

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon
COUNTY: Clackamas
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 5 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Willamette Falls Locks

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **W Bank of Willamette River**

CITY OR TOWN: **West Linn - Oregon City** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st (Oregon)**

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41** COUNTY: **Clackamas** CODE: **005**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. AGENCY

U.S. Government (Corps of Engineers)

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STREET AND NUMBER:
2850 S.E. 82nd Ave

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

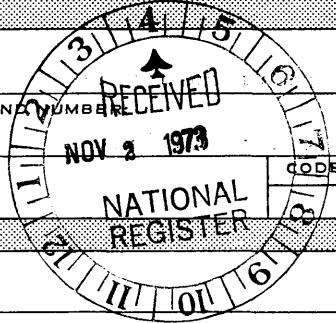
TITLE OF SURVEY:
State Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Parks and Recreation Section - State Highway Division

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Oregon**

COUNTY: **Clackamas**

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 5 1974**

DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

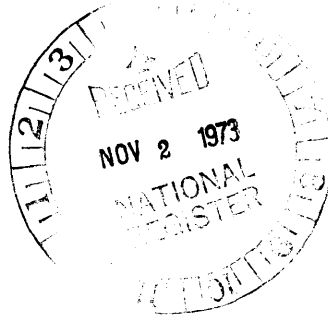
(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Willamette Falls Locks complex is comprised of five locks, the lower four locks being 210 feet long by 40 feet wide, and the guard lock (furthest upstream) 1200 feet by 40 feet. Canal approaches on each end of the complex extend total length of the Locks to 3,240 feet. The Locks vary in depth from 19 feet to 40 feet with a total vertical lift of 41 to 50 feet. The entire complex uses native stone (in cuts) or heavy stone work (in fill areas). The original cut masonry varies in thickness from five feet to 15 feet and remains remarkably water-tight. The walls inside the locks are covered with wooden boards, which are in good repair, but constantly require maintenance. These boards protect the traffic and masonry from each other.

The original gates at the ends of each lock were constructed from wooden members, however have since been replaced with hydrologically-operated metal gates with mechanical wickets which once were used at the Celilo Locks. Essentially, the only changes in the original Locks result from the installation new gates and power-wrenches which replaced hand-operated capstans.



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B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1873 - Present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Willamette Falls Locks were constructed in the later half of the 19th Century to satisfy the growing demand of shipping on the Willamette River. Before the locks were built, Willamette Falls and the Clackamas Rapids caused hazardous navigation and resulted in expensive portages on river traffic. Farming and shipping interests were especially concerned in reducing the cost of transportation from the Willamette Valley to Portland. The increasing frequency of steamships also added to the feasibility of the locks.

On New Years Day 1873, the locks opened and are still operating today. Although the Willamette Falls Locks were not a successful financial venture from tolls, they enabled shipping on the Willamette River to compete with the railroad. This competition resulted in considerable lower freight rates than would normally have occurred.

Since their opening, the Locks changed ownership several times until they were purchased by the Federal Government in 1913 and are now operated by the Corps of Engineers. Average annual traffic exceeds one million tons over the last ten years. Most of the use is attributed to the movement of rafted logs, however, other forms of commerce and pleasure craft account for considerable use at no expense to traffic.

The planning, construction, and use of the Locks spans a dynamic period in history when river navigation served as a primary "lifeline". The massive stone-work reflects the construction methods before concrete technology developed to its present use.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Journal of Oregon State Senate
 Tuesday, October 8, 1872 p. 307-309

Journal of Oregon State House of Representatives
 Wednesday, February 15, 1893 p. 840-842

Clark, R.C. Willamette Valley, Oregon
 (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Co. 1927) p. 474-475

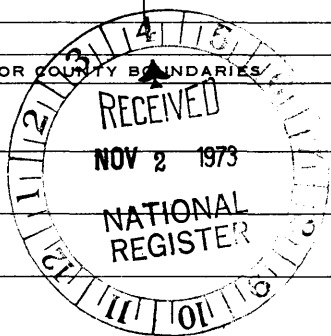
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	45°	21'	26"	122°	36'	49"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



10/
530290
502250
KF

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Chuck Mason, Architect** DATE: **9 Aug 73**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Corps of Engineers**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2850 S.E. 82 St.** PHONE: **503-777-4441 ext. 346**

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None
Richard G Leverty
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

Richard G Leverty 17 Sep 73
 Federal Representative Signature Date
 Principal Recreation Planner,
 Title OCE

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Winters
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/5/74

ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 1-30-74