed in various styles. Although specific design criteria was not stipulated by the Carnegie Foundation, general recommendations and standards for efficient library layouts were issued by the Carnegie Foundation in the form of guidelines. In ca. 1911, James Bertram, the Secretary of the Carnegie Foundation, met with leading authorities on libraries management and design and produce guidelines for communities to follow when designing libraries. The publication was called "Notes on Library Buildings". These guidelines were sent to communities requesting funds from the foundation. Mr. Bertram claimed that these notes and "judicious pressure on architects in communities usually resulted in a desirable building" (Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries).

Twenty-five communities in Oregon received grants from the Carnegie Foundation for the construction of 31 public libraries. Portland received funding for seven branch libraries. The first library in Oregon to receive funds for the construction of a library building was the City of Eugene. The city received \$10,000 in 1906 for their public library.

From 1909 to 1916, the Carnegie Foundation granted funds for the construction of libraries in the Eastern Oregon communities of Baker, Enterprise, Hermiston, Hood River, La Grande, Milton, Ontario, Pendleton, The Dalles, and Union. These grants ranged in size from \$5,000 for the Hermiston Library to \$25,000 for the Baker and Pendleton libraries. The Umatilla County libraries in Pendleton, Milton, and Hermiston were the last jurisdictions to receive funds from the Carnegie Foundation. The City of Hermiston had the distinction of being the smallest city in population to receive funding from the Carnegie Foundation for construction of a library.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ARCHITECTS: JOHNSON AND HATCH

*Folger Johnson*

Folger Johnson was born on July 4, 1882 in Columbus, Ga. to Walter and Florence Johnson. After completing high school, Johnson went on to college, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia Institute of Technology. Johnson continued his education in New York, pursuing a bachelor's degree in architecture from Columbia University. In 1908, he went abroad to study architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in France. He returned to the United States in 1910 and worked in New York and Florida before moving to the West Coast to start a practice. Johnson set up practice with the firm of Johnson, Parker, and Wallwork. He was granted his Architectural license in 1919 (grand-fathered in as part of the new State Board of Architect Examiners).

Johnson was very active in civic affairs while practicing architecture in Portland. He served on the Portland Planning Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Portland Art Commission. He was appointed State Director of the Federal Housing Administration in January 1940, replacing Jamieson Parker. Johnson retired from the post in 1950 and retired from the firm of Johnson and Parker in 1965. Johnson died in 1970 at the age of 88 leaving his second wife, Shelby Payne Johnson, and a son, Folger Johnson, Jr.

*Raymond Walter Hatch*

Raymond Walter Hatch began his practice in Pendleton, Oregon as a supervising architect during the construction of the Umatilla County Library. Hatch was born in 1883 in Denver, Colorado and at the age of 19 moved to Boise, Idaho with his parents. Hatch then attended the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture and graduated in 1909. He then returned to Boise and in 1910 married Nettie Bunn in Denver.

Hatch began his career in Pendleton on January 1, 1915, while working as a supervising architect for Folger Johnson during the construction of the Umatilla County Public Library. He was issued his architecture license in 1919 under the auspices of the new Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners, via the grandfather clause for architects already in practice. He had his office in the Despain Building in Pendleton.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 17

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During his ten year practice in Pendleton, Hatch designed many prominent buildings in Umatilla County including several residences in Pendleton, the Adams High School (1919), the Bank of Echo (1920), the Milton Library (1918), the McLaughlin Union High School (1922), and the Stanfield High School (1921). These buildings were designed in a variety of historic period styles including the Beaux Arts, Tudor, and English Cottage, and Renaissance styles.

Hatch moved to Portland around 1924 to further his career, moving his office to the Henry Building in Portland. Four years after his move, Hatch's career ended when he died at the age 44 in 1928 of blood poisoning.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

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*Tribune*. 1 May 1909; 21 February 1915; 7 January 1916; 24 March 1916; 21 March 1916; 22 May 1916; 6 September 1916; 24 November 1917.

Umatilla County Library

Umatilla County, OR

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre (0.20)

Pendleton, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 11 360760 5059240
Zone Easting Northing

3
4
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Donovan
organization Donovan & Associates date Febr. 14, 1997
street & number 1615 Taylor Ave. telephone 541-386-6461
city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Pendleton (leased to the Arts Council of Pendleton)
street & number 500 SW Dorian telephone 541-966-0220
city or town Pendleton state OR zip code 97801

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018). Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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### VERBAL DESCRIPTION

The Umatilla County Library is located tax lot 2700 (approximately .20 acres) in the City of Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon, Sections 3 and 10, T2N, R32E, Willamette Meridian. The property is more specifically described as:

#### Tract 1-From Pruitt to Umatilla County

Commencing at the intersection of the line between Section 3 and 10, T2N, R32E, Willamette Meridian, with the Southerly projected West line of Monroe Street, as shown on the plat of Switzler's Addition to the town, now City of Pendleton, a point South 1 degree 58' East 87.61 feet, from the Southeast corner of Block 8, Switzler's Addition to Pendleton; thence, along the said section line South 89 degrees 32' West 60.3 feet to the Northerly extension of the East line of Main Street; thence, following the said Northerly extension of the East line of said Main Street South 23 degrees 36' East 40 feet; thence North 50 degrees 1' East 57.8 feet to the place of beginning.

#### Tract 2-From Livermore to Umatilla County

Commencing at the intersection of the South line of Jackson Street with the Southerly projected West line of Monroe Street, as shown on plat of Switzler's Addition to Pendleton which is a point South 1 degree 58' East 60 feet, from the Southeast corner of Block 8, in said Switzler's Addition to Pendleton; thence, along the said South line of Jackson Street South 88 degrees 2' West 157.97 feet, more-or-less to the present East line of Main Street in Pendleton; thence, along the said East line of said Main Street, South 35 degree 30' East 12 feet; thence, North 88 degrees 2' East, 84.7 feet more-or-less to the Northerly projected East line of Main Street in the town of Pendleton; thence, along the said Northerly projected East line of Main Street, South 23 degree 36' East 17.25 feet to the line between Sections 3 and 10, T2N, R32E; Willamette Meridian thence, along said section line North 89 degree 32' East 60.3 feet to the Southerly projected West line of said Monroe Street; thence, along the said Southerly projected West line of said Monroe Street, North 1 degree 58' West, 27.61 feet to the place of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

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### Tract 3-From the City of Pendleton to Umatilla County

A tract of land bounded by a line, commencing at a point on the line between Section 3 and 10, T2N, R32E, Willamette Meridan., 58 feet East of the intersection of said section line with a Southerly projected East line of Main Street as a starting point; thence, running North 35 degree 30' West 16.9 feet; thence, North 88 degrees East 84.7 feet to the Northerly projected East line of Main Street; thence, following the said Northerly projected East line of Main Street, South 23 degrees 36' East 17.25 feet to the aforesaid section line; thence, following said section line South 89 degrees 32' West 81.8 feet more-or-less to the said starting point, all in the City of Pendleton; also the following described tract, to wit: Beginning at a point on the section line dividing Section 10 and Section 3, T2N, R32E, Willamette Meridan., 58 feet East to the East line of Main Street in Switzler's Addition to Pendleton, running thence, South 35 degrees 30' East to the center of the channel of the Umatilla River; thence, east up the channel of the Umatilla River to the East line of Main Street of Pendleton, if said East line of Main Street were produced to the center of said channel; thence, Northward along said East line of Main Street if produced to its intersection with the section line between Section 3 and 10 aforesaid and from thence, westerly along said section line to the place of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses the entire urban tax lot (tax lot 2700) defines the current property boundary and the historic property boundary. The lot encompasses approximately .20 acre. The property boundary has not changed since the property was deeded to Umatilla County in 1915.

UMATILLA COUNTY

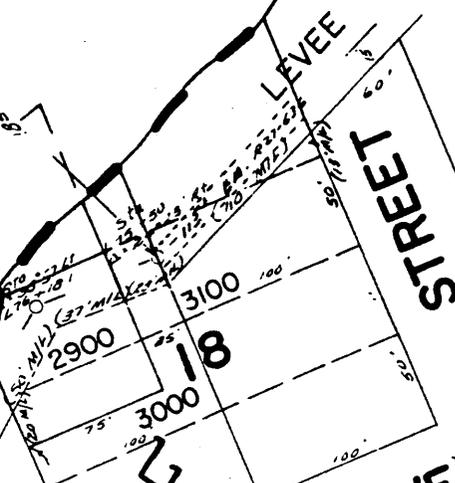
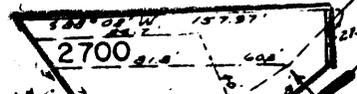
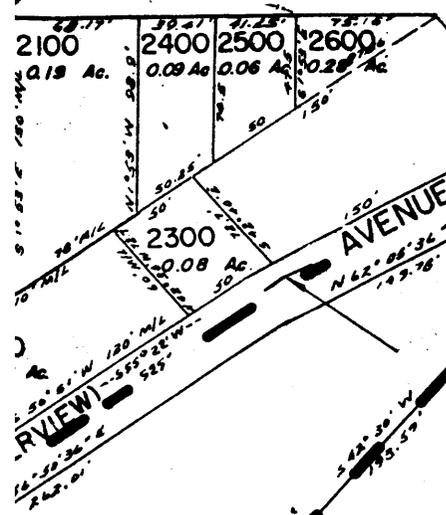
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3	2
10	11

AVENUE

NE DESPAIN AVE.



SE BYERS AVE

SW BYERS



STREET

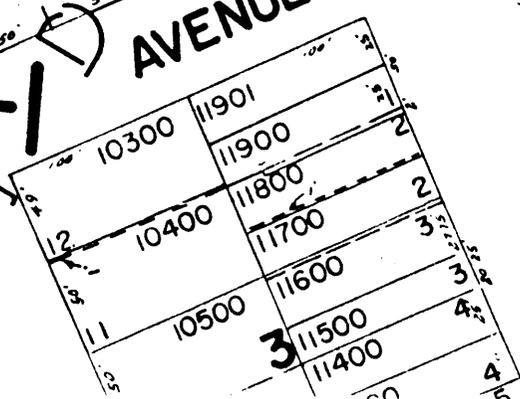


SE COURT

R



16 - AVENUE

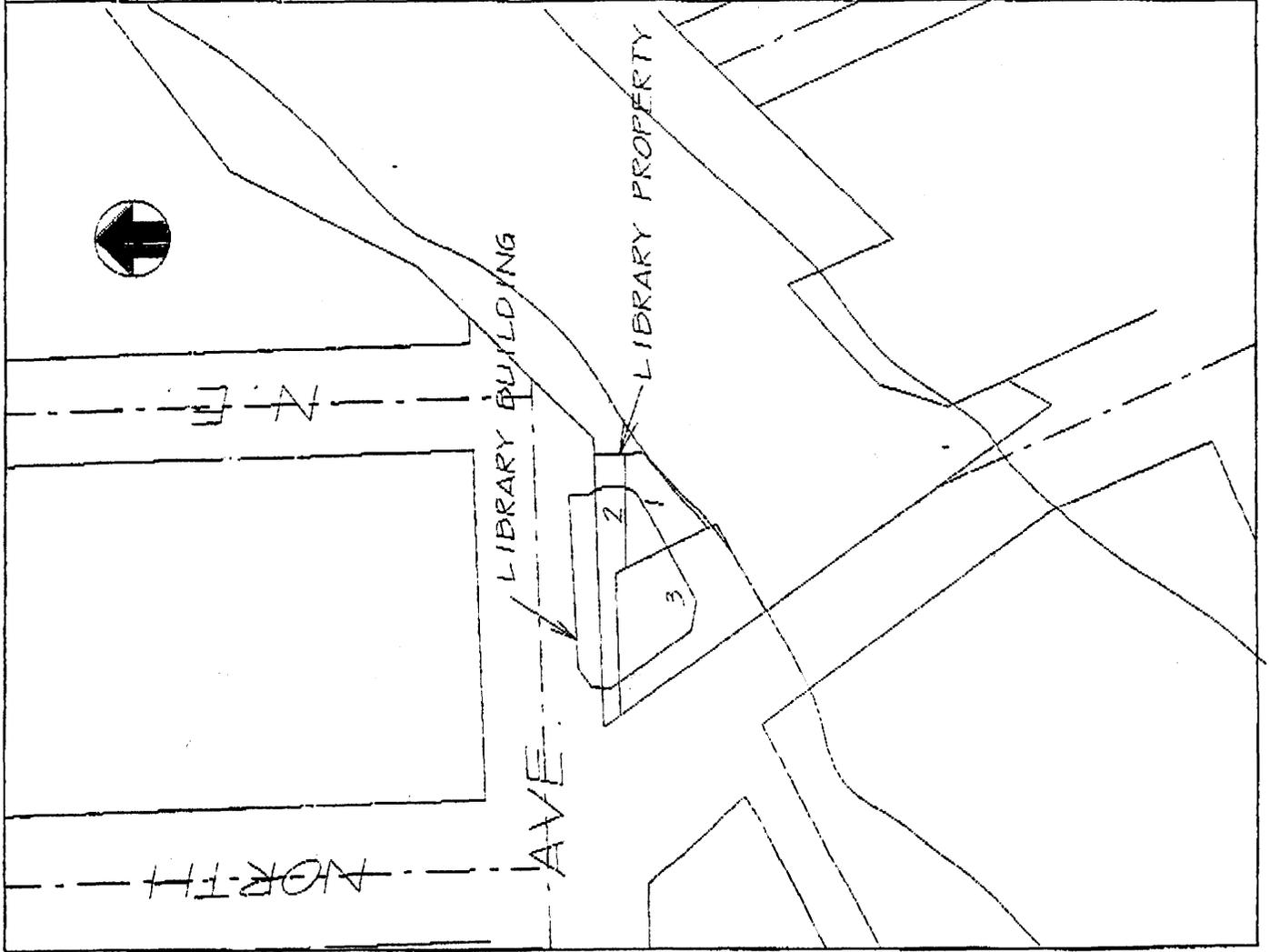


MAIN

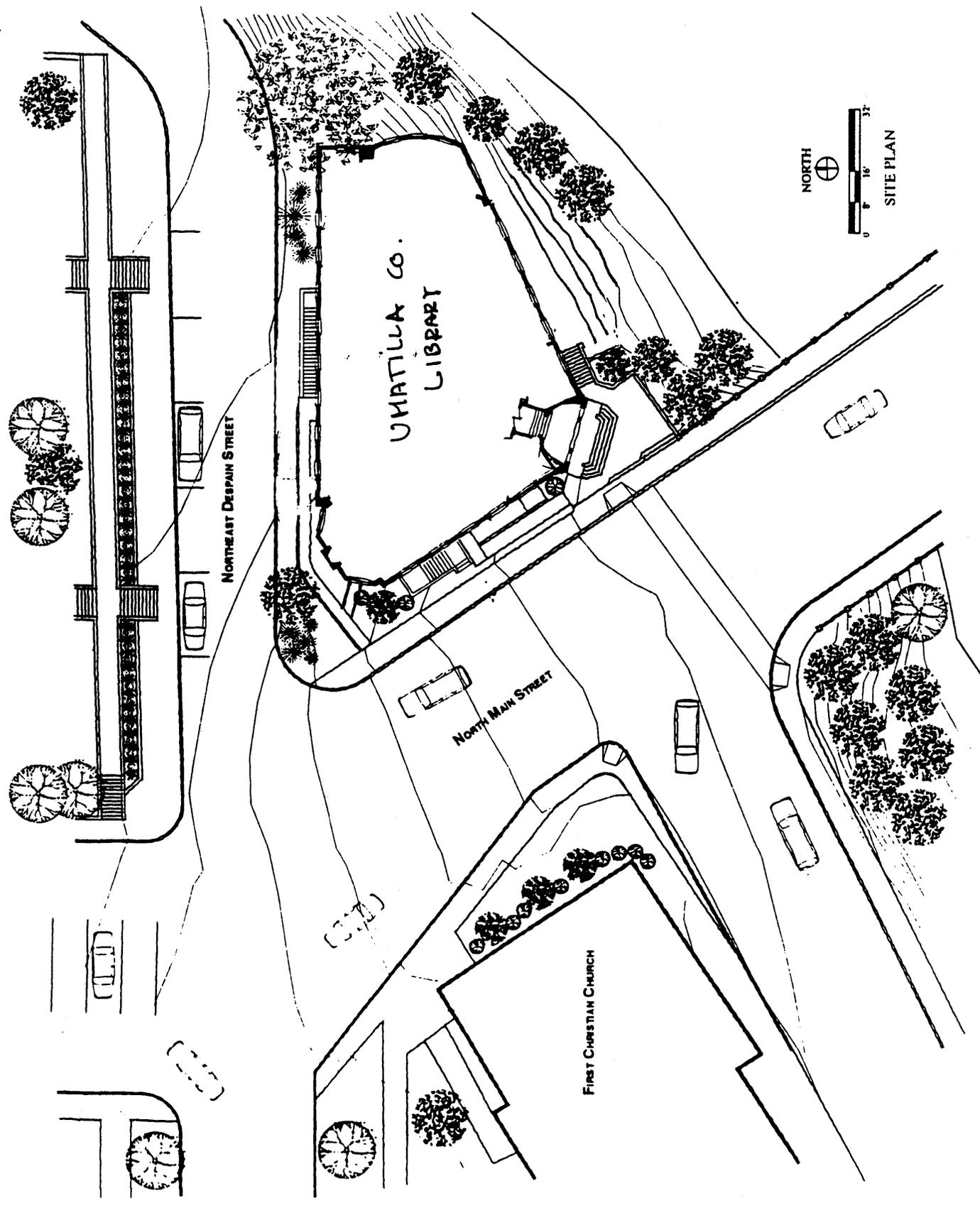
1. COZBI A PRUETT  
WCE PRUETT  
BOOK 91 PAGE 317  
JULY 2, 1915

2. LOT LIVERMORE  
ELLEN LIVERMORE  
BOOK 91 PAGE 318  
JULY 2, 1915

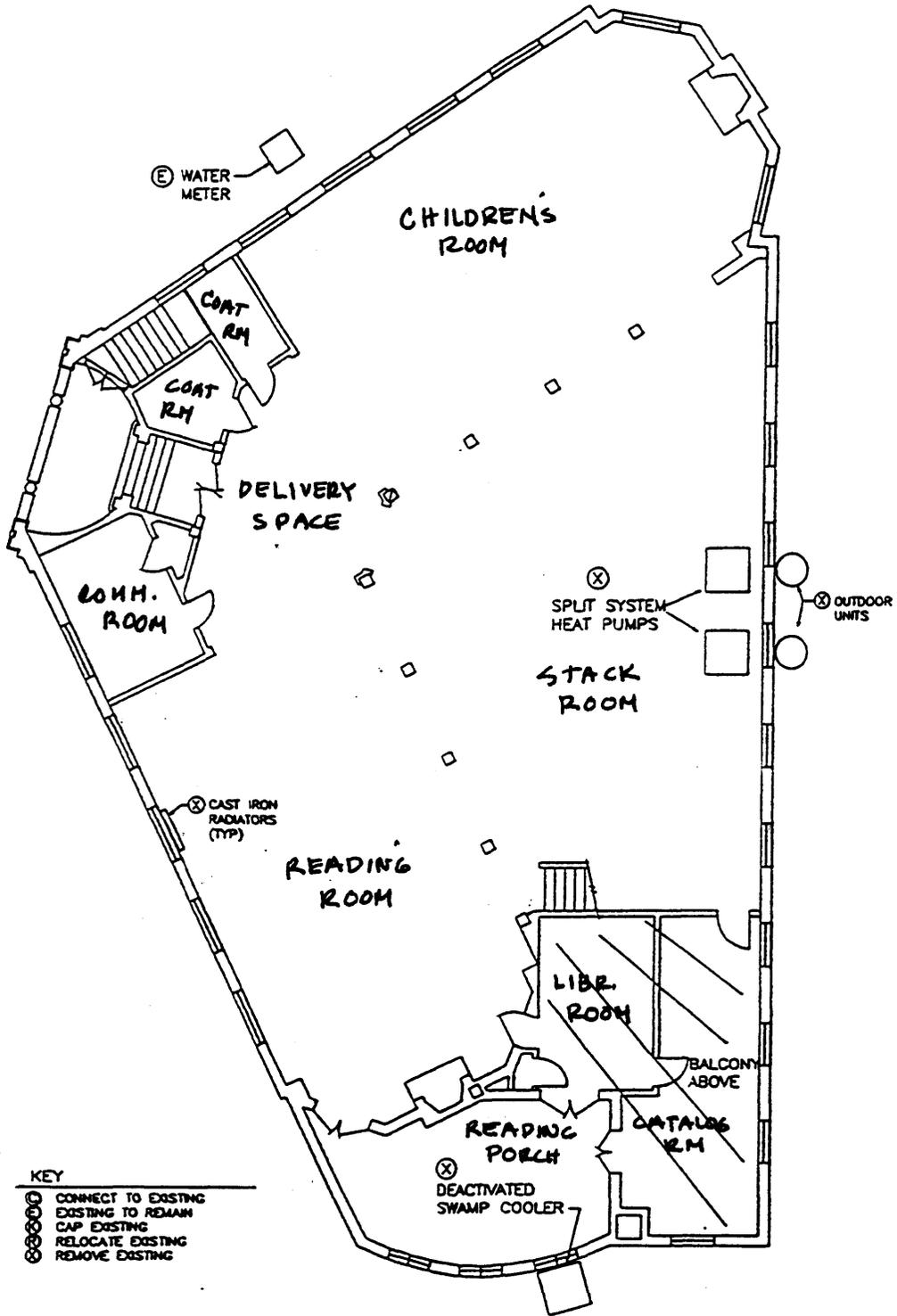
3. LIMATILLA COUNTY  
BOOK 91 PAGE 319  
JULY 2, 1915



CITY OF FENDLETON ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT		
LIBRARY PROPERTY DESCRIPTION		
EXHIBIT A		
DATE: 11/95	SUB: E 1-100	SHEET 1 OF 1
DN BY: RLW	CD. BY:	DWG NO. LIBRARY



Print plot  
 OCTOBER 9, 1992  
 CAD file: 92078M3  
 Plot scale: 1" = 16'



KEY  
 ○ CONNECT TO EXISTING  
 - - - EXISTING TO REMAIN  
 ···· CAP EXISTING  
 - · - · RELOCATE EXISTING  
 ⊗ REMOVE EXISTING

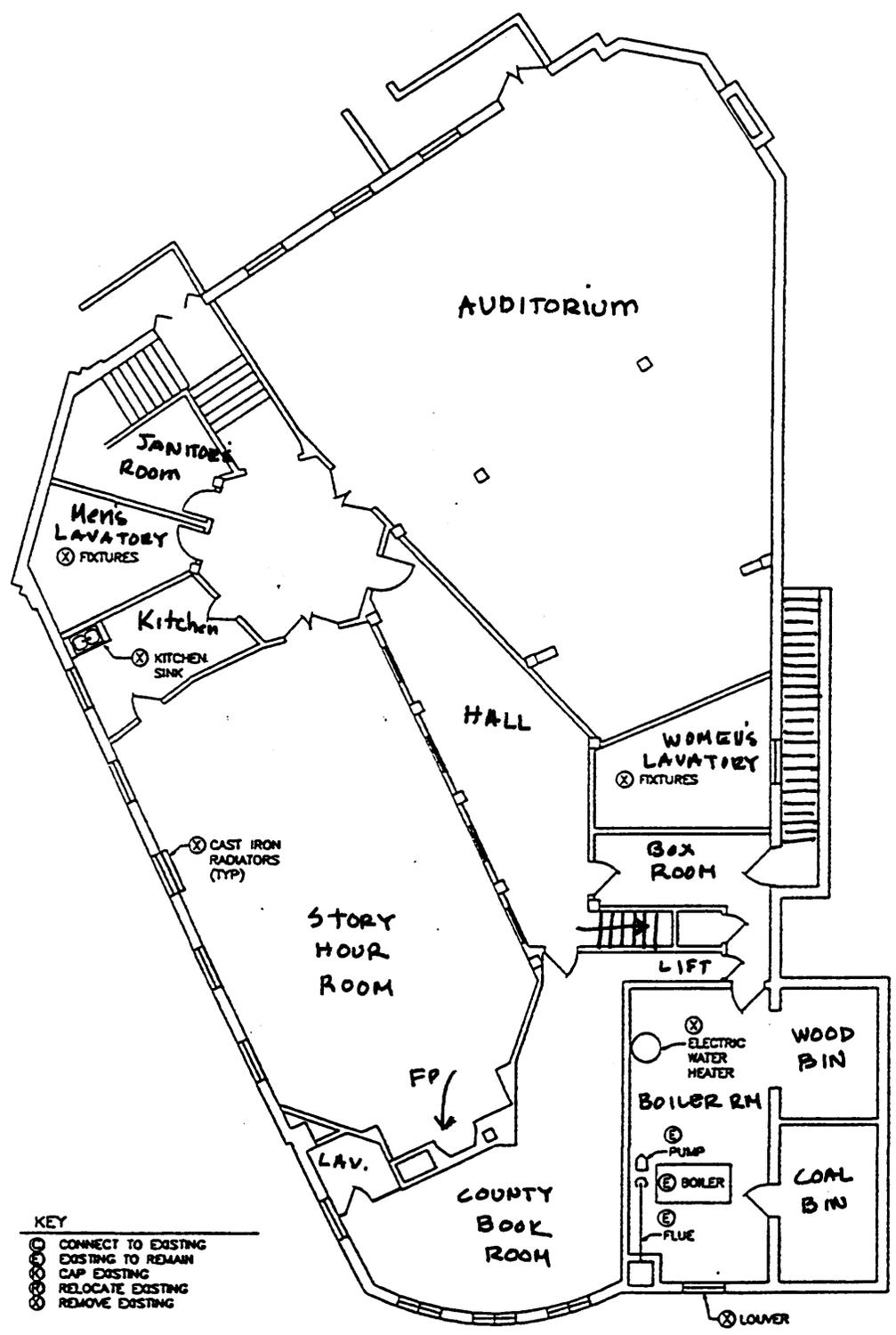


1 MAIN FLOOR - EXISTING  
 M3

**Larry L. Grimes**  
 Engineer  
ONE BELLEVILLE AVENUE SUITE 200  
 MEMPHIS, TN 38103 (901) 526-2400

# PENDLETON LIBRARY

Print plot  
 OCTOBER 9, 1992  
 CAD file: 92078M2  
 Plot scale: 1" = 16'



- KEY
- ⊙ CONNECT TO EXISTING
  - ⊕ EXISTING TO REMAIN
  - ⊗ CAP EXISTING
  - ⊖ RELOCATE EXISTING
  - ⊘ REMOVE EXISTING



1  
M2

BASEMENT - EXISTING

**P** Larry L. Grimes  
 Engineer  
ONE GILBERT AVE., SUITE 201  
 MEMPHIS, TN, 38103 (901) 526-1400

# PENDLETON LIBRARY

# 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance MAP

N. JEFFERSON

N. MAIN

NE DESPAIN

SON

(120)

(121)

5' 11.2'

112

103

102

100

3B

500

N. STEEL BRIDGE MAIN

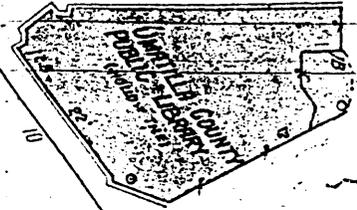
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LAND

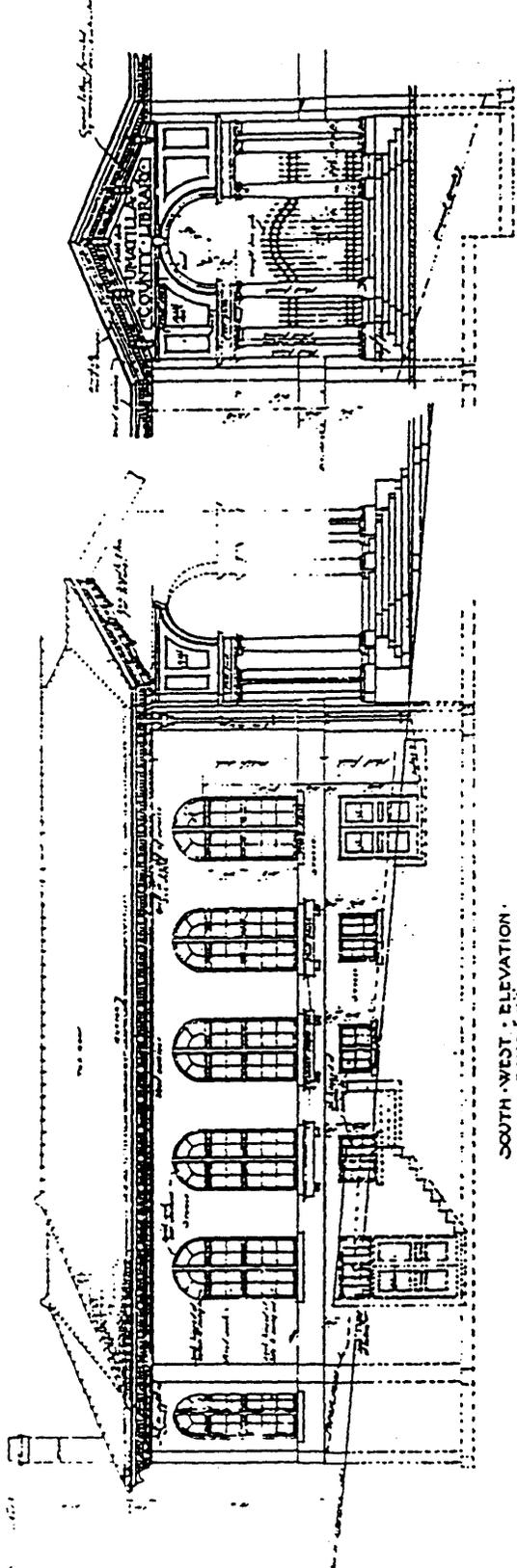
LOW

River

Umatilla

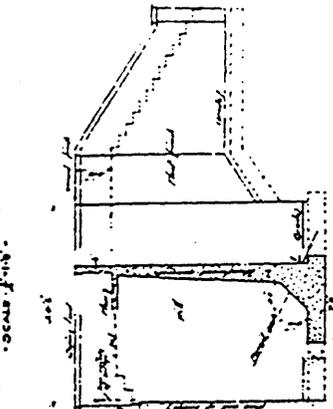


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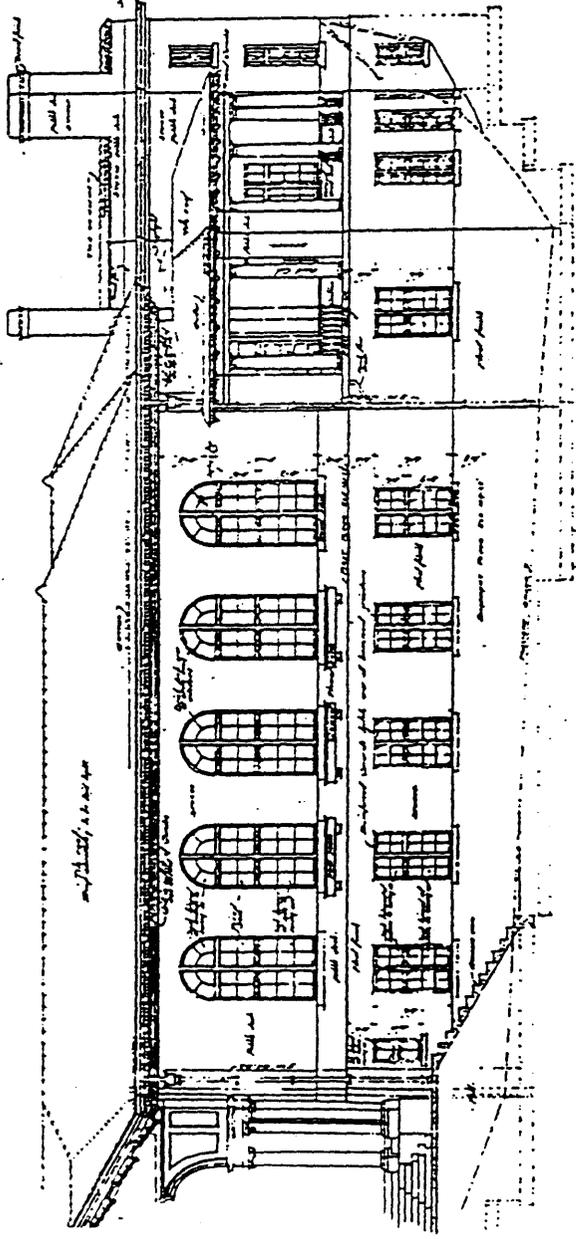


SOUTH WEST ELEVATION  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SOUTH ELEVATION  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



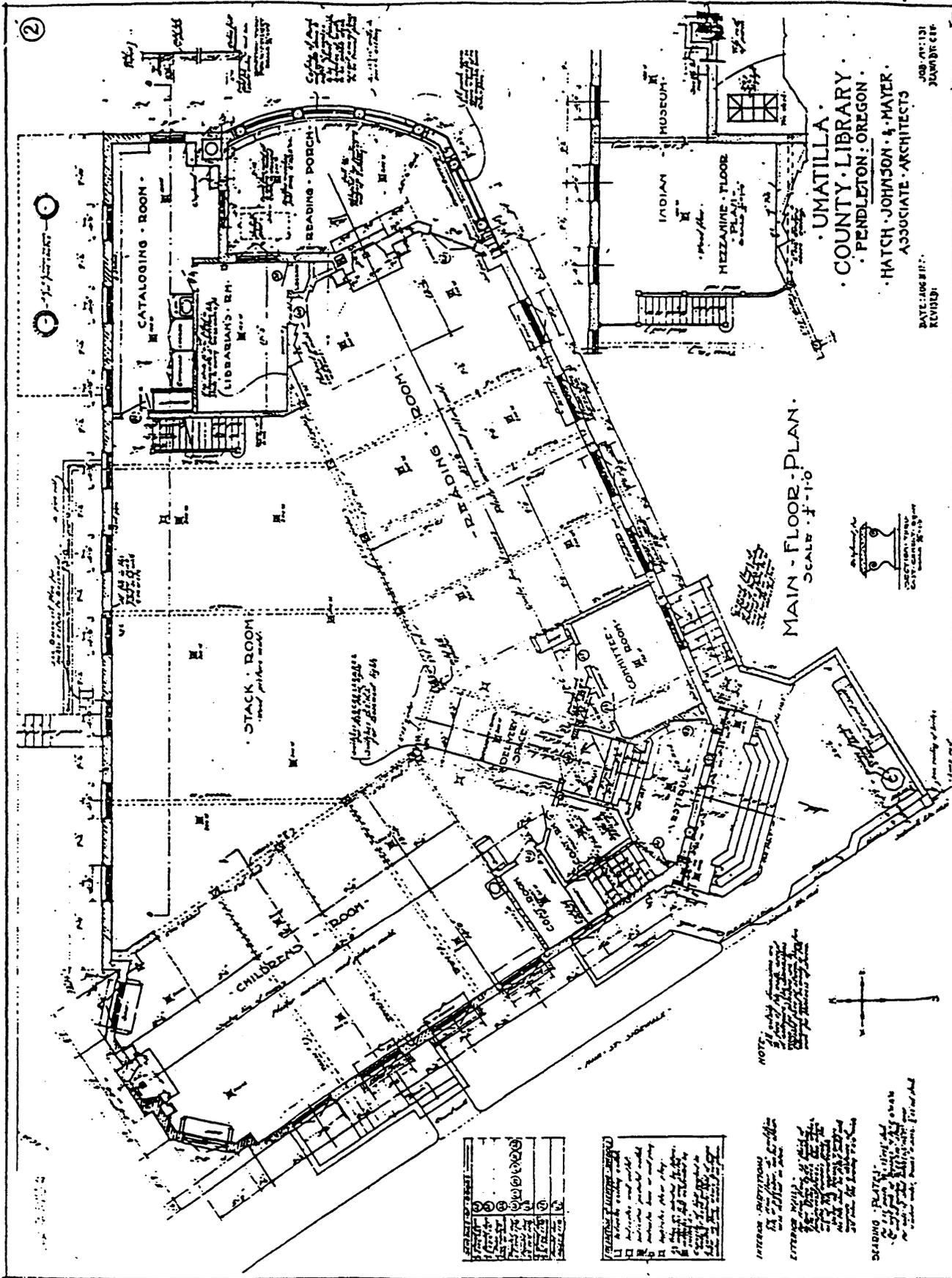
SECTION -  
ELEVATION OF DETAINING WALL FOR  
APPROACH TO ENTRANCE OF BLDG.  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



SOUTH EAST ELEVATION  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

UMATILLA  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
PENDLETON OREGON  
HATCH JOHNSON & MAYER  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS

DATE: JUN. 21, 1917  
REVISED  
JOB: 11243  
DRAWN BY: G.H.



MAIN FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

UMATILLA COUNTY LIBRARY  
PENDLETON, OREGON  
HATCH JOHNSON & MAYER  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS

DATE: AUG 11, 1931  
JOB NO: 131  
JOB NO: 131



NOTE:  
1. All work to be done in accordance with the specifications and the details of the drawings.  
2. The contractor shall be responsible for the accuracy of the dimensions and the location of the work.



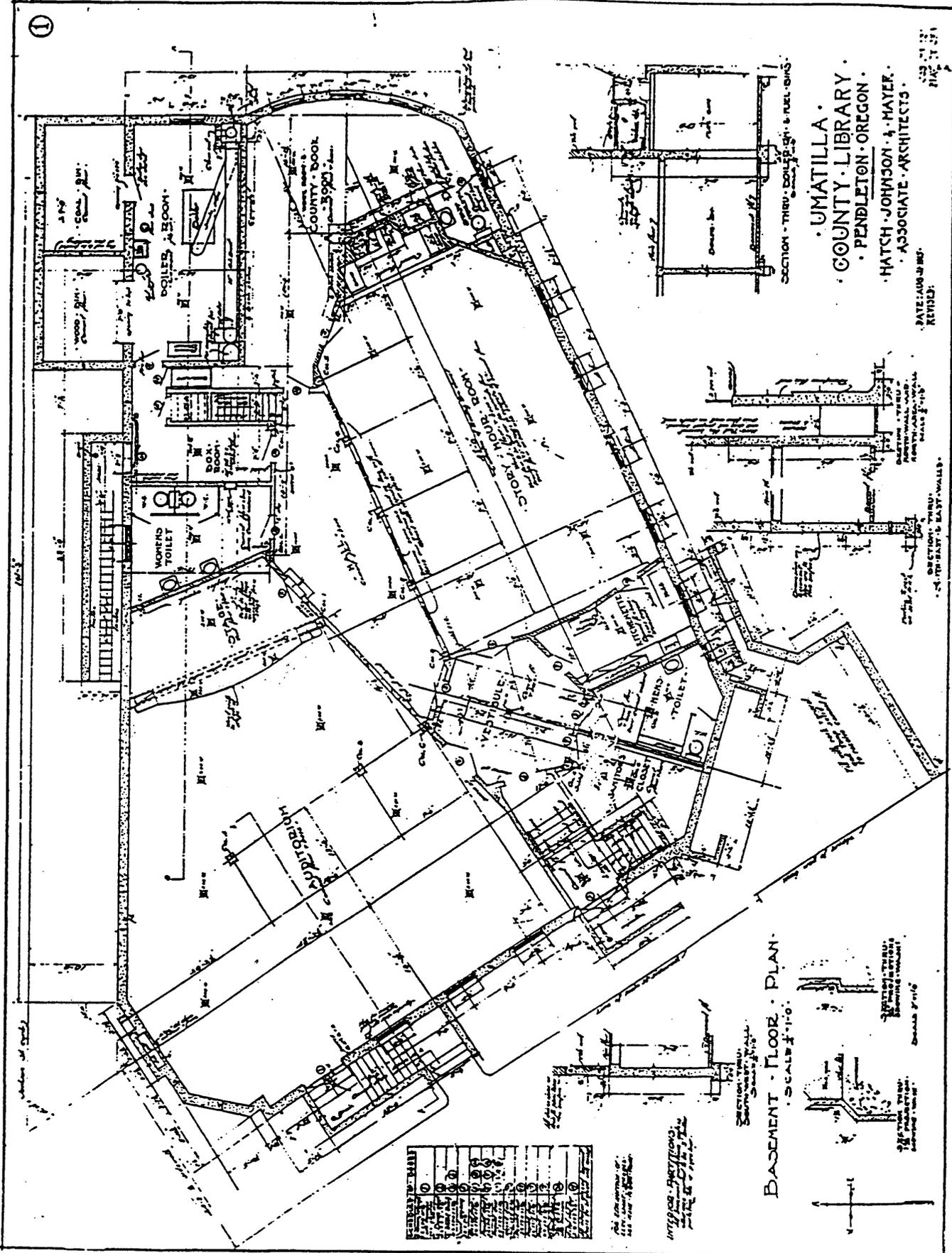
NO.	DESCRIPTION
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2	...
3	...
4	...
5	...
6	...
7	...
8	...
9	...
10	...

CONTRACTOR'S NOTE:  
The contractor shall be responsible for the accuracy of the dimensions and the location of the work.

INTERIOR FINISHES:  
1. All interior surfaces to be finished in accordance with the specifications and the details of the drawings.

CEILING FINISH:  
1. All ceiling surfaces to be finished in accordance with the specifications and the details of the drawings.

1



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

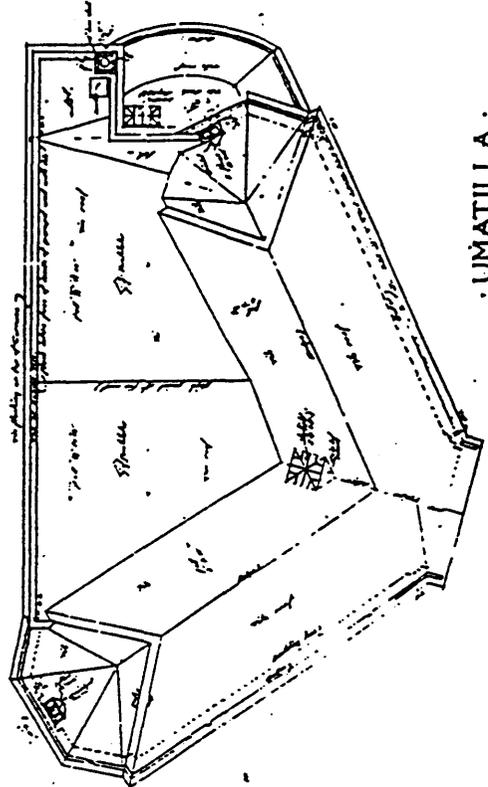
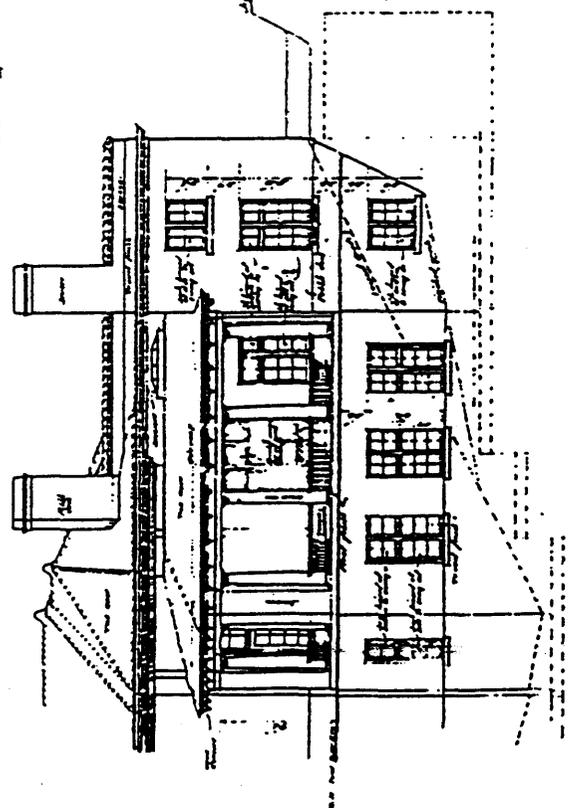
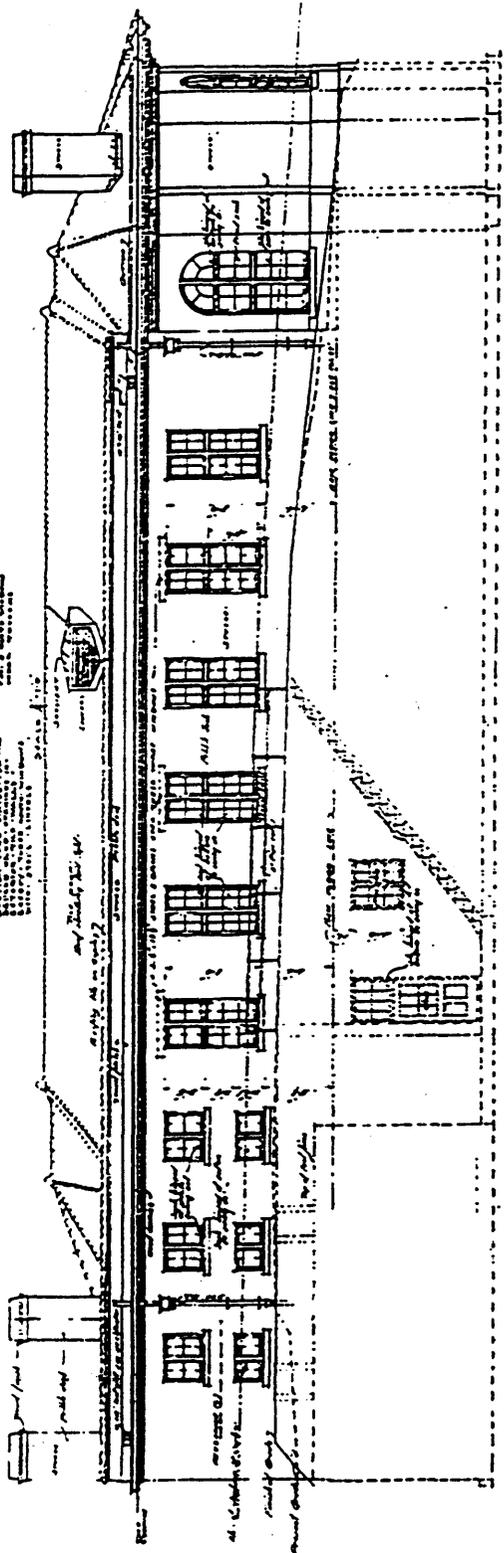


UMATILLA  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
HATCH JOHNSON & MAYER  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS

PAT. AUG. 19 1930  
REVISED

NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	CONCRETE
2	BRICK
3	GLASS
4	WOOD
5	PAINT
6	PLASTER
7	ROOFING
8	MECHANICAL
9	ELECTRICAL
10	FINISHES
11	DETAILS
12	NOTES
13	LEGEND
14	GENERAL NOTES
15	SECTION NOTES
16	DETAIL NOTES
17	FINISH NOTES
18	MECHANICAL NOTES
19	ELECTRICAL NOTES
20	ROOFING NOTES
21	PAINT NOTES
22	PLASTER NOTES
23	WOOD NOTES
24	GLASS NOTES
25	BRICK NOTES
26	CONCRETE NOTES

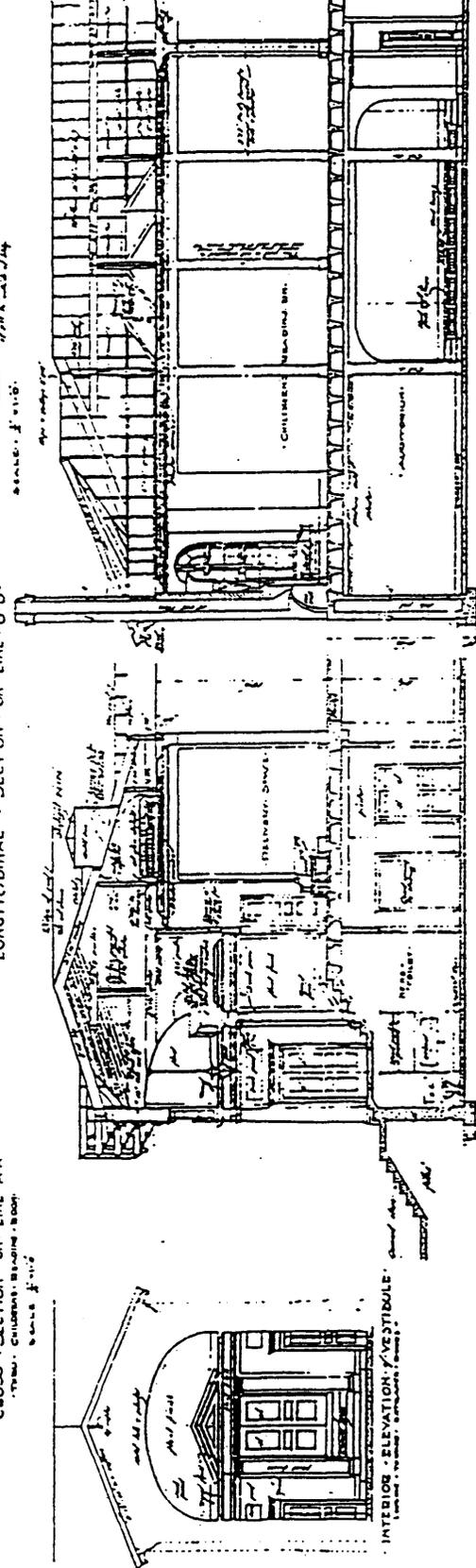
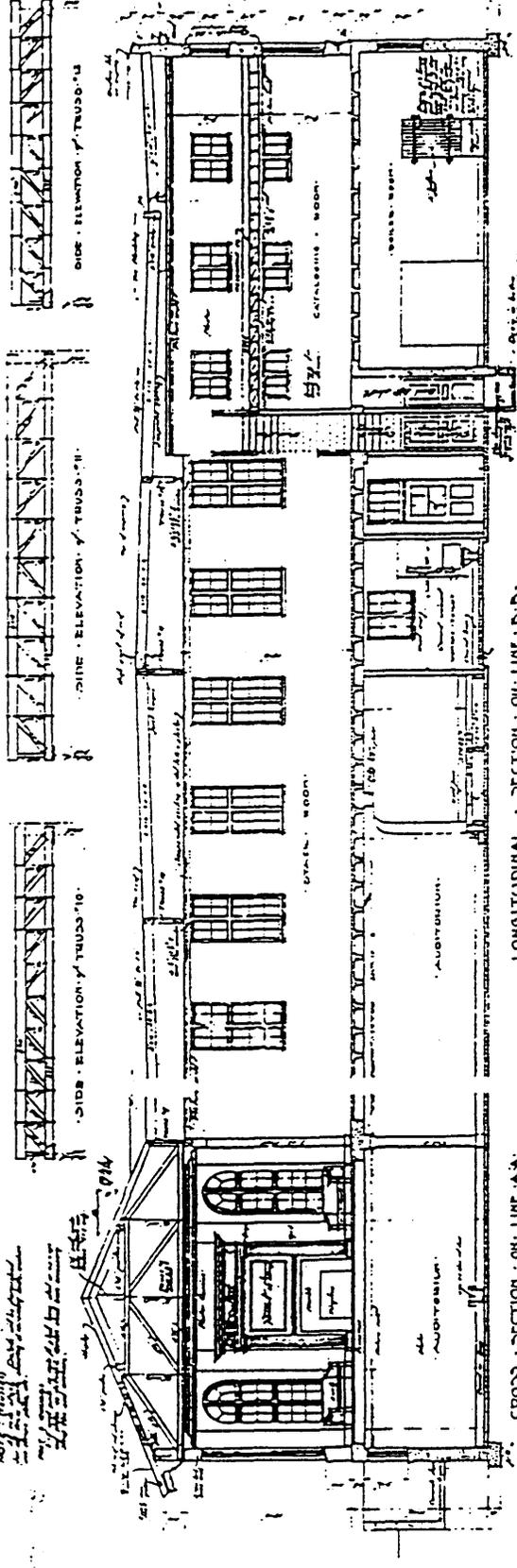
4



UMATILLA  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
PENDLETON, OREGON  
HATCH, JOHNSON, & MAYER  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS

DATE: AUG. 11, 1930  
REVISED:  
JOB: 41181  
DRAWN: C.S.

5



LONGITUDINAL SECTION  
ALONG CENTER LINE OF BUILDING - READING ROOM

CROSS SECTION  
ALONG CENTER LINE OF ENTRANCE

SECTION THROUGH PLASTER CORNICES  
SCALE 3/16"

SECTION THROUGH  
SCALE 3/16"

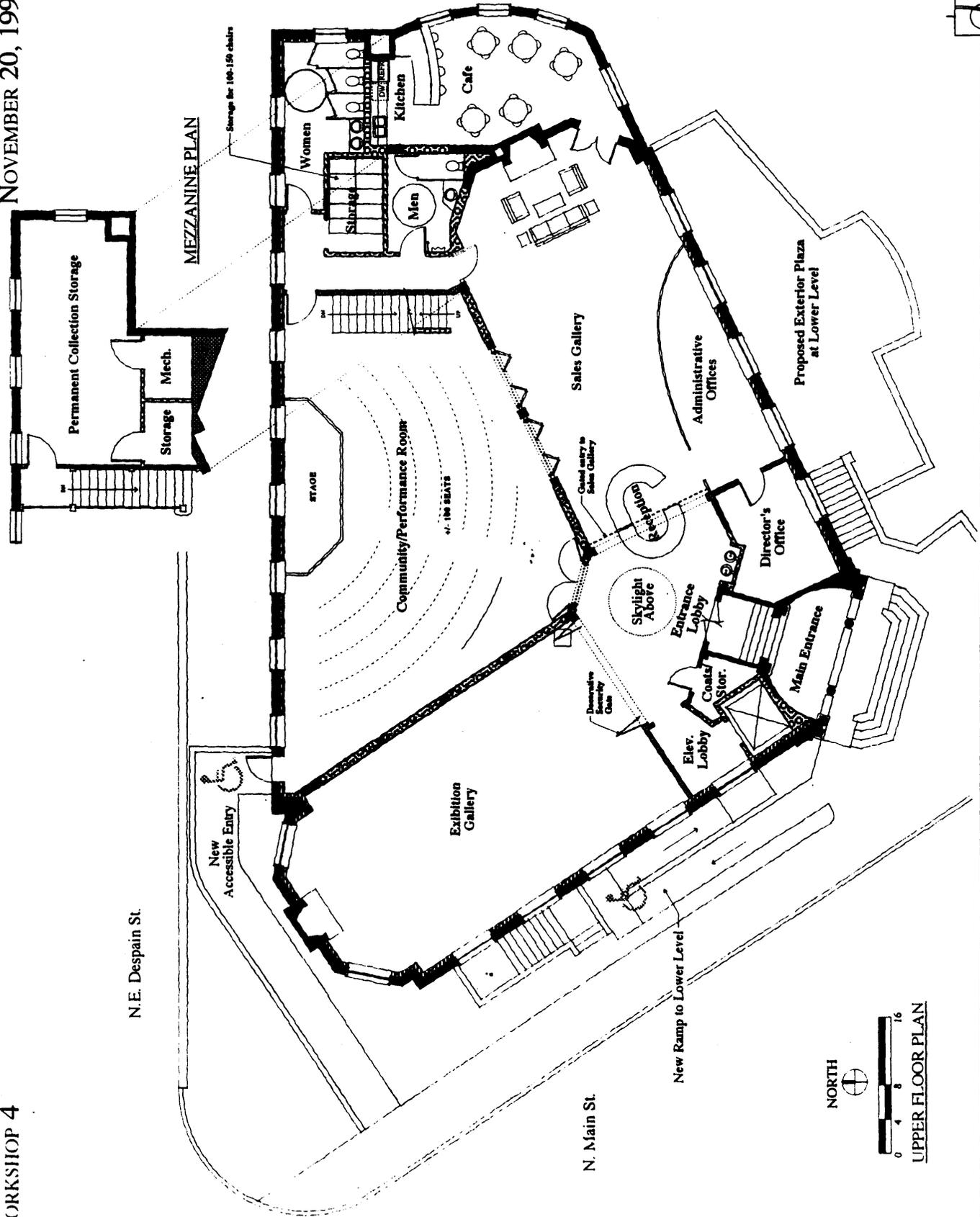
END ELEVATION OF STORY HOUR-1111 SECTION  
SCALE 3/16"

UMATILLA  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
PENDLETON OREGON

HATCH JOHNSON & MAYER  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS

DATE: APR 1910  
6/10/10

JOB NO: 1101  
KAWAUCHI CITY

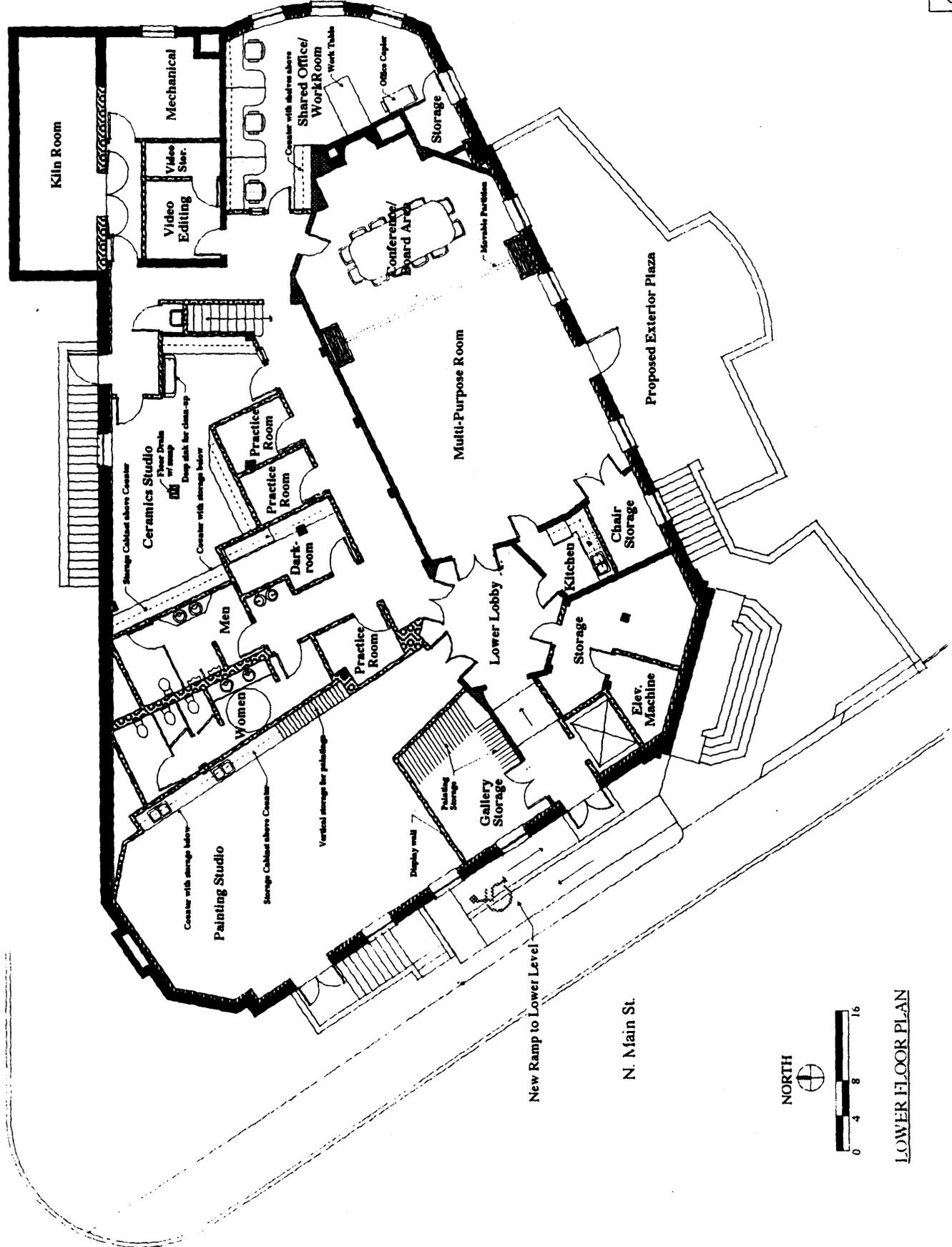


PROPOSED PLAN

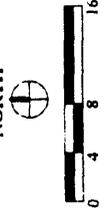
N.E. Despain St.

N. Main St.

New Ramp to Lower Level



NORTH



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

PROPOSED PLAN

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000848

Date Listed: 08/15/97

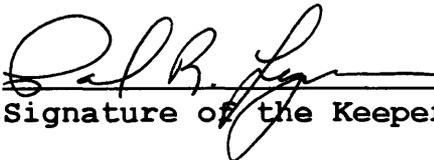
Umatilla County Library  
Property Name

Umatilla  
County

OR  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

8/15/97  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The appropriate areas of significance under Criterion A are: Education and Social History. [This clarifies a minor discrepancy in the text.]

The area of significance under Criterion C is Architecture.

This information was confirmed with E. Potter of the OR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)