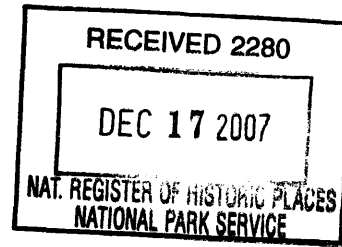


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1508

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 classifications, 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 Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse

other names/site number Creswell School, Creswell First Baptist Church

2. Location

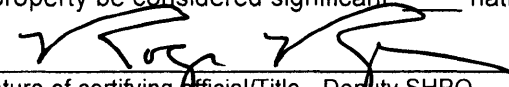
street & number 195 South 2nd Street not for publication

city or town Creswell vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Lane code 039 zip code 97426

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.


Signature of certifying Official/Title - Deputy SHPO

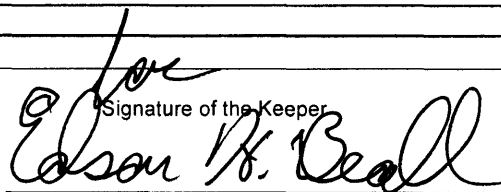
12.12.07
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

- 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):


Signature of the Keeper

Date of 1.29.08

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library
SOCIAL: civic
EDUCATION: school
RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN
OTHER: front-gable schoolhouse

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD
roof: ASPHALT
Other: _____

Narrative Description

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

Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Lane Co., OR
County and State

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).

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- 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.

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance
1876-1957

Significant Dates
1876, altered after fire
1900, moved
1927, acquisition by the CCIC

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

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

- Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Creswell Musuem, Creswell Area Historical Society

Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Lane Co., OR
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>498380</u>	<u>4862370</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

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 Laura Nowlin

organization _____ date July 2007; rev. Nov. 2007

street & number 2625 23rd St. telephone (406) 366-6838

city or town Springfield state Oregon zip code 97478

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

name City of Creswell, Attn: Jamon Kent

street & number 13 South 1st St. telephone (541) 895-2531

city or town Creswell state Oregon zip code 97426

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.460 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The oldest building in Creswell, Lane County, Oregon, the Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its role as a public meeting hall and place for social functions in the Creswell community for over 130 years. The Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse began its life as a schoolhouse in 1874 and later served the community as a church, clubhouse, and library. Along with these specific services, the building also provided a gathering place for the public from the time of its formation in 1874, providing Creswell with a reliable meeting house and gathering hall. The building demonstrates a pattern of continued commitment in Creswell to community education in its role as a library for 79 years and commitment to community involvement in its continuous role as a meeting place. This front gable building exhibits common characteristics of rural architecture of the era such as wood frame construction, a medium-pitched gable roof, simple rectangular shape, and simple ornamental detailing. The Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse also meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A and B since the building was owned by a religious institution and served as a religious property for a time during its period of significance and since it was moved during its period of significance.

SETTING

The Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse is located in Lane County, Oregon, in the small town of Creswell, approximately twelve miles south of the larger city of Eugene. The building sits on a 50 by 90 foot, level lot, two blocks south of downtown Creswell. Located at 195 S 2nd Street, the building fronts east at the corner of 2nd and D Streets. Originally, the building sat four blocks away on Oregon Street between 4th and 5th streets in Creswell, but was moved in 1900 to its present location in a residential neighborhood consisting of houses dating from the early to mid-twentieth century.

Landscape features consist of low bushes that line the north side of the building, a large English walnut tree, which grows at the northwest corner of the property, bushes at the front porch entrance, and three trees cloistered together at the southwest corner. A sidewalk runs north and south in front of the east entrance. No other pathways, driveways, or alleys exist on the property.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse is a rectangular, one-and-one-half story building with a front gable roof that sits on a stone pier foundation. The building measures 25 by 40 feet and has two additions off the west (rear) facade. A full-width front porch projects off the east end. The main window type is one-over-one double-hung, wood-sash that features simple flat-board surrounds. Wood horizontal siding of either clapboard or drop-lap of different sizes covers the building, which also displays capped corner boards on all elevations. The gable ends display crown molding with simple bed molding. The sides contain frieze boards also accompanied by simple bed molding.

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The front (east) facade is marked by its towering gable roof and front porch. There are no windows in this facade. It is sided with 5-inch channel-groove drop-lap siding, and cornerboards. Decorative features on this facade include crown molding with bed molding. A patch in the eave marks the former location of the church bell tower. A newer louvered vent is centered under the gable in the upper story.

The front facade prominently displays a circa 1927 full-width, hipped roof porch supported by four battered posts and sits on a post-and-beam foundation.¹ The porch measures 25 by 8 feet with an open railing and tongue-and-groove flooring. Four concrete steps rise up to meet the porch deck and lead to the four-panel wood door central entrance.

The north and south sides each measure 40 feet long with additions to the west end. The first addition is a kitchen addition measuring 12 ½ feet that is flush with the original building. The second addition is a woodshed addition measuring 10 feet that is inset from the original and kitchen walls on the north elevation. The original building displays enclosed eaves accompanied by a frieze board. Three one-over-one double-hung, wood windows with simple flat-board surrounds appear on these sides.

The north side is clad in 5-inch clapboard siding. Between the three one-over-one double-hung windows are patches in the siding where two windows have been removed. Evidence of all five original windows is visible in patches just under the eaves at the second floor level. The kitchen addition displays open eaves and 5-inch clapboard siding. This addition has two one-over-one double-hung wood windows placed side-by-side in the center of its wall. The shed addition is clad in 6 ½-inch channel-groove drop-lap siding. A new six-panel back door is placed in the woodshed addition next to the kitchen wall.

Visible on the back (west) end is the original building's gable roof, a shorter gable roof for the kitchen addition, and a still shorter shed roof for the woodshed addition. The original building and the kitchen addition measure 25 feet wide, while the woodshed measures 16 feet wide. The original building features the same crown molding with bed molding that mirrors the east elevation. Siding on the upper, library portion and the kitchen is 4 ¾-inch channel groove drop-lap. The gable roof of the kitchen addition displays a bargeboard. There is a sliding-sash wood window in the kitchen wall and a one-over-one double-hung, vinyl window in the woodshed wall. The woodshed has 6 ½-inch channel groove drop-lap siding.

The south side of the original portion of the building repeats the closed eaves and frieze board, and three one-over-one double-hung windows seen on the north side. The south elevation is clad in 3-inch channel groove drop-lap and does not display the patches indicating removed windows seen on the north side. The kitchen addition has open eaves, a small one-over-one double-hung window, and 3-inch drop-lap siding. The woodshed addition displays a bargeboard and 6 ½-inch channel-groove drop-lap siding.

¹ A photo and caption from an unknown newspaper c. 1929 show the building with the porch. The caption reads "shown here at the time of purchase." A photograph of Creswell in 1918 shows the building with no addition (fig. 11).

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse consists of three main spaces: the main original volume that first served as a schoolhouse, the kitchen addition with a bathroom, and the woodshed addition. The front entrance opens into the large main room that served as a class room and meeting space in 1874 and later served as a church worship area, clubhouse meeting space, and library stacks room. It measures 25 feet wide by 40 feet long with a 16-foot ceiling.

This room features a painted canvas cloth floor, similar to boat decking, over tongue-and-groove boards. Wall detailing includes a base shoe, tall baseboards, and wood wainscoting that rises 3 ½ feet on each wall. The wainscoting consists of narrow drop-lap boards set vertically that are believed to be original. A chair rail tops the wainscot throughout the room, except in two places, one each on the north and south walls, where bookshelves have been built into the wall. From the chair rail, wood paneling extends to a 1 by 4-inch picture rail placed 12 inches below the ceiling. From this trim the wall is painted plaster, matching the painted plaster ceiling. Simple flat-board trim and apron surround the wood windows that still possess their original jamb locks.

A four-panel wood door opens into the 1927 kitchen addition, which has tongue-and-groove wood flooring. This 25 by 12 ½ foot space also includes a small bathroom in the southeast corner of the room that measures 5 by 6 feet with 12 foot ceilings. The kitchen displays a baseboard and 3 ½-inch wood wainscoting consisting of tongue-and-groove boards set vertically. Above the wainscoting, wallpaper on plaster walls extends to the ceiling. Sheet rock has been applied to the original tongue-and-groove board ceiling, which is visible at the attic access hole. The bathroom contains the same tongue-and-groove flooring with 6-foot wainscoting. Plaster walls extend up to a plaster ceiling. One-over-one double-hung, wood windows with simple flat-board trim light both the north kitchen wall and the south wall in the bathroom. A two-paned fixed window is on the west wall.

A centered five-panel wood door leads from the kitchen to the back woodshed addition, which measures 16 by 10 feet with 12 foot ceilings. The addition has carpet over a plywood floor, no baseboard, and painted sheet rocked walls and ceiling. There is a one-over-one double-hung window with no trim on the west wall. There is also a new 6-panel exit door on the north wall.

ALTERATIONS

When built in 1874, this building was two and one-half stories in height. A fire in 1876 caused significant damage and resulted in the removal of the second story and lowering the roof. The building's siting on this original lot is unclear. Currently, the original lot is a park.² Originally, the building contained five four-over-four double-hung windows along each side which were replaced by one-over-one double-hung windows probably after it was moved to its current site in 1900. It also originally displayed a partial width front porch. This porch

² This lot also held two other Creswell schoolhouses built in 1896 and in 1911.

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was replaced between 1918 and 1927, as evidenced by photographs and newspaper accounts at the time.³ When the First Baptist Church acquired the building from the school district and moved it in 1900, they added a bell tower to the front of the building, which the Creswell Civic Improvement Club (CCIC) later removed.⁴ Around 1927, after acquisition by the CCIC, the kitchen addition is believed to have been built.⁵ The woodshed was originally a detached outbuilding, but in 1998 the building was in use as a library and the woodshed was enclosed to create a back storage room for the library.

The major alterations to the building, as well as the move, have now become historic in their own right. Furthermore, the alterations do not compromise the integrity of the building, but rather help to tell the long and eventful story of this important building that has withstood the test of time (and human touch) in order to serve the people of Creswell. As evidenced by its alterations, the community of Creswell continued to use and adapt the building to changing needs. While alterations took place because of the changing community, the significant use of the building continued to be a community center throughout its 133 year life.

³ Date determined by Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1920, 1921-1930) and typical features of the porch, such as the heavy battered posts and heavy roof characteristic of the 1920s-30s, also a newspaper article and photograph cited earlier.

⁴ Photos of Creswell from the early 1900s show this building with a bell tower located in the east gable (additional documentation, fig. 9-11, 13). Also, trim pieces that do not match have been patched into the gable where the tower sat.

⁵ Brandie Conaster, *Chronological History of Civic Improvement Club and Building*, research notes, November 13, 2006, held by Marge Williamson, Creswell, OR. These notes refer to remodeling done by the Creswell Civic Improvement Club when they purchased the building.

Also, *Report to Ed Gunderson* contains comment on kitchen addition – believed to be 1927 based on Civic Club minutes.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse was the first public building constructed in Creswell, Lane County, Oregon and prevails as the oldest building in town today. This building meets Criterion A for its continued use and central role as a public gathering place from the time of its construction in 1874 until 2006. It represents the community's commitment to self-improvement through its many public uses. The building is also a prime example of efficiency in a small community through the frequent practice of recycling old buildings for new uses. Originally built in 1874 on Oregon Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets, the structure served first as a schoolhouse and meeting place. A fire in 1876 gave cause for the removal of the second story, giving it the appearance it has today. It was moved approximately five blocks to the southeast by the First Baptist Church in 1900 and has stood on 2nd and D Streets ever since. After the move, the building served as a church in 1900, and later the clubhouse for the Creswell Civic Improvement Club (CCIC) in 1927. The CCIC in turn allowed the Creswell Library Association to utilize it as the Creswell Public Library building beginning in 1927. Due to the building's varied use and relocation, the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse also meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A and B since the building was owned by a religious institution and served as a religious property for a time during its period of significance and since it was moved during its period of significance.

The period of significance begins in 1876, the date of a fire that made the two-and-one-half story building into one-and-one-half stories. Despite this event, the building has remained much the same since 1876. Since this time, the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse has not only served a variety of functions, but has also maintained its community center status despite its originally assigned use. The building represents a continually changing community that has remained committed to improvement and growth. Author Homer Seerley states, "what any single ... community has become has depended entirely upon the energy, the intellectuality, and the morality of its people."¹ A meeting place fosters this growth of its people and development of the community. The period of significance ends in 1957, the fifty-year cut-off. The Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse played a significant role in the social history of Creswell by serving as the local community center and creating a space that the citizens of Creswell gathered at and utilized in the pursuit to better their community.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CRESWELL

The city of Creswell in Lane County, Oregon is located just west of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River at the southern end of the Willamette Valley in western Oregon. The area was inhabited by Native Americans for over 10,000 years before the first Euro-American settlers began to arrive in the 1840s. By 1857 these Kalapuya Indians were forcibly removed and relocated to the Grand Ronde Reservation.²

¹ Homer H. Seerley, *The Country School: A Study of Its Foundations, Relations, Developments, Activities, and Possibilities*, Charles Scribner's Sons: New York, 1913.

² George W. Ross, Joan Hoagland Campbell and Sandra Hanson Wilson, *The Blue Valley: A History of Creswell*, Creswell Area Historical Society: Creswell, OR, 1993. p. 1-4.

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In the mid-nineteenth century, Euro-Americans poured into the Willamette Valley, taking full advantage of the rich lands. Elijah Bristow claimed the first land in Lane County, near present day Pleasant Hill. Other settlers quickly followed, claiming what they viewed to be the best property. In 1850, the Donation Land Act formalized and encouraged settlement in Oregon. This act granted 640 acres to each married couple who lived on and cultivated their claim. In 1857, the first schoolhouse in Lane County opened -- a small cabin near the Bristow residence where students were taught by W.W. Bristow, son of Elijah Bristow. Shortly after the school opened, the first church was constructed nearby.³

Before long, towns dotted the landscape of the upper Willamette Valley. The original site of the settlement of Creswell began a few miles east of the present day location in the area of Cloverdale. By 1852, John Gilfrey operated a general store in Cloverdale and a post office served the surrounding community. When the plans for the location of the Oregon and California Railroad became known, many in the Cloverdale community moved west, across the Coast Fork of the Willamette River to a spot that the railroad reached by 1871. In this year James Robinett and Alvin Hughes donated land to plat a town. In 1873, Ben Holladay of the Oregon and California Railroad named the town Creswell, after the U.S. Postmaster General at the time, John Creswell. Euro-American settlers in the area relied on agriculture and timber to make their living and the small town plugged away.⁴

The period from 1870 to 1909 saw gradual growth, with Creswell expanding to around 500 people. In 1873, the citizens of Creswell built their first church. Although the building was constructed to serve a Methodist congregation, multiple denominations held services in the building. In 1874, Creswell built its first public building, a schoolhouse, that would later also house the public library and Creswell Civic Improvement Club. Alvin Hughes donated the land for the school and C.P. Curren served as the first schoolteacher. The two-room school building reflected the growing population and the need for a spacious building. The building served as both the schoolhouse and a community gathering place where Christmas parties, Grange meetings, and band practices were held. To accommodate the growing population, Creswell built a new schoolhouse, and in 1900, the First Baptist Church of Creswell bought the original schoolhouse building.⁵

In 1909, A.C. Bohrstedt, an enterprising businessman from the Midwest, came to town and helped initiate what is known as the Bohrstedt Boom. Bohrstedt saw the agricultural potential of the Creswell area and bought 1,400 acres of land, creating the A.C. Bohrstedt Orchard Company. He then ordered 40,000 fruit trees to be planted that winter and made room for 77,000 more trees in his nursery. Bohrstedt then began to advertise his land to investors in the east. For example, Bohrstedt brought "excursion trains" of interested people to Oregon, with many passengers later buying property from Bohrstedt and staying in the Creswell area.⁶ The Creswell Development League also helped to publicize by publishing a promotional booklet in 1909 touting the fertile fruit and nut land that surrounded Creswell. This booklet proclaimed, "It [Creswell] is a wide

³ A.G. Walling, *Illustrated History of Lane County, OR: compiled from the most authentic sources*, Printing and Lithographing House of A.G. Walling: Portland, OR, 1884, p. 338.

⁴ Creswell Area Historical Society, *Creswell's Centennial in Pictures*, Emerald Valley Craftsmen: United States, 1976. p. 4, 7.

⁵ George W. Ross, Joan Hoagland Campbell and Sandra Hanson Wilson, *The Blue Valley: A History of Creswell*, Creswell Area Historical Society: Creswell, OR, 1993. p. 46.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 97-98.

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awake, bustling little community of about 500 inhabitants and with an assured future...⁷ By the end of 1909, Creswell's population of 500 had increased 35 percent, and Bohrnstedt predicted the population to reach at least 1,200 by 1915.

This time period saw growth in all areas of Creswell. Bohrnstedt established the Creswell Fruit Grower's Bank and also offered to donate land for a new school. The school board voted down his donation, but did approve the construction of a new school on a different plot of land. The schoolchildren of Creswell moved into their new building in 1910. In 1909, John Tunnel converted his saw and gristmill into a power plant and provided electricity at night to the town. The public water tower and system arrived in 1910 along with the discussion of a sewer system, although sewer system plans were not approved until 1961. In addition, the Creswell Cannery opened in 1913. Evidently, Creswell was a booming town during the early years of the 1910s, with the town boasting an opera house, a millinery owned and operated by a woman, a band, multiple hotels, and various other businesses.⁸ In 1913, however, Bohrnstedt was accused of dishonest land dealings and disappeared, effectively marking the end of the boom. By 1920, Creswell was home to only 270 people. Creswell, however, began its recovery from the economic bust and slowly, but steadily, grew after this time, reaching 662 people by 1950.⁹

Numerous clubs and organizations began during the short-lived Bohrnstedt Boom years of 1909-1913. Rapid population expansion and its aftereffects created problems that needed to be addressed. Many of the clubs founded at this time assisted the city in improvement projects and established public services such as the Creswell Library Association and the Creswell Civic Improvement Club. Both of these groups came to use the Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse in later years.¹⁰

Because of its strong agricultural base, the Creswell area did not suffer as much as the rest of the country when the Great Depression occurred during the 1930s. The 1940s and 1950s brought growth to the area and also an increased demand from the timber industry. Sawmills and logging became increasingly important as the timber industry sought to keep up with housing demands after World War II. Gradual growth and continued ways of life in agriculture and timber marked the years following the 1950s.¹¹

HISTORY OF THE CRESWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CLUB CLUBHOUSE

From Schoolhouse to Church

In 1874, the City of Creswell oversaw the construction of its first public building, a schoolhouse. This schoolhouse later would become the First Baptist Church, the Creswell Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse, and the Creswell Public Library. Originally two-and-one-half stories in height and located on Oregon Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets, the schoolhouse looked quite majestic with its front gable roof, four-over-four double-hung windows, and bright white paint. The first floor served as a classroom for the first through fourth

⁷ Ibid, p. 97.

⁸ Ibid, p. 100, 102, 122,125-26.

⁹ Ibid, p. 109, 121.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 46.

¹¹ Ibid, 1993.

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grades and the second floor provided the classroom for the fifth through eighth grades. Typical of early schoolhouses, the building also served as a community meeting hall where multiple groups met and various activities, such as Christmas parties and Grange Club meetings, took place.¹²

A fire of unknown causes erupted within the building in 1876, which necessitating the removal of the second floor shortly thereafter. The city salvaged the building by simply removing most of the second floor and placing the attic and roof on top of the first floor. Evidence of the second floor windows is visible today in the siding of the north facade of the building. This adaptation of a damaged building is a quintessential example of the efficiency practiced by early settlers and those in rural areas. Even as a much smaller structure, the schoolhouse continued to serve the expanding community.¹³ The schoolhouse in a rural area "housed the activities that joined people into a community..." and provided the initial motivation for development.¹⁴ As the first schoolhouse in Creswell, the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse served to bring people together and provide a place for them to plan their community's future.

The population of Creswell grew from 50 families and 30 schoolchildren to 110 schoolchildren by 1896. Due to this increasing population, the schoolhouse building was no longer adequate, and a new building took its place that could accommodate the number of students. In 1900, the First Baptist Church bought the original school building and had it moved by a team of horses five blocks to a lot on 2nd and D Streets, purchased from the Willamette Real Estate Company, where it remains today. The new location was similar to the first in that the neighborhoods were both residential, yet within a close proximity to the city center expanding around the railroad tracks. The relocation of the schoolhouse to necessitate the construction of a new building also signified continued community growth within Creswell.

As the Creswell First Baptist Church, the building gave the Baptists their first house of worship, as well as continued to provide a public meeting space for the community. The congregation remodeled the building for use as a church, constructing a small steeple and bell tower. The group maintained the building and made other periodic updates. The interior still houses white church benches from this era. The Baptists were served by traveling ministers, the last of whom was Pastor Groat, who preached mainly in Cottage Grove. Since the church group met sporadically, other groups were allowed to utilize the building. During World War I, the building served as a Red Cross headquarters, where women from the community gathered to roll bandages and knit socks, gloves, and scarves for service men. It also housed a "welcome home" reception for returning soldiers. In 1920, the congregation sold the church to the Oregon Baptist Convention, and Pastor Groat encouraged and supervised the construction of an impressive new church in Cottage Grove for his congregation.¹⁵ This new church opened in 1926, a year before the Oregon Baptist Convention sold the old church building in Creswell to the Civic Improvement Club.¹⁶

¹² Ibid p. 46.

¹³ Brandie Conaster, *Chronological History of Civic Improvement Club and Building*, research notes, November 13, 2006, held by Marge Williamson, Creswell, OR.

¹⁴ Andrew Gulliford, *America's Country Schools*, University Press of Colorado: Colorado, 1996, p. 35.

¹⁵ George W. Ross, Joan Hoagland Campbell and Sandra Hanson Wilson, *The Blue Valley: A History of Creswell*, Creswell Area Historical Society: Creswell, OR, 1993. p. 46.

¹⁶ "Baptists Open New Church", *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, 30 December 1926, p. 1-3.

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Acquisition by the Creswell Civic Improvement Club

During the Progressive era, many political changes took shape with women playing an active role in these changes in a variety of ways. The women's club movement in particular, specifically focused on civic improvement and social welfare. In 1868, the first women's club of what later became the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Sorosis Club of New York, formed and wrote the first social program. The General Federation of Women's Clubs officially began in 1899. The federation grew, as did other women's clubs across the country. In 1923, Lucetta Chase wrote about the success of the Federation, stating, "...women have extended to an astonishing degree the four walls of their homes to the four walls of the human family abode, and as are the children of the home, so are the children of men everywhere."¹⁷ At their 1923 meeting, members of the Federation carried menu cards that read, "General Federation of Women's Clubs. Membership 2,000,000. A group of organized women in every community who can be depended upon to promote movements looking toward the betterment of life."¹⁸

Much in the same way, the Creswell Civic Improvement Club (CCIC) was founded on April 14, 1913 and brought together a group of women dedicated to improving their community. They operated under the motto "to create sentiment in favor of a clean, sanitary, moral city and to foster a mutual pride in beautifying public and private grounds and furthering all worthwhile community enterprises," with their inspiring saying, "Count that day lost whose low descending sun views from thy hand no worthy action done."¹⁹ In 1918, the CCIC became one of eight clubs in Lane County to become affiliated with the National Federation of Woman's Clubs, solidifying their commitment to community well-being and civic improvement. During the first years of its existence the club worked on a variety of civic improvement projects, including collecting clothing European war victims, adopting a war orphan, urging citizens to vote through advertisements and campaigns, and asking for better electric light service in the town.

In 1927, the Oregon Baptist Convention sold their property to the Creswell Civic Improvement Club, where the building quickly became used more vigorously. Because the club hosted many activities and functions that required cooking or serving food, the CCIC remodeled the interior and completed a small kitchen and bathroom addition to the west end within the first year of ownership. This addition was compatible with the original structure, mirroring the gable roof and its pitch and repeating decorative elements such as the cornerboards and window trim. The addition represents the rigor with which the CCIC women went about improving their community, as the CCIC improved their building while also working to improve the community through work with such organizations as the Red Cross and Girl Scouts. In 1927, the CCIC also opened their building for use by the Creswell Library Association, marking the beginning of a first dedicated library building in the Creswell community. As evidenced, the historic building continued to serve the community well into the years after its purchase by the CCIC.²⁰

¹⁷ Lucetta C. Chase, "The Social Program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. One Index of Fifty Years of Progress," *Journal of Social Forces*, Vol. 1, No. 4. (May, 1923), pp. 465.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, 466.

¹⁹ Kelly Fenley, "Losing their Library to time," *The Sentinel*, 26 November 1980, section C, p. 4; Mrs. Millicent Ellis, "Creswell Civic Club", April 1946, in Creswell History file at Creswell Museum, Creswell, OR;

²⁰ Brandie Conaster, *Chronological History of Civic Improvement Club and Building*, research notes, November 13, 2006, held by Marge Williamson, Creswell, OR.

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A Space for the Creswell Public Library

The Creswell Library Association began on October 31, 1909. The Bohrnstedt Boom created an influx of people and this rise in population resulted in an increased awareness of cultural and recreational needs, such as a public library. The association first procured books on a loan system from the Oregon State Library. Both donations of money and books trickled in and the association bought books that various residents and businesses in town took turns storing. At the time of its official opening in the CCIC Clubhouse in 1927, the library was open only one day per week. By 1938, however, the library was open to visitors ten hours every week.²¹

The Creswell Civic Improvement Club actively participated in the library endeavor and it became one of their most successful projects. For example, the CCIC provided bookshelves for the library and conducted workshops to repair damaged books. Besides being very active in the community through their many projects, the CCIC also allowed free use of their clubhouse, although in later years they were forced to charge a small fee for use of the building in order to pay for building maintenance and other costs. Speaking to the number of people served by the building over the years, Mrs. Millicent Ellis, a former president of the club wrote in 1946, "The Club House has been used for many social affairs and business meetings too numerous to name."²²

Few changes to the building took place after the CCIC acquired the building, except for typical maintenance and landscaping that kept up the appearance of the structure. In 1932, the club planted an English walnut tree at the northwest end of the building that still stands today. The CCIC also sold the west twenty feet of the lot to neighbor Mrs. M.P. Hoover in 1946. In 1949, the kitchen underwent an extensive remodel, and in 1967 the walls of the main room were paneled. The exterior of the building received new coats of paint, but no major alterations.²³

Alterations within the Creswell Civic Improvement Club itself, however, took place as the club began to dwindle in its number of members throughout the twentieth century. As it did so, other community groups began to help with building maintenance. The Creswell JayCees started to use the hall in 1971, and in 1973 re-roofed and rewired the building. During this time, the CCIC contemplated options for ensuring that the building remained standing long into the future, and 1980 decided to sell the property to the City of Creswell as "a historical site upon the dissolution of the club."²⁴ Members of the CICC continued to use the building until the organization formally disbanded in 1988.

Since its inception, the library operated on a volunteer basis. In 1977, the Lane County Library Association established a book mobile that included Creswell in 1979. This program trained volunteers to work in the library. Operation in conjunction with the county Library Association was voted down in 1988, but the library continued to positively impact the community. During February 2006, the resulting library collection that

²¹ Helen Hoyer, "Library Celebrates Two Birthdays," *Creswell Chronicle*, October 23, 2002.

²² Mrs. Millicent Ellis, "Creswell Civic Club", April 1946, in Creswell History file at Creswell Museum, Creswell, OR.

²³ Brandie Conaster, *Chronological History of Civic Improvement Club and Building*, research notes, November 13, 2006, held by Marge Williamson, Creswell, OR.

²⁴ Springfield Title Co., Deed, The Creswell Civic Improvement Club convey to The City of Creswell, Oregon, Creswell, Oregon, 1980.

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accumulated from the 1909 Library Association's efforts moved from the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse to a new facility. The library existed in the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse from 1927 until 2006, remaining a constant in the lives of the citizens of Creswell.²⁵

As a testament to the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse building's endurance and high rate of use, in 1992, Creswell's population hovered around only 1,500 people. The library that year, however, was open 301 days, received 3,441 visitors, checked out 9,110 books, and issued 227 new library cards. The building helped foster not only a love of books, but also an environment for learning and a commitment to serving the community. Through the building's use as a local library, and space for public functions, the Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse helped promote community improvement, involvement, and education for nearly 80 years.

A second generation of the Creswell Civic Improvement Club formed after the completion of the new library building with the purpose of ensuring a continued use for the original library building. Their plans include maintenance and rehabilitation to ready the Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse for reopening to the public.²⁶

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Creswell has been the home to various club buildings from the nineteenth century up to the present, but not until the 1970s did a designated community center appear. The Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse, therefore, served as the primary community center until this time. Because of the demolition of several other buildings that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse is the only public building that continues to be in public use today constructed before the Bohrnstedt Boom.

While other public gathering places did exist, many of these buildings were demolished by the 1950s. For example, early Euro-American settlers of Creswell often held meetings above the general store. This building, however, was demolished many years ago. During the Bohrnstedt Boom era, the Hawley Building provided a gathering place on the upper floor, as well as housing for some Library Association books. Unfortunately, this building also is no longer standing.

Other clubs in the community built their own meeting houses, but these buildings were not promoted as community meeting spaces. After holding meetings in the Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse when it served as schoolhouse, the local Grange built their own meeting house in 1915, but was later destroyed by fire in 1937. Although the rebuilt 1938 building still stands today, it has been heavily altered.²⁷ By 1910 the Woodmen of the World completed their hall and allowed it to be used for functions such as city council meetings, local talent shows, silent movies, and traveling entertainment, but, in general, was promoted more

²⁵ George W. Ross, Joan Hoagland Campbell and Sandra Hanson Wilson, *The Blue Valley: A History of Creswell*, Creswell Area Historical Society: Creswell, OR, 1993, p. 11, 112.

²⁶ Marge Williamson, interview by Laura Nowlin, Creswell, Oregon, January 20, 2007.

²⁷ George W. Ross, Joan Hoagland Campbell and Sandra Hanson Wilson, *The Blue Valley: A History of Creswell*, Creswell Area Historical Society: Creswell, OR, 1993, p. 71, 111.

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as a place for formal gatherings. In the 1940s, the building was remodeled into the Star Theater, and still stands today, but has been vacant for some time.²⁸

Constructed in 1874, the Creswell Public Library and CIC Clubhouse has rested at the corner of 2nd and D Streets since 1900. Since the CCIC purchased the building and proceeded to remodel it in 1927, the building has received only a small addition to the west side. This addition, however, merely enclosed a previously existing woodshed, and therefore does not affect the integrity of the building.

CONCLUSION

The Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse meets the requirements for Criterion A through its contribution to the history of Creswell by serving as an important public gathering space. The establishment of the building as a de facto community center helped provide much needed space to allow for social, political, intellectual, and community growth. In addition to providing a space for public events and gatherings, the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse also provided the community with a building for their first school, a place for congregants of the First Baptist Church to worship, a clubhouse, and a library. It was the first public building built in Creswell and remains the oldest building in town today. The Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse stands as a testament to the resiliency of this agricultural and lumber town, and to the commitment of the community to self-improvement.

Although the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse also meets the requirements for Criteria Consideration A, while it served as a religious property from 1900-1927, it continued to contribute to the entire population of Creswell. During this time, the First Baptist Church met intermittently and in light of this encouraged public use of the building. Even though the building legally functioned as a church, this period of the building's life further demonstrates how the community continued to utilize the building's space for non-religious meetings and activities.

Also, while the building also meets the requirements for Criteria Consideration B due to the building's relocation, its setting remained mostly unchanged. In 1900, the original lot at the west end of Oregon Avenue was quiet and with many residences nearby. In comparison, the present location of the building on 2nd and D Streets was, and still is today, a quiet residential area with a few small businesses. Similarly, both of these areas were just blocks from the blossoming downtown area organized around Oregon Avenue and Front Street. In addition, moving a building in order to continue use was a common practice in the American West during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The historic move, therefore, adds to the importance and intrigue of the story told by the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse. Furthermore, the move, reuse, and salvage of the building also serves to magnify the community's efficiency and the building's importance within the community as a public space.

The Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse's physical alterations, as well as changes in ownership and use, mirror the growth and social adjustments in Creswell. The building also signifies the community's continued commitment to public involvement through its constant role as a community gathering

²⁸ Ibid, p. 71.

Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Lane Co., OR
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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place. During the early days of a rural area, a small centralized town in the region often relied on a public place to gather for much needed social contact and activities away from demanding workdays. As a town matured and people began to form social organizations, they also continued to need a meeting space. These organizations facilitated public education through workshops and courses, which were held at the established local community center. For over 130 years the Creswell Public Library and CCIC Clubhouse provided a space for school lessons, public meetings, events, church services, workshops, housed the public library, and held various other activities that helped to make it the established community center of Creswell.

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Maps

Lane County, Creswell Tax Map: 19, 03, 14, 31, 2007.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Creswell, Oregon, sheet 2, 1920.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Creswell, Oregon, sheet 2, 1920 – 1931.

Ziniker Maloof, Mary Anne, *Lane County Historian*, "A Short History of Creswell", Lane County Pioneer-Historical Society, *Lane County Historian*, vol. 9, no. 3, December 1964. Street Map of Creswell, Oregon, 1875-1912.

Historic Photos

Lane County Historical Museum, Overviews of Creswell, Photographers unknown. Photo # 6426 (Creswell 1918), Photo # 6382 (Creswell 1912), Photo # GN6373 (Creswell 1906)

Creswell Area Historical Society, C. 1874 photo of first Creswell Schoolhouse, photographer unknown.

Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Lane Co., OR
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse lies in Section 14, Township 19 South, Range 3 West, of the Willamette Meridian, in Lane County, Oregon. In the City of Creswell, the area is comprised of Tax Lot 3900 in Block 12, Lot 5 of the original plat of Creswell.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the building that has historically been the Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse and that maintains historic integrity.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Address: Creswell Public Library and Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse
195 South 2nd Street
Creswell, Lane County, OR

Photographer: Laura Nowlin, nomination preparer, 2625 23rd Street, Springfield, OR 97478
Date: See individual description for specific date
Ink and Paper: Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks on Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper
Location of Negatives: Digital, images held by preparer

- 1 of 14: Exterior view: east and north elevations showing the front porch and kitchen addition, January 14, 2007.
- 2 of 14: Exterior view: east elevation, January 14, 2007.
- 3 of 14: Exterior view: east and south elevations, January 14, 2007.
- 4 of 14: Exterior view: close-up of additions from the south and west elevations, January 14, 2007.
- 5 of 14: Exterior view: west and south elevations, January 14, 2007.
- 6 of 14: Exterior view: west and north elevations, January 14, 2007.
- 7 of 14: Exterior view: east elevation view of the foundation, January 14, 2007.
- 8 of 14: Interior view: main room looking west toward the kitchen, April 15, 2007.
- 9 of 14: Interior view: main room looking east toward the front door, April 15, 2007.
- 10 of 14: Interior view: kitchen looking north, April 15, 2007.
- 11 of 14: Interior view: bathroom looking southeast, April 15, 2007.
- 12 of 14: Interior view: backroom looking southwest, April 15, 2007.
- 13 of 14: Interior view: detail of wainscoting on south wall of main room, April 15, 2007.
- 14 of 14: Interior view: detail of north window jamb lock, April 15, 2007.

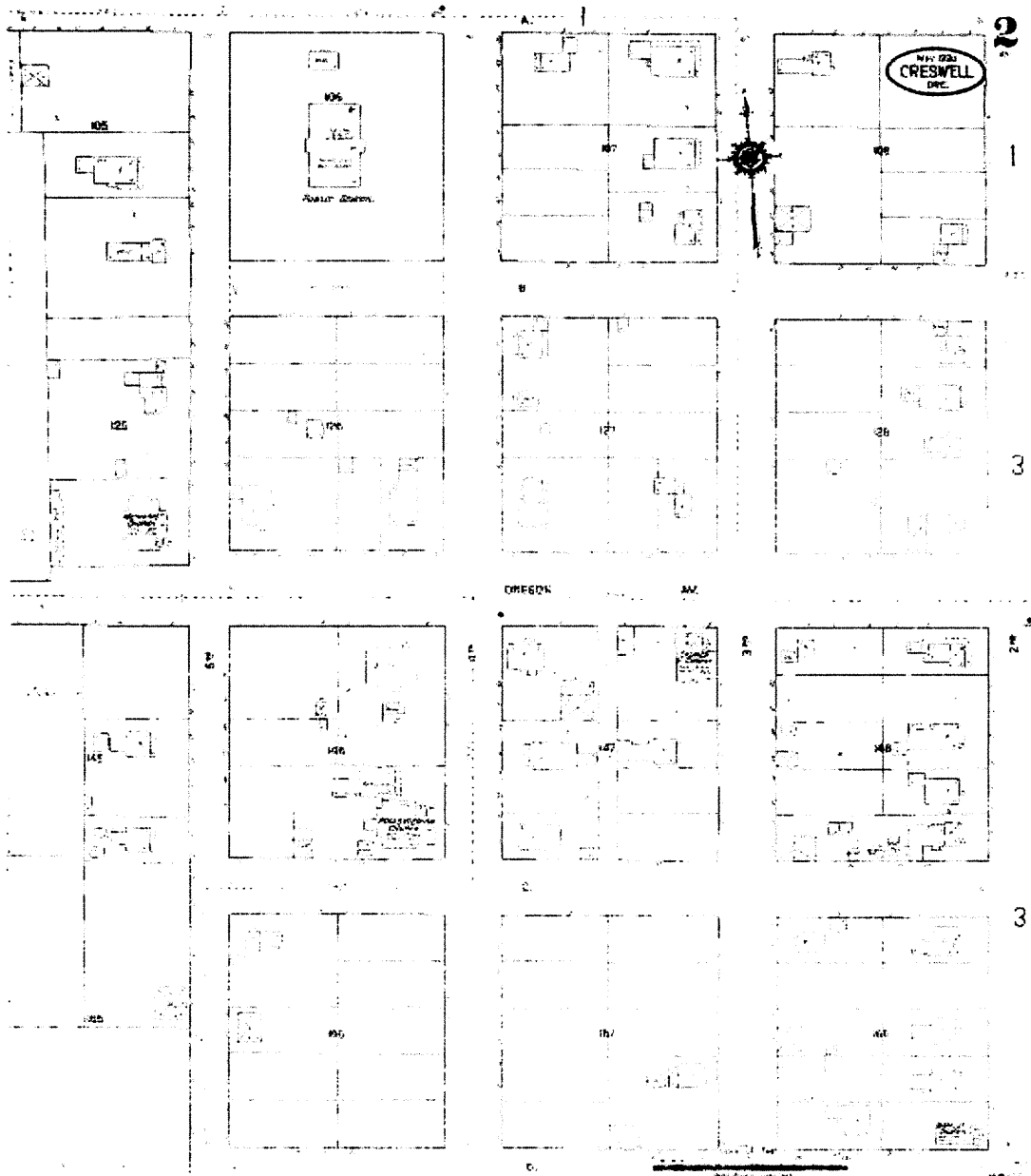


Figure 2, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Creswell, Oregon, 1920, sheet 2.

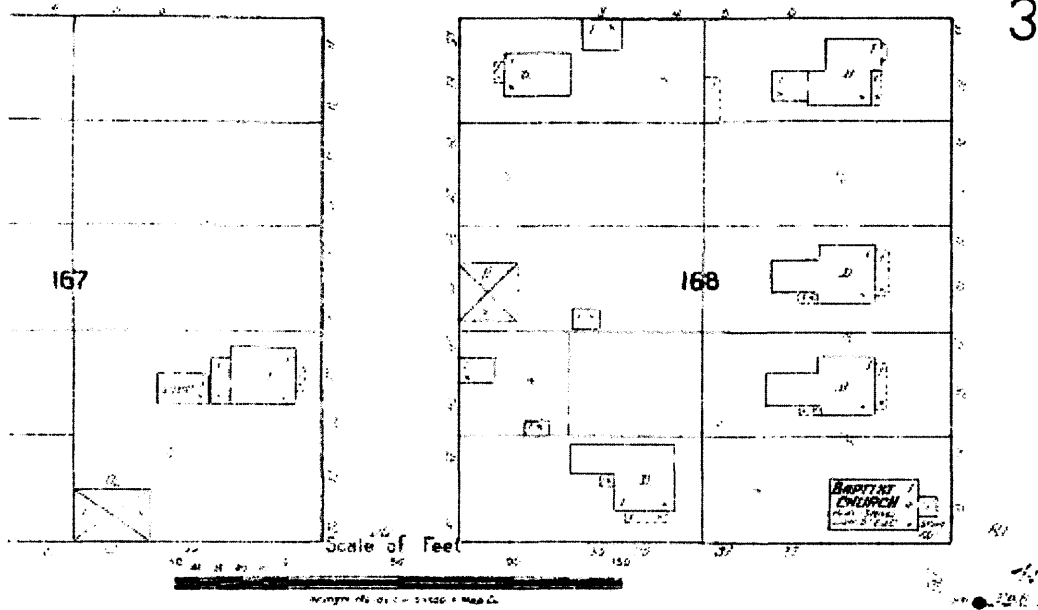


Figure 3, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920.

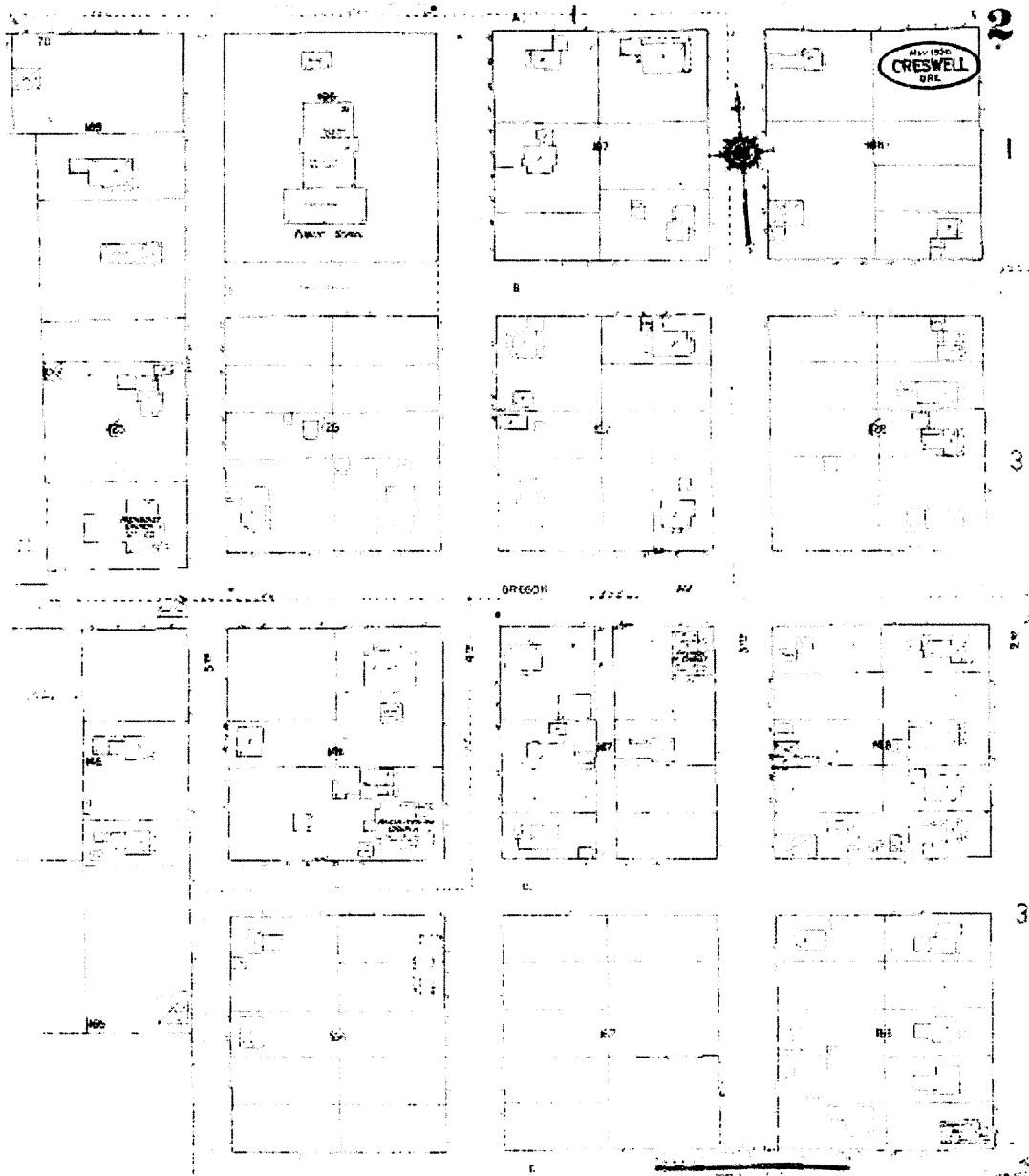


Figure 4, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Creswell, Oregon, sheet 2, 1920 – 1931

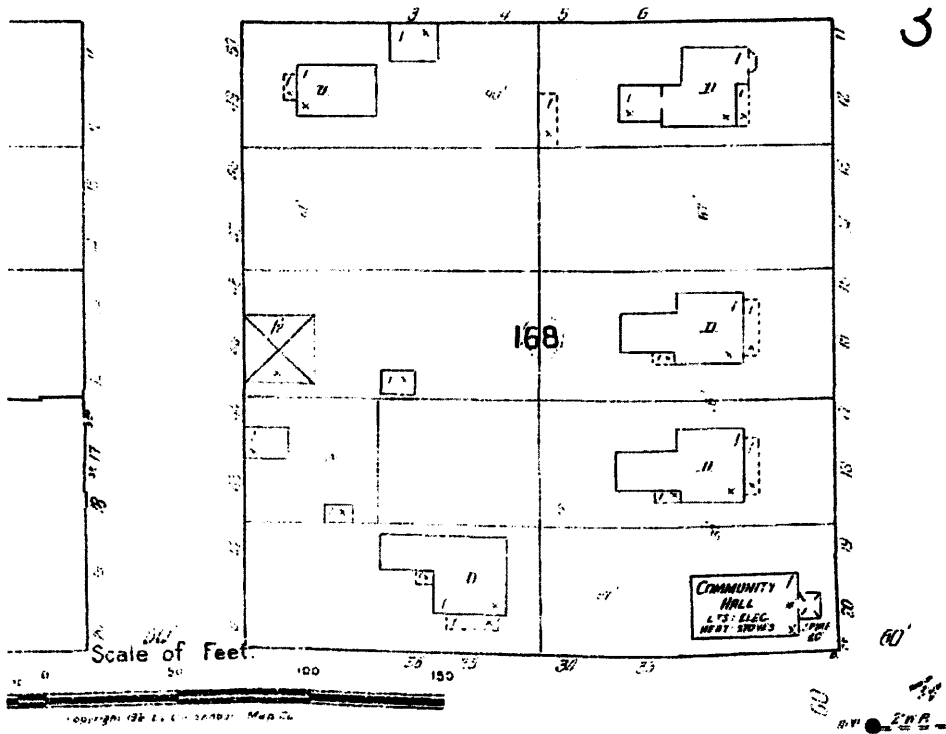
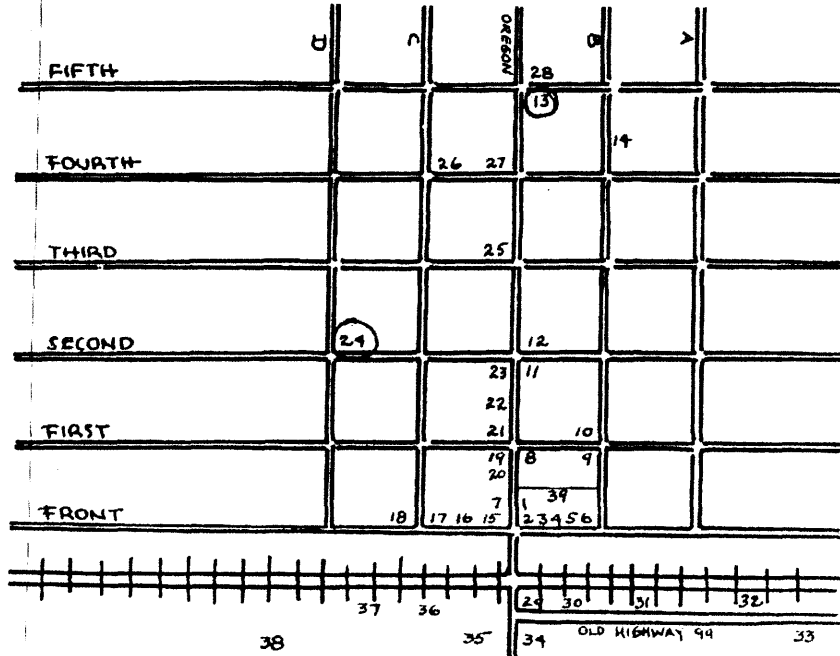


Figure 5, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920 – 1931.



Street Map of Creswell, Oregon, 1875-1912

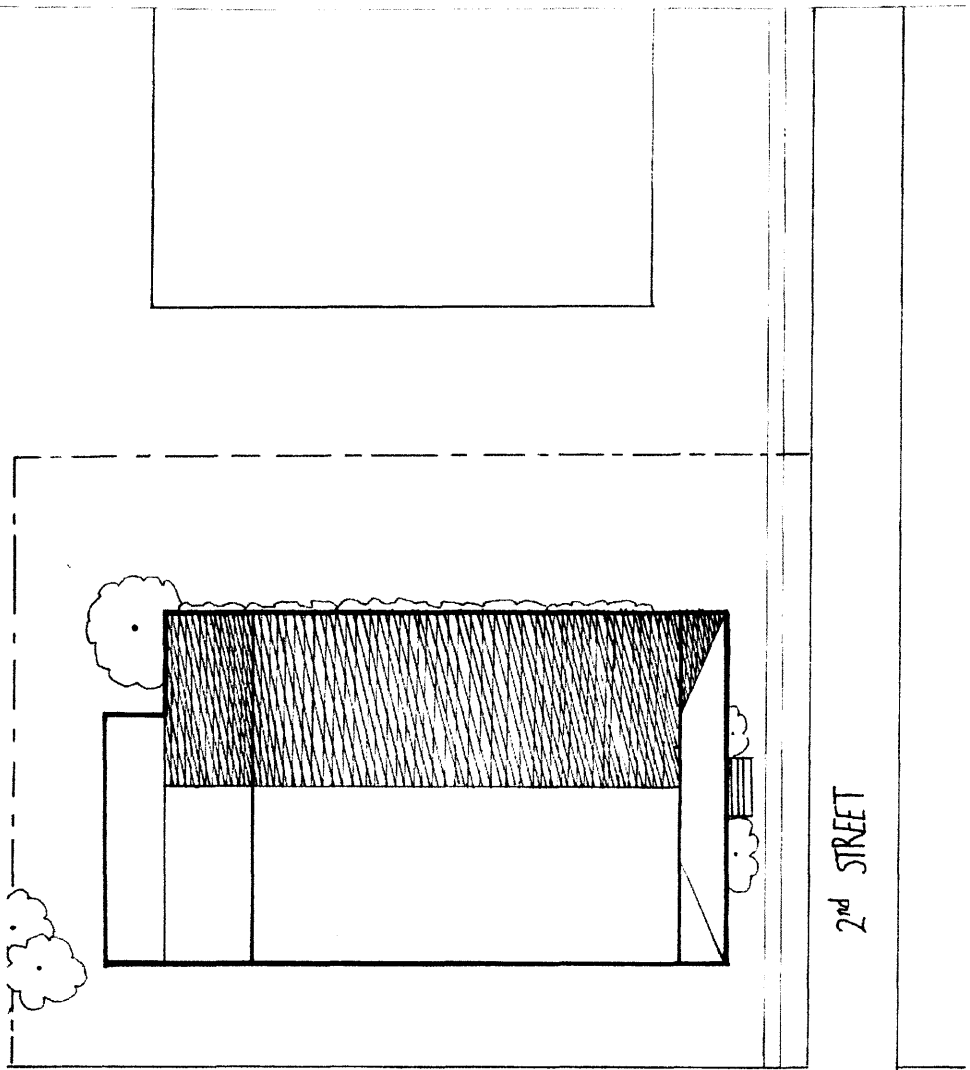
1. Giltrey's Grocery, 2. Whiteaker Drug Store, 3. Harness Shop, 4. Ogram's Hardware, 5. Martin's Boarding House, 6. Martin's House, 7. Hitching Post, 8. Bank, 9. Blacksmith Shop, 10. Photograph Shop, 11. Hughes Blacksmith Shop, 12. G. T. Giltrey Home, 13. Location of first school for several years, 14. School and Grounds, 15. Howe's General Store and Masonic Hall, 16. Drug Store, 17. Shaul's Hotel, later Etna Opera House, 18. Grand Hall, 19. Scott Hotel, 20. I.O.O.F. Hall, Town Hall, 21. Barber Shop, 22. Band Stand, 23. W.O.W. Hall, 24. Later location of first school, Baptist Church, Civic Club, 25. Christian Church, 26. Presbyterian Church, 27. Later location of second school, 28. Methodist Church, 29. Depot, 30. Cheese Factory, 31. Stock Pens, 32. Cannery, 33. Post Office, 34. Lower's Blacksmith Shop, 35. Schmitt Bros. Livery Stable, 36. Feed Store, 37. Prune Drier, 38. Brick Factory, 39. Creswell Post Office, temporary location.

Street Map of Creswell, Oregon, 1875-1912

From: Mary Anne Ziniker Maloof, *Lane County Historian*, "A Short History of Creswell", Lane County Pioneer-Historical Society, *Lane County Historian*, vol. 9, no. 3, December 1964.

Figure 6

United States Department of the Interior



D STREET

2nd STREET

195 S 2nd Street, Creswell, OR
Site Plan Sketch

no scale



dashed lot boundary

United States Department of the Interior

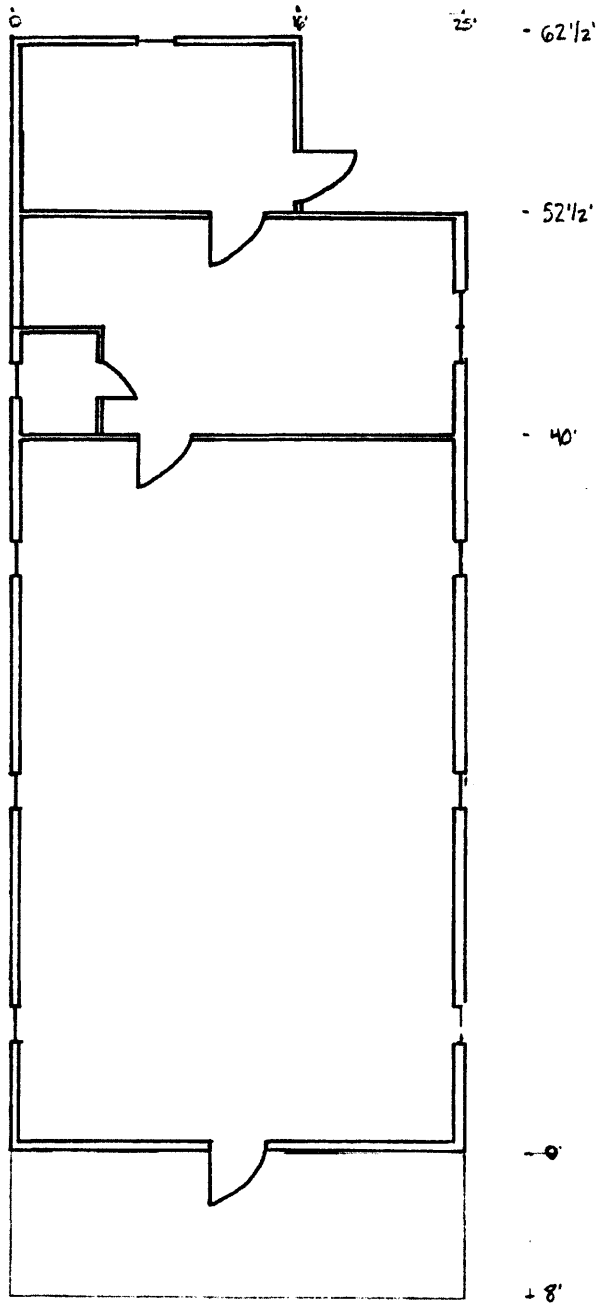




Figure 9
Lane County Historical Museum, Photo # GN6373
Overview of Creswell, 1906



Figure 10
Lane County Historical Museum, Photo # 6387
Overview of Creswell, 1912



Figure 11
Lane County Historical Museum, Photo # 6426
Overview of Creswell, 1918

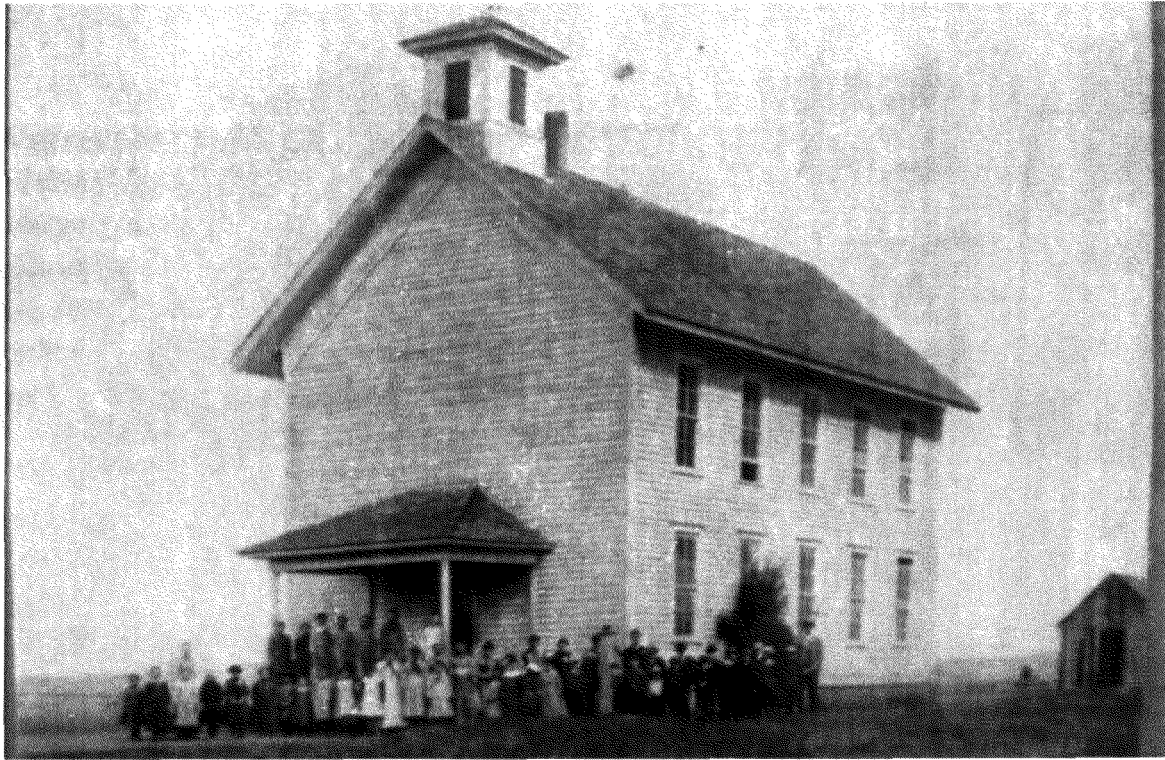


Figure 12
c. 1874 photo of first Creswell schoolhouse, photographer unknown
At Creswell Area Historical Museum, Creswell, OR

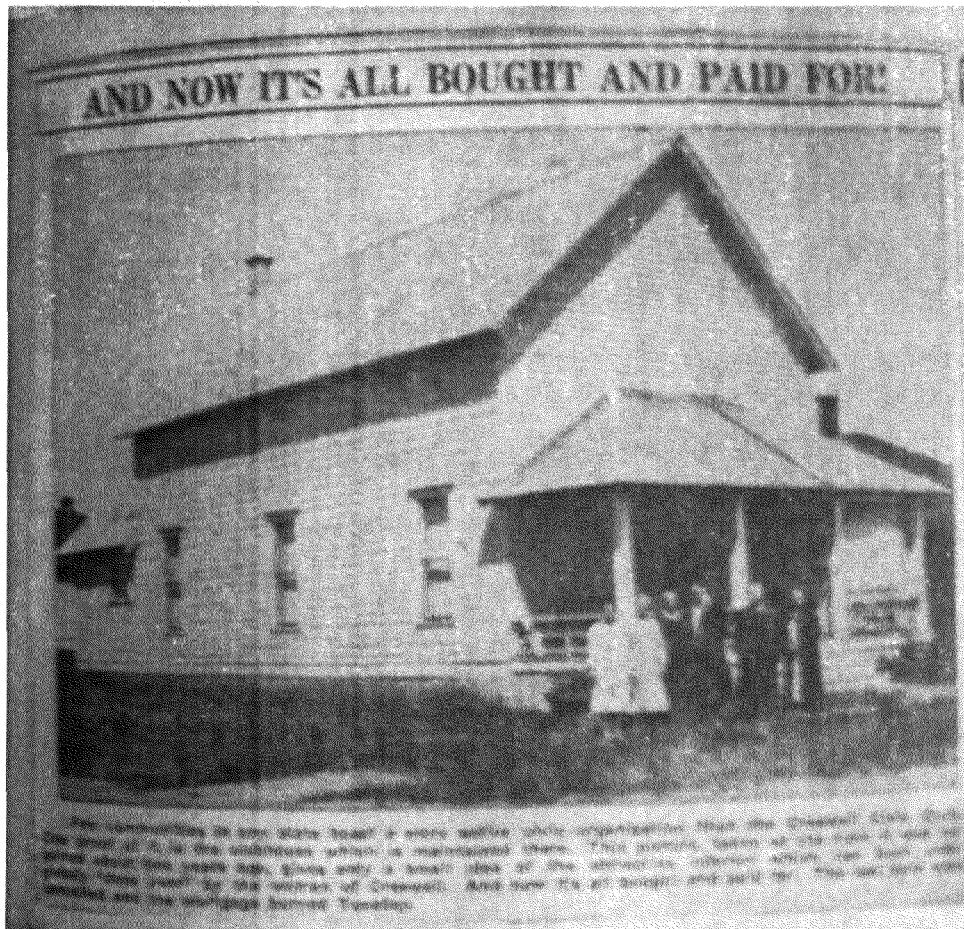


Figure 13

Newspaper article c. 1929 depicting the Creswell First Baptist Church as the new Creswell Civic Improvement Club Clubhouse.

Caption reads: "Few communities in any state boast a more active civic organization than the Creswell Civic Club. One great of it is the clubhouse which is maintained there. This picture, taken at the time it was acquired about two years ago, gives only a small idea of the attractive interior which has been completely "done over" by the women of Creswell. And now its all bought and paid for. The last note was canceled and the mortgage burned Tuesday."

In Creswell Civic Improvement Club file at Creswell Area Historical Museum, Creswell, OR.