

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP 2 0 (00) NATIONAL PLOCHAL

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for *Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

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street & number	500 Klamat	th Aven	ne				N/A r	not for p	ublication
city, town	Klamath Fa							<i>icinity</i>	
state Oregon		OR	county	Klamatl	1	code	035	Z	ip code 976
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B. Classification									
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Current Functi	ions (enter categories from instructions)		
Governmen	t: government office		
Materials (enter categories from instructions)			
foundation	concrete		
walls	brick		
roof	asphalt, built-up		
	Governmen		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Period Georgian style former Klamath Falls City Library, constructed in 1926, occupies the lot on the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Klamath Avenue in the city's central business district. Now used as for city administrative offices. The two story irregularly shaped building has fanlights over the windows, full height concrete pilastered Ionic columns and a parapet railing. The resource's exterior retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The interior lobby and public areas retain their basic spatial arrangement. Some interior office spaces have been partitioned in larger areas.

Located in Township 38 South, Range 9 East, Section 32 (Assessor's Plat AD) in Block 76, the building stands on lots 4 and 5 in the town's Klamath Addition. The Klamath Falls City Hall (1914) stands just south of the former library at the corner of Fifth Street and Walnut Avenue. The City Library is composed of two wings and the primary public entrance occurs where the two wings join. The building faces in a northwesterly direction overlooking the intersection.

The City Library measures approximately 75' along the east and south elevations and 30' on the short ends of each wing. Two stories in height, the building has a concrete foundation and flat roof. The roof is covered with roll roofing. The walls are composed of wire-cut orange buff bricks set in a running bond pattern. Bands of vertical and end set bricks provide decorative detail. A concrete entablature with a railing is set atop four pilastered columns with Ionic volutes. Narrow concrete coping caps the brick walls.

The wood framed windows in each wing are comprised of twelvebeside - twelve casement windows with leaded muntins. Fanlights are positioned over the window openings. Each semi-circular window arch is topped by a scrolled keystone. Single twelvelight casement windows are employed in the building's central section. There are seven banks of windows in the typical pattern on the upper level of the south elevation and five one-overone-double hung windows on the lower level. On the east elevation there are seven typical windows with fanlights on the upper level and smaller windows below.

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Modern metal double leaf entry doors with a transom have replaced the original doors and eight-light transom. Brick stairs have been added in front of the concrete porch and a ramp provides handicapped access on one side of the entry. The original metal railing with vertical rails has been replaced with modern railing of a similar style.

On the library's interior both the vestibule and the former reading room retain their original spatial arrangement. Soft wood flooring remains throughout and the original high plastered beam ceiling in the reading room retains its height. The former librarian's office, now occupied by the mayor, is distinguished by a semi-circular topped fireplace with keystone and inset decorative panel. The original heavy cast andirons remain in use. The original wood stair railing from the vestibule to the basement remains in place with turned balusters and wood handrail. A plaque commemorating the land donation made by Henrietta Melhase's children in her memory is affixed to the wall near the entrance to the former reading room.

The perimeter of the property is bounded by cement sidewalks. Two feet high concrete coping which originally defined paths and outlined lawn areas remains in place, although the original trees on the property have been replaced. The building is bounded on the east by an alley and on the south by a parking lot.

The former Klamath City Library retains in largest part its original appearance and is in excellent condition. The quality and repair of the exterior as well as the integrity of interior public spaces allows the resource to convey its historic associations. The library building vitally expresses the development of Klamath Falls and the committment to enrichment made by the institution's founders and the community.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop nationally	perty in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria XA B CC	D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D D E F G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Politics/Government Education	Period of Significance 1926-1930	Significant Dates 1926
	Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Marsh, Harold Dickson, Coseboom, Charles N.,	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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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 #	 See continuation sheet Primary location of additional data: State historic preservation office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Specify repository: City of Klamath Falls
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 0.24 Klamath Falls, Orego	on-California 1:62500
UTM References A 110 6006215 Zone Easting Northing C 1	B L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated property is located in $SE_4^1 NE_4^1$ Meridian, in Klamath Falls, Klamath County, and 5 of Block 76 in the Klamath Addition to identified as Tax Lot 9100 at said location.	Klamath Falls, Oregon, and is otherwise
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The nominated area of approximately one-quar tax lot occupied by the old Klamath Falls Ci	rter acre is comprised of the entire urban ity Library Building from 1926 onwared.
	See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepar	ed By		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
name/title	Katherine C. Atwood		
organization	N/A	_ date	February 1989
street & number	102 South Pioneer Street	_ telephone .	(503) 482-8714
city or town	Ashland	_ state	<u>Oregon</u> zip code <u>97520</u>

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The historic City Library in Klamath Falls, Oregon is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Klamath Avenue and 5th Street, in close proximity to the City Hall.

The two-story brick building on high basement is faced with orange/buff-colored brick. It was built in 1926 from plans prepared by Harold D. Marsh of Portland, with Charles Coseboom as local consulting architect. It is an equilateral L-shaped configuration opening to the street corner. Its inner angle is filled by a diagonal entrance section fronted by a staircase and portico of concrete comprised of engaged Ionic columns and a Classical entablature with high attic parapet. The main entrance has a Baroque tabernacle framement.

With the exception of its grand portico, exterior elevations are sparingly detailed and have an economical pared-down angularity in which taut brick string courses at the cornice line and round arched windows with fanlights are the only relief to the wall plane. Stylistically, the building is a late version of Beaux Arts Classicism in the Georgian vein which is so simplified it tends toward modernism. Though the building was superseded for library purposes and is now occupied by the City of Klamath Falls, spatial organization of the vestibule and central reading room is generally intact and expressive of the circulation patterns of a modern library.

The same developments in transportation, commerce and population growth which inspired construction of Klamath Falls' new city hall in the Progressive era prompted construction of a free public library outlying the central business district in 1914. That early project, financed by a Carnegie Corporation grant, proved too remote from the city center to be practical. The earlier-established and independently operated Women's Library Club in downtown Klamath Falls, with its limited space, also had fallen short of meeting the city's needs. Consequently, a bond issue was initiated for construction of a new city library in 1924, and construction was completed in 1926. Neither of the predecessor library buildings stands today. The City Library of 1926 was operated at Klamath Avenue and 5th Street until 1969, at which time City and County Libraries consolidated at the County Library building, opened in 1954.

The old City Library is significant under National Register Criterion A as the home of the only successful municipal library operated in Klamath Falls in the period of its historic growth and upbuilding, 1910 to 1930. Together with the City Hall on the neighboring block across 5th Street, the old Library makes up an historical municipal building ensemble illustrative of Klamath Falls' period of high promise before the Great Depression.

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The Period Georgian style Klamath Falls City Library, constructed in 1926, is locally significant under Criteria A for its historic associations with events that contributed to the broad patterns of Klamath Falls' development. Steady population growth after 1920 encouraged a local organization to promote construction of a modern, well equipped public library in the central district. The new library achieved its significance between 1926 and 1936, a decade in which intense development and later economic decline contrasted sharply in Klamath Falls. The resource is significant in the area of Politics/Government as the primary extant library supported by the community and in the area of Education as a source for the enrichment and refreshment of its citizens. The Klamath Falls City Library retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling and clearly conveys its historic associations.

Klamath Falls, first known as Linkville, was established in 1867 when a trading post and ferry were built on the Link River, a short stream which connects Upper Klamath Lake with Lake Ewauna. In 1871 the post office opened, joining a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, feed stable, and approximately 40 residents. Lake County was formed in 1874 and Linkville was named the temporary county seat. (1)

On November 11, 1882 Linkville was named county seat of the newly recognized Klamath County. When the city charter was granted in February, 1889, the town had 384 people. (2) The economy thrived, but a series of fires between September, 1889 and July, 1894 devestated the town, by now called Klamath Falls. The fires' destruction effectively ended development during the last decade of the century.

The new century saw increased development in Klamath Falls. The Klamath Addition was platted in 1900 and the same year the Klamath Basin irrigation project promised extensive agricultural development of rural areas. During 1901-1903 the first railroad to enter the county was built to serve the lumber mills. (3) In 1904 one million acres of public land became available for agricultural use, and construction of a railroad line from Weed, California to Klamath Falls was announced for 1905. New additions were platted and soon eighty buildings were under construction including two large schools, a hotel, and several commercial

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buildings.(4) A Southern Pacific firm, the Klamath Development Company, acquired large tracts of local land in anticipation of a population boom. A rival organization, the Klamath Falls Land and Transportation Company, bought and promoted the Buena Vista Addition in northern Klamath Falls. (5)

Klamath Falls' population, which had numbered 447 in 1900, was counted at 2,758 by 1910. (6) By 1913 there were 39 sawmills and eight box factories employing 4200 people in the Klamath Basin. The years 1911 to 1920 saw extensive growth -- the population would reach 4,801 by 1920.(7) Schools, churches, fraternal and civic buildings were all constructed during the decade. In the summer of 1917 the Evening Herald reported that Klamath Falls could boast:

> . . . a \$250,000 hotel, a \$45,000 passenger depot, a \$25,000 Carnegie Library, a \$50,000 City Hall, a \$50,000 Elk's home, and asphalt pavement which covers more than five miles of city streets. (8)

Klamath Falls experienced its most intense growth between 1921 and 1930. The population grew from 4801 in 1920 to 6,093 in In 1922 the Green Springs Highway between Klamath 1930.(9) County and the Rogue Valley was opened on an all year basis. Miles of highway between Klamath Falls and Bend, Oregon were completed and the rail line between Weed, California and Eugene, Oregon through Klamath Falls was finished. The Great Northern Railway line built through Klamath Falls in 1927. A government census report declared that Klamath Falls had experienced the greatest growth in relation to population of any city in the United states between 1923 and 1928. Forty-seven commercial or institutional buildings were raised during the decade. By 1930 stood briefly as the fourth largest city in Klamath Falls Oregon. (10)

In addition to the commercial buildings, churches, and theatres that appeared in the central district a new community library was planned. For over twenty years a devoted group of citizens had determinedly kept alive the concept of a centrally located city library.

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The Women's Library Club formed December 12, 1904 and opened a reading room at Second and Main Street in November, 1905. In 1907 the Methodist Church offered to sell a small building on the corner of Third and Main to the group, stipulating only that the structure be moved from the site. The Library Club purchased the building and transported it across Main Street to the north-west corner of the Courthouse block. (11)

In 1913 the Carnegie Corporation awarded Klamath Falls \$20,000 for a new free county library. Developers of the Hot Springs area, northeast of town, insisted on siting the library there. While they assumed that the existing library would donate their books and equipment for the new building the Women's Library Club decided that the new building would be too far from the population and chose to remain at their own location.(12)

The Carnegie building opened in September, 1914 and Klamath Falls had two free public libraries. Beset by problems, the Carnegie library was closed by the court in March, 1915 for being too small, too expensive and incomplete. The formal opening of that institution was not held until June 29, 1921. Discussions of consolidating the two institutions remained unsatisfactory, and the Library Club members initiated a \$50,0000 bond issue for a new city library. The voters approved the bonds in November, 1924. The children of Mrs. Henrietta donated land at the corner of 5th and Klamath Avenues The children of Mrs. Henrietta Melhase as a memorial to their mother. Architects Harold D. Marsh of Portland and Charles N. Coseboom of Klamath Falls were selected to design the building. (13)

On June 17, 1926 the Evening Herald announced:

Bids for the \$40,000 structure to be located at Fifth and Klamath Avenue will be recieved by the City Library Board June 29. . Plans, drawn by Charles N. Coseboom, local architect, and Harold D. Marsh, Portland architect, have been approved. The building will be of brick construction on the exterior, stained quartered oak on the first floor of the interior and attractively painted frame wood work in the basement. It will be

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built in an L shape with the entrance at the intersection of Fifth and Klamath Avenues. On the first floor will be an adult reading room, a children's reading room, a technical reference room and the librarian's office. In the basement will be located an auditorium, committee and story room, and women's club room and kitchen. (14)

Construction began during the summer of 1926 with the Portland firm of Hart, Brooks and Company in charge. In January, 1927 they declared the building complete and the official opening was held February 16, 1927. After twenty-two years the Library Club realized their dream. Residents called all that cold February afternoon to admire the new building and to congratulate the club members. (15) The institution immediately became an important part of the city's character. Crowded with readers during the years of population growth, the library was no less important during the dull years of the Depression. As public libraries always do during desperate economic times, the Klamath Falls City Library welcomed citizens who were without work and offered them diversion, respite and a respectable place spend their days.

The architects, Harold Dickson Marsh A.I.A, of Portland, and Charles N. Coseboom of Klamath Falls, teamed to complete the facility. Harold Marsh was born in Portland February 1, 1889 to Robert K. and Marie Geer Marsh. His father was a printer -his mother was the daughter of the pioneer diarist Elizabeth Dickson Geer. Marsh received his undergraduate degree from Oregon State College in 1910 and a Master of Science degree from M.I.T in 1913. After World War I service he returned to Portland and worked as a draftsman until 1921 when he recieved his Oregon architect's license. From 1933 to 1949 Marsh was associated with George Howell Jones, in the firm Jones and Marsh. He died April 28, 1969 in Portland, Oregon. (16)

In addition to the Klamath Falls City Library Marsh executed plans for the Fremont Grade School, Klamath Falls Union High School, Hot Springs Addition Grade School -- all in Klamath Falls; buildings at 10614 Mt. St. Helens Road, 219-223 W. Burnside Street, 1900 N. Interstate Ave, 985 N.E. 21st Avenue, 3536 S.E. 26th Ave, in Portland, Oregon, and collaborated with

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George Jones on 2811 N.E. Holman Street, 1131 S.E. Powell Blvd, the downtown Portland Fire Station and Gill Coliseum at Oregon State University. (17)

Charles N. Coseboom, associated with Marsh on the Klamath Falls City Library, was born December 11, 1890 to Matthew W. and Edith Coseboom at Pomona California. He moved wih his parents to Klamath Falls in 1908 where his father worked for many years as the city street inspector for the State Highway Department. Coseboom, a graduate of the Los Angeles Polytechnic Institute, worked with several architects during his years in Klamath Falls includ-R.E. Wattenburg, Harold Marsh, Charles James, and Howard inq Perrin. Coseboom left Klamath Falls during the Depression years Washington D.C. where he took a position with the for United States Treasury Department. (18)

Coseboom was supervising architect for the Great Northern Passenger Station in Klamath Falls, working for architect Charles D. James of Portland, Oregon. Other buildings in Klamath Falls with which he is credited include the Metropolitan Hotel Addition, the Vox Theatre (renovation), the Mcarthy Building at Seventh and Pine Streets, and Molotore's Hotel at Tenth and Main Streets. (19)

Post - war growth in Klamath County soon crowded local public buildings. In order to obtain a modern facility for the entire county, Howard Perrin designed a new library in 1954 which was built by Burkhard Construction Comapny for \$200,000. In July, 1969 the administration of the county and city library systems was officially merged and the city library equipment and staff moved to the newer county library. (20) The city of Klamath Falls has occupied the former library building since its original function ended. The large reading room and interior details remain intact and city offices function efficiently in the space.

In its location and appearance the former Klamath Falls City Library successfully represents the theme of that community's development during the years 1926 to 1936. Integrity of materials and craftsmanship is evident on both the interior and exterior of the resource. In its feeling and association the resource evokes the sense of the period in which it gained historic significance.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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- (2) Good, Rachel Applegate, 1940. HISTORY OF KLAMATH COUNTY, (Klamath Falls, Oregon) p. 63.
- (3) Dicken, Samuel N., Emily F. 1985. THE LEGACY OF ANCIENT LAKE MODOC; A HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE KLAMATH LAKES BASIN, pp. I-13; I-14.
- (4) Tonsfeldt, Ward. Klamath Falls Cultural Resource Survey, 1986, p. 60.
- (5) Ibid.; KLAMATH ECHOES, NO. 5, Centennial Issue Part II, (1967) p. 78.
- (6) "Population of Oregon Cities and Counties and Metropolitan Areas, 1850-1957," (Oregon State University: Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, Information Bulletin No. 106.) p. 4.
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) Klamath Falls Evening Herald, July 13, 1917.
- (9) "Population of Oregon Cities and Counties and Metropolitan Areas, 1850-1957," (Oregon State University: Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, Information Bulletin No. 106) p. 4
- (10) Tonsfeldt, Ward. Klamath Falls Cultural Resource Survey, 1986, p. 60.
- (11) KLAMATH COUNTY HISTORY, 1984. Klamath Falls, Oregon: Klamath County Historical Society, pp. 44-45.
- (12) IBID.; Good, Rachel Applegate, 1940. HISTORY OF KLAMATH COUNTY, (Klamath Falls, Oregon) pp. 143-144.

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- (13) Manuscript, n.d., Archives of Klamath County Library
- (14) Klamath Falls Evening Herald, June 17, 1926, 1:3.
- (15) KLAMATH COUNTY HISTORY, 1984. Klamath Falls, Oreogn, Klamath County Historical Society, pp. 44-45; Manuscript, n.d. Archives, Klamath County Library.
- (16) Harold Marsh married Florence Eastman on october 1, 1922. Mrs. Marsh was president of the Oregon Chapter of American Artists Professional League and orignator of the Marsh Library Plan, which made possible the circulation of art work through the Portland Public Library. (Obituary, Art Digest 11:22, January 15, 1937, pp. 32-33; Portland Oregonian, December 16, 1936 16:3; Ibid., November 4, 1934, I, 13:3-4. Marsh married Laura Spring in 1939.

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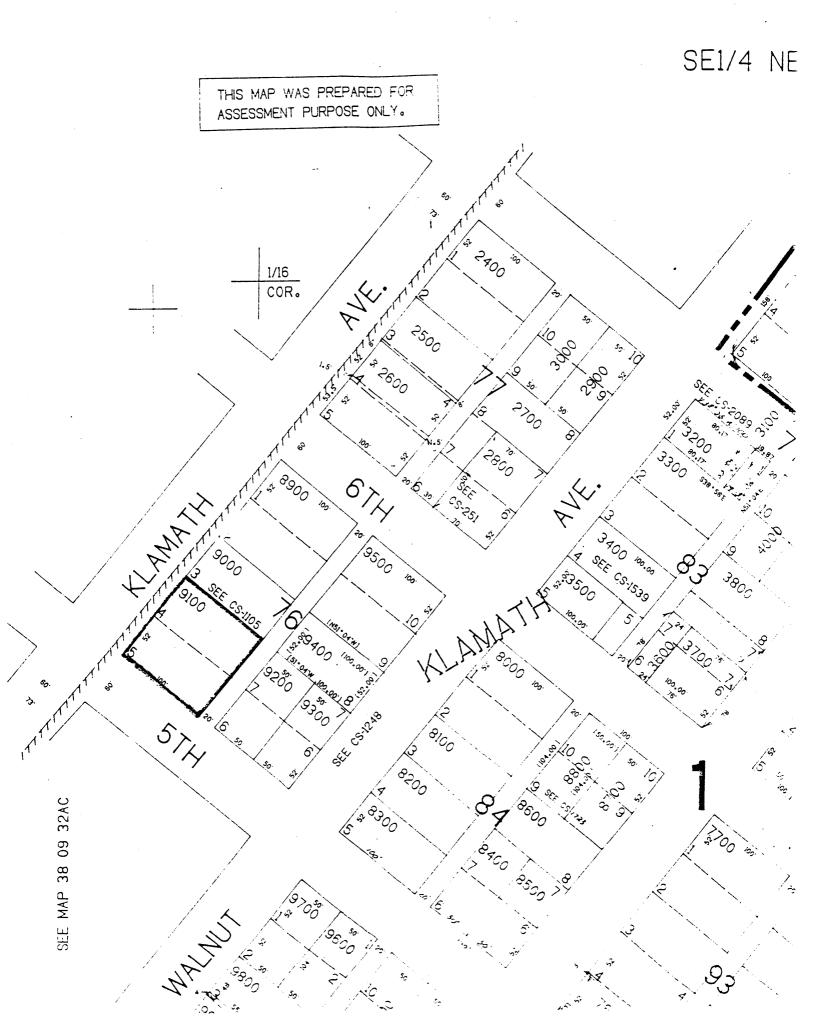
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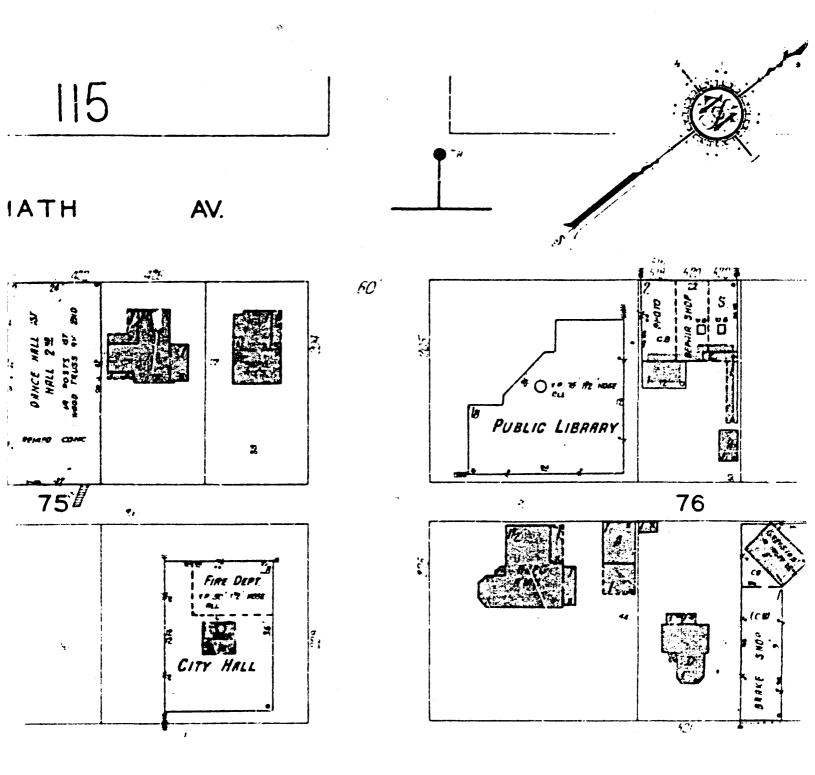
- (17) Evening Herald, May 29, 1928; Richard E. Ritz F.A.I.A, January 12, 1989.
- (18) Good, Rachel Applegate. HISTORY OF KLAMATH COUNTY, (Klamath Falls, Oregon, p. 317; Klamath Falls Directory, 1920, 1930, 1936, 1940.
- (19) Klamath Falls Evening Herald, March 24, 1923; June 17, 1926, p. 1; March 15, 1928; Tonsfeldt, Ward. Klamath Falls Cultural Resource Survey, 1986.
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Klamath Falls 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map