

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 19 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Women's Civic Improvement Clubhouse
other names/site number Winburn Way Community Center

2. Location

street & number 59 Winbrun Way N/A not for publication
city, town Ashland N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code 97520

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date May 1, 1989
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Mark J. Baker Entered in the National Register 16 June, 1989
 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 Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/hall, auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco

walls wood: shingle

roof wood: shingle

other stone (river rock)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

The Winburn Community Center in Ashland was built as the meeting place of the Ashland Women's Civic Improvement Club. Construction began in September 1921 and the structure was formally dedicated on December 3, 1922. The bungalow-style structure with a central covered entrance porch is of frame construction. It was designed and built by contractor A.L. Lamb. Now owned by the City of Ashland, the resource retains its historical integrity in location, setting, materials, and design. It continues to serve Ashland as a community meeting hall and auditorium.

Located in township 39 south, Range One east, W.M., Section 9, Tax Lot 2500 on Lot 9 Block 1 of the Official 1888 Map of Ashland (Assessor's plat 39 1E 9BB), the Winburn Community Center is in the northern portion of the block of Winburn Way between the intersection of Nutley and the Ashland Plaza, the City's downtown commercial center. The building faces in a easterly direction towards Lithia Park (NRHP, 1982) and is bounded on the north by a vacant dirt parcel that serves as a parking lot and on the south by the Butler Pioneer Log Cabin, also owned by the City of Ashland. At the west edge of the parcel, immediately to the rear of the structure is a steep grade up to Granite Street.

The basically rectangular, single-story, building measures 74 feet 6 inches in depth and 61 feet 6 inches in width including a covered porch, measuring 29 feet 10 inches wide by 14 feet deep, on the front facade. The main portion of the structure is composed of an auditorium hall with an arched ceiling, a raised stage platform and backstage area,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

two conference rooms, a kitchen, hallway, an office/storage area and two restrooms. An office area is adjacent to the front porch at the northeast corner. There is a storage area and small covered rear porch at the southwest corner. Construction is of wooden frame covered with shingles. The wood shingled main hipped roof with a north/south ridge is augmented by three intersecting shingled gables covering the protruding spaces. A gable dormer on the east plane of the main roof volume has three three-pane windows which admit light into an attic storage area. The foundation is of wooden piers on concrete footings. The crawl space area is sheathed on the exterior by stucco over wire mesh. A 12 foot by 29 foot concrete slab basement at the northwest corner houses new (1985) HVAC equipment.

A major restoration of the Winburn Community Center was funded by a Community Block Development Grant in 1985 and carried out by The City of Ashland under the direction of architect Joyce Ward. Structural problems in the roof and foundation, likely the result of the original sporadic construction schedule and use of sub-standard materials¹, were corrected as well as some interior remodeling, primarily to the kitchen and bathroom areas.

The primary window type is wood frame grouped in sets of three with a fixed center pane flanked by two inwardly opening casement panels. All windows have a horizontal mullion defining the top third which is itself divided vertically into five lights on the fixed panels and two on the casements. Other windows and the transoms above exterior doors are consistent with these basic proportions and design. Four 8" diameter (at base) doric columns of wood stave construction divide the front porch into three visual units. The center unit is filled with a 30" high wooden railing; the north unit has steps and handrails, provided in 1985 for handicap access, and the south is open with two concrete steps up to the wooden porch floor.

¹ Tony Hazarian, "Facelift for an Unforgotten Friend", Ashland Daily Tidings September 3, 1985 p.7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

At the northeast corner is a river rock chimney with concrete slab ledges where the main body stops and the chimney stack begins. Two rectangular wooden louvered attic vents are centered under the protruding gables of the front facade. An exterior door on the north facade and the wooden stairs to it are an exterior entrance to the stage area. At the main entrance a pair of new wooden doors, designed to match the existing windows, were installed in 1985. The front porch was roofed over with built-up asphalt and two skylights were installed in 1985. No other major changes or additions to the original exterior volume or deviations from the original exterior materials have been documented or are apparent.

The basic original interior spatial arrangement remains with roughly one-half the area of the structure devoted to the main auditorium and stage spaces. A stairwell to the attic storage area was added in the hall at the south rear portion of the building, probably in the late 1960s when the structure was used as office space for a local government agency. The second conference area at the southeast corner was divided into two smaller spaces. These interior partition walls were removed, re-creating the original larger space, during the 1985 restoration. A wood and glass wall with a doorway between the rear of the auditorium and the office at the northeast corner has been blocked off and covered with curtains for acoustic purposes on the auditorium side and celutex-type material, for use as a bulletin board, on the office side.

Original interior wood trim of stained 4" wide fir with a transparent white glaze remains in the majority of the building around doors and windows. The 12" high wooden baseboards are of the same materials and finish. Replacements are of similar colors and size without the white glaze. Original brass-colored light fixtures with white globes line the auditorium walls and central conference areas at eye level. A stone-faced fireplace with the original andirons remains in the northeast corner office. Varnished oak flooring is used in all areas with the exception of storage and backstage area, which are 3" fir planking. The kitchen area and restrooms are vinyl.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

The second conference area and all office areas are floored with commercial grade carpeting. Lath and plaster walls painted with flat eggshell white remain throughout. In 1985 the ceiling of the central auditorium was sprayed with an acoustic material and three 1" steel tie-bars were installed.

The Winburn Community Center retains the integrity of its original setting and relationship to its site. Both the interior and exterior are in essentially the same configuration, in materials and spatial arrangement, as when first constructed. The appearance, setting and function of the Winburn Community Center continue to evoke its historical role.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hannon, Nan and LeBow, Clayton. An Inventory, Historic Documentation, and Assessment of Cultural Resources at Lithia Springs and Winburn Camp. Eugene, Oregon: Infotech, Inc., 1987. (Ashland Planning Department)

Mahar, Franklyn. "A Study of Jesse Winburn's Life and Contributions in Ashland, Oregon." Research paper, Southern Oregon State College, 1960. (SOSC Library)

Ashland Daily Tidings, various issues 1921-1923. (University of Oregon Library)

Chamberlin, Grace Hilton. "History of the First District Told," The Oregon Clubwoman, December 1936, page 4. (UO Library Oregon Collection)

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

City of Ashland, Department of Planning, Department of Parks & Recreation

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.19 acres Ashland, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	2	3	5	0	0	4	6	7	1	3	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is described as Tax Lot 2500, Lot 9, Block 1 of the Official Ashland City Map of 1888 in SW¼, NW¼ Section 9, Township 39S, Range 1E, of the Willamette Meridian in Jackson County, Oregon. The Tax Lot is approximately 70 x 121 feet, or 8,470 square feet in area.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the entire city tax lot which is the historic site of the clubhouse.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George Kramer
 organization N/A date December 1988
 street & number 386 North Laurel telephone (503) 482-9504
 city or town Ashland state Oregon zip code 97520

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1A

The Women's Civic Improvement Clubhouse in Ashland, Oregon is located on Winburn Way, the parkway bordering the west edge of Lithia Park, the great public landscape of the Progressive era which reaches up Ashland Creek canyon from the town center.

The building, an Arts and Crafts bungalow of 1922, was designed and built by local contractor A. L. Lamb. One story in height with attic, it is composed of a main, hip-roofed volume having a central dormer and gable-roofed wings projecting from the corners of the facade. The porch or court in the central recess is filled completely with a pergola supported on four slender Tuscan columns, the center pair of which is linked by a simple railing of balusters and rails. The foundation was sheathed with rough-cast stucco over wire mesh. In keeping with the Craftsman tradition, the building is entirely clad with shingles, and doors and windows are trimmed with flat, unadorned surrounds. Typical are three-part window groupings with divided top lights in which a large, fixed-paned center bay is flanked by narrower casement windows.

Original wood trim and finishes remain on the interior, where the distinctive features are Craftsman-style fireplaces, one of river-washed boulders and the other faced with native stone. The central volume contains the auditorium with arched ceiling, a raised stage platform and backstage area. The building also houses a kitchen, conference rooms, and office and storage space.

The building is significant locally under Criterion A for its association with the women's movement and the City Beautiful movement which, stemming from popular interest in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, engaged public support for landscape development. The clubhouse is the property most importantly associated with these movements in Ashland because it was the first specially-designed headquarters of the Women's Civic Improvement Club, which originated in 1908 and held as its main purpose the beautification and betterment of Ashland. It was in 1908 that promotional efforts by the Women's Civic Improvement Club resulted in the people of Ashland voting their approval of including park maintenance in the city charter. The germ of the community's Olmstedian park which was to be designed in 1915 by John McLaren, Superintendent of Parks for the City of San Francisco, was thus established. When the club formally incorporated in 1916, joining the statewide Federation of Women's Clubs, the goal of acquiring and developing real property for a clubhouse was included in the articles. In a pattern repeated innumerable times across the country in this early period of the women's movement, the local group enhanced its influence and skills for promoting civic improvements and social welfare by accepting the guiding hand of the statewide Federation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1B

The good works of the Ashland Women's Civic Improvement Club were typical of the progressive era and broadly encompassing, but were concentrated substantially on fund-raising and organization of volunteer labor for landscaping of public areas, especially Lithia Park. The new clubhouse was planned, in part, as a hospitality center for women and children in that period of high expectation concerning Ashland's promise as a mineral springs resort. When the club ran out of funds to complete the construction which had commenced in 1921, Jesse Winburn, a former New York City advertising executive who had retired to Ashland, stepped in to finance completion of the project. For this and other public spirited actions, the philanthropist was commemorated in renaming of Mill Street, the route of access to his rustic retreat near the headwaters of Ashland Creek, as Winburn Way. Winburn's sojourn in Ashland was comparatively brief. He returned to New York in 1923, three years after his arrival in the Bear Creek Valley.

In the years following its formal dedication, through the Depression and wartime, the Women's Civic Improvement Club Building was the setting of innumerable public occasions and social events. Because of its importance as a community gathering place and assistance center in the Great Depression, the building's historic period of significance is drawn from the date of its completion to 1939. Since the 1960s, the building has been held and maintained by the City of Ashland. The building, now known as Winburn Community Center, was faithfully rehabilitated with Community Development Block Grant assistance in 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The Winburn Community Center, built 1921-22, is significant for its association with the Ashland Women's Civic Improvement Club, an organization founded in 1908 that had a marked impact on Ashland's development. The Center is the earliest such building constructed expressly as the home of a women's club in Southern Oregon and is only the fourth such structure built in the state. It is among few still standing and in use for their original purpose. The Winburn Community Center is incidentally the only remaining structure in Ashland which was associated with Jesse Winburn, a New York millionaire who retired in Ashland in 1920 and donated the funds to complete the building two years later. The building, now owned by the City of Ashland, retains its integrity of site, design, materials, and workmanship. It continues to serve the community as a meeting hall and auditorium-the structure's originally intended purpose.

The Ashland Women's Civic Improvement Club (hereafter referred to as the Civic Club) was founded in 1908, by Mrs. Bertha Winter, Mrs. C.H. Vaupel, and Mrs. J.T. Meikle, "...for the purpose of civic improvement and the beautification of Ashland."¹ The Club incorporated in 1916 and joined the First District Federation of Women's Clubs of Southern Oregon, a chapter of the statewide Federation of Women's Clubs.²

¹ "Civic Improvement Club has Enviably City Record", Ashland Daily Tidings, August 30 1921.

² "History of the First District Told by Grace Hilton Chamberlin." The Oregon Clubwoman, December 1936 Vol 23 No. 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

Projects of the Civic Club prior to 1920 included donations to the Ashland City Band, a 1913 clean-up day which "...suggested that property owners whitewash their old barns and fences...", purchasing the stock of the Wagner Nursery (in 1915) and donating its plants and shrubs to Ashland's citizens to beautify the town, providing volunteer labor and funding for the landscaping of city parks and pioneer cemeteries, distributing flowers to railroad passengers and caring for the Ashland Exhibit Center at the Southern Pacific Depot, providing scholarships to local students, working on the campaign to secure a State Normal School (eventually to become Southern Oregon State College) for Ashland and "presenting every picture in the public library up to 1919." The Civic Club also was instrumental in the beginnings of Ashland's Fourth of July Parades, an event that continues to dominate the town's summers. After temporarily disbanding during WWI the Civic Club reformed in 1919. After the election of Grace Hilton Chamberlin to president the Civic Club began to actively pursue the construction of a clubhouse. This had been a goal of the original articles of incorporation in 1916 which had never been acted upon: "...the procuring of real property for the construction of a home for said corporation and its members...".³

Originally, the Women's Civic Club intended to build a structure which, in addition to serving as a meeting space and community hall, would be used as a rest station for women tourists and place for some not too subtle promotion of Ashland. "Every women tourist will be invited to share our hospitality...We want a room for mothers with the conveniences for that baby and the small children who can't be left at home. There will be a room whose unseen motive will be a boost for Ashland. . . where the hostess will . . . give information as to where to get the best shampoo or where to buy a ranch. These woman-to-woman talks can do more by way of "welcome to society" than any number of

³ "Civic Imp.(rovement) Club had Enviabale City Record".
Ashland Daily Tidings, August 30, 1921.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

printed pamphlets".⁴ The planned large hall was to include a main auditorium with seating for 500 and a smaller banquet hall for 200 in addition to utilities, offices, and rest spaces.

On August 2, 1921 "Members of Ladies (sic) Civic Improvement Club addressed the (City) council asking that the City grant them a sixty or 99 year lease year on a certain property on Mill Street to be used for the erecting thereon a club building."⁵ The location requested was to be adjacent to the Pioneer Cabin site which the council had recently leased to Gwin S. Butler for the erection of a log cabin. The Civic Club originally requested 125 feet of frontage. However, after reviewing the financial obligations required for a large building, the club revised its plans downward and requested of Council, on August 9, 1921, a smaller 75 foot wide tract. "While the Civic Club is eager to be of service to the city, members of the building committee feel that the time is not ripe for a building whose upkeep might prove too great a burden"⁶ The original plans were reduced in scale so as to keep the rest space and banquet hall but eliminate the large central hall. The reduced land lease was granted by council for a period of twenty-five years at the August 9 meeting.⁷

⁴ "Civic Club Backs Idea, Large Hall." Ashland Weekly Daily Tidings, August 10, 1921.

⁵ City Council Minutes August 2, 1921. City of Ashland, Oregon.

⁶ "Civic Club Favors Rest Room in Lieu of Large Hall" Ashland Daily Tidings, August 10, 1921.

⁷ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

The Winburn Community Center building was designed by, and built under the direction of, A.L. Lamb, of Ashland. "Mr. Lamb will look after the job of building and squeezes the most from every dollar."⁹ Lamb was a contractor and, as a former member of the Ashland City Council (1916-1918) had advocated the construction of such a hall for the benefit of the city. In addition, a "Madame Lamb" was a member of the Civic Club's building committee and it is likely that this was a relative of the contractor's. Lamb drew plans for both the original large hall and the one eventually built to fit the smaller lot. "Mr. Lamb is working on the plans with the same enthusiasm that he had for the larger building"⁹ Lamb had previously directed volunteer laborers as the general contractor in charge of the expansion to the Chautauqua dome, designed by Ashland architect E.O. Smith, the foundation of which is now the base of the Elizabethian Theater of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association. Similar one-day volunteer work parties were arranged for the construction of the Civic Clubhouse.¹⁰ In 1942 Mr. Lamb, then living in Salem, Oregon, was hired to demolish those Ashland commercial storefronts in the path of the widening of Highway 99.¹¹ No other of Lamb's works or designs in Ashland or elsewhere has been identified.

Despite the reduction in the scope of the project, the Civic Club continued to lack the funding to complete the construction of the structure. Work had halted entirely by the Spring of 1922 and the building sat partially completed. On August 30, 1922, approximately one-year after breaking ground, the Civic Club announced that Jesse Winburn "has agreed to furnish not only sufficient money to finish the

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Free Dinner is Planned by Civic Club for Workers". Ashland Daily Tidings, November 16, 1921.

¹¹ "A.L. Lamb in Charge of Wrecking Buildings," Ashland Daily Tidings, May 22, 1942.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6

building itself but has promised the ladies to equip the building with all the necessary furniture to make the club rooms centers of culture and refinement."¹²

Jesse Winburn was an influential member of the advertising world when he sold his business and retired to Ashland in early 1921. Winburn had been the owner of the New York City Car Advertising Company, with offices at One Wall Street, a firm responsible for advertising within the subway system. He had become interested in Ashland after hearing a speech given by Professor Irving E. Vining, an Ashland resident who traveled the country giving lectures, at The Advertising Club of New York of which Winburn was president. As Vining's guest, Winburn visited Ashland in February 1920 and liked what he saw of the Oregon town. Winburn's interest was no doubt encouraged by Vining, E.D. Briggs, the City Attorney, E.V. Carter, a local banker, and Bert Greer, the publisher of the Ashland Daily Tidings, all of whom unabashedly saw in Winburn the financial and political contacts that could get the city's dream of becoming a mineral water resort back on track. In particular Winburn was seen as a potential investor the purchase and renovation of the Ashland Hotel, a move which was seen as crucial to the success of the mineral spa venture.

For his Oregon residence Winburn purchased a small log cabin, known as Long's Cabin after the original homesteader. He enlarged and renamed it "Sap and Salt in the Woods" after the newspaper column written by his friend, Bert Moses, who had come with Winburn to Ashland. The cabin was located five miles from Ashland up a dirt road running through Lithia Park (NRHP). Significantly, as it later developed, the cabin was also located within the City's watershed. Winburn's habit of fishing and grazing livestock on the watershed caused considerable friction between the millionaire and the City Council. Additionally a feud, of sorts, developed between Winburn and E.D. Briggs, the City

¹² "Community Club House Will be Completed Soon" Ashland Weekly Tidings, August 30, 1922.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7

Attorney. Winburn's promise as the financial backer of the Ashland Hotel was never to be realized and his habit of intervening on the local political scene was eventually to turn much of the town against him.

During his time in Ashland, however, Winburn's philanthropic nature found many expressions. He offered cash prizes to be given away at the Fourth of July parades. He hosted large parties at Sap and Salt in the Woods for the town's children. When during an illness he was confined to the Granite City Hospital he found the facilities inadequate and subsequently bought all the stock in the Hospital's holding corporation and, at his own expense, refitted the building at the estimated expense of \$30,000. Upon the completion of the renovation, Winburn gave it to the City, the beginnings of Ashland's continuing community-owned hospital services. Thinking that swans would be an attractive addition to Lithia Park Winburn had six imported from Holland at \$75.00 dollars each.¹³ These were Ashland's first swans, now a symbol of the city, enshrined upon its corporate shield and in the name of The Black Swan Theater of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Driving up and down Mill Street, along the edge of Lithia Park, on his way to and from Sap and Salt in the Woods, Winburn apparently noticed the partially completed Women's Civic Clubhouse. Winburn's offer to fund the completion of the project was among his largest legacies to Ashland. In addition to completing the structure and providing funds for furniture Winburn also contracted with a Mr. Palmer of Medford to travel to San Francisco and secure an organ of "sufficient quality and tone to go with the other equipment..." with a budget of \$5000.¹⁴

¹³ Franklyn D. Mahar, "The Millionaire and the Village: Jesse Winburn Comes to Ashland" Oregon Historical Quarterly 1963, p. 339.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 338.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

When the Women's Club building was, at long last, completed, in early November 1922, the organization had a banquet in honor of their benefactor. In a packed room, including gubernatorial candidate, Walter M. Pierce of La Grande and Mrs. Frank Irvine, the wife of the editor of The Portland Journal, plus many local dignitaries, Jesse Winburn was praised for his contributions to Ashland and the state. Charles Loomis, Ashland's mayor, stated that what Ashland needs, in addition to "more water, more lights, a big hotel and more co-operation, is more Jesse Winburns". C.E. "Pop" Gates, Mayor of Medford, claimed that should Winburn ever tire of Ashland "the people of Medford would be more than glad to build a canyon down the center of the city, if that would be an inducement to Mr. Winburn to move.." Finally, a group of local children, always Winburn's favorite constituency, sang to the tune of "Soloman Levi" the following:

"His name is Jesse Winburn,
He lives at Sap and Salt,
He is the man we love the best
With him we find no fault.
We do appreciate his deeds
And everything else he's done,
And all the boys are with us
In giving a glad hurrah."¹⁵

In consideration of Winburn's many gifts to the City of Ashland the City Council, on April 17, 1923, renamed Mill Street, which winds past the Women's Civic Club, through Lithia Park and up to Sap and Salt in the Woods, "Winburn Way in his honor."¹⁶

Jesse Winburn left Ashland in early 1923 and returned to New York. "He became wary of being approached with ideas

¹⁵ "Winburn is Feted at Big Banquet in Civic Building"
Ashland Daily Tidings, November, 1, 1922. p. 2 col. 4-6.

¹⁶ Mahar, pg. 340.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

that needed financing and the continuing complaints over his contamination of the city water supply."¹⁷ Winburn continued his philanthropies in New York, donating the Ravenstyn painting "Portrait of a Gentleman" to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for which he was made a "Fellow in Perpetuity", in 1923.¹⁸ He loaned 1,000,000 francs to the French Olympic Committee in 1933 to assure the Paris games, was the founder of the Bronxville Golf Association and purchased and renovated the Hunt Estate for its use as a clubhouse. Winburn was made Chairman of the New York City Parks Protective and Improvement Committee in 1926. He died suddenly, at the age of 58, on July 21, 1929.¹⁹

After the formal dedication and opening of the Civic Clubhouse on December 5, 1922, it was used as designed, for meetings, banquets, shows and tourists until the beginning of World War II. With the construction of Camp White, east of Medford, the Rogue Valley became the home for a large number of servicemen. In 1942 a contract was signed between the Army and the Civic Club to use the building as the local USO for \$50.00 a month rent and the installation of a new roof. Each Wednesday was reserved for Civic Club use.²⁰ After the war, with the de-commissioning of Camp White, the building once again became a local meeting place. During the 1950s, with funds from former Ashland resident Mrs.

¹⁷ Marjorie O'Harra, The Ashland Story. p.114

¹⁸ Aronson, Deborah, Assistant Archivist. Letter dated March 4, 1988.

¹⁹ "Jesse Winburn, Banker, Dies in New Rochelle", New York Times, July 22, 1929, p. 19.

²⁰ "USO in Civic Club Seems more Certain as Group Meets Officials." Ashland Daily Tidings, June 16, 1942, p.1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10

Johnny Gruelle, whose husband was the author of the Raggedy Ann and Andy children's books, the Clubhouse was painted (possibly the dark brown which existed into the 1980s) and again re-roofed.²¹

In the 1960s the building was converted into the home of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department and that agency remained there until the late 1970s. By 1985 the building was sadly neglected and badly in need of repair. The City of Ashland took control of the property and with funding provided through a Community Block Development Grant local architect Joyce Ward and general contractor John Williford undertook extensive repair of the building. Yet another new roof was installed, this time over a structurally corrected framework and the exterior shingles were repainted the original grey. Since its completion and rededication the building continues to be used as the site of local club meetings including The Women's Civic Club, the Garden Club and many, many others. Dance groups use the auditorium which is also the site of many exhibits and presentations. Since 1986 the City of Ashland Historic Commission has used the building for its monthly meetings.

The Winburn Way Community Center building is significant to the history of the Women's Club movement in Oregon as the earliest example of a structure expressly built as a women's clubhouse in Southern Oregon and one of the oldest surviving such buildings within the State. Its association with the Women's Civic Improvement Club of Ashland, an organization whose efforts early on helped set the tone for the development of Ashland's tourist economy, has continued unbroken since its construction.

²¹ "History of the Ashland Woman's Civic Club", Ashland Public Library Oregon Cabinet.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 11

While not nominated under Criterion B, the Community Center is noteworthy for its association with Jesse Winburn who, though he lived in town for less than three years had a great impact on the community and has become a prominent local figure. The Women's Civic Improvement Clubhouse which he helped fund, and which has since been renamed after the street dedicated to him by the City, is the only direct, built, remains of his generosity to the people of Ashland.

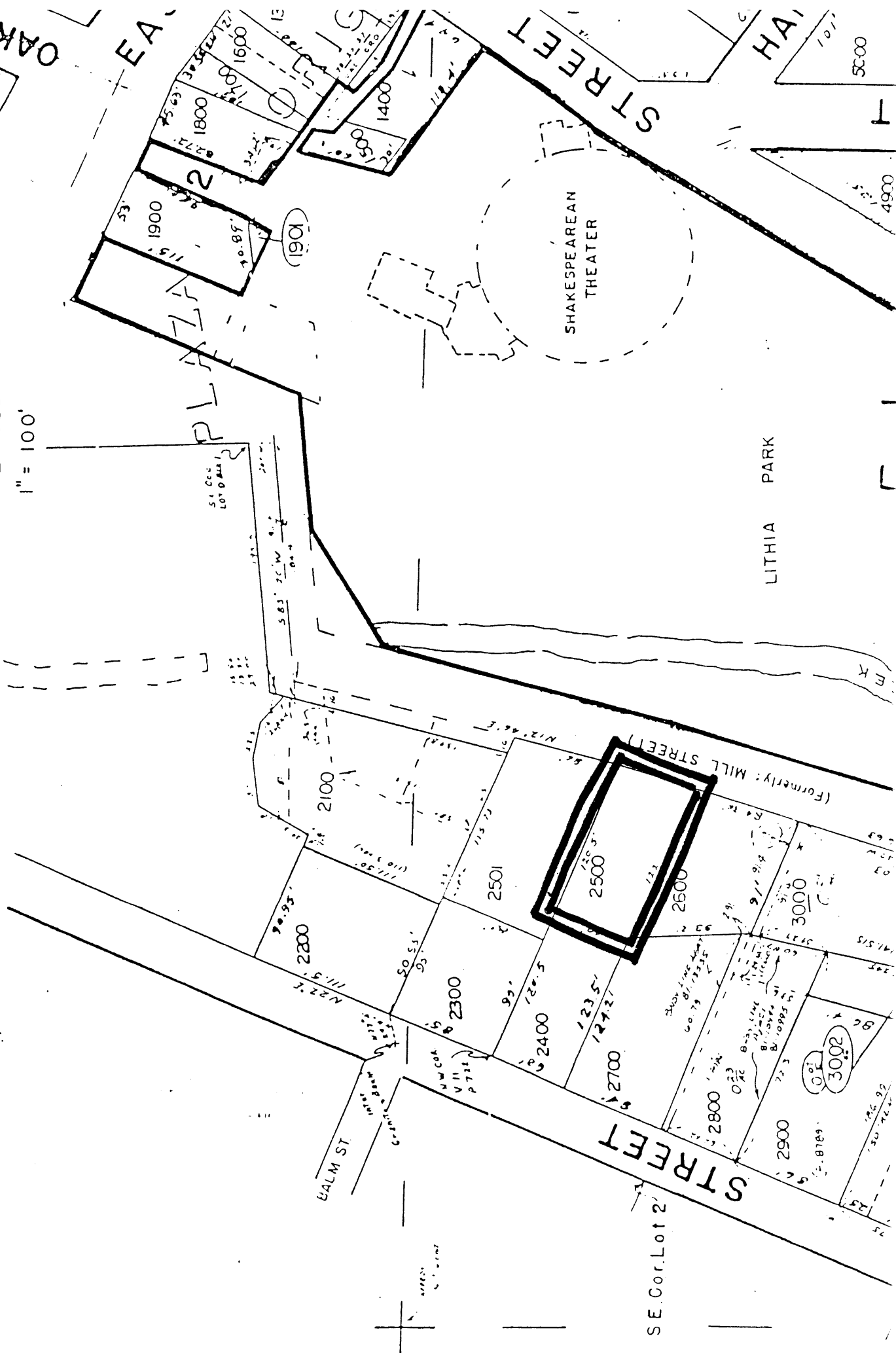
The Winburn Way Community Center retains its original style, form, design and usage of materials. While some interior and structural changes have been made, the building continues to convey the integrity of the period and associations for which it is significant. Its past and continuing role as the major community activity center in the traditional downtown core of Ashland represent an unbroken link with the original objective of those dedicated individuals; the members of the Women's Civic Club, the people of Ashland, and, finally, Jesse Winburn, worked to establish.

SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SEC. 9 T.39 S. R.1 E. W.M.

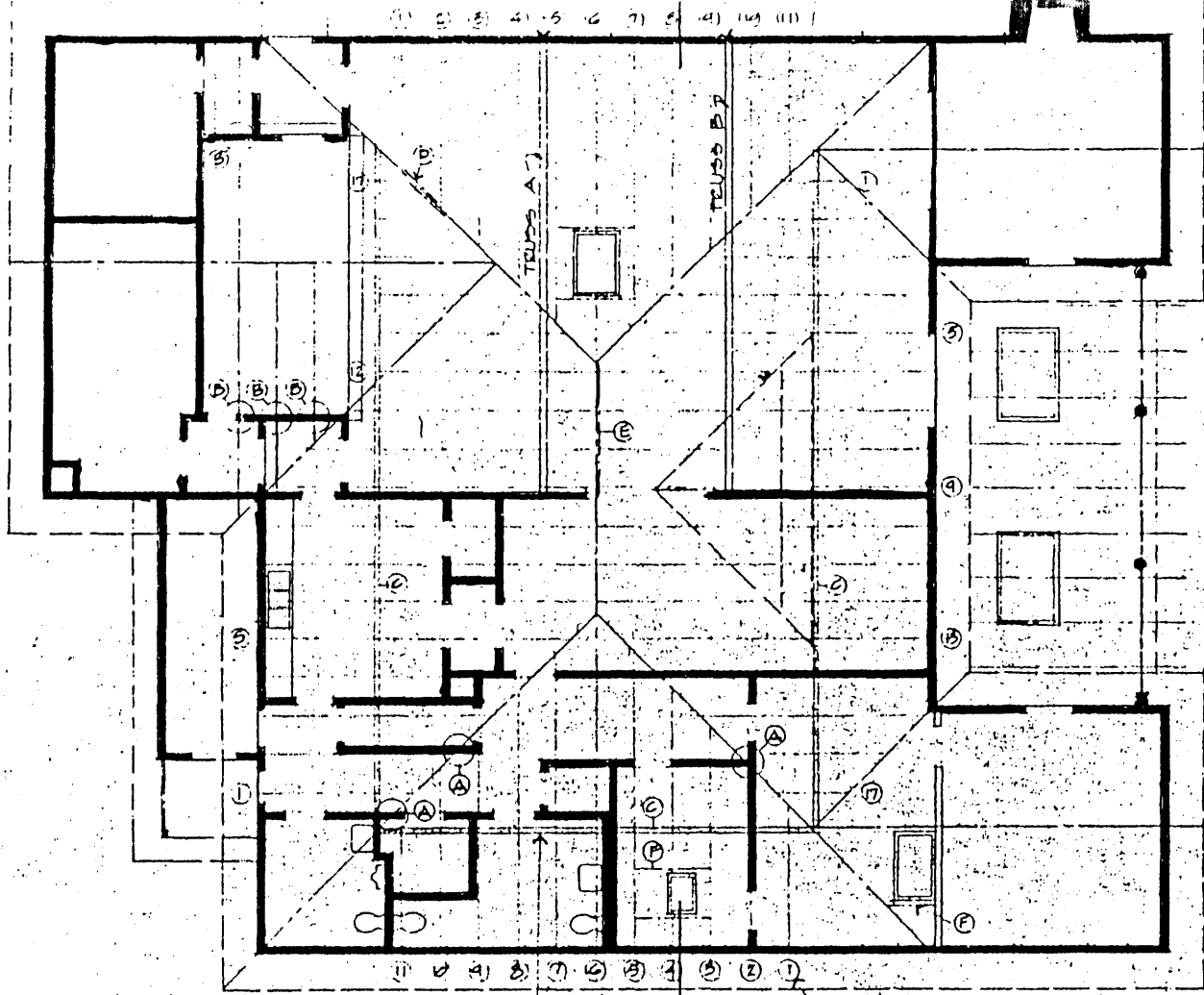
39 1E 988

1" = 100'

2700
 2700
 3000
 2500
 2100
 1700
 1400

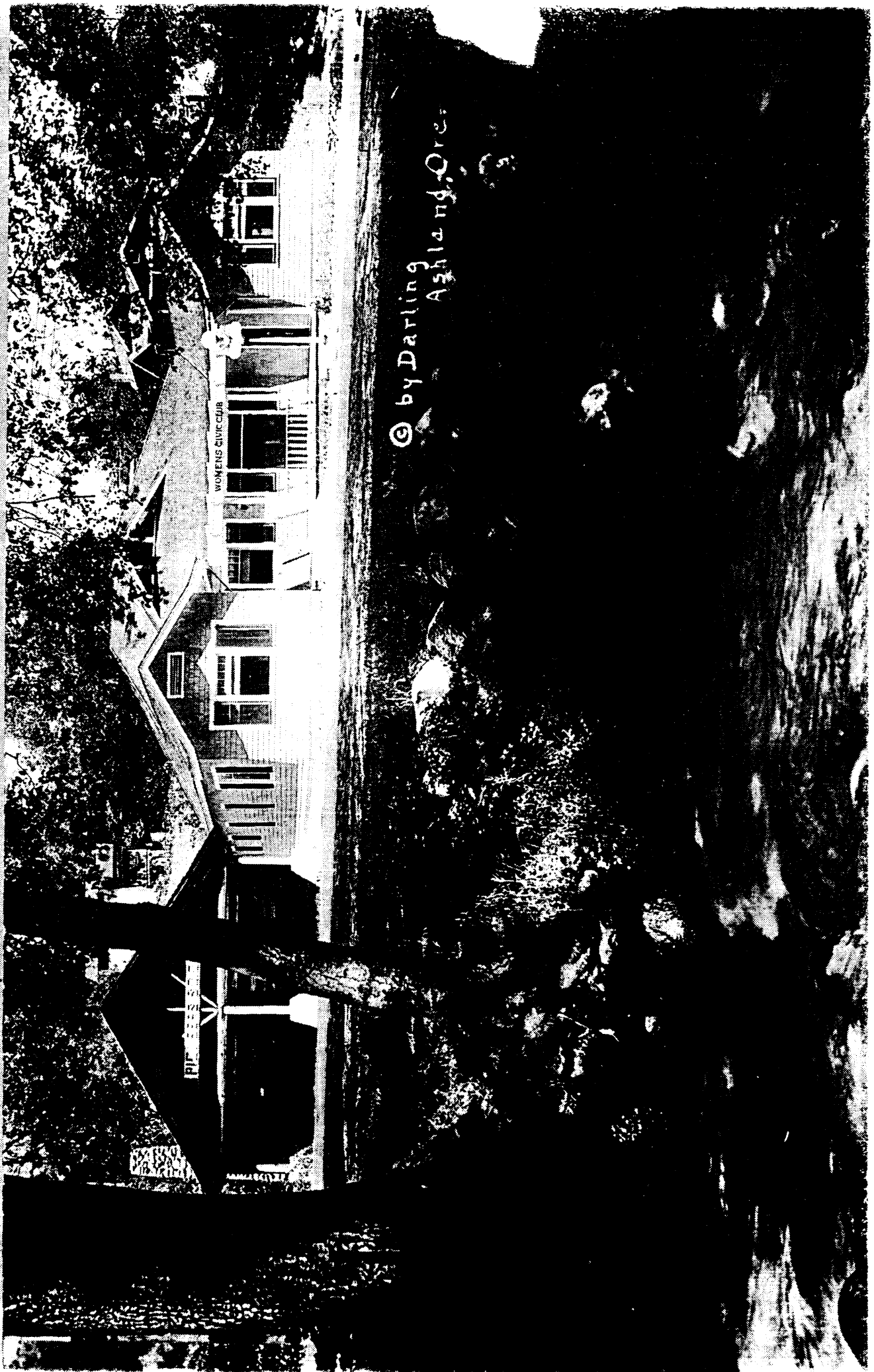


5000
 4900



FLOORPLAN, WINBURN COMMUNITY CENTER
 ASHLAND, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

(ADAPTED FROM COMMUNITY CENTER RESTORATION
 SHEET 2 OF 1
 JOYCE C. WARD, ARCHITECT
 5-9-1985)



WOMENS CIVIC CLUB

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